



**JANUARY 2012  
AIRPORT NEWS  
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1**

**AIRPORT EVENTS**

**Jan. 2: Airport Office Closed for New Years**

**Jan. 5: Gateway Area Ultralight Assoc. Mtg.**  
Hgr. 2 rear at 7:30pm

**Jan 7: EAA Chapter 64 Holiday Party,** 5pm,  
Oliver's Restaurant

**Jan. 16: Airport Office Closed for MLK Day**

The airport is open and attended 24-hours daily.  
JetAviation 618-646-8000  
Ideal Aviation 618-337-3400

ATC Tower Hours	0630-2200
ATIS	121.45
CLNC DEL	118.275
Ground Control	121.8
Tower/CTAF	119.925
Tower UHF	379.3
Unicom	122.95

**Airport Firefighters On-Duty**  
Every Day 0800-2100  
(Other times by request)  
618-337-7478 or 410-0188  
Call "Rescue" on 121.8  
Dial 911 for emergencies

For Airport Administration after hours, contact the firefighter on duty.

**RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED**



The photo above was taken shortly after the pavement had been washed during the runway grooving. Note the sharp dividing line between the grooved portion, where water rapidly drained off, and the ungrooved portion, showing the reflection of the trucks in the standing water.

Grooving allows the water to rapidly drain from the pavement leaving a dryer surface that greatly improves braking effectiveness.

**CPS TAF COMING JAN. 11<sup>th</sup>**

When a pilot checks weather for a flight, current weather conditions (METAR) and area forecasts over a wide area of the country (AF) are available that cover our airport.

However, to obtain more specific weather forecasts, the pilot can request the terminal area forecasts (TAF) for Lambert, Spirit, and Scott/MidAmerica and interpolate or guess what the weather is going to be here. Of course each location has its own unique characteristics (river bottom, plain, city heat island effects, etc.) that can lead to very different weather phenomena at each location.

Beginning January 11<sup>th</sup>, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service will begin publishing TAFs for our airport on a regular basis. These new terminal forecasts should greatly improve the accuracy of our weather forecasts.

This is just one more step, as we continue to enhance the services provided and the safety here at our airport.



**WINTER WEATHER RUNWAY CLOSURES**

During winter weather conditions, our airport staff closely monitors runway conditions and aggressively works to keep the airport open and operating safely. November's newsletter covered the meaning of our Bowmonk runway friction tester readings. Since then, we received new FAA direction on how we must respond to those readings and to pilots' braking action reports.

Previously, the airport was obligated to report accurate runway conditions and it was up to the pilot to evaluate them along with other information such as winds, aircraft performance characteristics, aircraft braking capabilities, pilot braking techniques, and other variables to decide if the runway was safe for use. Pilots no longer have that option.

Under the FAA's new more conservative approach, anytime a pilot reports that braking action is "nil," the runway must be closed until conditions improve! (Conditions unsafe for a heavy jet landing at 150 mph are also considered unsafe for the 40 mph landing speed of a Piper Cub, and vice versa.)

I'm not suggesting that pilots report runway conditions better than they actually are, but it is important to understand what "nil" really means and what you can expect to happen when you report braking action "nil." "Nil" means braking deceleration is minimal-to-nonexistent with directional control uncertain and is usually associated with clear, wet, or melting ice. Operations are prohibited in "nil" conditions and the runway will be closed until conditions improve.

Our snow removal team will be working to keep the runways in the best condition possible to prevent unexpected runway closures. However, if you fly during rapidly changing winter weather conditions, be prepared to divert to an alternate airport with little notice.



Stop by and say "hello" to Ideal's new owner, Mr. Bill Macon. Many of the old crew will remain to ensure a smooth transition.

**MORE ON THE OTHER SIDE—NEW NOTAM PROCESS AND THE UGLY SQUARE.**

The Airport Administration Office is located in the Fire Station at 6100 Archview Drive, Cahokia, Illinois 62206-1445

Office Hours: 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Mon.–Fri. (Closed most holidays) Phone (618) 337-6060

The Airport Operations Center operates from 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily Phone (618) 337-7478

E-mail: director@cps.aero office@cps.aero mx@cps.aero arff@cps.aero Fax: (618) 337-7578

## NEW NOTAM ENTRY SYSTEM

St. Louis Downtown Airport is one of the first airports in the nation to switch over to the FAA's new Direct-Entry Digital Notice to Airmen System. With implementation of this new system, we now have greater NOTAM publication speed and accuracy and new notification capabilities.

When we compose a new NOTAM and hit "enter," the data is immediately available to pilots worldwide. Our NOTAMs no longer get delayed as they go through Flight Service for processing—the data goes directly into the NOTAM system and also gets distributed to subscribers through e-mail notifications.

If you or your flight department has a need to be notified immediately when our airfield conditions change, send an e-mail to [director@cps.aero](mailto:director@cps.aero) and ask to be added to the NOTAM notification e-mail list.

We will continue to post significant notifications as soon as practical on our web site, Twitter, and Facebook, but in times of rapidly changing conditions, these unofficial sources may not have the latest or most accurate information.

## WHAT'S THE UGLY SQUARE?

It's a QR code! These digital bits of information are showing up all over the place and are designed to allow smart-phone users to quickly capture useful data.

If you scan the code to the right with your smart-phone or I-Pad scanner, it will take you directly to the front page of our airport web site.



QR codes can also be used to capture e-mail addresses, full postal mailing addresses and phone numbers that can easily and rapidly be transferred into your electronic address book, and a multitude of other uses.



The code at the left will take you to our new beta test site designed and tailored specifically for smart-phone users. It's a new site we're developing that includes just the basic information you might need while on-the-go. It is designed to load quickly without the need for the large bandwidth necessary to load large graphics or videos. Of course, it will also link back to our main web site where you'll find much more richly formatted information.

If you'd like to test our mobile web site by directly entering the shortened URL, the site is located at:

<http://goo.gl/MVSHU>

or by the full URL at:

<http://www.stlouisdowntownairport.com/mobile.htm>