

News and Events at the Parlin Field Airport in Newport, New Hampshire **New Year Edition – January 2012**

The Old Year Passes...

Fuel Prices

Fuel prices skyrocketed more than 25% in early 2011 from less than \$4 per gallon to more than \$5 per gallon. Increased prices affected both traffic count and fuel sales. Airport takeoffs and landings decreased from 2,696 in 2010 to 2,384 in 2011, a decrease of 312 operations (about 12%). Interestingly, local operations exceeded transient operations for the first time in many years. Fuel sales also decreased from 22,769 gallons sold in 2010 to 20,475 gallons in 2011, a decrease of 2,294 gallons (about 10%). Although fuel sales were down from the previous year, they were up slightly from long term averages. The numbers indicate slightly more local flying activity, particularly early in the year when it appeared pilots, both local and transient, were flying shorter hops and staying closer to home, possibly in response to the rapid increase in fuel prices.

Runway Paving

After more than a year of research and preparation, we paved the main runway. The work included extensive repairs, crack sealing, and structural fabric on 3,500 feet of major cracks prior to paving. This unique solution provided the best overall value and will be watched by other airports with limited budgets.

Hangar Restoration

Thanks to many generous donors, we installed a new hydraulically-operated one-piece hangar door on the historic 1929 hangar. With foundation steel work and a concrete floor completed last year and a new hangar door this year, major work on the hangar is complete. But, many details remain. Repairs to roofing and windows, along with general paint and clean-up will take considerable labor and some additional materials. Nevertheless, as it stands now, the hangar is clean, fully enclosed, and secure. As a result of these improvements, rental rate increased to \$95 monthly and occupancy increased from 3 airplanes in 2009 to 7 airplanes at the start of the new year.

Events

The year 2011 also saw many events and activities

from aerobatic practice to fly-ins and seminars.

Heavy snow and the Newport Winter Carnival dominated the winter events with participants and spectators enjoying ski joring on the snow-covered turf runway. The ever popular and very successful Run What Ya' Brung event was held on a Monday evening just prior to paving the runway. And the Airport Open House in August attracted hundreds of visitors. The Open House featured a National Guard Blackhawk helicopter, free airplane rides for children conducted by pilots in the local Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association, and charitable donation rides for adults conducted by pilots based at Parlin Field. The airport was busy during the Open House with airplanes landing or taking off every two minutes throughout the day.

...And a New Year Rises

Airport Master Plan

The Airport Advisory Board is working on a completely new master plan for the airport. The challenge is to provide safe, functional, high-quality airport facilities while maintaining the rural, old-time character that makes Parlin Field special. Preliminary discussions suggest you can expect a continued emphasis on green grass, woodland, and community events while improving drainage, adding a parallel taxiway, repaving the main ramp, and adding an RNAV (GPS) approach plus visual glide slope indicator to runway 36. If there are features you like or don't like about the airport – things you would change or keep the same – send a note to the airport manager or any member of the Airport Advisory Board.

Obstruction Removal

You can expect additional tree removal in the approach surfaces to runway 18/36. Trees that penetrate the approach slope surface will be selectively removed, preserving as much understory vegetation as possible.

Displaced Threshold

Threshold lights for the runway 18 displaced threshold will be moved about 300 feet north to coincide with

the new threshold markings. Moving the lights will eliminate potential conflicts with aircraft using the turf runway.

Flying Club?

Local pilots have been discussing the possibility of creating a non-equity flying club at Parlin Field for several years. This might be the year that a flying club becomes a reality. If established, the club would provide flight instruction and aircraft rental to members – functions not currently available at Parlin Field.

Upcoming Events

Visit the Parlin Field website for more information on events at www.newportnh.net/index.php?nav=228

Jan 4 Chill & Grill, 6:00 PM, Lil' Red Baron.

Jan 17 Airport Advisory Board, 6:30 PM, Operations Building.

Jan 18 Chill & Grill, 6:00 PM, Lil' Red Baron.

Feb 5-12 Newport Winter Carnival

Feb 11 Winter Carnival – Ski Joring at the Airport

Jul 14 International Comanche Society Fly-In (rain date July 15)

About Parlin Field

The Parlin Field Airport is located about 2 miles north of town at 14 Airport Road. The Airport is owned and operated by the Town of Newport, New Hampshire.

Parlin Field is a community airport that serves the entire Lake Sunapee Region. The airport enjoys support from pilots, tenants, stakeholders, and the community at large. It does not receive Federal funds.

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