

# Prop Wash

DeKalb County Board of  
Aviation Commissioners

DeKalb County Airport

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## ILS UPDATE

The Instrument Landing System (ILS) construction resumed September 16th after a two month lull. The construction crews were waiting on some of the Outer Marker electronic equipment and the Non-Direction Beacon (NDB) Tower which was on back order from the manufacturer in Canada. Butler and Butler Cranes started setting the NDB antenna at 8:00 am on the 16th amidst some rain showers. If the weather cooperates, the equipment will be in place by this Friday, Sept. 24th, according to Pat Monahan, the Project Coordinator for the FAA. The FAA will then need to tune the outer marker and the NDB, which is planned to take place by the end of September. The localizer and glide slope are complete and have been tuned.

The FAA procedures office is wrapping up the instrument procedures for the ILS system and the airport this month as well. Mr. Monahan stated the FAA's King Air is scheduled to conduct a flight check on equipment and the procedures in October. The system will then be functionally ready; however it will need to be commissioned and have the procedure officially published by the FAA. The DeKalb County ILS will most likely not see approach plates and other official publications with the ILS system information until January 2005.

## GA AIDS HURRICANE RELIEF

Time and time again disasters have underscored the importance of general aviation to communities, particularly Florida residents. With the most recent hurricane, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) again set up operations at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport, home of the Sun 'n Fun Fly-In. Sun 'n Fun also authorized the Salvation Army to use Sun 'n Fun's main kitchen facilities to provide food and other services to Polk County residents adversely affected by Hurricane Frances. And on Florida's east coast, the National Guard staged helicopter relief flights from The New Piper Aircraft's ramp at Vero Beach.



## AWOS UPDATE

The Automated Weather Observation Station (AWOS), is up and running in test mode. It has run properly in test mode since August 27<sup>th</sup>, which exceeds the 5 consecutive days required in the construction contract before commissioning can take place. The system was turned on in early August, but was experiencing some technical difficulties and was shut down to make some corrections. Now, with everything fully operational, the commissioning can be scheduled with David Nguyen of the FAA.

The tower will broadcast real-time weather data to aviation radios and pilots for use in planning their flights. The AWOS information is atmospheric weather data and includes temperature, dew point, barometric pressure, wind speed, wind direction, ceiling height and visibility distance.

The AWOS is available on frequency 124.15 and by telephone at: 260-925-8225. The system is still in test mode and will not become official until the FAA commissions it. When you listen to the system you will hear the test qualifier right before the time. Once this test message is removed, the public can then officially begin to use the system.



AWOS Tower

### Security:

- Hangar locks are to be an airport issued lock. This is so the airport has access to the hangar for routine inspections and for access in the event of a fire.
- A reminder is being issued to warn people against driving their personal vehicles onto taxiways and aprons. Due to safety and security issues, there are to be **NO** personal vehicles driven onto active aircraft operation areas at any time. The County Sheriff will issue traffic violations if the abuse persists.



### Special points of interest:

- The BOAC meets every third Friday at 12:30 PM. The next meeting will be October 15, 2004.
- To obtain a copy of the last BOAC meeting minutes email your request to: Brad Stump - [BStump@ci.auburn.in.us](mailto:BStump@ci.auburn.in.us)

# Proof AOPA Airport Watch Concept Works

Here's the proof that GA airports really are small communities and that the "residents" know when something is amiss. Yesterday, alert folks at a general aviation airport contacted authorities who nabbed two suspicious characters before they could cause trouble.

"This incident demonstrates the validity of the Airport Watch concept," said AOPA President Phil Boyer, "Vigilant pilots and airport workers make the best security force because they know who does and doesn't belong at the airport. They can easily spot the things that just don't seem right."

But there's more to this story, including a twist worthy of Paul Harvey. The story begins as a man telephones an FBO at St. Louis Downtown Airport (CPS), not far from the Gateway Arch, and asks about chartering a helicopter. About an hour later, two men of Middle Eastern appearance walk into the FBO, pull out cash to pay for the flight, and present driver's licenses from two different states as ID. Office staff notices their car is registered in a third state.

"Things just didn't smell right," said St. Louis Downtown Airport Director Bob McDaniel, "so the mechanic took them into the hangar to see the aircraft, while the office person called the FBI and local police." (Airport Watch guidance says to call local police or the FBI if you suspect an immediate threat to life or property.)

The helicopter was blocked by other aircraft, and the mechanic used that as an excuse to stall the two suspects, who began unloading backpacks and odd-shaped luggage from their car. Local police arrived shortly and hauled the suspects off to jail in handcuffs. Police discovered box cutters and other potential weapons hidden in the bags.

And now (with apologies to Paul Harvey), the rest of the story.

After a little time behind bars, the two "terrorists" confessed that they were NBC employees from New York. Their assignment: A story on how "easy" it was to get information and directions to a helicopter and then hijack it. St. Louis was their first attempt; the network reportedly planned similar tries to penetrate security at airports around the country.

"Kudos to the folks in St. Louis for using the Airport Watch concept to thwart this 'terrorist' attempt," said Boyer. "Praise, too, to the local police for responding quickly and appropriately."

"And to NBC: We appreciate that you accurately reported these misguided escapades on tonight's network news. And we hope this gives you — and the other media who make a living by generating unnecessary fear — ample reason to stop making GA a security scapegoat."

## Help Keep DeKalb County Airport Secure

Through the AOPA Airport Watch Program, we have the power to reduce or even eliminate the perception that private airplanes pose a significant threat to the public. Protect our flying community and our freedom to fly while protecting our nonflying friends and neighbors by protecting your airplane and airport like you do your home and neighborhood! Use your eyes and ears to keep our airports safe

Here's what to look for:

- Pilots who appear under the control of someone else.
- Anyone trying to access an aircraft through force — without keys, using a crowbar or screwdriver.
- Anyone who seems unfamiliar with aviation procedures trying to check out an airplane.
- Anyone who misuses aviation lingo — or seems too eager to use all the lingo
- People or groups who seem determined to keep to themselves.
- Any members of your airport neighborhood who work to avoid contact with you or other airport tenants.
- Anyone who appears to be just loitering, with no specific reason for being there.
- Any out-of-the-ordinary videotaping of aircraft or hangars.
- Aircraft with unusual or obviously unauthorized modifications.
- Dangerous cargo or loads — explosives, chemicals, openly displayed weapons — being loaded into an airplane.
- Anything that strikes you as wrong — listen to your gut instinct, and then follow through.
- Pay special attention to height, weight, and the individual's clothing or other identifiable traits.



Be on the watch and call this number if you witness anything out of the ordinary **1-866-GA-SECURE!**

Please send us your ideas of things you would like to see in the newsletter. Any newsletter suggestions or comments can be sent via email to: PShaffer@BFSEngr.com or faxed to 317-713-4616. If you are a DeKalb County Airport Tenant, send your ideas for articles in with your next payment. We thank you in advance for your articles and ideas.