

# The Flight Line

Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field Newsletter  
Jackson, Michigan  
Editor: Pat Mills

March 2012

## 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

### The Jackson County Airport Board

Steve Wellman, Chairman	(517) 782-7261
Commissioner David Lutchka, Vice Chair	(517) 522-4596
John Feldvary, Secretary	(517) 206-3487
Commissioner James Shotwell, Jr.	(517) 787-4106
Commissioner Carl Rice, Jr.	(517) 768-6624
Mike Overton, County Administrator-Controller	(517) 788-4335

### Airport Manager

Kent Maurer (517) 788-4225  
Email: [kmaurer@co.jackson.mi.us](mailto:kmaurer@co.jackson.mi.us)

Josh Clamon, Maintenance Tech  
Joe Sanders, Maintenance Worker II  
Pat Mills, Administrative Assistant

Visit our Website!

[www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport](http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	A Note from the Board Chairman
2	Tom Davis Retires from Board
3	Restaurant Winter Hours Change
4	Two New Corporate Aircraft at JXN
4	2012 Airport Board
5	Runway 7-25 Moves Forward
6	Airport Marketing Plan
6	Airport Operations
7	2012 Airport Events Calendar
7	New Board Member
7	JXN Aviation Services Directory
8	Improvements at the Airport
9-10	2011 in Pictures

### From the Airport Board Chair

#### Message From the Airport Board Chairperson

It is my pleasure to present the Jackson County – Reynolds Field 2011 annual report. This report summarizes the significant events and accomplishments during 2011. It is my assessment that the airport continues to move forward due to the dedication of the airport's staff, board, advisory council and volunteers coupled with the strong support demonstrated by the FAA, MDOT-Office of Aeronautics, Board of Commissioners and longstanding partnerships with airport businesses and organizations. Examples of this progress include significant accomplishments in the Runway 7-25 Safety Project; the creation of a marketing plan for the airport; a successful visit by the Experimental Aircraft Association's Tri-Motor; and the addition of a bronze statue honoring WWII pilots from the Army Air Corps.

In the successes of any organization, it is the people that create the culture that leads to success. This has been especially true of this airport. The positive attitude that all of the people involved exhibit, helps accomplish both the day to day and the emergent demands of running this airport. Many may remember when this was not the case.

*Continued on next page*

A decade ago, many of these accomplishments would not have happened. The Jackson County Airport has become a unit of success because the people involved are pulling together and committed to meeting the challenges of making this a place which everyone can be proud.

Unfortunately, the airport lost two significant airport citizens this past year. William (Bill) Maher and Scott Prueninger, both passed away during 2011. Bill Maher's contributions to our airport are noted later in this annual report. Scott Prueninger was a pilot and aircraft owner based here at JXN. Scott was an active EAA member and volunteered for many airport projects and special events. He was in the process of rebuilding his Cessna 195. Both Scott and Bill will be sorely missed and remembered forever for their unique characters and special contributions to the airport. I would like to dedicate this annual report to their memory.

*Steve Wellman*  
*Airport Board Chair*

## **Airport Board Member Tom Davis Retires**

After serving eleven years on the Airport Board, Tom Davis decided not to seek reappointment to the Airport Board this past year. When asked about his experience serving on the Airport Board, Tom reflected that it was a privilege to be part of such an effective Board for the past eleven years. Tom added, "The Jackson County Airport made a miraculous turnaround over the past decade and I was proud to be involved and will continue to be involved as a volunteer in any capacity needed." Tom added, "Although I loved being on the Board as a member at large, when I saw someone as qualified as John Feldvary willing to volunteer, I was happy to step aside and help the airport in some other role.

I will continue to attend Board meetings and am going to volunteer as a member of the Advisory Council. Tom concluded his reflections on his term by saying, "It was a fantastic experience that I will look back on fondly. Working with such a great group of people on the Board and such a talented manager like Kent Maurer, and the amazing staff at the airport, made serving a pleasure. I am looking forward to continued success for the Jackson County Airport."

