



Hurricane Charley

The photographs depict the devastation visited upon Charlotte County Airport by Hurricane Charley. SEF was spared the devastation visited upon other Central Florida Airports by a razor's edge. Damage to SEF was minimal and limited to minor roof and facade damage with the exception of the Shade Hangars, which suffered considerable roof damage. Several of the Authority's tenants incurred relatively minor damage but were able to begin operations upon the restoration of electrical power, which occurred on Sunday evening.

The Authority's utilities were operational without interruption, thanks in large part to Lane McGee and

Gary Dassinger. While we do not have backup generation on the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Plant remained operational by using a pump truck at the lift stations. This is very similar to City operations except the City pumped it's lift stations by use of a portable generator. While the Airside Center was constructed with backup generation in mind, we did not purchase a generator. This is a need that staff will look into during the coming weeks.

Communications with the outside world and among staff was impossible for several

days. The requirement to communicate is a critical need that we are going to remedy.

All in all, we were fortunate indeed.



Charlotte County Airport

Hurricane Charley—Economic Impact

Staff has had several meetings with FEMA and our insurance adjusters regarding damage, business interruption losses and all extra expenses incurred because of the storm. The storm damaged at least one of the buildings on our demolition

plan and it appears that our insurance and FEMA will respond to the cost to remove the debris. A claim to FEMA will be made for all costs, damage, business interruption and extra expenses not covered by insurance. We are roughly

estimating total cost due to the storm at \$250,000.

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Special points of interest:

- Labor Day Monday 9.6.04
- Mooney Fly-In 9.11.04
- IAC 10.21-23.04
- U.S. Sport Aviation EXPO 10.28-31.04

Commerce Park

There has been considerable activity relating to this project in the last few weeks. We have submitted a pre-application to the Economic Development Administration and have been invited to submit our formal application. We are now working on the application and hope to submit in the next four weeks. A Rural Infrastructure Grant has also been sent to Enterprise Florida. The program, administered through Enterprise Florida and the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic



Aviation Related Commerce Park

Development, assists communities in making necessary infrastructure improvements to increase job crea-

RIF, provides up to \$2 million to local governments for the construction or improvement of transportation infrastructure needed to accommodate new or expanding industry.

We are planning to issue Notice to Proceed to PBS&J for design on the Commerce Park and Haywood Taylor Boulevard Extension within the next week or so.

tion and economic development opportunities. Additionally, an Economic Development Fund application has been prepared for construction of the roads within the park. This program, administered in the same fashion as the

Master Plan Update

I am pleased to report that we have recently received verbal approval from the military on our Airport Layout Plan (ALP). This is a significant step in the development of future projects as they relate to the new runway.

We are continuing to work with the USDA on our Wildlife Plan. As you

will recall, the foremost motivation for the report was to document the relationship between the Airport Facility and the



County's Landfill. In staff's view, and that of our consultant PBS&J, the report fell well

short of this key requirement. I recently attended a wildlife conference with the chief aim of meeting Dr. Richard Dolbeer, the USDA top biologist so that I could discuss this matter with him personally. After reviewing the report and attending several conference calls, Dr. Dolbeer agrees with our assessment of the report and will see that it is rewritten to comply with the contract Scope.

AWOS

FINALLY!!!, the Automated Weather Observing System was certified by the Federal Aviation Administration on August 5, 2004. The AWOS is now up and fully operational.

We have also applied to the FAA for a lower minimum descent for our GPS instrument approach as we now have a local altimeter setting.

By the way, the strongest sustained winds recorded by the AWOS were 60 knots with gusts to 65 knots during Hurricane Charley.



SEFAWOS

T-Hangar Occupancy Rates

Staff has spent considerable time and effort in a quest to ascertain the reasons for the considerable vacancy rate in our t-hangar complex. As a result of our research, we offer the following information:

T-hangar Rates

Staff continues to feel that our t-hangar rates are representative of the market place, are a value to the user and have not materially contributed to excessive vacancies. If t-hangar rates and charges were the culprit, the Avon Park hangars would be full. Our last check with Avon Park management revealed that Avon Park had six vacancies.

Demographics/Economy

Our typical aircraft owner tends to be a more mature recreational pilot, very sensitive to rising fuel prices and other economic factors. As a result, we have had several instances where pilots have sold their aircraft which resulted in t-hangar vacancies. We have also had at least one repossession.

Seasonality

The summer months historically have created at least two to three vacancies.

Survey of Other Airports

We have surveyed other airports in central Florida

and, reviewing the information, it would appear that Sebring and Avon Park are anomalies with regard to t-hangar vacancy rates. Bartow's vacancies are a result of new construction where ten units were recently added to inventory.

Miscellaneous

There was a tremendous amount of ill will created with regard to setting t-hangar rates and charges.

It is my personal opinion, and totally anecdotal, that a number of vacancies are a direct result of the turmoil that was created during this process and will take care of itself over time. Hurricane Charley has also reduced the T-Hangar inventory in Central Florida.

(Continued on page 4)



Typical T-Hangar at SEF

MacDill Aux (Avon Park Air Force Range) Operations

Calls for fuel at Avon Park Air Force Range are slowly increasing. We fueled two H60 Monday evening and another fueling is set for Wednesday evening.

June, July and August (to date) resulted in 6,068 gallons being dispensed with operations scheduled for September. Of course, Hurricane Charley did interrupt some

Hurricane Charley interrupts fueling operations at MacDill Aux.

of our scheduled fueling at the Range.

Sebring U.S. Sport Aviation Expo

This event continues to evolve and develop a life of its own with regard to economic impact to our community and region. When we began conceptualizing this experience I don't think anyone envisioned the spin-off of national organizations conducting meetings in our community as a direct result of our efforts. Nevertheless, two national groups, the National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) and the American Society for

Testing and Materials (ASTM), have recently announced they will hold conferences in conjunction with the Expo. The Southeast SATS Lab at Embry Riddle University will hold proof of concept demonstrations for the NASA-enabled Small Aircraft Transportation System during the event and bring in government and business leaders from around the state using the new technology. Not considering the event itself, the economic

impact of the spin-off activities more than justify the investment in the endeavor.



Sebring US Sport Aviation Expo



SEBRING AIRPORT
AUTHORITY

(Continued from page 3) T-Hangars

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The rapidly changing demographic of our area is a case in point of the Airport Authority, in partnership with others, to continue our quest in making the airport a platform for economic development and business opportunity. As you know, our community desperately needs more working age professional and business people.

www.sebring-airport.com

Sebring Flight Center Update

Kristen Kramer, a 1997 transplant from North Dakota, has joined Sebring Flight Center as a Customer Rep.

Kristen's background includes retail sales, insurance sales, artistic studies, culinary arts and the hospitality arena. Kristen replaces Stephanie Nieves.

Kristen is excited about the opportunity to be a part of Sebring Airport Authority and looks forward to representing Sebring Flight Center at the various aviation events.



Mark Lillpop, one of our weekend lineman, has left our employment and is headed for Iraq.

Mark, a military retiree, with an extensive background in fueling military aircraft, will be sorely missed.

Fall is in THE AIR