



# AIRPORT BEACON

A publication of  Muskegon County Airport

## From the Airport Manager

Submitted by Marty Piette



Commercial airline passenger traffic at Muskegon County Airport is up 4% this year, thanks in large part to Midwest Airlines' transition to larger 50-seat regional jets. Capacity on Midwest Airlines increased from 57 seats per day to 100 seats per day when the new jets started flying in April. In an effort to continue the upward trend, the Airport has applied for funds under the USDOT 2008 Small Community Air Service Development Grant Program. If funds are awarded to the Muskegon County Airport, the intent is to try and lure a third air carrier providing service to Chicago O'Hare. This is no small task on both fronts; competition is high for the grant funds, with only two airports in each state allowed to be awarded funds under the program, and luring a third airline is getting more difficult every day given the current condition of the domestic air carrier industry. Despite the challenges, we believe there is a solid market in the Muskegon area to support O'Hare service, as evidenced by the success of O'Hare service in the 1990s and early 2000s. Keep posted for more announcements, particularly in the late summer when grant funds are awarded.

In the meantime, the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce will be spearheading a fund raising campaign during the coming months. The goal is to raise enough funds to provide a local match to the awarded grant funds. Stay tuned for announcements from the Chamber and be sure to pledge your support.

## MKG History

*Think you know MKG History?*

During the removal of the north end of runway 18/36 and the north end of runway 14/32, what we thought was a concrete 'Compass Rose' was uncovered underneath the asphalt. After a little cleaning, the numerals '18' can be clearly seen. According to our records, that area of 18/36 and 14/32 was probably built sometime in the 1950s, effectively covering a piece of Muskegon County Airport history for the past half century. The contractors managed to work around the concrete slab, so it is still in place. We would like to restore the concrete slab to its historical condition, but we need your help. We are looking for any information on this piece of history, so if you know anything about it, please contact the Airport Administration office.



*The picture above is taken looking north, so the numbers are inverted.*

Third Quarter

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## Airport Receives Award

When it snows 2" or more at the airport, the reaction can best be described as an emergency response. The countless hours of planning and preparation come together to battle the elements. The goal is to be accessible 100% of the time, regardless of weather conditions. This year proved an even greater challenge for three reasons: 1) above average snowfall of 109"; 2) short staffing, and; 3) the breakdown of the primary snow removal vehicle, the 22' Oshkosh Broom. Despite the challenges, the staff, led by Maintenance Supervisor Mike Kotecki, rose to the challenge, battled Mother Nature, and won. The airport never closed due to poor field conditions. To honor the efforts of the airport staff, the Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives awarded Muskegon County Airport the 2007-2008 Balchen/Post Award in the small commercial service category for excellence in the performance of snow and ice control.

Please join me in congratulating everyone at the Airport responsible for snow and ice removal, both airside and landside: Mike Kotecki, Mike Austgen, John Bowler, Craig Kruzal, Russ Larson, Gary Nielsen, Gail Anderson, Josie Rose, Kathy Sluyter, and Trina Walker.



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## *Runway 14/32 Shift and Extension Update*

*Photos provided by Ken Price, Executive Air Transport*



April 18, 2008

Phase II is wrapping up, with an anticipated completion date of July 9. A combination of weather and project scope alterations contributed to the slight delay, but overall, construction has gone quite well. On July 9, runway 14/32 will open to its new length of 6,100'. But the opening will be short lived, as it will close again in mid-August to start Phase III. Phase III is the final phase of the Runway Safety Area project, and will bring the airport into full compliance with Federal Runway Safety Area requirements. Phase III is expected to be complete at the end of October.

Of most significance to pilots is the time period during Phase III when we will be rebuilding the intersection of runways 14/32 and 6/24. During that time, runway 14/32 will remain closed, and by way of a displaced threshold, runway 6/24 will be shortened to 4,745'. The contractor has seven days to complete the intersection rehabilitation. Although it is still too early to nail down a date of that intersection work, we know it will happen six weeks after we start construction. Construction is scheduled to start mid-August, meaning the intersection work will take place approximately September 29 to October 5.

If that work affects your operation, please keep in touch with the Airport Administration office to ensure you are informed once a firm date of the work can be published.



May 6, 2008



May 28, 2008



## *Business Profile*

Located in the Airport Business Park for 10 years, Conn, Geneva & Robinson actually began with Jeff Conn in 1974, who has since retired. The current partners are Rich Robinson, Scott Shlaffer and Pete Geneva. They have 13 total employees, 6 of which are CPAs. The office specializes in small business and individual tax work and general accounting services. They have a new interactive website coming out soon touting their services as Progressive, Proactive and Professional.

**Conn Geneva  
& Robinson**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

### **Passengers January-May 2008**

Midwest - 7,590 - Up 5%

Northwest - 18,924 - Up 3%

*Looking for free advertising, or want to promote your organization? If you are a Muskegon County Airport based business or organization, either on the Airport's property or in the Business Park, submit your company profile to [homanpa@co.muskegon.mi.us](mailto:homanpa@co.muskegon.mi.us) and we will print it here ... FOR FREE!*

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## Employee Spotlight

Submitted by the MKG TSA Team



A “first” will be happening in Muskegon this year. We will be saying goodbye to a member of our team that has reached that “happy place” in life. Carl Esh is planning for his retirement around the end of the fiscal year.

