



# News Letter

## February, 2008

[www.azpilots.org](http://www.azpilots.org)

Tommy Thomason, President

Welcome to the fifth of the APA news letters we have started. I'm hoping you are finding some the sections of interest and use to your enjoyment and safety. We had a great month filled with the Third Annual Aviation Day at the Capitol, and the Arizona Flight Training Work Group Expo [www.aftw.org](http://www.aftw.org). It was great that several of you able to make it to the \$100 Hamburger Fly-in at Goodyear and the Safety Seminar at Buckeye airport. This year promises to be filled with many more aviation related activities and events. We hope to be able to publicize as many of these events as we can. As always, please feel free to e-mail me with any information you feel might be of interest to Arizona's aviation community.

Thanks,  
Tommy

[tethomason@cox.net](mailto:tethomason@cox.net)

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Jim Timm, Executive Director

FEBRUARY, 2008

To start on a serious note, the Arizona Legislature is moving rapidly to develop a proposal to present to the House and Senate aimed at settling the 2008 state budget shortfall. Unfortunately this proposal includes a \$15 Million sweep from the Aviation Fund.

We all need to write, call and e-mail our respective Representatives and Senators immediately and express our concern with sweeping the Aviation Fund. We need to explain to them that any sweep would be detrimental to the State's airport system and a sweep would have the effect of reducing economic impact, and thereby, result in further reductions in state revenues.

We need to do everything possible to protect the funding necessary to maintain our airports!

Now that the Super Bowl excitement and the associated airspace restrictions are over, perhaps flying can get back to normal in the Phoenix area. The year is getting off to a rather busy start. Because APA represents the general aviation interests through out the state, we have been asked to serve on the planning advisory committees for several airports in the state that are in the process of updating their Airport Master Plans. In this capacity we represent the general aviation users of the airport and attempt to make certain that the needs of the user will be met in the future development of the airport. The airports that APA is currently working with are Casa Grande, Lake Havasu, Mesa Falcon Field and Mesa/Phoenix Gateway (IWA) airports. APA is also serving on an airport noise committee for Mesa Falcon Field.

One of the very interesting advisory committees that APA is serving on is one that is assisting the City of Maricopa locate and develop a new general aviation airport to serve the current and future needs of the City. The need for an airport has been identified and the task of locating a suitable site was put in process. The analysis process suggested a site that is at the present location of the Estrella Sail Port. The proposed airport, in addition to runways and facilities for powered general aviation aircraft, would also include runways and facilities to specifically accommodate soaring activities. The recommendations are being submitted to the Maricopa City counsel for their consideration and approval.

Enjoying the great flying weather and Fly Safe.

### **Eloy Skydiving**

Kris Hackler  
Asst. Chief Pilot  
Skydive Arizona  
520-466-3753

As we approach our busy season here at Skydive Arizona, we would like to advise General Aviation about our operations. We fly 11 different aircraft in which all but three are twin turbine. This includes the De Havilland Twin Otter and the Shorts Skyvan. We also operate a DC-3, Beech 18, and a Pilatus Porter. We climb these airplanes in the 90-100 knot range, normally level off at 14500 msl, drop jumpers, and descend at a rate up to 4000 ft. per min.

When our operation is busy, we may be operating 5 to 6 skydiving aircraft at any given time. When we do, the airspace around Eloy (E60) is very congested with aircraft climbing, descending, in the pattern, and en route on V94 and V16. What we would like to see from the GA before landing or flying around E60 is to review the AFD, follow traffic pattern directions, and do not over fly the field. Although

we do not continuously drop 24 hours a day, we do have strange hours and do drop at night. This also pertains to Pinal Airpark (MZJ), as we operate aircraft there for the U.S. Military.

At E60 our pilots are unable to monitor the local CTAF 122.8 continuously because they are talking with the other pilots and ground crew on a company frequency, and are also on ABQ Center for traffic advisories. Occasionally we drop jumpers up to 10 nautical miles from the airport, and up to FL250, therefore, the only way to ensure that you are clear is to contact ABQ Center on 125.4 for flight following.

At MZJ our pilots are on the Unicom frequency 123.05 and are also with TUS Approach for traffic advisories. We also drop jumpers from the flight levels and up to 10 nautical miles away from this drop zone. We strongly suggest that you find out this information before over flying this airport as well. We do not want to discourage pilots from flying into E60, but would like to increase the safety level for you, the jumpers, and our pilots by educating every one of our operations. We appreciate your support and interest in our effort to increase overall safety.

### **Estrella Sailport**

Jason Stephens, Owner / Operator, Arizona Soaring Inc  
jason@azsoaring.com  
(520)568-2318

Hello, I am the owner/operator of Arizona Soaring Inc which owns Estrella Sail port (E68). Arizona Soaring Inc. is the largest provider of Sailplane instruction in the USA. I am contacting you today in hopes that you can help with a recent increase in potentially problematic airplane training activity at or near our facility.

