

# NEWSLETTER

## WATSONVILLE PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Serving the aviation community in Santa Cruz County since 1987

### Support WPA

You can support the WPA by getting current with your annual membership dues, or by joining the WPA if you are not yet a member.

NOTE: All previous memberships have lapsed as of December 2018, so please renew today! There are two ways to do this:

1) Sign up at [www.watsonvillepilots.org/joinwpa](http://www.watsonvillepilots.org/joinwpa)

Signing up through the website will give you access to our new online Members Forum among many other great features.

Or, 2) Send a check for \$35 or \$65 to:

Watsonville Pilots Association  
PO Box 2074, Freedom, CA 95019

Please indicate on your check if you are renewing or newly joining.

### Thank you!

Your dues and donations are critical to help us continue to protect the airport. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

### WPA Recasting

As the newly elected President of the Watsonville Pilots Association, I am writing to tell you about some exciting developments as we emerge from a lengthy hiatus and reorganization. Based on overwhelming feedback from the email survey we sent out several months back, I am working closely with our board members to re-cast the WPA into an association that is relevant and attractive to the larger pilot community across Santa Cruz county. The goals of the WPA remains much the same, albeit slightly updated:



Represent the Watsonville aviation community with a unified voice

Protect the airport land and surrounding safety zones

Host training and seminars to promote pilot safety and proficiency

Foster positive relationships with the citizens of Watsonville and surrounding communities

Educate on the utility and positive impact aviation has on the city

Organize community and aviation social events

Share the magic of flight with the greater community

### *New Website, New Look*

The most noticeable changes we've made thus far is to our website and our logo. The website now hosts many new features and tools that we can share with our members. Notably, we've unveiled a new Members Forum to engage the community and a section with pilot and weather resources. Member dues can now easily be paid through the website. If you haven't had a chance to visit please do so and explore all it has to offer! [www.watsonvillepilots.org](http://www.watsonvillepilots.org)



## Our Leadership Team

### Officers

- President:** Ryan Ramirez
- Vice President:** Barry Porter
- Secretary:** Brad Smith
- Treasurer:** Jeremy Lezin
- Vice-Treasurer:** Ed Bogner

### Board Members

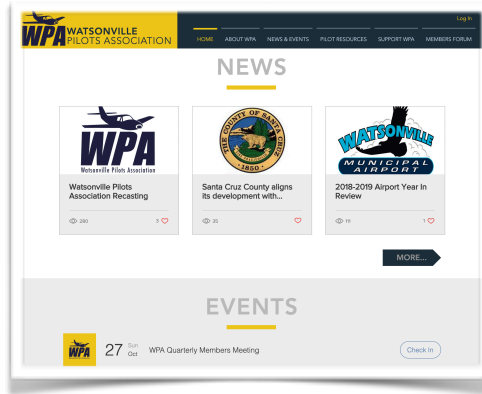
- Sarah Chauvet
- Raphael Hebert
- Said Karssli
- Theresa Byers
- Marjorie Bachman

### Legal Affairs Committee

- Secretary:** Sarah Chauvet
- Treasurer:** Brad Smith

### WPA Committee Heads

- Aviation Education:** Open Position
- Editorial:** Open Position
- FAA Team Rep:** Open Position
- WAAC Rep:** Jeremy Lezin
- PVAA Rep:** Theresa Byers
- Website Editor:** Ryan Ramirez



Your comments and contributions are invaluable as our website is still a work in progress. This resource belongs to all our members and is an essential hub of information, communication and outreach. We're always looking for local aviation-related content, including

photos, videos, articles, stories etc. The more relevant content that we add, the more valuable the website becomes. You can contact us at:

**mail@watsonvillepilots.org**

On behalf of the entire pilot community, I would like to thank Richard Lippi for creating and managing the old WPA site through many of the association's formidable years. I would also like to thank Ken Adelman for hosting the old WPA site from 2001 to 2019 and to both for helping transfer the site to its new home!

Lastly, for those of you that don't know me... During the day, I am a product director in the software industry and at night you can sometimes find me playing music around the county with my band, Soul Doubt. As I'm sure you can relate, if I'm not doing either of those, I'm hanging out on the field at our beloved airport, or flying just about anywhere in my co-owned S-LSA.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to serve and help create a new WPA.

Ryan Ramirez  
 President, WPA  
 Hangar B7

## Legal Committee Update

Since 1987, the Watsonville Pilots Association (WPA) has been working to keep the Watsonville Municipal Airport operating as an active, vibrant airport for our pilot community to enjoy. Over the years, the WPA had battled with the City of Watsonville over excessive growth near the airport, diversion of funds from the airport and the inclusion of proper aeronautical regulations in the city's "General Plan". The WPA Legal Committee has initiated numerous lawsuits to force the city to



comply with the California Division of Aeronautics Handbook and the WPA succeeded in every case.

