

# THE LWS AIRPORT REPORT

AUGUST 2015

## FIRES IN THE CLEARWATER COMPLEX: AVIATION STRIKES BACK!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

APRON RECONSTRUCTION	2
WELCOME	3
PRIDE OF LEWISTON	4
ALASKA AIRLINES NEW FLIGHT SCHEDULE	4
LWS AT THE COUNTY FAIR	4
HANGAR CONSTRUCTION / PROJECT UPDATE	5
WHAT IS IT?	5

### REMINDER!

\* If you haven't already done so, please bring your airport identification/gate card to the airport administration office. Those cards which have not already been replaced have been deactivated and will no longer work. They do, however, have to be accounted for. Failure to do so may result in denial of a request for a future card!

There's a battle raging in the Clearwater National Forest, and unless you just returned from another continent, you probably know it's no longer business as usual in North Central Idaho. What started as twenty-five smaller, lightning induced fires morphed into a monster, seriously endangering lives and property. Taxed with other large fires in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, National Forest Service resources were stretched thin.

Needing access to a larger, more reliable runway facility, Forest Service officials reached out to the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport Authority Board two weeks ago.

"Local ground forces were on



*A Canadian CL415 dumps its load*

the defense," Airport Authority Board Chairman Chris Hayes reported. "Using aviation puts them back on the offense."

The airport opened up a large portion of the South Side Aviation Business Park for

Forest Service use. Almost immediately, generators, trailers, and equipment pallets began showing up.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## ARNIE BRANDT, FORMER POTLATCH PILOT PASSES

Less than a year ago, we interviewed Arnie Brandt to write about the Potlatch company's contribution to corporate aviation. No one could have known at the time it would be the *last* time we would ask Arnie about anything. But we're so glad we did, because the Potlatch LearJet he flew in its day was one of the highest performing aircraft in the world, and Arnie had a story to tell.

"We had a standing practice," he said. "Once tower cleared you

for takeoff, you had to cross the Potlatch mill at 17,000 feet or buy lunch."

Arnie recently passed away. But there's no doubt in our minds his buddies were buying him lunch shortly thereafter. Those of us who were lucky enough to know Arnie aren't sad he's gone. We're happy we got the chance to know him.

*"Cleared for takeoff, Arnie!"*



*Arnie Brandt, former Potlatch Corporate Pilot*

### NORTH APRON RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT



Aircraft Company (today it's Stout Flying Service). About a year after the picture was taken, the aircraft parking area in front of the building was paved, and next week, Albright Construction will

The hangar in the picture above should look vaguely familiar. Taken in 1948, it was then home of the Hillcrest

begin rebuilding it for the first time since the black top was laid down almost 67 years ago.

Paving operations being what they were in the day, chances are pretty good the original pavement was not much more than a cold mix. But the quality of work and materials more than made up for old technology. After all, the tarmac has lasted over half a century. During that time, it's played host to the Hillcrest Aircraft Company, the Potlatch Corporation, Schumacher's Ag-Air, Superkat, Sweeney Aviation, and now Stout. And it's bedded down

aircraft of every size, shape, color and complexity. It's been sealcoated, cracksealed, overlaid, and slurry sealed so many times the pavement height now exceeds the elevation of the hangar floor. Sometimes Ralph Stout (President, Stout Flying Service) wonders if he'll be able to get another airplane inside without scraping its tail on the hangar.

Monday, August 31st,

(Continued on Page 3)

### AVIATION STRIKES BACK! (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Supplies to support fire fighter staff were airlifted from Missoula; local contractors and suppliers pitched in with electricians, port-a-potties, and hotel rooms. Stout Flying Service hosted National Guard personnel in their hangar until the Forest Service could mobilize to the airport's south side.

Two Canadian CL415s (pictured on page 1) saw their first ever appearance in the Lewis-Clark Valley last week. With their characteristic

amphibious "hull," these workhorses scoop up water from lakes or rivers without stopping, dumping their loads directly on fires. Coupled with an Idaho National Guard Blackhawk helicopter and a command and control "Bird Dog" (Aero Commander), the Forest Service's "Lewiston Base" swung into action.

