



MADRAS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Vol. 2



Oh, winter days! A couple of weeks in January proved to be quite challenging at times due to freezing fog, freezing rain, snow, and cold temperatures. I have likened this job as a "lighthouse keeper" - it truly is 24/7, aiming to stay ahead of the weather and ensure a safe environment at all times. In the end we were successful in our plight and received many compliments on the snow removal efforts. The number one objective throughout the process of snow and ice removal remains the same as in favorable conditions: SAFETY. It is extremely important that we communicate the runway conditions well to pilots through NOTAMs and AWOS announcements. We aim to keep the airport open as much as possible - with safety as our number one goal. This is an important reminder to pilots: check NOTAMs in planning a flight and right before a flight. While enroute, be sure to check NOTAMs and listen to the AWOS as conditions and NOTAMs change.

Spending a couple of weeks plowing and shoveling, it quickly became apparent that work was necessary on the Snow Removal Procedure Guidelines that have been in the works. More on that further in the newsletter.

During January many small repairs were made including filling gravel in front of Erickson Aero Tanker hangar and at the approach end of 34. Taxiway and runway light repairs have also been ongoing.

As I have cleared snow and after the storm, gravel, I have thought about those who were here nearly 100 years ago maintaining and flying out of this airport. In this and future newsletters I hope to share some wonderful history of the Madras Airport.

Please let me know if you ever have any questions or concerns at the airport. LMartinelli@cityofmadras.us or 541-777-4935

With much appreciation,
Lorraine Martinelli

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

UPCOMING

- February 2:** 8:00 AM Jefferson County Coffee Cuppers at the Madras Airport Office
- February 12:** 5:30 PM - Airshow of The Cascades, Committee meeting, Airport Office conference room
- February 15:** 4PM - Industrial Site-Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Office conference room
- February 17:** 10:00 AM Central Oregon 99s Meeting @ Clubhouse
- February 23:** 8:00 AM FEMA information meeting, Airport Office followed by on-site visits.

FUTURE: SAVE THE DATE

- June 1:** 8 AM - 1 PM Madras Airport Day / EAA Young Eagle flights
- June 17-21:** Tri-Pacer Fly In
- August 10:** Palms To Pines Air Race terminus and banquet
- August 23-24:** Airshow of the Cascades

ONGOING

- Sunday mornings @ 9 AM:** Coffee & doughnuts @ Airport Office
- Third Thursday of the month @ 4 PM:** Industrial Site - Airport Commission Meeting @ Airport Office conference room

Call 541-777-4935 to add Madras Airport events to the calendar (Madras Airport business/tenant/aviation related)





PROJECT/PROGRAM UPDATES

Hangars: A hangar waitlist policy will be out this month. We are also actively looking for investors to begin building much needed hangars. If you are interested in discussing options, please reach out to me.

Runway extension: This project remains on the table but will be moved to a long-term project.

Apron repair work: The apron in front of the Airport Office is in need of much repair. Work will begin in March. More on this project in the March newsletter.

Wash pad: The Public Works crew is ready to fix the water fixture at the wash pad in the spring. It will be ready for pilots to use to wash their aircraft.

Run up area taxiway lights: The inner circle of lights at the run-up areas will be removed and replaced with covers. This will be completed to create a safer environment for aircraft to perform their run-up. It will also make it easier to sweep and remove snow in this area.

Grass strip: We plan to smooth out the south end of the grass strip with additional soil in early spring.

REIL lights: The REILs are NOTAM out until March 31st. The hope is to have these replaced and repaired before this time.

FOD: Thank you for helping to keep our airport clean and free of debris.

UPCOMING EVENT DETAILS

February 2 @ 8-9AM: Jefferson County Chamber members will be our guests at the airport office for Coffee Cuppers. Please join us for snacks and coffee.

February 17 @ 10AM: Ninety-Nines will host a continental breakfast for their members and potential members. ALL female pilots and student pilots are invited to attend. This meeting will be held at the Central Oregon 99s Clubhouse, located in the B.C. Air hangar (formerly Skydive Awesome).

June 1, 8AM - 1PM: Madras Airport Day! Save the date! This event will be open to the public and free for attendees. The vision is to have information booths available for youth and adults to explore what is available in the world of aviation. To make this event a success, aviation business, pilots, aircraft mechanics along with volunteers will work together to share aviation with our community.

I'm looking for individuals are interested in collaborating on this event.

FEMA

As mentioned in the January newsletter and through email correspondence with tenants, IEM, on behalf of FEMA, has sent out invitations for the meeting on February 23rd. If you are a tenant at Madras Airport and did not receive an email, please reach out to me.

AIRPORT TOURS

It is a pleasure to share the airport and the intrigue of aviation with visiting groups. Last month I had the opportunity to share the world of aviation with a few groups of students.

