

PALO ALTO AIRPORT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PALO ALTO AIRPORT



Volume No. XIX Issue No. 6 Dec 6, 2005

Good Attendance at Airport Day

This year's Airport day was a successful event due to the fine efforts of all who volunteered. Attendance was down some from last year, but still very good. There were many families with young children enjoying the day, but many were too young to take advantage of the EAA Young Eagles program. The kids who did had big smiles as they returned from their flights. The birds and flying falcons were a big hit as were the tower tours. Emergency and public service aircraft and staff did a fine job of communicating the value of the airport for these kinds of operations. Airport Day served its purpose of showing off the airport to the local community and promoting its importance in many ways. Thanks are due to the many volunteers, County and City Staff, EAA, flying clubs, the commercial and non-commercial vendors and display-booth staff, and others too numerous for specific mention.

At a follow up meeting held a couple of weeks after the event, the consensus was the future Airport Days will be on a biennial basis. Since it is really a small open house and we don't have an Airshow, every two years should be often enough to keep the airport in front of our constituents.

General Meeting Set for January 17th – Join us for an *interesting* program and discussion of the Future of PAO

There will be a General Meeting for the PAAA on January 17th at 7:30 PM at the West Valley Flying Club Meeting Room. David Deacon has agreed to present a program about his recent experience flying his Cessna 182 across the Atlantic to Europe and back. This promises to be a program you won't want to miss! There will be business meeting where the primary focus will be the future of KPAO. With only 12 years left on the County's lease of the Airport from the City, your Board of Directors and the Joint Community Relations

Council is actively involved in the issue. There will be a status report presented and your participation in the discussion is strongly encouraged. Active participation by the Airport Community will be essential to ensure a good future for the airport.

Roads and Airports Director Tells City Council: County Does Not Plan To Lease Airport After 2017

At a special meeting of the City Council with County Supervisor Liz Kniss, County Roads and Airports Director Michael Murdter stated that the County was not planning to renew a lease with the City when the current one runs out. Citing financial risks to the County, Mr. Murdter explained that the County would not be in a position to continue a lease arrangement with the City when the current one runs out in 2017. As matters stand, the City must guarantee that the Airport will continue to operate for at least 20 years in order to meet FAA grant assurances. At a meeting well attended by PAAA members, the City Council took action recently directing City Staff to agree to the requirements of the grant assurances. While 12 years may seem like a long time, there are many things which must be planned for the airport which depend on long-term commitments. A plan is needed for the airport's operation beyond 2017. The FAA funding and grant requirements are only one example of the problem.

As matters stand, the County is in the final stages of preparing a plan for all three airports in Santa Clara Co. which the County operates (Mineta/San Jose is operated by the City of San Jose). Since the plan is due out soon, the City decided to wait for it before proceeding, with the expectation the plan will provide useful insights to guide future action. The JCRC agreed that this is appropriate. In any event, when the study is done, the JCRC and the PAAA stand ready to assist City Staff and provide expertise in understanding airport issues.

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For further information and a chance to ask questions to learn more, be sure to attend the PAAA meeting on January 17th.

Proper Fueling Practices are Critical

In previous issues of this Newsletter we have urged care in disposing of waste fuel and returning fuel to the aircraft after testing. Recent inspections by the Palo Alto Fire Department have reinforced the concern. We include the following statement from County Airports Director Carl Honaker:

The County Airports office has received a ruling from the City of Palo Alto's Fire Department and from other environmental sources that any, repeat *any*, willful acts of spilling hazardous materials (including AVGAS and Jet fuel) is a federal offense punishable by fines up to \$10,000. This covers actions including venting caused by overfilling fuel tanks, and the dispersion of sample fuels on the tarmac. Although there are legal reasons why pilots shouldn't spill fuel on the ground, the obvious reason for being more careful is to be a better steward of the environment. We highly encourage all pilots to refrain from filling fuel tanks until shortly before flight, and use GATS jars whenever possible. The County Airports office has recently installed three fuel dumping stations on the airport where pilots can properly dispose of fuel samples or sediment from their GATS jars. These stations also include fuel spill kits and an empty drum to place fuel soaked spill absorbent materials after a spill. Thank you for your cooperation in making Palo Alto Airport a better (and cleaner) place to fly.

Do you have contaminated fuel or oil from an oil-change to dispose of? Here are facilities available to you:

PAO Airport Manager Liliana Valle provided this information for the Newsletter about on-airport disposal:

Waste Oil

Contact airport operations during hours of operation to dispose of any waste fuel and oil filters. Airport personnel will log your name, tie-down location, airplane tail number and the quantity of waste oil. Personnel will also supervise all deposits of waste oil and ensure that deposits are free of gasoline, solvents and or other liquid toxic materials. The waste oil cabinet is

located in the terminal parking lot across from the sand bag station.

Waste Fuel Stations

The County Airports office has recently installed three fuel dumping stations on the airport where pilots can properly dispose of fuel samples or sediment from their GATS jars. One station is located at the end of transient row, another station has been placed next to the sewer station, and the last station is located by the wash rack. These stations also include fuel spill kits and an empty drum to place fuel soaked spill absorbent materials after a spill.

Convenient Off-Airport Recycling

In addition to the County Airport Facilities, the City of Palo Alto Recycling Center located in front of the entrance to the City landfill accepts up to 5 gallons of motor oil, used lead-acid batteries and empty motor oil containers. As you leave the Terminal parking lot, turn right and continue straight ahead instead of turning onto Embarcadero Rd. The recycling center is on the right about a quarter mile beyond the intersection. The center is open daily, 8 AM-5PM.

We welcome the following new members:

David Deacon,
Bill Gibbons,
Karl Lautman
Josh Smith,
Winfried Wilcke.

Contact!

President: Ralph Britton (650) 328-0760
ralphbritton@sbcglobal.net
Vice-Pres.: Bob Lenox (650) 326-6699
bob.lenox@gte.net
Treasurer: Don Shrank (650) 968-3811
donshrank@juno.com
Secretary: John Grigsby (650) 948-3382
grigsby@ihot.com

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Membership Renewal

Attached to this Newsletter is a renewal envelope. Dues are on a calendar year basis, so please send your dues to Treasurer Don Shrank now. He will appreciate your prompt reply. About one in five of the PAO based aircraft is represented by a membership in the PAAA. At this critical juncture in the airport's life, it's essential that the PAAA have the strongest voice possible in dealing with the community. Please talk to your neighbor or hangar-mate and ask them to join us. More members give the PAAA a stronger voice!

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JANUARY BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 12:00 Noon
WEST VALLEY FLYING CLUB AT PAO

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 7:30 PM
WEST VALLY FLYING CLUB AT PAO

PALO ALTO AIRPORT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 60275

Palo Alto, CA 94306

FIRST CLASS MAIL

www.paloaltoairport.org