



T-2 Buckeye

## The Illinois Aviation Museum at @ Bolingbrook Newsletter

ISSUE #1 - Summer, 2004

**Welcome** to the inaugural issue of the IAM@Bolingbrook Newsletter.

If you are an aviation enthusiast, you may already be aware of the exciting changes that are occurring at the revitalized Bolingbrook's Clow International Airport. Central to many of the groundbreaking happenings taking place at this airport is the fledgling birth of the Illinois Aviation Museum @ Bolingbrook.

In recent years we have seen Clow International Airport (ICS) evolve from a privately owned endangered grass root airport that bordered on extinction to a revitalized municipal airport that will contribute to the vitality of Bolingbrook and the surrounding local communities.

Central to the future plans for this great little airport is the behind the scenes activity to organize and fund an educational museum on the airport site.

Up to now this has been an all volunteer effort. To date a 1950's era T-2 Buckeye jet trainer has been procured from the Navy installation in Pensacola Florida. It is currently being restored for static display. A promise of several other aircraft has been received pending current efforts to develop a suitable space for restoration and display of the T-2 aircraft.

A detailed airport and site plan has been developed, and a professional fundraiser has been selected to develop and manage a corporate and institutional trust funding effort.

The Village of Bolingbrook has donated temporary hanger space to allow the

development of educational programs, restoration of aircraft projects while the permanent museum site is constructed.

One of the essential characteristics of the airport, the museum development is the involvement of the regular citizen in this effort. This is very fitting as this has been the history of the airport. It is this involvement of the local community, the volunteers, organizers, grass roots contributors that are the grist of the appeal that will be made to the major contributors of this project. It is the enthusiasm of local supporters that will encourage the large scale funding of the museum facility and programs. This is your local airport and your local museum

As you learn more about the exciting changes happening at the airport, consider joining us and becoming a part of this exciting change. Volunteer work crews have been at the airport on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. An additional restorable aircraft is on request from Pensacola Naval Air station. Consider what ever contribution you can spare. Small contributions are very necessary. They help with early organization efforts, and most importantly, it shows larger contributors that they are part of a vibrant community activity.

### What can you do?

1. Put October 22, 2004 on your calendar. Join us at the Bolingbrook Aviation Ball. Help us kick off our founding fund raising effort. See your invitation in this issue on page 3. The Flight to Paradise theme ball will take place at the

Bolingbrook Country Club. Reservations are being taken for tables and individual seating by calling Warren Myers at 630 226-9890. If you are a local business owner please consider joining us at this elegant function. Donation will be \$100 per person or \$1000 for a table of 10

2. Please write a check to the museum. The level of giving is not as important as the gift you send as a sign of support for this worthwhile aviation and community asset.

3. Show up at Bolingbrook Clow International Airport some Saturday morning. Introduce your self to the museum volunteers; Have coffee and a donut with us and see the changes taking place.

### Airplane Owners and Pilots Association comes to Bolingbrook (As posted on AOPA Website)

June 28, 2004

Mayor Daley take note! Your neighbors understand the value of a general aviation airport. The village of Bolingbrook, Illinois, just 25 nm southwest of Chicago, last week approved plans to upgrade its newly acquired airport to make it a reliever for the Chicago area. And much of the credit goes to a far-sighted mayor.

"Even though he's not a pilot, Mayor Roger Claar understood the importance of Clow International Airport (ICS) to his community," said AOPA President Phil Boyer, who met with the mayor June 25. "He was determined to not let this air-

port go the way of so many privately owned airports — into the hands of developers."

In the late 1950s, farmer Boyd Clow fell in love with flying and built a grass airstrip. Before long, other pilots approached him about tying down their aircraft, and the airport ultimately developed into one of the busiest fields in Illinois. Today Clow International Airport sports a thriving FBO, a busy flight school, a popular on-field restaurant, and some 150 based aircraft. (See AOPA Pilot, March 2003.) And the airport is the home of the Illinois Aviation Museum at Bolingbrook. (It was a museum officer who told AOPA about the mayor's support for the airport and museum.)

"Clow Airport has been a model privately owned, public-use airport," said Boyer, "surviving and thriving even as the suburbs have grown around it."

Clow sold the airport to another private owner in 1998. In March of this year, Claar pushed through a \$25 million bond issue for the village to buy and upgrade the airport to make it more attractive to corporate operators. Improvement plans include widening and lengthening the runway to 4,000 feet, adding new runway lights, and building more hangars and a pilot facility.

"Bolingbrook understands that a vital general aviation airport is key to a community's economic growth," said Boyer. In fact, the village has aired AOPA's video Local Airports — Access to America continuously on its cable access channel.

On Friday, Boyer and Claar discussed options to better develop the airport while maintaining its uniqueness as a small GA facility in a modern community. Boyer suggested the village look at other airports in similar circumstances, particularly Illinois' Schaumburg Regional Airport and Albert Whitted Field in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Boyer also suggested that the village promote the airport on its Web site and that the FBOs have brochures available for transient pilots to show what Bolingbrook has to offer.

"What a startling contrast between Chicago and Bolingbrook," said Boyer. "We'll never forget that the Chicago area was hit with the most dramatic airport closure ever when Mayor Daley ordered the bulldozer to attack the runway. And we'll always remember that Mayor Claar and Bolingbrook value highly their general aviation airport."



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This is the temporary home of the new Illinois Aviation Museum @ Bolingbrook. The structure will soon have a portion of the interior built out for educational and administrative purposes. The remaining portion will be used for display and restoration of current and future projects.

You are cordially invited to:

# Flight to Paradise

## Bolingbrook Aviation Ball

To benefit the Illinois Aviation Museum @ Bolingbrook

Friday, October 22nd 2004

Bolingbrook Golf Club, 2001 Rodeo Drive, Bolingbrook IL

\$100 per person

6:30 pm Cocktails and Silent Auction

8:00 pm Dinner, Live Auction, Dancing

Master of Ceremonies: Steve Cochran, WGN

Swing Dance Performers - Dance to the Rhythm Rockets

Dress: Black tie optional

Reservations: Warren Myers at 630-226-9890 or

Kent Demuth at 630-854-5506

Please sign me up as a contributing Founding Member of the Illinois Aviation Museum @ Bolingbrook. Please keep sending me the newsletter. Call Kent Demuth at 630-854-5506 for additional information. [www.illinoisaeromuseum.com](http://www.illinoisaeromuseum.com)

| Category of Donation                              | Tax Deductible* |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot Newsletter only    | \$25            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Navigator T-Shirt        | \$40            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Captain Polo Shirt       | \$75            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Memorial Listing. | \$1000          |

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would also like to volunteer some time or skill to help this project move forward  
Area of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Send To: Illinois Aviation Museum @ Bolingbrook  
130 S. Clow International Parkway  
Bolingbrook, IL 60516

\* Illinois NFP Corporation - 501 (c) (3) Application Filed