Currently, the WPA Legal Committee is working with the City of Watsonville and the WPA lawyers to incorporate an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) into the city's current General Plan. The final document will integrate the previous court decisions and the California Division of Aeronautics Handbook requirements and should be completed by the end of 2020. This important achievement of incorporating an ALUCP into the General Plan is the culmination of years of hard work and determination by Dan and Sarah Chauvet, John Randolph, Brad Smith and many other helpers.

Most recently, the Watsonville High School District wanted to build a sports field in the airport safety zone, the WPA negotiated a solution that allowed the high school to build in a safer location. The school district agreed to never again attempt to build anything closer than the existing buildings. The school district and the WPA are now working together with the goal of keeping safety hazards away from the airport. Having an ALUCP in the city's General plan will make issues like this much easier to mitigate in the future.

## 2018-2019 Airport Year In Review

From the desk of Airport Management, here is the year in review for Watsonville Municipal Airport fiscal year 2018-2019.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ✦ Alleged diversion of revenue claim settled
- ✦ Primary Runway Two-Two Zero Rehabilitation
- ✦ Upgraded Signage and Runway End Identifier Lights installed
- ✦ FAA Flight Procedures brings new DPs: WVI 4 and GARLIK One
- ✦ Airport Operations Center opens for business
- ✦ FAA confirms \$400k grant for Crosswind Runway Rehab
- ✦ Revenue exceeds expenses for 5th consecutive year
- ✦ Calstar based at Watsonville Airport Center
- ✦ "Beer Mule" craft brewery opens at 45 Aviation Way
- ✦ Construction of DGS facility at 120 Aviation Way continues
- ✦ Go Jump (Sky Dive Surf City) completes 2nd year of operations
- ✦ Two Airport Ops Specialist pass Operations Certification Exam
- ✦ Annual hangar inspection 90% compliant
- ✦ Airport contracts for Economic Impact Study
- ✦ Selected new Planning, Environmental & Engineering Consultants
- ✦ Airport Open House third successful year
- ✦ Return of Airport Car Show; partner with local Club
- ✦ Sixth year of "Second Saturdays"; expanded to "2nd Weekends"
- ✦ Tenant Appreciation Fire Extinguisher Service & Blood Drive
- ✦ Tenant of the Year: Ken Adelman

### LOWLIGHTS

- ✦ Santa Cruz Flying Club stolen aircraft
- ✦ Challenges with off field thefts
- ✦ Runway 27 take-off NA due to RVZ
- ✦ Parking availability a challenge
- ✦ Airport noise complaints rise

*A look ahead to 2019-2020:*

- ✦ Construction: Crosswind Runway rehab; Completed by end October 2019\*\*
- ✦ Infrastructure: Roof maintenance/repairs; 3rd year of 3 year plan continues\*
- ✦ Operations: Purchasing two new Airport Operations Utility Vehicles\*
- ✦ Finances: Begins year with Airport fund balance over \$500,000

*The Five year Airport Improvement Plan summary*

**2019:** Rehabilitate runway, seal cracks and remark Runway 9-27\*\*

Submit application for Airport Layout Plan and Airport Master Plan\*\*

**2020:** Submit application for Airport Permanent Ramp Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment\*\*

Airport Layout Plan and Airport Master Plan commences\*\*

**2021:** Submit application for Primary Runway Extension Environmental Assessment\*\*

Permanent Ramp Rehab EA commences\*\*

**2022:** Submit application for Design Permanent Ramp Rehab

Runway Ext EA commences, Airport Master Plan update concludes

**2023:** Submit application for Permanent Ramp Rehabilitation construction

Permanent Ramp Rehab EA concludes\*\*

\*=*via Airport Enterprise Fund*, \*\*=*FAA funded*

## Upcoming Events

### WPA Quarterly Members Meeting

**Sunday, Oct. 27 11:00am - 1:00pm**

Please join us for our first WPA meeting of the year, after a long hiatus. We will continue to use the Watsonville Aviation Education Center (WAEC) for our meetings and plan to host them quarterly, starting with this one. We are looking forward to a great turnout, reconnecting with our pilot community and meeting new friends!

For food and refreshments, we're working on having a taco truck on premises. Details to follow!

If you could RSVP, we can get a head count to help us plan. Thank you.

### Bay Area Disaster Exercise

**Saturday, Oct. 26 9:00am - 3:00pm**

**Watsonville Emergency Airlift Command Team (WEACT)** is participating in a Bay Area wide exercise on 26 October to exercise communications between airports, procedures, and local interfaces. Expected time is from ~9am to ~3pm. Scenario is a major earthquake in the San Francisco area with resulting impacts around the Bay Area. We need volunteer pilots/planes and ground crew (ramp control and material handling) to try out our processes and to fly missions around the Bay Area.

Contact Tom Hail at 831-531-8440 or [fly44d@gmail.com](mailto:fly44d@gmail.com) with WEACT in the SUBJECT.