

RST Airside Times

This issue....

- Airport Projects Update.....P2**
- Air Service Update.....P3**
- Airport Marketing..... P4**
- Airport Happenings..... P5**



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Airport Manager's Update

Aviation has always been a cyclical industry, with peaks and valleys along the way. This past year brought one of the biggest declines in passenger and air traffic the air transportation system has seen in many years. The recession has had a significant impact on air travel worldwide. Rochester International Airport was not immune to this decline in passenger and air traffic. To date almost forty-thousand fewer passengers have traveled through Rochester in 2009 as did this same time last year, a 15% decline. In addition, air carrier operations have been reduced system wide, including Rochester.



What does this mean for Rochester International Airport? Nothing in the way that the airport is operated and the service it provides to the community. Airport management is continually working with our existing air carriers to improve and expand their services at RST, as well as attempting to solicit and attract new air service to Rochester.

Even with the recession and the decline in air and passenger traffic, Rochester International Airport continues to improve the facilities and amenities offered to the citizens of Southeastern Minnesota and the surrounding areas. In 2009 the airport completed a 1.4 million dollar airfield lighting project, installing LED lighting systems and upgrading the entire airfield wiring system. This project not only improves the airfield systems, but reduces airfield maintenance expenses and is expected to generate almost \$40,000 in annual energy savings. The airport is embarking on several other facility improvement projects, including terminal interior rehabilitation and airport fire department facility remodel projects. Not only do these projects sustain the useful life of your airport, they create jobs for the local community, providing a needed boost to the local economy. You can read more about these upcoming projects later in this newsletter.

We all felt the effect of the 2009 economic crisis, both personally and professionally. Although 2009 provided significant financial obstacles, the airport made it through with no long lasting side effects. Although we can't predict what will occur in 2010, Rochester International Airport will continue to provide the best possible service to its customers and tenants.

The staff of Rochester International Airport would like to thank you for your continued support and would like to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous new year. We look forward to seeing you at the airport!

Sincerely,

Steven W Leque

Steven W. Leque
Airport Manager



RST is again asking for your help this holiday season. We are collecting toys for the US Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program. You can drop a new toy in the box near the Christmas tree in the main terminal. For cash donations to support this wonderful program please contact Tiana Rossow in Airport Administration at (507) 282-2328.

Thank You and Happy Holidays.....

Winter 2009

A Few Things You Don't Want To Hear Over An Airline PA.

Hey folks, we're going to play a little game of geography trivia. If you can recognize where we are, tell your flight attendant and receive an extra pack of peanuts.

I'm sure everyone noticed the loss of an engine, however the reduction in weight and drag will mean we'll be flying much more efficiently now.

Ocean crossing flight: This is your Captain speaking, I just wanted to take this time to remind you that your seat cushions can be used as floatation devices.



Airport Projects Update...

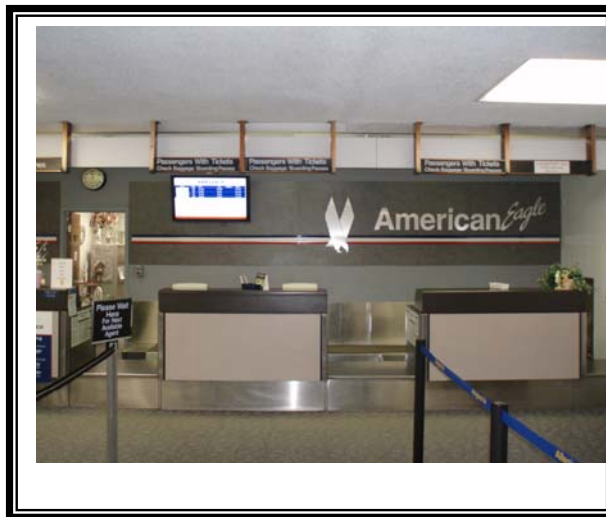


The airfield lighting upgrade project, started in June, has been completed. This \$1.4 million project, funded through Federal and State grants, replaced all quartz taxiway lights with LED fixtures which will save almost \$36,000 annually in energy savings. Energy savings isn't the only benefit: Each LED fixture has a useful life of approximately 50,000 hours at continuous operation and 100,000 hours at

limited use. This significant useful life will dramatically reduce manpower and equipment repair costs over the life of the fixtures. **WARNING:** Do not look directly at the lights. Try it and you'll see why.

TERMINAL RENOVATIONS

The Rochester International Airport will soon begin an extensive terminal interior renovation project. This project involves the construction of new airline ticket counters and bag belt machines, upgrades to the carpeting and seating in the main passenger lobby, modernization of the airport restaurant and replacement of glass panels throughout the terminal. New TSA baggage screening equipment will be installed behind the new ticket counters. This terminal rehab project is slated to begin after the first of the year. During the



construction period temporary walls will be in place to reduce the amount of dust and debris in the public areas, as well as provide additional security during the project. Airport staff will attempt to make this project go as seamless as possible, with as little impact as possible on the traveling public.



FIRE DEPARTMENT REMODEL

RST will soon begin an extensive airport fire department remodeling project. Built in 1974 (when the FAA first began requiring airports to have a fire department), the airport fire department has had little improvement since that time. This project will upgrade the facility to a more modern look, while at the same time improving several functional items such as air handling and water supply systems in the fire department.

Construction is scheduled to begin after the first of the year, with construction being completed by Healy Construction Company, located in Faribault.

