

Airport Snow Removal Gets Upgraded... BIG TIME!

The Greeley-Weld County Airport recently acquired two pieces of airport snow removal equipment which will significantly alter the airport's overall snow removal capabilities for years to come. As a result of the impacts of the blizzard of 2006, Denver International Airport (DIA) received over 40 million dollars in federal grant monies to replace and upgrade its fleet of heavy snow removal equipment, which was carried out in 2008. As a result, some of the existing DIA equipment which would otherwise have remained in service at that airport for many more years was disposed of.

Fortunately, DIA participates in the statewide Colorado Airport Surplus Equipment Program. This program, managed by the Colorado Aeronautics Division, permits other Colorado airports to purchase this type of surplus equipment at drastically reduced costs over what they would normally bring on the used commercial market. The Greeley-Weld County Airport, along with 10 other airports from throughout the state, recently snatched up over 20 pieces of surplus DIA snow removal equipment before they went to public auction. The Greeley-Weld County Airport was able to purchase two highly specialized Oshkosh snow broom vehicles, each with 18 foot brooms and high volume side blower systems. Each vehicle was



acquired for \$20,000.00, and both have many years of useful life left within them. Of the \$40,000.00 total price tag for these vehicles, the airport has already received a Colorado Aviation Grant which reimbursed the airport for half of the total cost, leaving the airport with a mere \$20,000.00 for both vehicles. Additionally, since this acquisition was not budgeted for, several tenants of the airport have stepped up with cash donations to assist in offsetting the airports non-budgeted cost. These include Peak Flight Support, Harris Aviation, JBS Swift, Hensel Phelps Construction Company, and Hangar 1/Pitz Aircraft. Other tenants interested in

assisting with this effort can contact Ken Harris at Harris Aviation for more information.

Transporting the behemoth machines from DIA to Greeley was an effort in itself. Because of the 18 foot wide broom heads, the machines were too big to drive on the roadways. The machines would also not fit onto a low boy transport trailer in one piece either. Ultimately, the broom heads were removed by DIA maintenance staff and transported to Greeley by a private transport company hired by the Airport Authority. The massive Oshkosh tractors were transported by the Weld County Public Works Department with their low boy tractor trailer, and Greeley-Weld County Airport maintenance staff re-assembled the machines over several days in early June. The Authority will be working over the summer months to make a few repairs, add a few features, and install radio equipment so they are ready to go to work come next winter.

With the acquisition of this equipment, expectations are that clearing snow from the runways and taxiways will be undertaken much quicker and efficiently than previously using the snow plows. It is also expected that the resulting surface conditions and braking action will be significantly better after being broomed, as opposed to when it is plowed.

Retirement Event Makes a Splash

Denton "Denny" Dykes, Aircraft Systems and Instrument Simulator Instructor at Aims Community College recently retired with a bit of a splash at the Greeley-Weld County Airport after a long career in aviation. Denny became interested in flying at a young age, but spent his Air Force years, starting in 1948, as a Radio Operator. He served in Okinawa and in Korea during the Korean War. After his discharge, he went to work for American Airlines, serving as a communications specialist due to his background. He used his GI Bill benefits to learn how to fly, and logged several hundred hours doing various types of flying over the next few years. Denny eventually landed a job flying DC-3's for Aloha Airlines in Hawaii, moving later to a job with Frontier Airlines, and eventually Continental Airlines. Throughout his career in aviation, Denny has flown the DC-3, Convair 340/440 & 580, DC-9, Boeing 737, MD-80, DC-10, and numerous other aircraft.



Denny's students and friends recently threw him a surprise retirement party at the Greeley-Weld County Airport. Since Denny had not flown for a number of years, it was arranged for him to take a flight in a Twinstar, owned by Glen Werner. What Denny did not know, was while he was taking to the skies on a beautiful Colorado morning, his students and friends were back on the ground setting up his send off.

Upon landing back at the Greeley-Weld County Airport, as the aircraft taxied in to the terminal apron, the aircraft was met by one of the airport's Aircraft Rescue Vehicles, which sprayed a shower of water over the aircraft as it taxied past, similar to the send off typically received by retiring airline pilots upon completion of their final flight. The event was capped off with lunch from the Barnstormer Restaurant, which took place in the airport's picnic shelter adjacent to the terminal building. Many of Denny's friends and students were on hand to wish him well, and share in the long list of memories which he created over his aviation career.



What to do at the airport if there is a tornado... or other bad weather!

Everyone is aware of the unusually active weather cycles which Northern Colorado has been experiencing thus far this year. On June 10th, two funnel clouds were spotted just west of the Greeley-Weld County Airport, one of them quite large. Airport staff rushed to warn all of the tenants who were present on the airport at the time so that they could take the necessary precautions to protect themselves. The funnel cloud event was immediately followed by a torrential hail storm that lasted about 30 minutes, and flooded several areas of the airport.

Unfortunately, there is not a structure on the airport which has a basement, making it difficult to know the best place to go during a significant weather event. Tenants are reminded that the Airport Terminal Building is constructed of reinforced concrete block, as opposed to the mostly metal buildings which exist everywhere else on the airport. Airport staff suggests that if time permits, you should come to the terminal building and wait in the administrative hallway, which we consider to be the safest location in the building for a group of people. The terminal building lobby is not considered the best location, since it has a substantial amount of glass on either side.

