



MPPA FUN FLYER

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SOUTH FLORIDA JET TOGETHER NEARS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER APRIL 2004

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. Our AMA club charter and field insurance were renewed, and copies were supplied to the Park. I signed our Specific Use Permits for our daily use and for some of our special events coming up this year. Jack Goldfarb has really put forth a major effort in getting the Fifth Annual South Florida Jet Together (May 22 and 23) "on the map". Eddie Sultan held that long-awaited Board meeting and we began planning the logistics of setting up for the Jet Together. All the major newspaper and television media have been contacted and the press release issued. The big story is that a fully-armed Blackhawk helicopter from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency will arrive at 9am each day of the Jet Together and will be staying all day. The aircraft and crew will become part of the MPPA family for the day, and it will prove to be a hallmark event in the history of the Joe Hancock airfield facility.

We have reinforced a good working relationship and improved communications with Park officials. Julie Bell, Park Regional Manager II, in charge of airfield operations,



has the full support of Maureen Broderick, Assistant Superintendent for the South District, to insure that the airfield will remain a viable and valuable resource for generations to come. They

called a meeting of representatives from all four RC clubs to identify problem areas and to reach a consensus on solutions that can work for everyone. One of the most important changes to come about is the absolute prohibition on smoking in the pit area or anywhere North of the fence line. Also, any type of open flame, such as on a barbecue grill, is not permitted

in the pits. But for all the other issues in question, Julie and Maureen were very open to cooperating with the clubs to collectively find working solutions. Contrary to some spurious personal opinions being routed through the "grapevine", Park officers are very enthusiastic about all the activities at the airfield and they recognize that it is a unique place with an historical value that is particularly important. I come in contact with hundreds of people in my work, and when I mention that I fly RC planes, invariably 4 out of 5 will say, "Where do you fly them... Markham Park?" Even in the general public,

he good reputation spreads far and wide.

I'm not sure, however, that many people understand how important Joe Hancock Airfield is to the general aviation community. Yes, I mean the full-scale airplane-flying community. I recently made my first solo flight in a full-scale aircraft, and I've had the good fortune to fly with other pilots and meet a lot of very talented and experienced local "legends" of aviation, many of whom build their own N-numbered, experimental, or ultralight aircraft and then climb into the cockpit and fly them. Without exception, they all have a past or present connection to the RC airfield at Markham Park and most still maintain their personal collection of RC planes. For example, Jim Scroggins, who can be seen taking kids for airplane rides in his classic 1946 Ercoupe at many of the air shows in South Florida, made the second RC airplane takeoff down the new runway at Markham Park in 1970. Jim currently maintains the websites for six local chapters of the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) and the Florida Aero Club as well as the BCRCA. (Visit Jim Scroggins' website at <http://hometown.aol.com/c7814u/index.html>)



Park, Joe Hancock field is a remarkably special place where government provides a safe haven for an activity which would otherwise be out-of-reach of the broader, general public. Private land suitable for an RC airfield is becoming more scarce as South Florida begins to approach a "build-out" that connects

the tri-county area into one contiguous urban metropolis. I heard recently that one long-standing private RC club with a top-notch runway and facilities, and the home of some of the finest pilots and aircraft in the area, may be losing the lease of the property due to its sale by the owner. At least we don't have to fear the acquisition of Markham Park by a developer.

It is not unusual for government to support operation of aviation facilities. Fort Lauderdale/ Hollywood International is operated by the same government body that operates Markham Park, the Broward County Board of Commissioners. Executive Airport is owned and operated by the City of Fort Lauderdale. Pompano Amphitheater and Pompano Golf Course are recreational facilities operated by the City of Pompano Beach, and they operate the adjacent Pompano Air Park where the Goodyear Blimp is based. The U.S. Department of Transportation, through the FAA, "operates" or oversees the control of the airspaces above all controlled

Like the water slides at CB Smith

airport facilities, and all of the U.S. airspace above 18000 feet. And if you want to get "RC specific"... did you know that the City of Fort Lauderdale has two RC race car tracks at Mills Pond Park, and their operation is under the supervision of a resident RC car club? And speaking of government, how about the Blackhawk helicopter being sent to the Jet event by ICE? Talk about government support...we've got close air support!!



a place where timid hopes placed on fledgling wings that teeter around in the air turn into confident and powerful dynamos that control the sky. It's a place where thousands of wrinkles have been deepened from the constant smiling and laughter among friends. It is a local

It would be pretty hard to find a State or sub-division of a State (county, city) that DIDN'T operate an airport and other transportation facilities, in addition to recreational facilities like swimming pools, skating rinks, race tracks, athletic stadiums and fields... also fostering all the teams, instruction classes, clubs, events, and activities that take place there. So in closing, let's avoid the "doomsday" scenarios that predict an end to it all by some unseen "iron fist". That's like saying they won't have any more barbecues, picnics, volleyball games, cub scout campouts, or kite flying. The Joe Hancock Airfield is daily attraction, an aerial circus, a bunch of crazy barnstormers, legendary warbirds, precision acrobats, and graceful giants. It's a place where a young mind becomes filled with joy and excitement to see the amazing beauty of flight so close within their reach. It's

landmark, a key aviation institution with a over a 34 year history. Lets not get so caught up in some imaginary political power struggle that we miss the whole purpose of getting together ... the enjoyment of life and liberty.

Oh, and one more thing,... I'll see you at the field.

Patrick Joyce

MPPA South Florida Jet Together

Markham Park Pilots Association

Is Hosting the **Fifth Annual**

*South
Florida Jet
Together*



On Display—An ICE-Black Hawk
Helicopter from the ICE
Office of Air & Marine Operations

MAY 22ND & 23RD 2004

Formerly the
Ft. Lauderdale Jet-Together

**DUCTED FAN JETS, TURBINE JETS & PROP JETS
WELCOME**

Come join us the weekend of May, 22nd & 23rd, 2004, as some of the best jet pilots
take to the skies over our 60 plus acres of flying field and smooth asphalt runway

AMA rules apply

Registration is \$16.00 per day or \$30.00 for both days at the field ~ Pre-Registration \$14.00
per day or \$25.00 for both days

Daily prizes for the pilots ~ Awards presented the second day of event

For additional information please contact Jack Goldfarb (954)724-8338

or by email: HAPYJAC2@AOL.COM

There will be food and refreshments available both days
Campground/RV with full hookup available.

Area Hotels

Baymont Inn & Suites (954)846-1200

Wellesley Inn (954)845-9929

Markham Park is located at:
16001 West State Rd 84
Sunrise, FL
Park entrance \$1.00/person



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