Daily operations with the Canadian CL415s increased while Sierra Pacific ramped up its airlift efforts with daily 737 flights. Eventually, another

500 fresh firefighters from Alaska joined the ranks of the hotshot teams coming through Lewiston to battle the North Central Idaho fires.

As of this writing, effects of the inferno still are widespread. Smoke last weekend filled the low areas around the Pullman Moscow Regional Airport, once again degrading visibility, and forcing Alaska Airlines to divert at least one flight to Lewiston where operational ready rates historically run at a 98% operational level.

**"When the Forest Service asked for our help, we decided we were going to be part of the solution, not the problem."**

**-Bill McCann, Jr.  
Authority Board**



Firefighters deplane from the Sierra Pacific Boeing 737

**NORTH APRON RECONSTRUCTION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)**

Albright Construction subcontractors will start the process by grinding up the old asphalt. Once it's been removed and the base rebuilt, Poe Asphalt Paving will replace the old pavement with a new asphalt mat, stressed to handle even the most demanding aircraft the airport can handle.



*The pavement cracks above attest the apron has outlived*

Almost 140,000 square feet of apron will be replaced at a total construction cost of around \$800,000. And the work couldn't hardly be in a more congested area of the airport. With the exception of air carriers, every imaginable

segment of aviation uses it: helicopters, fixed wing, air ambulance, air cargo, military, recreational aviation, transient, local...it's all there. Engineers and project managers have had their hands full coordinating with airport users and air traffic control. Preconstruction meetings

were held with tenants last week.

Armstrong Engineering designed the project; Reid Midd Engineers will oversee construction and there's no doubt it's a challenging project.

"On the other hand," said Airport Authority Board Treasurer Pat Nuxoll, "we've got an experienced contractor team to do the job. Albright has worked with us on several projects, and Poe Asphalt received several national awards for the quality of their Lewiston airport work."

Will the new pavement last another half century? *(Stick around...we'll all find out.)*

"..we've got an experienced contractor team to do the job. Albright has worked with us on several projects, and Poe Asphalt received several national awards for the quality of their Lewiston airport work."

-Pat Nuxoll, Authority Board Treasurer

**WELCOME TO THE LEWISTON-NEZ PERCE COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT**

How about an entrance sign? Something that visually says, "You're here! Welcome!"

Customer feedback for years validated the need for just such an entrance sign. And for years the need was always overcome by higher priorities.

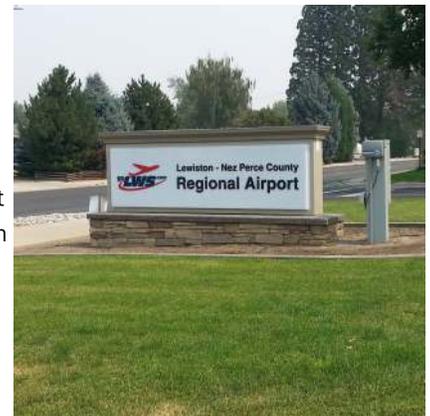
Is it *that* important?

It is if you're the Kooskia customer flying out for the

first time, driving down Bryden Avenue looking for an indication you've reached your destination and you finally give up when you see Early Bird Supply in Clarkston.

Mike Martin, Vice Chairman of the Airport Authority Board didn't give up. He took on the sign installation as a personal project, contracting with SignCrafters, 4J Electric, Apex Curb, and several other local

businesses. It also took a while, because some of the work was done with volunteer labor to keep the costs under control. And laying the sod was an airport staff and Board, all-hands on deck affair. But Mike persevered. Just in time. His term on the Authority Board ends in September. Time enough to say, "Well done, Mike."



