

Saratoga County Building and Grounds Committee
c/o Thomas A Speziale, Jr., Senior Engineer
Saratoga County Department of Public Works
3654 Galway Road
Ballston Spa, New York 12020 USA

28 December 2004

Dear Saratoga County Building and Grounds Committee,

I am writing today in regards to the recent disconnection of the SAI website depicting the real-time weather information of Saratoga County Airport (5B2). I came across the SAI website only recently, but was instantly impressed with it on many levels, and I was equally impressed that Saratoga County Airport had been chosen as one of the preliminary airports to be depicted.

I work for Jeppesen where I perform International Flight Planning. I use many computer & digitally-based resources in this position. Comparing resources, I found the SAI website resource to be very comprehensive and robust. As a professional in the aviation industry, I am excited about what SAI is doing and the direction they are taking real-time weather reporting and monitoring.

As a flight-planner and as a pilot myself, I know that safe flying means having as much information gathered as possible about a flight prior to the actual departure. The SAI website allows the pilot, and flight-planner if there is one, to literally visualize the weather in a much more tangible way. This enhances safety of flight immeasurably. The fact that Saratoga County was depicted meant that flights into and out of it, if using the SAI product, would be conducted more safely because the pilots would have a much better idea of what the real-time weather was actually doing. Fantastic.

I wish all airports had this information displayed—it would be a tremendous help. I can easily imagine this type of resource being deployed worldwide someday, and it all started with Saratoga County being one of the original airports. In fact, this fact could absolutely be used as a selling-point and marketing resource (in aviation publications) that Saratoga County has an SAI display. If pilots had the choice between an airport with or without an SAI display, they would feel much more confident going into an airport that they were much more confident in the veracity of the weather reports as depicted by SAI.

The advent, development, and application of graphical, digital, computer-based real-time information in aviation is precisely the direction that aviation is going. Your participation is actually leadership in this endeavor. Thank you very much for listening and thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter.

Kindest Regards,

Malachi M. O'Neill
Commercial Pilot, Instructor, and Aircraft Dispatcher
1293 Plum Ct.
Erie, Colorado 80516 USA
720.314.0595
malachimoneill@hotmail.com