Bob’s Blog

Thoughts from KBFI Airport Director, Robert I. Burke, AAE

Winter 2014

The 2014 holiday season is upon us and it seems as if January 1st was just yesterday. The past 12 months have flown by, and 2014 has been another year of solid performance by airport staff in a diverse set of operational, safety, administration, finance, and engineering challenges. We are in the process of completing our Home Insulation Program which has been funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). When completed in the 1st Quarter of 2015, we will have invested a combined total of more than $60 million and insulated more than 600 homes since 2007.

The final phase of the Taxiway rehabilitation was completed during 2014. This project was also funded through the FAA grants totaling more than $20 million. Bids have been solicited for the “new” Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) facility with an expected start for construction during the 1st Quarter in 2015. The facility will be constructed on the existing site with a commissioning date during the 1st Quarter of 2016. During construction the ARFF Unit will relocate to the Guardian One site located south of Aero Flight’s leasehold. Move in to the temporary quarters is scheduled for late February 2015.

The Triennial Appraisal for non-Boeing leaseholds is under review, which will delay implementation beyond the 1st of the year. A tenant meeting will be scheduled for mid-January 2015 with a presentation of the appraisal by the appraiser.

For the first time since 2007, Landing Fees and Fuel Fees will increase. The Landing Fee will increase by $.25 to $1.50/1,000 lbs. and Fuel Fees will increase by $.005/gal for Jet A and Avgas. The Increases are effective on January 1, 2015.

I would like to thank everyone for their support during 2014, and wish you and your families a very happy holiday season and a prosperous 2015. I and airport staff look forward to our continued positive relationships as we begin the New Year.

Badge Office Update

As a reminder, the badge office hours are Tuesdays and Thursday from 0900L-1100L and Wednesdays from 1400L-1600L. We are also available for appointments by calling the badge office at (206) 296-7411 or for immediate assistance, (206) 296-7334. Look for the new BFI lanyards the next time you stop by to renew your badge or if you simply want to get a new one. The lanyards have breakaway straps and are printed with helpful phone numbers. Join us on our initiative to go green and fill out your badge applications online. Authorized Signatories: look for prefilled badge applications emailed to you soon providing the ability to electronically sign company badge applications.

KBFI Has Tiedowns Available

KBFI has tiedowns available for single engines and small twins in all locations: North-East, South-East, South-West and Midfield. Restroom facilities, electrical outlet, wash pad, and oil waste recycling are available at most areas. Rent is $118.48/month, which includes the Washington State leasehold excise tax. Please contact Courtney Meredith for more information: (206) 296-7489.

Public Use Mid-Field Plane Viewing Re-Opening

KBFI is pleased to announce the re-opening of the public airplane viewing area south of the Control Tower, at the intersection of South 86th Place and East Marginal Way, effective February 9, 2015. This location was previously a popular spot for aviation enthusiasts, but was closed off to the public in recent years to provide a secure location for contractor materials and equipment. This area will be open daily during daylight hours.
Winter Preparations
KBFI recently hosted its annual winter briefing, a collaborative effort between Airport Operations and Airport Maintenance staff. A meeting was held on November 20, 2014, with airport tenants and stakeholders to discuss its Snow and Ice Control Plan, clearing priorities, as well as its winter fleet.

As we head into 2015, we are ready with the following:

- Annual Snow and Ice Control Plan review with tenants
- Training with Airport Operations, Airport Maintenance, and ARFF on the Snow and Ice Control Plan and winter equipment
- Winter briefings with KBFI air traffic controllers and Airport Operations

Priority 1 surfaces are to be cleared in 30 minutes as denoted in FAA’s AC 1500-5200-30C. Snow removal is conducted by Airport Operations and Airport Maintenance staff who are responsible for coordinating with ATC and Tenants to clear Runways, Taxiways, county-owned aprons, and landside access. Priority 1 surface includes, Runway 13R/31L, Taxiway intersections A1, A9, B1, B5, and B30, Taxi lane A to air ambulance, ARFF access, and mutual aid routes. Aircraft Deicing – Gates 3-6 are public use gates. Please contact Airport Operations (206) 296-7334 prior to deicing.

We have recently acquired a new plow, pictured above, bringing our winter equipment total to five plows, one broom, two blowers, one grader, and a runway deicer truck. Weekly fleet training is currently underway with Airport Operations and Airport Maintenance working together on formation and best tactics.

We would like to share the following safety tips with you:

- Use caution when operating aircraft in the vicinity of winter equipment
- Exercise extreme caution when walking on the sidewalks or driving during winter weather
- Remember the aircraft deicing locations on the airport and contact Airport Operations (206.296.7334) PRIOR to deicing
- For Pilots: ATC will ask for “braking action reports” during an active winter event when contaminants are present on runways

New Faces in Airport Operations
With Jack Frost nipping at our noses, we welcome winter along with newcomers Justin Lowe, Airport Operations Coordinator, and Timothy (Tim) Burke, Airport Duty Manager. Justin comes to us from Indianapolis, IN by way of Santa Fe, NM. Tim comes to us from Boston, MA by way of San Jose, CA. We are very excited to have them as part of our team and we hope you will get a chance to meet them in the in the near future.

Who Do You Call In An Emergency?
The Airport emergency line, 206.296.7392, connects you directly to King County Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) for Fire/Medical Emergency services as well as Airport Police. The Airport’s ARFF unit is stationed on the airfield for immediate response, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Contact ARFF when reporting items such as hazardous materials, aircraft emergencies, fire calls, medical assistance and security items. During times when 9-1-1 emergency communications are utilized it is highly recommended to call ARFF at 206.296.7392 in addition to 911. For convenience, this phone number is listed on the back of your Airport identification badge. Airport Operations will be distributing stickers to be placed on your telephone handsets or in areas of high visibility to educate and remind Airport Tenants that Fire/EMS/Police services on the airfield may be reached directly by dialing this emergency line. Additional stickers may also be obtained by contacting Airport Operations at 206.296.7334 to obtain.