

PALO ALTO AIRPORT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PALO ALTO AIRPORT



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PAO NEEDS YOU

The Airport Association is in need of new volunteers. Not just to show up at an event or two, but to really take part in the operation of the Association, and in the efforts to keep PAO a vital part of our neighborhood and our aviation community.

A few of the many things that the Association has done for the PAO pilots include:

- Provided key representation to the Palo Alto Airport Working group of the Palo Alto City Council, and continues to monitor this critical issue.
- Organized and ran Airport Day 2005 and 2007, with attendance in the 3000 range. Airport Day provides key outreach to the non-flying community. And it's just a darn good time.
- Association Members and Officers interface not only with the PA City Council, but also the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors relative to the status and importance of the Airport.
- Newsletter informs members of important events and issues affecting the airport.

As Board Member and PAO AOPA Airport representative Bob Lenox pointed out in the last issue, the current members of the PAAA Board have all been serving for a long time. Several of the key members no longer fly – they continue to dedicate their time and energy simply because PAO and the community it harbors gave so much to them over the years.

So it's time to step up and take the reins from some of our fellow members who have served so long and so well. The following positions, critical to the Association, need replacements:

- Treasurer – Don Shrank is seeking a replacement. The position requires some basic accounting acumen, mostly concentrated around the annual membership renewal time at the beginning of the year with other occasional spikes such as supporting Airport Day
- Secretary – John Grigsby is also seeking a replacement. Duties include attending monthly meetings, recording and distributing minutes to the Board.

In addition, there are other areas where the Association could use your help:

- Web Design/Maintenance – Julie Delaney has done a great job of designing and maintaining the Association web site, but additional help would be appreciated.
- Membership Representative – a new position that the Association would like to create, focused on outreach efforts aimed at the flying community. Broadening and reinforcing the membership ranks of the Association, and bringing new ideas from the membership to the Association.
- Community Relations – another new position that the Association would like to create, aimed at developing and helping to execute on community outreach projects to educate the

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non-flying community about the importance and contributions of the airport.

After the last request for help and discussions at the BBQ in September, several members did reach out to see how they could help. Rest assured, we WILL be getting back to you to enlist your help, but there's still plenty of work to go around!

LIGHTHAWK: EYES ON CONSERVATION

Special thanks to PAAA Member Saul Chaikin for submitting the following piece. If another other organizations or individuals are interested in doing the same, let the Editor know.

How else but through Lighthawk could I:

- Transport a state senator and his entourage north to Ridgewood Ranch, near Willets, to accept as a conservation easement the training grounds of the legendary Seabiscuit, 1938 Horse of the Year;
- Fly a leading hydrologist and his associates the length of the San Joaquin River to its headwaters high in the Sierra near Mammoth, and, in the process, learn that long stretches of the river were made bone dry because 95% of the flow is captured by the Friant dam. The state "solved the problem" by building the Delta-Mendota canal to bring water from the delta south to re-water the dry river;
- Conduct aerial photography monitoring of fluorescent dyes injected into waters of a boat harbor in Half Moon Bay to determine tidal flushing action aimed at finding ways to reduce contamination of harbor waters;
- Circumnavigate Mt. Diablo with Congressperson Ellen Taucher and aides to view urban sprawl at its worst with news helicopters circling overhead;

Those and many, many more flights I have made for Lighthawk, a nationwide nonprofit organization of

conservation-minded volunteer pilots, over the fourteen years that I have been a member. Where else can you literally sit next to and learn from experts in a field in your own private reality show? All you'll want to know is at the Lighthawk website at www.lighthawk.org. Inquiries are welcome.

A significant barrier for some is the requirement that a Lighthawk pilot have 1000+ PIC hours. Another is that fuel is paid for by the pilot. On the other hand, tax time brings some welcome deductions.

Lighthawk is spread rather thin in California and consequently cannot provide flights for all of the conservation groups that request them. We are inviting pilots interested in participating in Lighthawk activities to contact Saul Chaikin at 408-255-0722 or at schaikin@sbcglobal.net. The Lighthawk website at <http://www.lighthawk.org> is loaded with information about the organization, including pilot requirements. Another contact is the pilot outreach person at Lighthawk, Shannon Rochelle (SRochelle@lighthawk.org or phone 307-332-3242).

PAAA BBQ A BIG SUCCESS

On Sunday, September 28th, almost 100 Association members turned out for a Fall BBQ hosted by the Association. In fact, so many members turned out that Vice President Bob Lenox had to make an emergency restocking run to Costco.

Besides just flipping some burgers and swapping flying stories (all certified true by a Designated FAA Tall Tale Examiner), the Association signed up a number of new and renewing members. Thanks to all of those who helped to make it a success, from hanging flyers and tagging aircraft, to making supply runs and flipping burgers. The Golden Spatula Award goes to Chuck Byer, who single-handedly manned the grill and fended off hungry hoards during the resupply.

The event was such a success that plans are in the works to make a BBQ or pancake breakfast a more regular event.

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Chuck Byer, Master Chef

AIRPORT NEWS

A contract for installing a new AWOS has been delayed due to the denial of an FAA waiver on the desired location. It needs a waiver because the proposed location doesn't meet the FAA site criteria. The matter is subject to further discussion between the FAA and the County Airport Management.

As previously reported, there was a request for proposals out from the City of Palo Alto for a contract to generate an airport operations business plan for the proposed city takeover of PAO. The City has now received responses from contractors on its request of quotation for a business plan. The proposals received were above the previously approved allocation, requiring that the matter be presented to the Policy and Services Committee for consideration on 18 November.

UPDATE ON AIRPORT LOOS

Our last issue reported the lack of general access to the johns in the buildings near the golf course. Owner Pat Roy pointed out that a major reason for their closure was problems with vandalism. A related concern was the need for maintenance staff and expense of providing facilities available at all hours for general users of the airport. Tenants are supplied keys for their use.

A correction: We suggested that people who needed handicapped facilities contact West Valley Flying Club. WVFC cannot allow public access to their facility, so please do not ask. We apologize for this error.

The County now provides three portable toilets which are handicapped accessible. They are located at the end of the Transient Row, by the Pump Station and near the Wash Rack. They are maintained regularly by the County's contractor and we found them to be clean and supplied. If you find conditions otherwise, be sure to let the airport manger know. There is also a WC in the terminal building which is not handicapped accessible.

NEW MEMBERS

Please encourage your fellow aviators to join the Association. Information for joining can be found on the web site at www.paloaltoairport.aero. Dues are \$15/year, should be made out to the Association and sent to Treasurer Don Shrank at 202 Diablo Avenue, Mountain View 94043. Please provide full contact information and be sure to include your email address.

CALENDAR

Airport Day 2009 – TENTATIVE – Sunday, September 13.

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RENEWAL TIME IS APPROACHING!!!

If you are currently opted in for email newsletter delivery, expect to see a hard copy with dues envelope coming to you near the end of the year.

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