Air Service Update



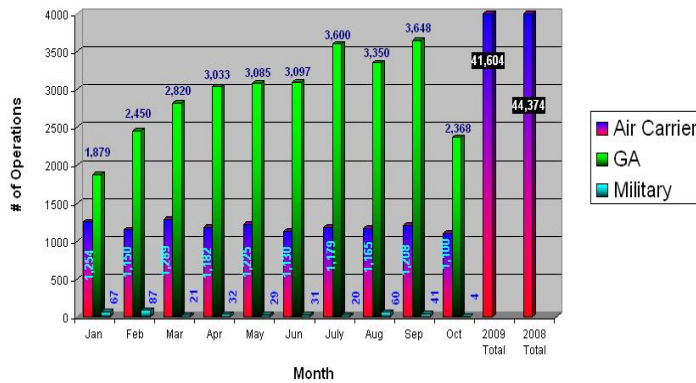
RST Passenger Statistics

Month	Enplanements	Deplanements
Jan	10,322	9,922
Feb	9,688	9,570
Mar	11,918	11,723
Apr	10,607	11,085
May	11,117	11,081
June	11,224	11,323
July	10,412	10,766
Aug	11,205	11,750
Sep	9,919	9,966
Oct	11,615	11,179

2009 Year to Date 108,027 **108,375**
2008 Comparison 128,898 **126,309**

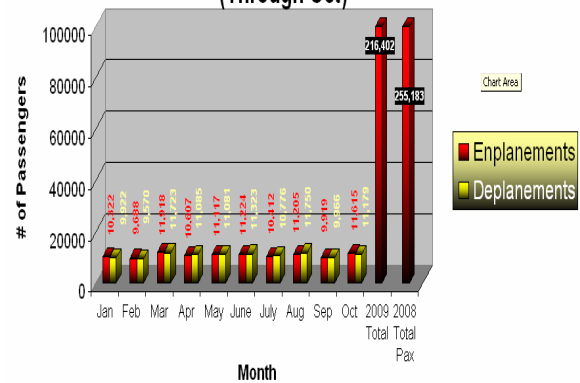
RST Aircraft Operations

Aircraft Operations (through Oct)



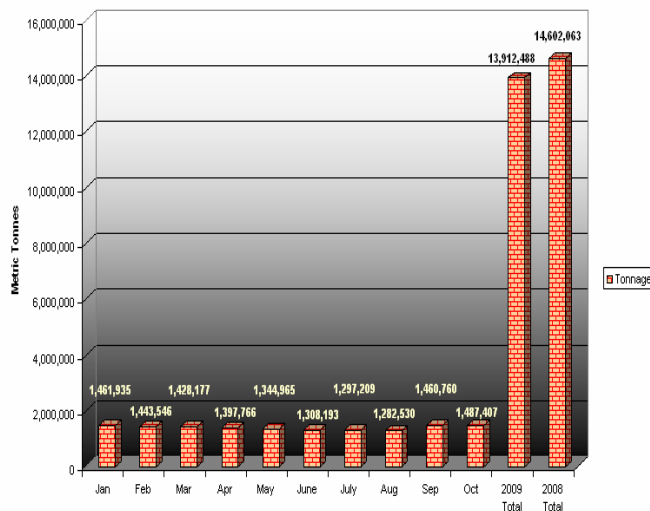
Graphical Representation

Enplanements vs. Deplanements (Through Oct)



Graphical Representation

Air Cargo Tonnage (through Oct 2009)



Airport Marketing..

The staff of Rochester International Airport has been in the process of developing a comprehensive marketing plan to enhance aviation and business activity at the airport. As part of this marketing development plan a "Passenger Satisfaction Survey" has been available online since early October. Although participation has been limited, it appears the public is pleased with the level of amenities and services offered at RST.

If you are a regular user of Rochester International Airport and would like to provide your comments and/or feedback about the services and amenities offered at RST, please take our online survey at <http://www.flyrst.com>. Click on the "Take the RST Passenger Satisfaction Here" link on the homepage.

All eligible participants (see rules on main survey page) will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 prepaid Visa credit card. Drawing will be held on January 2, 2010.



Someone didn't stick to their flight plan.....

Airport Happenings...

The recent merger between Northwest Airlines and Delta Airlines has also brought changes to the regional affiliates of these airlines. For the last several years, the Northwest / Delta station at RST has been managed by Mesaba Airlines, based in Eagan. September 1, 2009 ushered in new management for the local RST Delta station. Regional Elite, an airline management company, is now responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the local Delta Airlines station.

MESABA AIRLINES
operating as: 



REGIONAL *Elite*
AIRLINE SERVICES

Regional Elite was formed in September 2009 by the consolidation of Comair and Mesaba airport customer service front-line and support team members and Compass airport customer service support team members. (from the Regional Elite website). For more information visit their website at <http://www.regionalelite.com>.



Potluck Anyone?

The annual airport (tenants, employees) potluck will be held on December 22nd. All airport employees are invited to attend. The potluck will be held in the airport administration conference room, located on the second floor of the terminal.

If you can participate by bringing a food item for the potluck please see Nancy Curry or Tiana Rossow in airport administration. Don't worry, if you don't bring anything we will still let you join in on the fun (and good food)....

Thrifty is now NATIONAL...

Travelers through RST will now see a new option for their rental car needs. In September of 2009 Thrifty Car Rental ceased operations at RST. In their place travelers will now see National Car Rental.

The staff of Rochester International Airport welcomes National Car Rental back to the airport.

Thrifty
Car Rental

is now

**National.**



<http://www.flyrst.com>