Please call the airport administrative offices at 336-3000 during normal business hours if you have any questions concerning safety on the airport during a severe weather event.

Summer Projects Underway

Summer projects are underway at the Greeley-Weld County Airport once again. Some of these projects are apparent, and some are not, but all are important. Here is a run down on what is presently underway or in the works.

Annual Pavement Maintenance Program:

Airport staff began with the annual pavement maintenance program in early May. The program for 2009 consists of three main activities:

First, crack sealing on the airports runways, taxiways and aprons got started in May, but, unfortunately has been continually postponed by the weather. The on and off again swing in temperatures and moisture has delayed the completion of this project for a few more weeks. Closures of both runways (at different times) should still be expected over the next few weeks while this project is completed.

Second, the asphalt pavement removal and replacement project has already been completed. This involved the removal and replacement of approximately a dozen different areas of failing pavement throughout the west hangar area. The work was completed over several days, with only minimal inconveniences to a handful of tenants.

Third, and last, will be the re-striping of certain airfield pavement markings on the airport. This will consist of mostly yellow hold and centerlines on the taxiways and aprons. This project however cannot be undertaken until all of the crack sealing has been completed.

Annual T-Hangar Inspection Program:

Airport staff is presently underway with the annual inspection of T-hangars. Each of the airports 115 T-hangars is being inspected for maintenance deficiencies in each of the units. Minor problems that are found in many cases are being fixed on the spot, while other more significant issues will be scheduled for repair at a later date. Any tenant with knowledge of a maintenance problem in their unit is asked to contact Kevin Freiberg at 336-3002, to help ensure that it is addressed as part of this program.

Fence Project – Phase IV:

The final phase of fencing around the airport is presently underway. This project includes the installation of 3,400 feet of new chain link fence along the airports southeastern border. This work is in a somewhat remote area of the airport, so it is not very visible if you are looking for it from the airfield. The total cost of this project is approximately \$50,000.00, the majority of which is coming from the Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant program. With the completion of this phase, the entire perimeter of the airport will now be enclosed with 8 foot tall fence, which will provide for a safer environment for aircraft operations. Past problems with not having adequate fencing include large game that has accessed the aircraft movement areas of the airport, and vandalism and other criminal activity which will now be easier to keep out.

Security Project:

The same state grant which is paying for the fence project above also includes the addition of a new security system to be installed at various locations on the airport. Existing cameras at and around the terminal building will be replaced, and additional cameras will be added at key locations around the airport to monitor activities. Also a part of this project is the upgrade of the access control system which controls the various gates around the airport. This part of the project will likely never be noticed by most tenants however, since the transition to the new system should be fairly smooth. This upgrade will not require any changes to the proximity access cards which many tenants already have issued to them.

Hangar Pavement Issues:

One of the on-going issues which has been difficult to deal with over the years has been the continuing deterioration of the pavements in the hangar areas, and the need to reconstruct instead of repair these. As the airport has completed most of the high priority projects identified for FAA funding over the past few years, attention can now be turned to these pavements. The airport plans to utilize \$150,000.00 in federal entitlement funds each year over the next few years to begin addressing this problem. It is unclear however just yet how much actual reconstruction may take place in 2010, as it is expected that a majority of the available funding will be needed to design a permanent solution to the problem first.

TSA Security Issues Update:

The Transportation Security Administrations efforts to push through two issues relevant to general aviation airports and pilots continue to see legislative activity.

The Large Aircraft Security Program (LASP), which will place security restrictions and requirements on the operators of all aircraft over 12,500 lbs. continues to be challenged in Washington DC. The latest is that Congress has been inundated with comments and lobbying actions from the general aviation industry, which has caused them to consider looking hard at what is expected to be accomplished by the LASP. A separate study recently completed identified the LASP would not result in any significant improvements to general aviation security. The TSA has received over 7,000 comments to the proposed rule, and Congress made it clear that the LASP requires additional work.

Also, Security Directive 08 issued by the TSA took effect the first week of June. General aviation pilots flying into airports with scheduled air carrier service must now be either badged by that airport, or under the escort of someone who is. Congress has also chimed in on this one, and is not pleased about the TSA using the security directive option to implement what is essentially a new regulatory requirement, which should have gone through the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking process. Although all GA pilots are cautioned to be aware of the security requirements of any airport you are travelling into, watch for more action on this one at a later date.

FOR SALE



1995 Ford F150 Extended Cab 4WD

- 351 CI w/Automatic Transmission
- 4 WD w/Auto Locking Hubs
- Power Doors and Windows
- Air Conditioning
- AM/FM Stereo
- Side Saddle Tool Boxes
- Fair Paint, Interior and Tires
- 107,200 Miles

PRICE: \$1,500.00 (below Blue Book)

Contact : Kevin Freiberg (970) 336-3002

To remove your name from our mailing list, [click here](#)

We want this newsletter to be of value and interest to our tenants and users. If you have an issue or idea you would like us to report on, email it to us at mlongstreth@gxy.net. Also, if you would like to share your news with others, email that to us and we'll put it in the next issue of The GXY FLYER.



REMEMBER...The Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority is able to charge your credit card for monthly rent. Contact Mandy Longstreth at (970) 336-3003 during normal business hours.