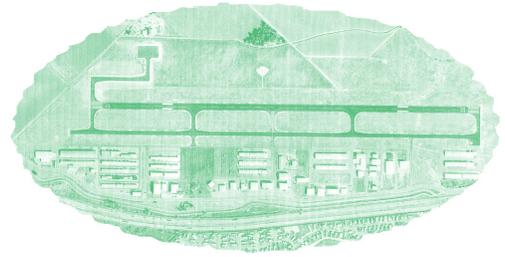


Airport News

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Airport Lighting Upgrade Contract Awarded

Bids from three companies were opened on August 25th. After confirming that they all complied with the bidding requirements and other federal rules regarding this sort of project, the contract has been awarded to the low bidder, Quality Electric, Inc., from Boise for \$343,497.44. As a part of the FAA's Airport Improvement Program, 90% of the funding will be via an FAA grant, 3% will be provided by an Idaho Division of Aeronautics grant, and the remaining 7% is the "local match" from the City of Caldwell.

The project is in two parts. One will replace the runway edge light fixtures and wire, most of which has been in the ground for over 25 years and is near the end of its useful life. They will also install one more fixture in each bank of threshold lights to meet current standards. The new setup will then offer two banks for four lights at each end of the runway. The second part involves adding edge lights and lighted signs to the portion of Taxiway Bravo and the connector to the runway. There will also be a new, small concrete building installed southeast of the Hubler Terminal to house the power controller/regulator for the new lighting added to Taxiway Bravo. The second part involves quite a bit of digging to install the conduit pathways that are not now in the ground on the north side of the runway.

Construction should kick off toward the end of October. More details will be provided by email as the schedule firms up. The work is planned for nighttime to cause as little disruption as possible to normal activities. Each night the entire airport will be closed by NOTAM and all the usual identification lights will be turned off: all edge lights, rotating beacon, and PAPI.

More New Hangars

The walls are up and hangar construction continues in the Gate #6 area. We are close to finalizing two more hangar projects in that general area and will share more info in a future edition of *Airport News*.



Flying Fortress Visit Concluded

For most of a week in August the Experimental Aircraft Association's B-17, "Aluminum Overcast", and its supporting trucks and trailers dominated the Hubler Terminal apron.

Each day passengers were taken on a tour of the local area with power provided by four 9-cylinder radial engines that each produce 1,000 horsepower! Many more people came through during the ground tour periods and were able to climb inside and get a sense of what the aircraft offered the crew or in the case of the turret or tail-gunner, just take a look at the incredibly small spaces occupied by those gunners.

Among the highlights: a 90-year-old former B-17 crewmember was taken aloft and the aircraft provided a fly-by to the Caldwell Night Rodeo for their "Patriot Night."

The Nampa/Caldwell EAA Chapter (103) was the local "host" for the visit and provided many volunteers to help the EAA team traveling with the aircraft.



Life and Death Battle in our Backyard

"Soda", the largest fire in the continental U.S. at the time, happened over the first couple of weeks of August and mostly took place in Owyhee County. Ultimately some 279,000 acres (436 sq. miles) were consumed. Among the hundreds fighting the fire were the crew manning the Sky Crane heli-tanker (pictured) that operated for several days from the Hubler Terminal apron with their support trucks, trailer, and 5,000 gallon fuel tanker. The three-man flight crew would launch and fly to a water source near the fire where, using the snorkel, they would pump 2500 – 3000 gallons into the tank, deliver it to the fire under the control of an aerial director in a light twin fixed wing aircraft. And repeat, and repeat, for the 2.3 hour flight window.

The contract aircraft was originally a heavy lift helicopter for the U.S. Army. The Sky Crane is memorable for its very distinctive appearance and ability to lift 20,000 pounds! Each of the two Pratt & Whitney turbo shaft engines produces 4,800 shaft horsepower and together they consume ~500 gallons of Jet-A per hour. Typical cruise speed is 100 knots. Rotor diameter

Security Issues Update:

A hangar owner suggested that it would be valuable to share info about security problems or other issues going on at the airport that might be of general interest to Caldwell Airport users. I wholeheartedly agree! I'm happy to share relevant news (good, bad, neutral) of things happening at our airport in this newsletter. The catch, though, is that for me to share such news, those of you experiencing the problem, issue, break-in, etc. must let us know here in the airport office. If you have an item you'd like to submit for possible inclusion in *Airport News*, please direct it to Kathy, kschara@cityofcaldwell.org, or call her at 208-459-9779.