



Staghorn Plantation Estates
Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 267
Nicholson, GA 30565

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

February 2026

LIFE ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Just a short 9-mile drive from Staghorn Plantation Estates is the Jackson County Airport. It is an impressive Jackson County landmark.



Opened in 1957, Jackson County Airport is located at 1562 Airport Road, Jefferson, GA 30549. It is a general aviation facility with a 5,009-foot runway and seven aircraft hangars. Each aircraft hangar is designed for secure storage and protection of aircraft from environmental elements like harsh weather, UV rays, and corrosion.

Local Jackson County leadership is committed to providing our county with a state-of-the-art, safe airport to support Jackson County's economic growth. That commitment can be seen in the construction of the new airport terminal.

NEW AIRPORT TERMINAL OPENS

Late last year Jackson County leadership opened the new Jackson County airport terminal in a ribbon cutting ceremony shown below.



The new \$3.2 million facility, funded with SPLOST dollars, contains a front counter, a lobby for guests, two business offices and a spacious upstairs collaboration room for business meetings.



View of the new terminal

INTERVIEW WITH TOM STRONG

In 2013, Tom Strong was hired to manage the day-to-day operations of the county airport. His long-term goal is to make the airport operation self-sufficient and to work with county leaders to fund new airport projects.



Tom Strong – Airport Manager

Tom is a down-to-earth, hands-on individual ideal for the role of airport manager. He is a retired Navy officer with years of experience as a pilot flying for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency. Tom is deeply committed to supporting Habitat for Humanity where he served prior to his current position.

I interviewed Tom recently to learn more about events at the airport and plans for new airport projects.

SOCIAL EVENTS OPEN TO PUBLIC

I learned that there are regularly scheduled airport events. “**Breakfast and Poker Run**” often takes place every fifth Saturday and is open to pilots, flying enthusiasts and those interested in a fun experience. Breakfast is from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM and Poker from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. You can learn more about it by going to Facebook: Jackson County Airport.

AIRPORT PLANS AND MORE

Jackson County Airport received \$6 million as part of the approved T-SPLOST. There are two projects planned. They are the west airport runway apron expansion and the addition of a new airport hangar. These proposed projects should cost \$3 to \$4 million and are needed for safety and better customer service,

I asked Tom how his background as a pilot has helped him as airport manager. Tom explained that after visiting hundreds of airports he clearly understood what good airport operations looked like. Furthermore, being a pilot helped in daily communications with his pilot customers.

Tom loves his job. He is a family man and is fortunate to have family living in Auburn, GA and almost next door to him. The good news is that Tom recently has much to celebrate with the birth of his first grandchild.

STAGHORN WORKDAY PLANNED

Please join us on **March 28, 2026**, for the Staghorn Workday. Bring your weed eaters and hedge trimmers. Don't forget to wear gloves and bring glasses to protect your eyes.

Craig Gieler – Secretary SPEHOA