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ISSUE 2

MIDWEST REGIONAL FLY-IN



This year's Fly-In will be a one-day event held the Saturday before Memorial Day. We're hoping for much better weather this year as we move the date a little closer to summer.

We must have strong support and an energetic group of volunteers to make this event a success. So come out and get involved.

The next Fly-In planning meeting will be held Saturday, Feb. 23, at 10:00 a.m., in the EAA Club Room (The club room is located in the rear of Hangar Two which also houses the Greater St. Louis Air & Space Museum. The entrance is on the back (west) side of the building on the ground floor directly off the parking lot.)

FLIGHT SERVICE UPDATE

All local NOTAMs (those affecting taxiways, ramps, and other NOTAMs not previously available from sources other than the "local" flight service station) are now published in the nationwide NOTAM database and are available from all flight service stations.

The new flight service web site is <http://www.afss.com>.

Here's a list of helpful phone numbers:

Weather briefings: 1-800-WX-BRIEF
(992-7433)

Clearance Delivery: 1-888-766-8267

NOTAMs: 1-877-4-US-NTMS
(1-877-487-6867)

TIBS: 1-877-4-TIBS-WX
(1-877-484-2799)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 5: EAA Mtg, Hangar 2 rear, 7pm
(Guest speaker: John Larrabee, *KMOX Airborne Two*, talking about his twice-daily traffic reporting flights.)

Feb. 7: Gateway Area Ultralight Assoc. meeting in EAA room, Hangar 2 rear at 7:30 pm

Feb. 14: *Don't forget your valentine!*

Feb. 18: Presidents' Day

Feb. 23: Fly-in Planning Meeting, 10am, EAA Room, Hangar 2 rear

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

ATC TOWER: The tower remains on schedule to be operational June 21st.

TAXIWAY A-4 & RUNWAY 12L: Originally planned for construction last summer, the project was delayed until November due to FAA funding and contractual delays. Rather than wait for a better construction season and delay our future projects by 6 months to a year, we gambled on good winter weather and lost. We had lots of rain at the most critical time which set the project back by a couple of months.

Because the asphalt plants are shut down for the winter, we had to stop the construction until spring. Taxiway A-4/B-4 will remain closed for the next few months but we hope to open the runway for use soon with non-standard markings.

In the spring, we'll close the runway again for a couple of weeks to complete the entire project.

MIDCOAST AVIATION: H&H Construction continues to make fast progress on Midcoast's newest hangar at the east end of the east ramp. Although the new hangar should be completed later this summer, that's not fast enough to meet their demand. A 46,000 sq. ft. temporary hangar has been erected on the ramp near their construction site to enable them to meet the demand for "green" aircraft completions from the Bombardier factories in Canada.

AIRPORT FUNDING ISSUES

The airport improvement funding picture continues to be uncertain at both the State and Federal levels.

Last September, Illinois Senate Bill 1110 passed and was intended to be a major funding source for airport improvements and other transportation projects throughout the state. It provides \$25.6 billion over the next six years for capital projects in Illinois.

The House tied passage of the "Capital Bill" to a massive bailout of Chicago's transit operations. Downstate representatives pledged support for the Chicago bailout in exchange for passage of the "Capital Bill."

Unfortunately, the State Legislature was able to pump \$500 million into the Chicago mass transit system without passage of the "Capital Bill" necessary to fund construction of airports, roads, bridges, and schools elsewhere in the state.

Many lawmakers see approval of the transit bailout as lost leverage to get a capital program in place. As a result, no State airport projects are budgeted for this year nor will the State have their share of funds necessary to match federal Airport Improvement Program grants when they become available. Local airports must provide all of the matching funds to receive a Federal Grant in 2008.

On the Federal side, although the "Omnibus Package" passed in December included \$3.5 billion for airport improvements, without an "Authorization Bill," airport improvement funding will expire on February 28th.

The FAA does not have authorization to issue any new grants at this time. They anticipate issuing State Block Grant Funding no earlier than August 2008, which will probably be too late to start any airport construction projects before 2009.

Administration Office Hours: 8-4:30, Mon.-Fri. (Closed most holidays)

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