

## 1. Upcoming Events

- **Airport Advisory Committee Meeting**  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 8:00am via Zoom.  
Join Zoom Meeting:  
[Click HERE to join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 857 0636 0685  
Passcode: 456803  
Dial in: +1 929 205 6099

- **Flights and Frights at Pilots Cove Café!**



**PILOTS COVE CAFE**  
**PRESENTS**

**2ND ANNUAL  
FLIGHTS & FRIGHTS**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST**

**4-5 PM : KIDS PUMPKIN CARVING**  
ONLY 20 SPOTS AVAILABLE, RSVP TO RESERVE  
MUST WEAR A COSTUME! CANDY GIFT BAGS FOR ALL  
ENTRANTS

**7-10PM: 21+ HALLOWEEN PARTY**  
WITH DJ FROM HOT RADIO 104.7  
TICKETS BECOME AVAILABLE OCT 1ST, LIMITED AMOUNT!  
\$20/PERSON. EMAIL [INFO@PILOTSCOVECAFE.COM](mailto:INFO@PILOTSCOVECAFE.COM)

**GIFT BAGS, GIVEAWAYS, AND DRINK SPECIALS**

**COME IN YOUR BEST COSTUME!**

## 2. Sanford Airport Solar: Progress

Check out the Airport's Facebook page to see photos and videos of progress or click here to watch on WSSRTV's YouTube channel: [Sanford Airport Solar Video](#) New footage with text from September 11!

By the numbers:

- ❖ 250 acres of panels
- ❖ 50 MW
- ❖ 345 days of construction to date; 5 years from start of concept/initial scoping
- ❖ 230,000 man hours in construction; 250 workers at height of construction
- ❖ Over 29,000 pilings
- ❖ 19 inverters
- ❖ 267 load break disconnects
- ❖ 11 miles of fencing
- ❖ About 40,000 panels remaining to install, all single axis trackers. Rate of about 2,000 panels installed per day
- ❖ Total Panels in Project: 177,034
- ❖ 38 miles of fixed panels



### SCHEDULE

- ❖ Switchyard back fed end of September
- ❖ Substation back fed first week October
- ❖ Big Lot on Airport connected mid October
- ❖ Generation begins on schedule in November, though it won't be full capacity right away
- ❖ Full performance before year end

For more information on the developer and owner of the project visit [www.NextEraEnergyResources.com](http://www.NextEraEnergyResources.com).

## 3. The Storm of July 14, 2020

I have said that this year someone with some influence is out there saying over and over again "Pharaoh, let my people go".

That's an Old Testament joke.

But sincerely, just when we thought 2020 had been wicked enough, a freakish hailstorm descended on South Sanford. Dark clouds appeared on the horizon, but there was no reason to think it was any different than any other summertime thunderstorm. Looking at the radar,

though, the area was pink – not a color we're used to seeing in New England – and it was a direct hit on the airport.



Joe and Matt were painting runway markings that morning and decided it was better to take a break and let the storm pass. They didn't make it back to the safety of the shop, though, before the storm hit in full force. I contend that no one knows the airport better than Joe, so when he said he had to stop because he just couldn't see enough to tell where he was anymore... cue the goosebumps.

A tenant described the onset of the storm to me saying that he felt a strange stillness and looked out toward to airfield to see dead birds falling from the sky. They had been killed by falling hail aloft.

Again with the goosebumps.

He rushed to get his window-less hangar closed up just in time to wait it out inside, listening to the sounds of wind, rain and hail. Back with airport maintenance, winds rocked the truck and hail pounded down, cracking the windshield. After more than 10 minutes when the storm subsided a scene that felt post-apocalyptic was discovered. The catch basins were blocked with debris and leaves that had been stripped off every tree, causing the water on the long term ramp to rise high enough to touch the bellies of the airplanes parked there. A whirlpool over 20' wide was formed around the basins. Hail was





in piles 8" to 12" deep in places. As it started to melt, an eerie low lying fog swirled around the damage.

I met a plow truck on Airport Road under these foggy conditions, plowing a large amount of leaves and hail off the road. Plowing... In July.

Large oak trees were snapped in half. The power line near our building on Gatehouse Road had come down and there were 12 foot tall flames in the woods. Power was knocked out to the entire industrial park and an emergency evacuation route was formed and caravan of employees escorted along Taxiway H to get back around to Gatehouse Road. Taxiway Charlie was covered in insulation from the devastated door enclosure on Big Blue. One of Sanford Soaring Club's gliders, built to stay aloft on the finest breeze, had flown off its tie down and was on its roof almost 200' away. Multiple airplanes tied down on the ramp were damaged beyond repair, hangars lost panels and portions of their rooves, and one looked like Godzilla might have



stubbed his toe on it. As you can see in the photo of that poor hangar, before we could even take in the extent of the damage the air became hot again and the sun came out, making you feel crazy for thinking it had ever even happened.

Despite all the damage, there are things to be thankful for: No human beings were hurt. The Sanford Fire Department did a great job addressing the electrical fire on Gatehouse Road. Public Works responded to the insane need to mobilize plow equipment in July quickly and effectively. Insurance of many kinds covers hail damage. Paintless dent removal exists. And, again, everyone went home alright.

