

News and Events at the Parlin Field Airport in Newport, New Hampshire March 2012

March – *In like a Lion...*

Parlin Field experienced the second “big” snowstorm of the season during the first few days of March. Suddenly the Field had 30 inch snowbanks along the runway and 4 foot snowbanks adjacent to the main ramp. It looked like winter for the first time since last October when the airport experienced the only other “big” snowstorm of the season. For all practical purposes, Ol’ Man Winter failed to appear from November through February. Good news for flying, but disappointing for events such as the Winter Carnival. Since the snowstorm in early March, the weather has been well above freezing and nearly all the snow is gone, so maybe March will be ...*Out like a Lamb*.



Airport Turf and Runway Conditions

The open winter left many of the turf areas alternately wet and frozen. Already the airport has experienced a few days of classic “mud season” conditions in which the ground becomes saturated and soft as the surface thaws and the underlying ground remains frozen. Any traffic immediately sinks into the soft surface creating ruts and mud – not good for people, airplanes, or the the turf surface.

These conditions are not unexpected. The turf runway is closed from November into May to avoid freeze-thaw issues, and the southernmost 300 feet of the paved runway are not plowed during the winter to minimize frost heaving. When frost heaves eventually affect the southern end of the paved runway, the “South 600” is closed until the frost heaves subside and the soil under the pavement regains adequate strength to support aircraft and vehicle traffic.

Pilots should consult NOTAMs for current conditions. If conditions on the turf runway become suitable for

operations before May 1 (as posted in the Airport/Facility Directory), the runway will be opened by NOTAM. Likewise, when the South 600 becomes suitable for operations, the closure NOTAM will be canceled.

Airport Gains Summer Intern

Silas Eldredge, a student majoring in Aviation Management and Flight Operations at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, requested an internship at Parlin Field this summer. Airport manager **Russ Kelsea** negotiated terms and conditions with Silas and his academic coordinator. Silas will earn 3 academic credits in exchange for 126 hours of work over a 9 week period. During that time, Silas will learn about small airport management, maintain airport facilities, and develop various chapters in an *Airport Operations and Maintenance Handbook*. The Handbook will be specifically tailored to Parlin Field and is sorely needed as a factual resource to assure consistent management of airport facilities and functions. The internship will run from June 13 to August 15.

Airport Maintenance Plans

In addition to routine maintenance activities, two major projects are scheduled for this summer. First, crack sealing on the entire paved runway; and second, relocating threshold lights at the approach end of runway 18. Crack sealing is necessary to achieve the best possible lifespan for the new pavement. Moving threshold lights is necessary to match the new displaced threshold and also provide better utilization of turf surfaces on the airport. Both projects will be performed mostly by local pilots who dedicate many hours of volunteer service to Parlin Field. Pilots can expect minor delays in aircraft operations while work is actively underway on and adjacent to the runway.

A third project may be added to the summer schedule. The Airport Advisory Board initiated a request for an RNAV (GPS) 36 instrument approach to the airport as part of the Master Planning process. If the approach receives FAA approval, we will add non-precision

instrument markings to the approach end of runway 36. Since the layout for last year's runway painting project considered this possibility, only three steps are necessary: remove the existing numerals "36", paint threshold bars, and repaint the numerals "36" in a new position.

Flying Club Opportunity

Every month we get inquiries from people seeking flight training or aircraft rental. There are flight instructors in the area, but no rental aircraft available at Parlin Field. These facts suggest an ideal opportunity exists for someone to organize and operate a flying club offering flight training and aircraft rental.

For the past several months, local pilots discussed establishing a non-profit, tax-exempt flying club, but given other airport commitments, those pilots simply don't have the time to organize and operate such a club. Although many of the details have been explored, the paperwork remains. If you are interested in organizing and operating a flying club, please contact the airport manager or anyone on the Airport Advisory Board.

Restricted Areas 4102A & B

Flying in the vicinity of Fitchburg or Minute Man airports in Massachusetts? The nearby Fort Devens Restricted Areas 4102A&B have become more active recently with various kinds of military live-fire and UAV exercises, and too many pilots have entered the restricted airspace when it was active.

There might be a couple of reasons for the increased number of violations. First, prior to the past few months, R4102A&B were typically active only on Saturdays. Now however, the areas are active at other times as identified by NOTAM, so it is critical that pilots check all NOTAMs. Second, R4102A&B occupy the same geographic area, but at different altitudes. R4102A extends from the surface to 1,999 feet, and R4102B extends from 2,000 to 3,995 feet. Either or both can be active and not all GPS navigators easily identify both areas. Stay sharp out there!

Upcoming Events

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

- Mar 20** Airport Advisory Board, 6:30 PM, Operations Building.
- Mar 21** Chill & Grill, 6:00 PM, location TBA.
- Apr 4** Chill & Grill, 6:00 PM, location TBA.
- Apr 6** Easter Eggstravaganza, 11:00 AM, turf runway.
- Apr 14** New England Aviation Exposition, Daniel Webster College, Nashua, NH.
- Apr 17** Airport Advisory Board, 6:30 PM, Operations Building.
- Apr 18** Chill & Grill, 6:00 PM, location TBA.
- Apr 21** First Responder Safety, 9:00 & 10:30 AM, Recycled Pilots Hangar (tentative).
- Jul 14** Piper Comanche Type Club Fly-In, rain date Sunday the 15th.
- Aug 11** 12th Annual Airport Open House (tentative)

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.

Contact Information

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