Chairman Steve Wellman presented a Resolution to Tom Davis in appreciation of his eleven years of service on the board. The resolution is included in this article, but read with caution, it is laden with double entendres related to the insurance industry in which Tom is employed.

### **RESOLUTION Of The Airport Board at Jackson County – Reynolds Field**

**WHEREAS, Tom Davis has served as an Airport Board member since 2001 currently holding the office of Airport Board Secretary; and**

**WHEREAS, Tom Davis has served with distinction as an Airport Board member acting as an agent of change, providing coverage to many special committees and work groups, insuring quality representation of the Airport Board; and**

**WHEREAS, Early in his tenure, Tom was a broker for resolving certain airport conflicts, thereby underwriting a spirit of cooperation that remains today; and**

**WHEREAS, Tom Davis' legacy includes; a professional demeanor while never wavering in his positive attitude. Tom's presence on the Board will be missed for many reasons not the least of which is his premium sense of humor; and**

**WHEREAS, The Airport Board hereby expresses sincere appreciation to Tom Davis for his efforts to improve Jackson County Reynolds Field through his service as an Airport Board member for the past eleven years; and**

**NOW; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Jackson County Airport Board wishes much success to Tom Davis as he retires from service on the Airport Board at Jackson County Reynolds Field.**

**Steven R. Wellman, Chairman  
December 21, 2011  
Jackson County Airport Board**

Board Chair,  
Steve Wellman  
presenting the  
resolution to  
Tom Davis.



## Airport Board Presents the George and Fay Bolender Award

Each year the Airport Board recognizes an individual or organization that makes a significant contribution to Jackson County – Reynolds Field and the recipient for 2011 was William Maher (posthumously). The award was presented during the December Airport Board meeting to two of Bill's three daughters, Pat Maher and Linda Maher-Hath along with his nephew Walter Williams. A copy of the award will be presented later this year to the third daughter, Peggy Maher, who lives in Texas. Steve Wellman, along with Fay Bolender made the presentation.

### Recipients of the George and Fay Bolender Award:

- 2007 – George and Fay Bolender
- 2008 – Chapter #304 Experimental Aircraft Association
- 2009 – John Feldvay
- 2010 – Diane Weems
- 2011 – William J. Maher (Posthumously)



**Captain William J. Maher**

A short video of the presentation can be accessed by clicking on the following link:  
<http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/Agencies/airport/media.asp>

### RESOLUTION Of The Airport Board at Jackson County – Reynolds Field

**WHEREAS, William J. Maher was an integral member of the Jackson County – Reynolds Field community for over 70 years and contributed to the success of the Airport in many significant ways; and**

**WHEREAS, William J. "Bill" Maher received his pilot's license in 1941 as a student in the Civilian Pilot Training Program at then Jackson Junior College and went on to serve his country as a pilot flying the "hump" in WWII for the China National Aviation Corporation earning the U.S. Army Air Corp's Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal for his service; and**

**WHEREAS, Bill was awarded the Wright Patterson Master Pilot award for over 50 years of safe flying as a corporate pilot for Zantop Airways, Air Package Corporation and Midway Supply and as a private pilot flying many private aircraft based at Jackson County - Reynolds Field; and**

**WHEREAS, Bill Maher supported aviation programs at Jackson County Reynolds Field in his capacity as a benefactor for aviation scholarships and a community advocate for Jackson County – Reynolds Field airport; and**

**WHEREAS, Bill Maher was a key figure in efforts to create a monument honoring the instrumental role Jackson Junior College played in training WWII pilots in the Civilian Pilot Training Program here at JXN; and**

**WHEREAS, Bill Maher solicited and raised over \$47,000 in private, local business and foundation donations for the WWII monument project ensuring the addition of this monument to Aviation Heritage Park preserving an important event in the history of Reynolds Municipal Airport and Jackson Junior College; and**