The issue is with airplane traffic traveling through our registered aerobatic box and also training aircraft using our glider port for take-offs and landings.

Unauthorized airplane activity that doesn't follow arrival procedures listed in the AFD can potentially put my students at risk as sailplanes are much more limited in what they can physically do while in the traffic pattern. My wish is to increase the awareness of our operations to the local schools to ensure a serious conflict does not occur.

Thank you,  
Jason

### **Events**

Carl Popawsky, APA Member

Check out some of the aviation related activities happening around our state. Hope to see some of you around.

## FEBRUARY 2008

Arizona Pilots' Association **Safety Seminar** Wings Program, NTSB Part 830 and ASOS - How Does It Work, Yuma International Airport. Saturday February 16 10AM-noon. Contact 928-266-0112 or fredgibbs@npgcable.com or Sun Western Flyers (928-726-4715). Coffee, donuts, and good fuel prices!

Pima Air Museum Volunteer Presentation Series, Tucson, **Search & Rescue in Alaska**. Saturday February 16 10AM-11AM. Contact 520-574-0462.

Arizona Wing Confederate Air Force, Mesa Falcon Field, **Pioneers of Flight**. Saturday February 16. Contact 480-924-1940. Hear Sergei Sikorsky speak!

**\$100 Hamburger Fly-in**, Goodyear Airport. Saturday February 16 10 am until 2PM.

Pima Air Museum AIAA Distinguished Lecture "**Shadow Craft - A World of Secret Flight**", Tucson. Thursday February 21, 5PM-7:30PM. Contact 520-574-0462.

**Flying Companion Seminar**, Pan Am Flight Academy, Deer Valley Airport. Saturday February 23 9AM-4PM. Contact Phoenix 99's (623-486-7255). Learn basic aerodynamics, radio procedures, navigation, weather, and aircraft systems!

## MARCH 2008

**Fly-in Breakfast**, Coolidge Municipal Airport. Saturday March 1 (first Saturday of every month) 8AM-noon. Contact 520-723-5354. Pancakes and more!

**50<sup>th</sup> Annual Cactus Fly-in**, Casa Grande Municipal Airport. Friday March 7 and Saturday March 8, 8AM-9PM. Contact 520-836-7447 or [dprez@cactusflyin.org](mailto:dprez@cactusflyin.org). Antique aircraft judging and forums!

**Baja Bush Pilots Whales I**. Wednesday March 5 – Sunday March 9. Contact 480-730-3251 or [bbp@bajabushpilots.com](mailto:bbp@bajabushpilots.com). Baja tour to see whales.

Scottsdale **Breakfast Club Fly-out** to Gallup Municipal Airport. Saturday March 8. Contact [warren.mcilvoy@asu.edu](mailto:warren.mcilvoy@asu.edu). Breakfast and good company!

**Baja Bush Pilots Whales II**. Thursday March 13 – Sunday March 16. Contact 480-730-3251 or [bbp@bajabushpilots.com](mailto:bbp@bajabushpilots.com). Baja tour to see whales.

Arizona Pilots' Association **Safety Seminar** Wings Program, PHX Class 'B' Airspace, and How to Read the FAA'S New NOTAM Format, Sabena Airline

Training Center, Mesa Falcon Field. Saturday March 15 10AM-2PM. Contact 928-266-0112 or fredgibbs@npgcable.com. This is also a **\$100 Hamburger Fly-In Event!**

Arizona Wing Confederate Air Force, Mesa Falcon Field, **40's Big Band Dance and USO Show**. Saturday March 15. Contact 480-924-1940. War birds, costumes, and dance contest.

AZ. DOT Aeronautics Div. **Wings to Fly**, Challenger Space Center, Peoria. Saturday March 8 8AM-5PM. Contact 602-294-9144. Encouraging young women ages 11-19 to pursue careers in aviation and aerospace.

**Border to Border Air Show**, Douglas Municipal Airport, Saturday March 16 noon. Contact 520-364-4481. Air show, carnival, vendors, car show, bike show.

Pima Air Museum **Easter Bunny Landing**. Saturday March 23 1PM-4PM. Contact 520-574-0462. Eggs and War Birds!

