



The CHAPTER 221 FLYER

Proudly Serving the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 221 in Kalamazoo, Michigan
www.EAA221.org

March 2016

President's Message



Hello Everyone. First I would like to thank those of you who provided information and valuable input to me about your concerns regarding the Young Eagles Youth Protection Policy. We will continue to discuss the issues and explore options on what to do about YE at our next meetings. On a lighter note, thank goodness the weather has been mild and enabling for those of us who have to be concerned about getting our 90 day landing currency. I had a happy birthday on February 8 by flying with Bill Wallbeck and was even able to put his sweet RV-6 tail dragger on the ground on first try. Sometimes I get to log all three of my landings on just one approach but I got lucky this time – only one. But I got my other two with Dale in the Cherokee the previous week. Such a lucky guy! I also want to thank Andy Millin, Jim Butcher and Garrett Gokey for putting on a fantastic training session for those of us with the desire to learn more about the Garmin 430/530 Nav Com GPS radio and all its fantastic capabilities. It was a great morning learning, sharing knowledge and just hanging out with friends at the Air Zoo on February 6. Very well done and thanks a lot. Finally – a new newsletter edi-

tor! Thanks to Ron Ryan for volunteering to take on the duties of Newsletter Editor. All of us, and especially Andy Millin thank you very much.

On the agenda for our March meeting will a viewing of the December 2015 issue of the EAA Chapter Video Magazine. There are three sections, about 18 minutes worth of nostalgia plus new information about the restoration of the Piper L-4 to be raffled off at Airventure 2016, Drones (come on, they're here and it is really quite interesting) and the new technology of 3 D printing and how it could benefit homebuilders.

See you soon,

Bob Aardema, EAA Chapter 221
President

Bob Aardema
President, EAA Chapter 221
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Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

7:00 PM

AirZoo East Campus



EAA's 2016 Sweepstakes Piper L-4J "Warbird"

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3101 E. Milham
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Map at www.EAA221.org

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Unless otherwise specified, our chapter meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Airzoo Flight Center Classroom** on the west side of the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport.



Airport Report: Hillsdale – KJYM *IMPROVEMENTS AFOOT*

By: Ron Ryan There is quite a bit of activity occurring at the Hillsdale Municipal Airport (KJYM) and at the head of it all is the dynamic Jason Walters, the new Airport Manager. I attended Hillsdale College in the 1980s. My dad had been a student there in the 1960s, and my brother also went to Hillsdale College. I therefore have always had a sweet spot for anything Hillsdale. In fact, any time that I am able to fly there, a small part of my heart rekindles the nostalgia of those golden college years.

In pursuit of our IFR rating, Jon Rafacz and I have recently practiced approaches to runways 28 and 10 in his Cessna 150D, N4308U. Upon returning from breakfast in Port Clinton, Ohio last summer I was dismayed at the condition of the FBO. The fuel prices were high and there was very little activity. The condition of the FBO was dreary at best. My opinion quickly changed however on January 7

when I noticed that Hillsdale’s fuel prices were the lowest in the area. Like most parsimonious GA pilots (*translation: think frugal, thrifty, and proudly cheap*), the price of 100LL is my very first criteria for a desti-

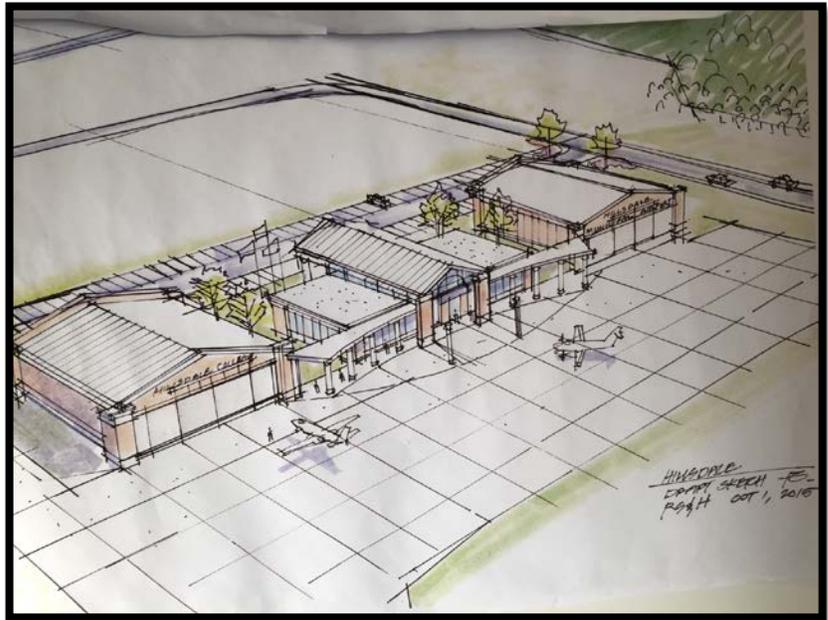


“Standard Pilot Code unlocks pump. Pump what you need & please call me with amount & I’ll send you a bill. Thanks, Jason. 517-398-0425”

nation. But I discovered more than just an economical fuel price had changed at KJYM. Upon further inquiry, I discovered Mr. Jason Walters, the new airport manager, is at the root of those changes.