**WHEREAS, The Jackson County Airport Board wishes to acknowledge and honor the contributions of William J. Maher to the betterment of Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field; and**

**NOW; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Jackson County Airport Board does hereby posthumously award the 2011 "George and Fay Bolender Award" to William J. Maher for significant contributions to the success of Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field.**

*Steven R. Wellman, Chairman  
December 21, 2011  
Jackson County Airport Board*

## Two New Corporate Aircraft Land at JXN

This past year saw two Jackson County businesses purchase corporate aircraft that are now based at Jackson County - Reynolds Field. Technique Inc. utilizes an Eclipse jet aircraft to reach their customers in the Midwest region. Adams Building Contractors has customers in 25 states and has purchased a Cessna 421 twin engine aircraft.

Gary Adams of Adams Building Contractors has realized the benefit of a company aircraft already. A recent trip to Broken Bow, Nebraska was a 3-hour trip and they were able to land at an airport only 11 minutes from their destination. This same trip by commercial aircraft would be at least twice as long in travel time not including the three hour drive from the nearest commercial airport to their destination. They were able to return to Jackson the same day taking four company representatives instead of only sending one. Gary Adams will be able to have regular meetings with customers that otherwise would have been either impractical or impossible to hold.

Ron Johncox of Technique Inc. has recently used the Eclipse for trips to Milwaukee, Louisville, Atlanta, Charlotte, Buffalo and Manchester (New Hampshire). An estimated 85% of Techniques' customers are located outside of Michigan. The company has previously utilized leased aircraft for business trips, but faced challenges with scheduling and unfamiliarity with the skills of the various pilots. Leasing a Jackson-based aircraft has solved those issues. Ron says that emails and phone calls do not replace "face to face time" with his customers. His company recently held five meetings in four different Mid-West states in one day, something that would be impossible with commercial travel. For example, Louisville, an otherwise six-hour drive is one hour in the Eclipse jet. The aircraft is available to other corporations through leasing of time blocks.



Example of an Eclipse Jet



Twin Engine Cessna 421

## 2012 Airport Board



Members from left to right: seated are Steve Wellman and John Feldvary, standing are James Shotwell, Jr., Dave Lutchka, Carl Rice, Jr. and Mike Overton, County Administrator/Controller.

## Runway 7-25 Safety Project Moving Forward

Significant forward progress in the Runway 7-25 Safety Project occurred during 2011. Preliminary engineering for the Runway 7-25 safety project began and included drilling approximately 140 soil borings to determine the quality of underlying soils and salvage materials. The final design of the Snow Removal Equipment maintenance building was nearly completed with construction anticipated beginning in August of 2012. The existing SRE building is currently situated on the future 7-25 taxiway. Lastly, the acquisition of easements and property necessary for this project is nearing completion with only two easements left to be settled.

An example of why this project is important occurred in Key West, Florida in November of 2011 when, according to reports, a jet aircraft ran off the end of the runway. Airport officials indicated that the crash would have been far worse except for the recent project that added 500' of safety area at the runway's end, <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/11/01/2482340/nascars-rick-hendrick-suffers.html> coincidentally; the aircraft involved in this crash is a regular visitor to our airport during the Michigan International Speedway races in June and August of each year.



Aircraft in Key West, Florida

*Photo by Monroe County Sheriff Department, Florida*



The Jackson County Airport Runway 7-25 Safety Project is the final such project at an FAA Tier One airport in the State of Michigan. Construction will begin in 2015 and be completed in 2016.