## **2008 Safety Seminars**

Howard Deevers

The ARIZONA PILOTS ASSOCIATION continues to offer safety seminars to pilots all over the State of AZ. These seminars are part of the FAA "Wings" program and we reach pilots and places that the local FSDO can't afford to get to. The "Wings" program has changed. Safety Counselors are now called FFAST team representatives. These volunteer representatives present material and serve as coaches to the pilots that attend the seminars. One a couple of the most recent seminars, the subject was "The New FSS" presented by Fred Gibbs. Sixty five attended in Deer Valley and 45 attended in Tucson. At the end of the Tucson Seminar one pilot came over to me and said that this was the most informative and valuable Wings seminar that he had ever attended. It is nice to get feed back like that from pilots so we know that we are providing a valuable service. Fred Gibbs and Howard Deevers have teamed up to provide an interesting list of seminars for 2008. The first seminar for 2008 was in Buckeye, AZ on January 19 from 9 to 11 AM. The subjects were: Non Towered Airports, and Weather 101. Check the APA web site for a complete listing of subjects, locations, and times.

Go to the following link for more detail on the upcoming safety seminars / events.

[http://www.azpilots.org/safety\\_seminar\\_schedule.htm](http://www.azpilots.org/safety_seminar_schedule.htm)

**Feb 16 – Yuma**

## **\$100 Hamburger Fly-In**

Sunwestern Flyers  
Goodyear Airport

**Feb 16** 10am – 2pm

Mar 15

Apr 19

Volunteers needed to help flip burgers & dogs at these fly-ins. Call or e-mail Nancy Benscoter at 480 580-0974, nanbabi@aol.com.

## **Super Bowl XLII and the FBR Open meet in PHX**

Ed Chauza, Treasurer

Super Bowl XLII and the FBR Phoenix Open Golf Tournament both visited the Valley of the Sun on the weekend of February 2 & 3. Planning for this event was conducted for several years. Reports are that all the planning efforts resulted in a very successful event. General Aviation participated in a large way by essentially standing down over the weekend at the surrounding Phoenix airports and gave priority to the huge inflow of fanjet traffic into the valley. GA pilot organizations at local airports took a stand down approach to flying during the weekend. SDL quickly reached their maximum capacity of 250 fanjet aircraft and the next busiest DVT parked 120. There were multiple turns at airports where aircraft flew in, dropped off passengers and then relocated to other AZ airports like Prescott and Tucson and then returned later for pickup. Many of the valley GA airports looked like parking lots for Gulfstream aircraft over the weekend.

On Monday after the Super Bowl there was a very concentrated effort to minimize the amount of GA traffic in the Phoenix skies. The local flight instructor organization, Arizona Flight Training Workgroup, which includes almost all the commercial training organizations, chose to organize and conduct a symposium (EXPO 2008) on the day after Super Bowl. The objective was to relieve that airspace of training flights but still use the time constructively for flight instructors. There were upwards of 200 flight training professionals attending the day of seminars and flight instructor job fair.

## **Self Fuel coming to DVT**

The in-service date for self fuel at DVT airport is getting closer. Mid-April is the projected in-service date for the new facility. Reports are that once construction begins it will go very quickly because of the facility pre-fab nature. The new operator, Sibran Properties, reports the Chevron facility will be the highest quality state-of-the-art refueling equipment. Sibran also operates fueling facilities at Pueblo, CO and the Air Force training academy at Colorado Springs, CO. Watch for the in-service official announcement.

## **2007 Airport Operations published**

FAA yearly airport operations totals were published in January for U.S. towered airports. Overall, in Arizona, the totals were lower for 2007 than for 2006. This may be attributable to the large increase in fuel cost. This observation is also been echoed by mechanics in that they've been seeing lower flight hour totals when the aircraft goes thru annual. Some airports GYR, IWA & RYN experienced growth primarily due to new flight schools at the airports. DVT continues to be the No. 1 GA airport in the nation even though it slipped from 406k operations in 2006 to 378k in 2007. In the No. 2 GA spot is Van Nuys at 374k operations. AZ airports in the top 50 rankings are PHX(8), DVT(22), FFZ(31), IWA(38), CHD(44) and TUS(48). There are 14 towered AZ airports and 6 of those airports appear in the top 50 U.S. busiest airports.

## **TRACON Frequency Confusion**

Curtis Strickland

PHX TRACON

Airspace and Procedures

Without going into too much detail, we swapped some things around in the TRACON and are back to using the charted frequencies.

TRACON keeps both low altitude sectors below combined to one control position at 123.7 until traffic increases in the Willy pattern and then the 124.9 position is decombined.

Typically a controller working multiple frequencies would like to have all traffic on one frequency and will favor 123.7 unless the other sector is open. IWA Tower knows what the active frequency is for their pattern traffic.

Hope this clears up some of the confusion.