*Entrance Sign at 4th St E and Bryden Avenue*

**IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD TO INTRODUCE “THE PRIDE OF LEWISTON”**

The City of Lewiston will soon have its pride depicted on one of the Boise Air National Guard’s A-10 combat veterans.

Lt. Colonel Gary Daniel made the announcement recently during a tour through north central Idaho and the Palouse. The 124th Fighter Wing is making plans to bring the aircraft to Lewiston in the latter part of September, the exact date and time still to be

announced. Presentations will be made by officials of the Air National Guard and the City of Lewiston in a welcoming ceremony hosted by the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport Authority.

The A-10 aircraft gained its reputation as a superior close air support fighting machine in both Gulf Wars as well as Afghanistan.



*The A-10 “Warthog,” flown by the Idaho Air National Guard is based out of Gown Field, Boise.*

**ALASKA AIRLINES INTRODUCES A NEW “LEWISTON-FRIENDLY” SCHEDULE!**

Alaska Airlines recently announced some positive changes to its schedule. Effective August 23rd, travelers will enjoy a 6:30 am non-stop flight to Boise and a return nonstop flight to Lewiston arriving at 7:30 pm.

The change brings the convenience of round-trip, same-day non-stop service between the two cities. Coupled with easy connections in

Boise to Portland, California destinations, Phoenix, Houston, Denver, Chicago, and other major cities, it’s a long-awaited piece of good

news for the entire Region.

Alaska also added a new, non-stop flight between Lewiston and Seattle, departing at 12:45 pm, replacing the former early morning flight that stopped in Pullman before continuing on to Seattle. The evening flight has been moved back an hour, from 6:55 pm to 7:55 pm, and the midnight flight from Seattle is now a non-stopper!



**Alaska now offers same-day, round-trip, non-stop service between Lewiston and Boise!**

**LWS AT THE NEZ PERCE COUNTY FAIR**

With a little bit of luck and the help of some good friends, the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport will have a presence at the Nez Perce County Fair this year.

The Authority Board provided the funds to pay for a booth fair weekend. Why? To promote the airport and all the businesses that have made the airport the going-concern it is.

Willing to help man the booth? Give us a call. Got some brochures, business cards, or promotional materials you’d like to have distributed at the booth? Give us a call! Don’t have either? Give us a call and



### AIRPORT BUDGET/PROJECT UPDATE

What's high on the FAA's priority list for the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport next fiscal year?



Buildings and equipment. Buildings and equipment are also a high priority for the Airport Authority. No coincidence. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) heavily regulates airport

safety and provides the majority of the airport's money for buying such items.

The list started with a replacement aircraft rescue and fire fighting truck, the current one finally showing

its age. But at an estimated cost of around \$650,000, the new truck won't fit in the old building. And the old building doesn't meet current FAA

to make sure the facility meets the City's firefighting needs. The station itself, is planned for construction in fiscal year 2016-2017 and will be located on the southeast corner of what is currently called, "Airport Park."

So...new equipment drives new buildings.



standards either. So design of a new fire station will begin after October, with the City of Lewiston working in conjunction with the Authority

And that answers the age-old question: The egg came first!

(Or was it the chicken?)

### WHO AND WHAT?

First gift shop? Not quite.

The first gift shop was called, "The Landing Zone" and was run by the Banana Belt Senior Citizens. Known for its locally hand-crafted and homemade inventory, the non-profit operation eventually closed and the gentleman in the picture to the right opened up a

combination espresso/gift shop.

The retail concept seemed to take hold and is still in use today. Ron Lamb has operated the current shop, *Café Americana*, for over 10 years. His store carries local items, books, snacks, and—of course—espresso drinks for early morning fliers!



**THE LEWISTON-NEZ PERCE  
COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT  
AUTHORITY**

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**Feedback...**It isn't just something we put up with. The Airport Authority Board and Staff welcome input and suggestions—not just about this newsletter—but about ways we can improve our airport and the service we provide you.



**LEWISTON-NEZ PERCE COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT  
AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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