

CROSSWINDS

OWATONNA AIRPORT'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2006

SPRING FUN AT THE AIRPORT!!



Got Spring Fever? Looking to scratch your aviation itch? Come on out and join us for a tenant social at the airport. Stop out on Thursday May 25th anytime after 5:30 p.m. for some hangar flying and a chance to meet your hangar neighbors. A grill will be set up near the front of the airport terminal building. Food and beverage will be provided!

Here's a chance to meet some other pilots, maybe share a flight or two, and make some summer flying plans. We hope you can join us!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Thursday, May 25th: Please join us for an all airport get together starting at 5:30 pm right here at the airport! Come out and meet your fellow flyers for an evening of hangar flying, food, and fun! Contact Kyle Wolfe with any questions.

Sunday, August 27th: Mark your calendars for the annual fly in and CAP french toast breakfast. This is always a great event and one to bring the whole family to!



CROSSWIND RUNWAY PROJECT UPDATE

The airport is currently working with the MnDot Office of Aeronautics and Federal Aviation Administration to plan the construction phase of the Crosswind Runway Project. The final design effort is underway and should be ready to advertise for bids by later this summer. Careful considerations are being made and coordinated so as to design the project into manageable components. This will allow the airport the flexibility to begin phases of construction depending on the timing of the allocation of Federal funding assistance in the amount of 95% participation. Phasing the construction over two to three years will also minimize the disruption to normal airport activities and improve the final quality of the paving project.

The Crosswind Runway will be aligned 04-22 and be paved and lighted connecting to the main building and ramp areas. The estimated three million dollar construction will result in a 3,000' x 75' wide runway that will significantly enhance the safety and utilization of the facility in all wind conditions.

The airport is also completing the required Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The plan is required to meet all Federal and State Environment regulations in conjunction with the compliance with the requirements of the General Storm Water Permit.

"Science, Freedom, Beauty, Adventure....aviation offers it all."

Charles Lindberg

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The State Aviation Trust Fund is made up of revenues received from sources such as the airline flight property tax, aircraft registration fees, interest income, and investment income. The fund is dedicated to funding the MnDot Office of Aeronautics and associated grant programs for improvements in the State Aviation System. In 2003, the Pawlenty administration “borrowed” \$15M from the fund to assist with the shortfall in the General Fund with assurances that the legislature would reimburse the program by year 2007. Recently, there have been several bills introduced in the MN House and Senate having to do with the payback. Various payback schemes have been discussed to replenish the fund over the coming biennium. The Minnesota Council of Airports (MCOA) organization among others are working to see that the funding is returned due to the shortfall in the State Airport Fund and reduction in the MN aviation programs. The problem is compounded with the impact of the Northwest Airline bankruptcies and reduction of interest income to the fund. Support for the repayment of the \$15M to the airports fund is of high importance and is currently being discussed with local representatives.

On the Federal scene, the Administration is also proposing reductions in the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) authorizations. The current proposal calls for \$2.7B funding for AIP funding from the current level of approximately \$3.4B. The level of funding approved by Congress will have an impact on project funding for MN airports.

T-38 RELOCATION PROJECT UPDATE

The T-38 display currently located at the former Heritage Halls property has truly become an Owatonna landmark. The effort to relocate the display to the Owatonna Degner Regional Airport continues.

The estimated project cost is \$85,000 of which nearly \$36,000 has been raised. A special thank you to all that have generously contributed! The group leading the project is working with the City of Owatonna and Owatonna Foundation but still anticipates a funding need. All contributions to the project are welcomed. Please contact Dave to learn more.

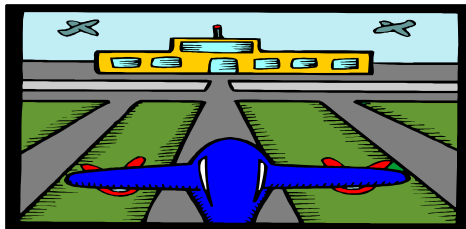


2006 Minnesota Airport Directory

Additional copies of the 2006 Minnesota Airport Directory and Travel Guide are available. If you would like a copy please give Dave a call at 444-2448!

USE OF AIRPORT TURF AREAS FOR LANDING

Many have inquired about the use of the turf areas adjacent to the runway and taxiways at the airport for takeoffs and landings. The use of these grass areas is not approved by the airport. These areas are not maintained, zoned, marked, or lighted as runways for standard aircraft operations. Thank you for your cooperation!



AIRPORT COMMISSION:

- Rich Anderson
- Jerry Carstensen
- Doug Hughes
- Don Myers
- Tim Taykalo
- Jim VanReeth
- Kyle Wolfe

Note: If you have any interesting story, idea, or flying adventure that you would like included as a possible story in a future edition of the Crosswinds Newsletter let us know at airport@ci.owatonna.mn.us

If you wish to receive The Crosswinds Newsletter via e-mail, send an e-mail to Dave at: airport@ci.owatonna.mn.us or call us at (507) 444-2448.

Current Newsletters may also be viewed at the airport website at www.owatonnaairport.com