The 7-25 Runway Safety Project will result in a safer runway for aircraft like this Convair that regularly flies into Jackson

The Jackson County Airport on YouTube

Click on the links below and experience a landing and takeoff from Jackson County –Reynolds Field

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWr0R6IBtmY> and [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_e6SGfBXDo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_e6SGfBXDo)

## Airport Marketing Plan Being Developed

The Airport Advisory Council, with the assistance of area business representatives along with staff from the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce is busily working on developing a marketing plan for the airport. During 2011 the plan was developed using the “Marketing Guidebook for Small Airports” from the Transportation Research Board. As a result, five areas of concentration were created for further study and action plans

1. Encourage and enhance partnerships and collaboration efforts
  - A. Collaborate airport events with other existing community events e.g. the Rose Festival with the EAA Pancake Breakfast Fly-In
  - B. Airport businesses collaborate and cooperate with each other e.g. Airport Restaurant and Skyway Aviation grant mutual discounts for patronizing both businesses
  - C. Airport businesses collaborate with community events
2. Encourage young people to get involved with airport events and aviation in general
3. Market the airport as a venue for special events and as a location for community meetings and gatherings
4. Initiate a “branding” study to create an airport brand
5. Research the feasibility of a modern electronic sign for the main airport entrance

### Airport Operations and Air Traffic Control Services

Airports around Michigan have experienced a steady decline in the number of landings and take offs (operations) during the past nine years due to the aftermath of the 2001 terrorist attacks coupled with struggling statewide economic conditions. The number of operations counted at an airport can determine if and to what degree certain Federal projects and services are funded. This chart indicates a slight increase in the number of operations for this airport in 2011.

#### JXN Ten Year FAA Traffic Counts

<b>2002</b>	<b>65,034</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>61,591</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>53,392</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>48,873</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>48,858</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>48,198</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>49,154</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>52,145</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>49,221</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>49,315</b>

The following compares Jackson County with the 13 other airports in Michigan with air traffic control towers. It is important to remember that many variables exist between and among these airports in how air traffic control services are delivered: hours of operation; types of aircraft; if the airport has passenger service; whether staffed by FAA or private contractors; funding, etc. Further analysis can be performed at this web site: <http://aspm.faa.gov/opsnet/sys/Tower.asp>

<b>Airport</b>	<b>Total Operations-2011</b>
Detroit Metro (DTW)	444,907
Pontiac-Oakland (PTK)	121,750
Grand Rapids (GRR)	88,336
Traverse City (TVC)	84,269
Detroit City (DET)	80,337
Battle Creek (BTL)	71,386
Ypsilanti (YIP)	70,263
Ann Arbor (ARB)	62,477
Jackson (JXN)	49,315
Kalamazoo (AZO)	47,947
Flint (FNT)	46,266
Lansing (LAN)	40,400
Muskegon (MKG)	37,680
Saginaw (MBS)	28,547
Marquette (SAW)	20,712
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,294,592</b>



## **Airport Board Welcomes New Member John Feldvary**

John Feldvary is the newest member of the Jackson County – Reynolds Field Airport Board, having been appointed to a two-year term by the Jackson County Board of Commissions. John is no stranger to this airport. John’s association with JXN started about thirty years ago when he was hired by Consumers Energy as a corporate pilot. John is now retired from U.S. Airways as a Captain and owns a hangar and T-6 airplane based here. John is very active in: the EAA Chapter #304; the Airport Advisory Council; special events like the Hot Air Jubilee and recent Ford Trimotor visit; and frequently volunteers his time and aircraft for special event fly overs and air show appearances with the Screamin’ Rebels T-6 formation group. John served as the Director of Aviation Technology at Jackson Community College for two years.

When asked what motivated him to serve, John replied, “My desire to be appointed to the Airport Board came about as a result of my past history and experience with the Jackson County Airport.” John added, “I have a strong desire to educate people on the importance of the airport to the community.” Quoting the Airport Owners and Pilots Association mantra, John added, “The most important main street in any community is its airport runway”.

John was awarded the “George and Fay Bolender Award” in 2008 for “significant contributions to Jackson County – Reynolds Field. John is married to Joan and they have two children and four grandchildren.

