



Airport News

AIRPORT MANAGER ROB OATES

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AIP Construction Schedule Change

A few years ago when we applied the sealcoat oil to the large apron area in front of the Café building, we knew that that area was soon going to be due for more serious maintenance attention. Recent measurements also indicated that our runway lighting system is nearing the end of its design life and should be upgraded.

The FAA Airports Improvement Program provides grants to airports like Caldwell to pay for the lion's share of our big maintenance projects. Some of the money is provided by the Idaho Division of Aeronautics (the aviation end of the Idaho Transportation Department) in Boise and the remainder comes from the City of Caldwell. Working with our FAA partners in Helena and Aeronautics, we forecast what needs to be done and that gets matched up with available funds.

For the past several years we've been planning to carry over this year's grant funding so that we could accumulate the funds needed to complete the big apron re-surfacing project in the summer of 2016 — that is until a couple of months ago, when Helena called saying that some grant money would likely be available this year due to other airports' inability to accept money that had been programmed for them. Helena asked, "Could Caldwell do all or part of the planned 2016 work in 2015?" And we said, "Yes, we can!" As a result, we are making plans to do the runway lighting upgrade and adding lights and lighted signs to Taxiway Bravo late this Summer or early Fall. The Apron/Hot Ramp reconstruction will still be in 2016, but will likely occur earlier in the summer work cycle, since we are getting an earlier start on it.

The runway work will be completed at night to minimize the impact that the closed runway will have on the bulk of our takeoffs and landings. More details will be provided in the next newsletter or by email.

Emergency Hangar Access

Hangar owners now have an opportunity to position an emergency hangar key with Kathy at the Airport Office. The need for such a program was highlighted a couple of weeks ago when a malfunctioning air compressor filled the next-door hangar with compressor smoke. Had I had the key, I could have entered the hangar and switched off the errant compressor without having to call in the hangar owner from out of town.

Some owners have placed a key with a fellow hangar owner or their mechanic, but we have no knowledge of who's done that or with whom. Please contact Kathy at the airport office if you would like to participate in this program; she is the keeper of the keys and the release form.

Flying Fortress “Aluminum Overcast” Coming to Caldwell

The Nampa-Caldwell chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association is making plans for the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress “Aluminum Overcast” to visit the Caldwell Airport in August! This heavy bomber was manufactured in 1945 by Lockheed Corporation under license from Boeing – too late to see action in World War II, but the EAA has had it out touring extensively in recent years from its home in Oshkosh.

The visit is tentatively planned for the week of August 17th and more details will be provided by email and on our airport Facebook page as they firm up.

Have a Safe & Happy Independence



Lease Issues

Here's an open question for hangar owners: What's the market value of your hangar? Do you often “forget” to pay your lease payment? Several times a year the City, in the person of the airport manager, is put into the position of enforcing lease agreement provisions requiring the annual payment of the lease amount. This, in spite of the fact that the City usually sends a reminder invoice and past due notices even though the lease agreement states that the City may or may not send any notices at all. For an amount that often is only a few hundred dollars, a delinquent owner triggers lease default provisions that add attorney fees to their payment and could ultimately permit the City to purchase their hangar for \$1.00. Please make yourself a recurring reminder to pay your lease amount each year when it's due!

And while you're at it, also be sure that your hangar continues to meet the FAA's “aeronautical use” requirements which state that hangars on our airport are for the use of operational or near operational aircraft (and other “things” that don't interfere with the use of the aircraft). In order to fit into one of those categories your aircraft's registration must be current with the FAA. Please make it so.

NOTES:

Running Deer

One afternoon last week, a very agitated, middle-sized deer with no apparent antlers ran northwest at full speed between the runway and taxiway, eventually encountering the chain link fence along Linden. It tried several times to go over it, but was unsuccessful. It was last seen re-tracing its steps (hoofs?) southeast at full speed and I lost sight of it down toward Shore & Shore. Please keep in mind that life can be wild at the airport and the wildlife can be somewhat unpredictable, too.

Hangar Construction!

New hangars are being built in the Gate #6 area. Please use caution if you need to drive and/or taxi in the work area.

Trailers & other Stuff

Remember that there is no “External Storage” permitted outside of your hangars. At this writing, this applies mostly to the usually white utility trailers parked near several hangars. Please help keep the Caldwell Industrial Airport looking and operating like an airport.