Carl is a local boy with family ties still in Muskegon. He attended Muskegon Heights High School, graduating in 1964. He then continued his education at Michigan Technological University, earning a BS in Applied Physics in 1968. (Yes, he’s one of those “engineers”!) Carl developed a career spanning 40 years in the nuclear field. He has lived in New York, Illinois, Ohio, and throughout Michigan.

Carl married the “love of his life” Sherran on September 7, 1968. They raised two children, both of whom are married and have blessed them with four grandchildren. All of the children and grandchildren live in Ohio. (We know where Carl and Sherran will be spending a lot of their time.) Carl and Sherran also devote their time to the Retrouvaille Program for Troubled Marriages. Carl is a founding member of the Retrouvaille of Grand Rapids.

Carl has enriched our life at TSA tremendously. Daily, he shares his wealth of knowledge and his unique experiences. We have heard the story of what bored engineering students do for fun. They disassembled a dorm assistant’s volkswagon and reassembled it in his second floor room. We have heard the antidotes of the “coffee drinking” days in the nuclear plants. And then there are the jokes. Engineers are known to have a sense of humor all of their own and Carl’s will reach even further than most!

Carl, your retirement will leave a void that will never be completely filled at MKG, but now is the time you have looked forward to for so long. It’s time for you and Sherran to concentrate your energies in whatever direction you choose. We do know one thing is certain, the world is a better place because of you.

## Employee of the Month

April 08 .....Craig Kruzel, Airport Maintenance  
May 08 .....Lori Draper, Brownstone  
June 08..... Eric Wezeman, Midwest

### Airport Contact Info

**Airport Administration**  
231-798-4596, x-220

**Airport Maintenance**  
231-798-4596, x-227

**Air Travel Marketing Consultant**  
231-798-4596, x-262

**Northwest Airlines**  
800-225-2525

**Midwest Airlines**  
800-452-2022

## Advertising Opportunities

The Muskegon County Airport terminal building has a couple of great advertising opportunities available to local businesses. Three forms of advertising are available, providing more daily impressions than you might guess. Not only will your ad reach the 65,000+ passengers each year, but it will also be seen by the passengers’ families that accompany them to the Airport, Brownstone Restaurant patrons, rental car patrons, and many more. This form of advertising is less expensive, and arguably more effective, than any other. Opportunities are limited, so contact Dianne Hoofman at 231-798-4596, ext. 262 soon.

Phone Kiosk is located in baggage claim, providing space for a backlit display ad and a direct dial telephone line to your business. Ideal venue for ground transportation companies and hotels. Cost \$75/month.



Wall Displays are located in baggage claim and in the main entrance foyer. The Wall Display provides a backlit advertising location providing immediate brand name recognition. Ideal venue for banks, hospitals, apartment buildings, realtors, car dealers, financial sector services, insurance companies, etc. Cost \$150/month.



Center Display Kiosks are located in the main walkway of the terminal building between the airline ticketing area and baggage claim. The display kiosks provide a secured area to display your products or services. Ideal venue for manufacturing firms, retail outlets, or any other company providing a product that can be displayed in a compact area. Cost \$250/month.



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## Transportation Committee

Bill Gill, Chair  
Roger Wade, Vice Chair  
P. Don Aley  
Charles L. Buzzell  
Lew Collins  
James J. Derezinski  
Marvin R. Engle  
Kenneth Mahoney  
Louis A. McMurray  
Robert Scolnik  
I. John Snider II

## Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

*Submit to:*

Muskegon County Airport  
99 Sinclair Drive  
Muskegon, MI 49441  
Phone: 231-798-4596, Fax: 231-798-7728  
homanpa@co.muskegon.mi.us

## *Checked Luggage*

### Midwest Airlines

1st bag free up to 50 lbs. and the outside dimensions when added together may not exceed 62 inches. Properly packaged ski equipment or golf clubs will be transported without charge in lieu of the free checked bag. Separate over-size charges will continue to apply to special items such as bicycles, scuba gear, surfboards, etc. The following extra charges will apply to excess, overweight and oversized baggage.

- \$20 each way (nonstop or connect) for the 2nd piece of checked baggage. (MM Executives and Active Military Personnel - fee waived)
- \$100 each way (nonstop or connect) for each piece exceeding the second.
- \$50 each way (nonstop or connect) for each piece 51-70 lbs.
- \$65 each way (nonstop or connect) for each piece 71-100 lbs.
- \$80 each way (nonstop or connect) for each piece 63"-115".
- \$80 each way (nonstop or connect) for each bicycle.

If excess, overweight and/or oversized baggage charges apply to a single item, all fees will apply.

### Northwest Airlines

1st Bag - Free up to 50 lbs.  
2nd Bag - \$25 each way  
3rd PLUS Bag - \$100 each, each way  
Overweight Bags (51-70 lbs.) - \$50 each way  
Applies to Coach class, North America travel  
2nd Bag Fee waived for SkyTeam Elite and Elite Plus members.



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