## **Breakfast Club**

Warren McIlvoy, BC-1

It might seem a bit early to talk about our May 17-19 fly-in to Catalina, Avalon but places like this often book-up early. I called the folks at the Hotel MacRae today and this is what I have as of now. The room rates appear to have increased about \$20 over last year. A king bed room with a patio view is \$149 per night with a two night minimum. A queen size bed is \$129.00. You can have an ocean view room for \$199 and \$179 respectively. There is a 72-hour cancellation policy with a \$25 cancellation fee if within that time frame. After that, it is one nights stay. I am guessing that the room tax will be about 10-12 per night. There is no group or AARP discounts available. The phone number to the

hotel is 1-800-698-2266. When you book your room, please send me a note with the number of people in your party. There is no fuel available on the island so, for the balance of the Breakfast Club group, we will be stopping in Blythe for our breakfast and fuel for those with short bladders (fuel).

[www.ScottsdaleBreakfastClub.org](http://www.ScottsdaleBreakfastClub.org)

## **CHAPMAN RANCH AIRSTRIP**

YOUNG ARIZONA

OPEN FOR USE

Sandy Reid, Chairman, Mogollon Airpark Safety Committee

Last Year, the Arizona Pilots Association (APA) reached a lease agreement with the owners of the Chapman Ranch Airstrip in Young AZ to reopen and maintain the airstrip. This is good news for Mogollon Airpark (MAP) pilots flying to and from the Phoenix area. Located approximately 25 NM on the 220 degree radial from MAP at GPS coordinates N34.0936°/W110.9328°, the airstrip is directly on the flight path to the Scottsdale and Deer Valley area airports.

Runway 01/19 is 3,068' long x 50' wide at an elevation of 5,115'. The gravel surface has been graded and improved and makes an excellent alternate landing site in the event of an inflight emergency. CTAF is 122.9.

For those who may wish to drop in occasionally for some dirt strip practice, it is necessary to fill out a Hold Harmless Agreement before doing so. Log onto [www.azpilots.org](http://www.azpilots.org) and check out the section for Chapman Ranch Airstrip Operation and Guidelines. Then fill out the Hold Harmless Agreement. For those of you who notice such things, the APA used the Mogollon Airpark Hold Harmless Agreement as a template for the Chapman Ranch form.

The APA is dedicated to preserving Arizona airports, airspace and "back country" airstrips. The opening of the Chapman Ranch Airstrip is the latest in their efforts in this area. Another ongoing project is the reopening of the Tuweep airstrip on the north side of the Grand Canyon. For those of us who like the idea of flying into remote and unusual airstrips, we should support the efforts of the APA by joining and donating to their causes. They spent over \$10,000.00 to reopen Chapman Ranch for general aviation.

The APA is planning a fly-in next summer into Chapman Ranch and a "Turkey Shoot" at the shooting range located 600' west of the approach end of Rwy 19. So, if you're a combat aviator like and hear gunfire on approach, don't think you're having any flashbacks to your younger days. It's probably just some locals out having fun.

## **WINGS Safety Program**

Have you registered with the FAA so you can participate in the new WINGS program? The new FAASTeam program is in effect. Unfortunately the FAA assumes that everyone has e-mail and you must register with the FAA on the following link to be able to participate.

[www.faasafety.gov/WINGS/pppinfo/default.aspx](http://www.faasafety.gov/WINGS/pppinfo/default.aspx)

### **Ask Dr. Dave**

Click on the following link to ask Dr. David Bryman your personal and confidential aero medical questions.

[www.azpilots.org/aeromedical\\_advisory\\_committee\\_.htm](http://www.azpilots.org/aeromedical_advisory_committee_.htm)

### **Help Wanted**

APA members / volunteers needed to help with fundraisers, membership drives, flipping burgers at the \$100 Hamburger Fly-ins, a membership coordinator, news letter input, and airstrip clean-ups.

Contact: Tommy Thomason at [tethomason@cox.net](mailto:tethomason@cox.net) or 602 708-2040

### **Arizona Pilots Association Supporters**

#### **Scottsdale, Gateway, Goodyear Pilot Shops**

Scottsdale 480 948-8994

Gateway 480 988-7780

Goodyear 623 451-4577

Online Store: [www.scottsdalepilotshop.com](http://www.scottsdalepilotshop.com)

Mention you are an APA member and get 10% off (not applicable to electronic and Jeppesen express packs)

#### **Sun Western Flyers**

[www.Sunwesternflyers.com](http://www.Sunwesternflyers.com)

#### **The Wolf Aviation fund**

[www.wolf-aviation.org](http://www.wolf-aviation.org)

I know I have missed several of our other supporters and promise to make sure I mention you in future news letters.

### **Aircraft for Sale**

**1979 Turbo Cessna 183RG**, 4304 TT, 288 SMOH, GPS, Dual Nav / Com, Autopilot, Intercom, IFR, Oxygen and more. \$115k. Call Arv (602) 275-1016