In preparation for this article I interviewed Mr. Walters. We talked for over 30 minutes and I was able to obtain quite a bit of information on many of the improvements and modifications that he has already made and other changes that he is anticipating will occur over the next 2 to 3 years, if not sooner.

First, if the FBO is closed upon your arrival, use the “Standard Michigan Pilot Code” to unlock the pump and take what you need. Snap a picture of the pump and text the photo to Jason. His assistant will run your credit card within a day or two and she will text your receipt back to you. If you go inside to use the restroom you will see that the old building has



been repainted and the old shag carpet removed. The 40 year old décor that included wood paneling has been painted white and the carpet that dated back to when LORAN was new has been replaced with wood flooring. There is free Wifi service. But those are just temporary changes. Remarkably, Mr. Walters is planning a new terminal that will include a destination restaurant on the field. The new terminal will include a flight school and meeting spaces too. The terminal is bracketed on each end by new large hangars. Since taking over the airport manager duties late last year, Mr. Walters already has the funding lined up to begin construction of the new terminal, estimated to cost \$7 million.



But, before the new terminal can be constructed, a new cement pad must be poured. The current pad is made of asphalt and is aged. Currently some corporate jets arriving remain parked on the taxiway, fearful of venturing onto the soft asphalt. The Michigan Department of Transportation’s, Michigan Aeronautics Commission has earmarked 2018 for release of \$1.2M for the construction of the new cement pad. However Mr. Walters, together with his local state senator and other key community officials were recently in Lansing to meet with the Commissioners in order to obtain release the funds needed to construct the pad sooner than later.

However a new terminal and pad are not the only new things that are occurring at that the Hillsdale Municipal Airport as a result of Mr. Walters’ efforts. Since lowering the cost of 100LL, KJYM has sold almost as much fuel in the last 90 days as it sold in all of 2015. In the previous 90 days 2700 gallons of aviation fuel were pumped. Compare this to 3000 gallons delivered in all of 2015. Presently you can give Mr. Walters a call on his cell phone at 517-398-0425 or send him an email at jasonwalters@gmail.com, and let him know that you’re flying-in with some buddies and he will drive you in the airport’s new limousine to Hillsdale College’s renowned Shooting Sports range for an afternoon of shooting. The John Anthony Halter Shooting Sports Education Center is a 103-acre facility that features four American trap fields, a five-stand sporting clays field, a small arms range, a skeet field for both American and International skeet, and a lodge and education center. Future improvements to the range include the construction of a combination 100-meter rifle

and 50-meter pistol range, one International/Olympic bunker trap field, an indoor air gun and archery range, and an outdoor archery range that will meet specification for NCAA competitions and Olympic shooting. Alternatively, Mr. Walters and the new limousine will take you and your significant other into Hillsdale for a delightful steak dinner at Johnny T's Bistro. Mr. Walters is in tune with the GA community. How many pilots do not love the chance to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights and eat good food? Not many I suspect.

Mr. Walters tells me that he has a competent and engaged mechanic on the field and if an owner will commit to two years of annuals, he will take 50% off of the shop price for both annuals. Patriot Aviation of Hillsdale has recently become Rotax trained and the Airport will become a Rotax Maintenance Center certified to work on all 900 series engines.



QUALITY AIRCRAFT SINCE 1948
TECNAM

The airport will also become an official repair station for the Italian, Tecnam aircraft.

A flight school is about to be relocated from KADG to KJYM too. The flight school has four planes one of which is aerobatic rated and the school expects to service 30 students with four instructors.

An FAA examiner is set to also relocate to the field providing check rides and exams. The FBO and the new terminal will provide a testing room as well.

It is hoped with all the improvements that eventually the NASCAR crowd will land and operate out of Hillsdale's airstrip. The Michigan International Speedway located in Brooklyn, Michigan is only 33 minutes away from the field and is actually easier to get to from Hillsdale than from KJXN or KADG where operations currently occur.

In sum, I encourage the membership to take a trip to KJYM and see what's going on. If you approach Runway 10 from the west on a long final, take a quick look out the left side of your airplane. You will catch a glimpse of Hillsdale College's Central Hall, constructed in 1853, and still standing. You will not feel the same pleasant wistfulness that I do (think fraternity parties, kegs, sorority girls, mixed with lots of studying and engaging classes), but I guarantee you will be impressed nonetheless.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates to put on your calendar for upcoming events are:

April 16, WMU pancake breakfast and safety seminar.

April 30, Aviatrix Bash, Kalamazoo Air Zoo.

May 7, Midland (KIKW) pancake breakfast.

May 14, Dupont-Lapeer (D95) pancake breakfast.

May 21, Linden (9G2) pancake breakfast.

May 28, Freemont (KFFX) pancake breakfast.

May 29, Lake City (Y91) pancake breakfast.

May 29, Jackson (KJXN) pancake breakfast.

September 16-17, AOPA Regional Fly In at the BTL Airport. Details of these events will be discussed in the next few meetings.

Chapter 221
www.eaa221.org

Supporting the recreational builder/flyer with technical, social, and political news to promote flying safety and enjoyment:

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