## **JXN Aviation Services Directory**

### *Food and Catering*

Airport Restaurant and Spirits  
517-783-3616

### *Aircraft Maintenance and Repair*

Jackson Aero  
517-780-0343  
<http://www.freewebs.com/jacksonaero/index.htm>

### *Aircraft Fueling and Ramp Services*

Skyway Aviation  
517-787-2460  
<http://www.skywayjxn.com/>

### *Car Rental*

AVIS  
517-782-8218  
<http://www.avis.com/car-rental/avisHome/home.ac>

### *Pilot Training and Education*

JCC Flight School  
517-787-7012  
<http://www.jccmi.edu/FlightCenter/>

### *Aviation Clubs*

EAA Chapter #304  
<http://eaa304.com/>

## **2012 Airport Events Calendar**

### **APRIL**

Friday, April 13                      Jackson County Annual Tree Sale  
& Saturday, April 14<sup>TH</sup>

### **MAY**

Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>                      WWII Monument Dedication  
Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> to                      Blues Festival  
Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **JUNE**

Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>                      EAA Pancake Breakfast  
Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>                      MIS Race

### **JULY**

Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> to                      Aerobatics Competition  
Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>

### **AUGUST**

Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>                      MIS Race

### **SEPTEMBER**

Saturday, September, 15<sup>th</sup>                      EAA Pancake Breakfast

## Improvements at the Airport

The most significant addition to the airport this year was the WWII statue that now adorns Aviation Heritage Park. Creation of this over-life-size bronze statue of a WWII bomber pilot was the brain child of Bob Lazebnik of Jackson, Michigan who commissioned and donated the work to the airport. The statue was created by artist Josh Diedrich of Kalamazoo, Michigan using a 13" tall statue created by Bob's brother, Jack Lazebnik in the early 1943. Jack was a WWII bomber pilot who served as command pilot of a B-24 flying 23 missions from Italy during WWII. The small statue remained in the Lazebnik family for all these years until the idea surface to use it as a model for a large statue.



WWII Aviator Statue  
Dedicated in 2011

The front entrance of the Airport Administration Building received a sorely need upgrade. This building has historical significance since it served as the airport's terminal building from 1934 until 1961. Airport staff worked closely with a cement contractor to create the new entrance and landscaping.

**Entrance Before**



Ed Gorzen, pilot and JXN hangar owner, donated his backhoe and expertise for demolition of asphalt in our entrance area.



A large boulder was retrieved from airport grounds and a plaque was affixed to it with an artist's representation of what the Administration building looked like during the 1950's.

**Entrance After**



## 2011 in Pictures



Airport Restaurant in bloom

**Airport Restaurant & Spirits  
announces new winter  
hours:**

**Sunday thru Thurs  
7 am to 3 pm**

**Friday & Saturday  
7 am to 8 pm**



These T-6 aircraft are warming up for takeoff and are based at JXN and owned by John Feldvary (left) and his brother Lou Feldvary (right).



This sink-hole mysteriously appeared on the main runway #7-25 in June of 2011 and was repaired by Bailey Excavation of Jackson, MI. Bailey's donated all of the labor and most of the materials necessary for the repairs. The runway was reopened within 24 hours.



A military aircraft on the ramp at JXN



The Direct TV Blimp



Skyway Aviation Celebrates 50 Years in Business at JXN  
From left to right Ben, Joe and Bob Jordan receiving recognition  
from the Airport Board



O'Harrow Construction of Jackson, MI donated the concrete  
and workmanship for the WWII monument.



The dedication ceremony of this bronze sculpture, donated by Bob  
Lazebnik, on Armed Forces Day, 2011 was well attended.  
From left to right: Bob Lazebnik, George Brown,  
Senator Carl Levin, and Jack Lazebnik.



The shadow of the WWII statue in Aviation Heritage Park  
cast its shadow on the Bob Jackson hangar