#### 4. State of Affairs at SFM Regarding COVID 19

SFM air traffic overall was down significantly in April with an estimated 1,121 takeoffs and landings, about 1/2 of what we had for traffic in the same month last year. Subsequent months showed a recovery with activity levels the same or higher than previous years.

**Southern Maine Aviation** is open for business! They are providing a full complement of services from flight instruction to testing, aircraft and helicopter maintenance services and fueling. If you have questions please contact them directly prior to your visit by calling 207-324-8919. SMA has more information on their website as well: [www.flyingsma.com](http://www.flyingsma.com) On Facebook and Instagram @southernmaineaviation

**Pine Tree Helicopter** is performing flight instruction. Contact Parker for more information: [www.pinetreehelicopters.com](http://www.pinetreehelicopters.com) @pinetreehelicopters 207-329-6380

**Pilots Cove Café** has remained open, modifying operations to comply with regulations for dine-in and offering takeout as well as delivery through DoorDash. They have patio heaters to allow dine-in on the patio even on the chillier evenings and have appropriately spaced indoor dining as well. The full menus, operating hours and more are available online at [www.pilotscovecafe.com](http://www.pilotscovecafe.com). Order for takeout by calling 207-850-1183. Keep up with these developments by following the Café on social media as well @pilotscovecafe



Temporarily moving here while their homebase of Biddeford is under construction, Skydive Coastal Maine will only be at SFM until Columbus Day – time is limited to check this off your bucket list! They had a record day last weekend with 20 jumpers! Check them out at [www.skydivecoastalmaine.com](http://www.skydivecoastalmaine.com) @skydivecoastalmaine



# FACE COVERING REQUIRED TO ENTER



Help Keep Businesses and Schools Open





The Airport continues to remain open to the public 24/7 as usual. Short term aircraft parking is handled through SMA and long term (month or more) is handled through my office. Self-serve fuel is available.

We enjoyed a very, very busy time period when both Biddeford's airport (B19) and Portsmouth's airport (PSM) were closed for



runway reconstruction projects at the same time! Many aircraft chose SFM as their temporary home while these projects were being completed. Southern Maine Aviation pumped thousands of gallons of fuel and handled aircraft of all shapes and sizes! PlaneSense occupied the large hangar on the west side of the airport affectionately named "Big Blue" to continue the maintenance of their many Pilatus aircraft. PlaneSense is an incredibly impressive company which offers fractional

aircraft ownership in Pilatus PC-12 turboprop aircraft and PC-24 jets. The company was founded in 1995 and is based at PSM. The principle is to provide an efficient and more affordable way to fly privately from point to point. For more information visit their website:

<https://www.planesense.com/>

## 5. SFM Development

A brand new 10-unit t-hangar building will be finished in October! In the next photo you can see the new dark blue hangar among its green family members. The hangar waiting list remains a couple dozen deep and more hangars will be constructed in 2021. To be added to the hangar list contact Southern Maine Aviation at 207-324-8919. Anyone who would like

to construct a hangar of their own may reach out to me at 207-324-3172 or via email at [anavia@sanfordmaine.org](mailto:anavia@sanfordmaine.org). We have many spots available – some permitted with utilities at the ready!



SFM welcomed two consulting firms to the team on Tuesday: Gale Associates will be performing work on our Taxiway and Apron rehabilitation projects and McFaraland Johnson will do our next Master Plan update! We have truly hit the ground running and our scoping meeting with FAA and MDOT on the Taxiway C rehabilitation takes place Monday the 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be both a simple and complicated project with many variables. Simple because we don't need a high level of environmental permitting since the area is already impervious surface. Complex because we aren't sure FAA will fund more than 35' of width (the taxiway is currently 50' wide). We also don't know how much of the associated apron will be funded since a large amount of the multimillion dollar project will be funded with discretionary money.. remember SFM only received \$150,000 per year for Airport Improvement Projects and that can only be rolled over 4 years before you start to lose the oldest funding, kind of like rollover cell phone minutes of the "olden days". Best case scenario, construction will take place in 2021. The project will be phased in a way that reduces the amount of inaccessibility for any of the tenants along Charlie. More to come as we work on this!



## 6. Welcome to our newest airport business: BDF Air Multiengine Flight School!

BDF Air is now offering multiengine training for those looking to add on to their private or commercial tickets! Chief instructor Mark Favolise is pictured here with the Beechcraft Duchess students will be flying. Mark, a 20 year resident of Sanford, brings to the table over 30 years of flight experience, 25 years of that as an instructor and 15 years as an aviation safety inspector for FAA. He has logged over 11,000 flight hours. The Duchess is designed for multiengine training. In November accelerated ratings will be on offer so that pilots can travel from far and wide to spend a weekend at SFM and be guaranteed a check ride at the end of their training to obtain a new rating. For more information or to schedule lessons contact Mark at [mfavolise@gmail.com](mailto:mfavolise@gmail.com) or 207432-9866.



So much *good* out there.

**“The harder you work, the ‘luckier’ you get.”**

- Thomas Jefferson, golf champ Gary Player, and likely others. I love it because it so clearly explains my stance on luck: you make your luck.

Your airport manager,

*Alisen*  
SFM