



AIRPORT NEWS

JANUARY 2018

Caldwell Industrial Airport

Hubler Terminal

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RUNWAY REHAB FUNDING?

Congress. Well, Congress and the President provide the funding for the F.A.A.'s Airport Improvement Program through the F.A.A. general fund budget. You may have noted from news reports that "they" haven't had much luck getting the F.A.A.'s (or any other) part of the federal budget approved for funding beyond a few weeks. With that sort of uncertainty, we are left in a holding pattern since we are not permitted to move forward with this summer's (otherwise approved) runway rehabilitation project until the funding is actually approved. We're doing what we can, but we can't make it happen until our elected officials sort out a budget deal. We will keep you posted as we hopefully move forward toward our summer project.

SNOW CLEARING RIGHT AFTER CHRISTMAS

A big **Thank You!** to Lurre Construction for their outstanding effort to clear our snow on the day after Christmas last month! Their management had planned a four-day-weekend and our request interrupted that for some of their team of operators. But they reacted when I called and did an excellent job of clearing away the snow so that aviation operations could continue with very little snow impact. Well done!

AIRPORT CAFE / SILVERHAWK THEFTS

Thefts from two of our airport's most visible businesses occurred during November and December. Thieves stole food from the Airport Café and fuel from Silverhawk Aviation Academy. Both crimes: resulted in significant \$\$ losses; took place at night; and, were likely perpetrated by people familiar with the airport and these two businesses in particular. Police investigations continue.

I urge all airport uses to keep your eyes open when you're on-field both for your own safety and to be on the lookout for people in unusual places at odd times or people doing things that are far afield from what you know as the usual routines. Supporting each other is a good first step toward reaching both our individual goals and making the airport overall the best it can be.

CTAF FREQUENCY CONVERSATION

It's no secret to Nampa or Caldwell airport users that our shared CTAF (Common Traffic Advisory Frequency) is often very busy. At times, so busy that aircraft are unable to complete expected transmissions related to their take-off, landing, pattern position reports, etc. Many local pilots are aware that our two airports had different frequencies "way-back-when" before changing to the shared channel we have now.

Several pilots from across the spectrum of types, ratings and experiences have approached me wondering what our options may be to take a look at having different frequencies at our airports once again. In my work as airport manager I listen to our radio traffic during most of each work day and I agree that it's time to have the discussion and sort out both the good and the bad points of a change of one or both of our airports away from the current CTAF. If you would like to contribute to the initial brainstorming on this idea, please send comments directly to me, roates@cityofcaldwell.org.

There are a number of organizations in addition to our pilot community who would likely want to offer input in the decision-making process, so if it looks like there is sufficient reason to move forward, we will probably have one or more public meetings to gather public comment and go over costs and benefits.

AWOS UPDATE

The F.A.A. maintenance team from Boise is still working to find the right combination of boxes, circuit boards, and adjustments that will build the reliability of the new AWOS equipment that was installed a couple of years ago. Kathy and I are keeping a closer watch (listen?) on the AWOS each business morning to try and more quickly detect and report problems. But please don't hesitate to give us a call if you hear a problem during the day.

The most frequent problem in the past several weeks has been a "motor-boat-engine" sound when the dial-in phone answers. The on-the-air radio signal has been working fairly well and we hope that that will continue even as they work to make the phone system more reliable.