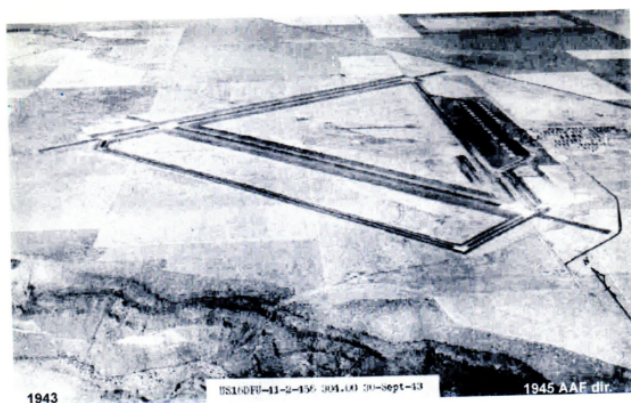


HISTORY OF MADRAS AIRPORT

Our town and our airport is rich in history, and I look forward to sharing my findings in future newsletters. Tom Brown assisted in finding an article that Mr. Jerry Ramsey wrote in 2009. There will be copies of this article available at the airport for your reading pleasure. It is fantastic! Mr. Ramsey has also shared wonderful photos of days gone past here at the Madras Airport.



Above is a photo from a celebration in 1946. In the background is what we now know as the "North Hangar" and "South Hangar". The control tower once stood just north of where the airport office. Photo credit: Jefferson County Historical Society.



Here is a photo of the Airbase at Madras. As mentioned on the first page of the Agate article, there was an amazing array of aircraft at this base. It is so fitting that we now have an incredible collection of WW2 aircraft at our airport at the Erickson Aircraft Collection. www.ericksoncollection.com Photo credit: Jefferson County Historical Society.



Madras Airport in War and Peace

By Jarold Ramsey



The recent arrival at Madras Airport of Butler Aviation, with its fleet of heavy DC-7 "borate bombers" for fighting forest fires, is a reminder of the World War II years, when the airport was "Madras Army Airbase," and our local skies were full of B-17 "Flying Fortresses," C-47 transports, P-39 "Airacobra" and P-38 "Lightning" fighters, and small observation and liaison planes.

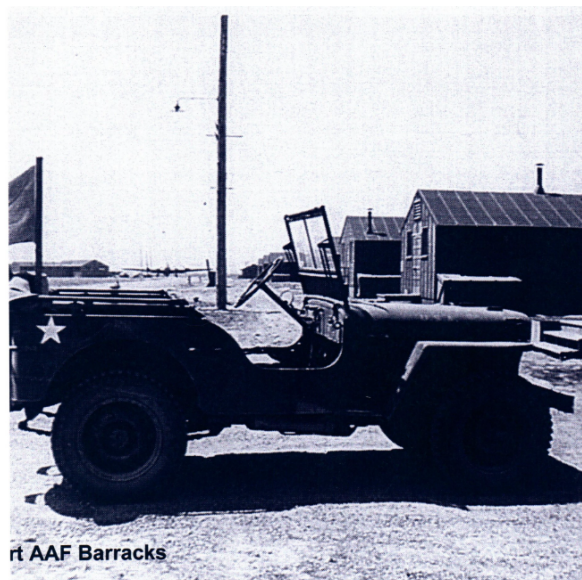
When the Air Base was de-activated, in Fall 1945, many of its auxiliary buildings were taken over by the newly-arrived North Unit Irrigation District, and others were sold and moved elsewhere, or demolished for lumber. The big recreation hall/theater on base remained in civilian use until the 1960s (it was popular with square-dancing groups), as did the Base control tower, which was used by volunteers of the Ground Observer Corps for searching the skies for Russian bombers and UFOs. But the two main hangars, each spacious enough to hold a B-17, are still in service, and have been carefully maintained over the years. They stand as reminders of the Airport's military heyday, over sixty years ago.



First page of an article of the Madras Airport in the Agate.

Jeep in foreground and barracks at Madras; B-17 in background

Photo credit: Jefferson County Historical Society.



rt AAF Barracks



SNOW REMOVAL

Our number one priority for keeping the airport open and safe is for emergency services. Pictured here is a Life Flight aircraft that was able to transport a child in need of medical attention the day after our first storm. Two of the large City of Madras plow trucks helped to clear snow on two occasions on runway 16/34, taxiway A, A1, A4, in front of the airport office, and in front of the fuel farm. The assistance was much appreciated! As you may imagine, it is much ground to cover, and all must be completed in a strategic and safe manner. Lights are “frangible” meaning that they break with a low amount of impact. This is by design to help protect aircraft, in the event of impact.



Even with the relatively low amount of snow that we received, it proved to be a challenge with the freezing rain and freezing fog. It was not long lived but lessons were certainly learned.

It became apparent quickly that the Priority 1 procedures took an immense amount of time and effort. This means that clearing snow near the t-hangars was delayed.

As the snow and ice melt, it is important to begin cleanup of any gravel that has been moved to the runway and taxiway surfaces. Priority 1 areas are cleared first and then we move to the next priority. It is a process but if you ever notice gravel or rock on the runways or taxiways, please let me know right away. A daily airport inspection is completed but it is always great to have extra sets of eyes to help keep our airport safe.

CITY OF MADRAS AIRPORT OFFICE

Pilot lounge available 24/7. Please call me for current door code.

Airport Operations:

Lorraine Martinelli 541-777-4935

lmartinelli@cityofmadras.us

If you did not receive this newsletter directly, please email me your contact information to stay up to date with Madras Airport news.

FBO NEWS: BERG AIR, LLC WINTER HOURS

Monday - Saturday 9 AM - 4 PM

Sunday 9 AM - 1 PM

Self Serve 100LL and Jet A available 24/7

Call to schedule full service fueling 541-475-4899

Contacts:

Treia Ingram 541-460-0101 Rob Berg 541-420-8905

The DRAFT Snow Removal Procedures will be available at the airport office for perusal.

