



Senator Abel Maldonado Speaker at this WRAP-PAC Dinner

On Saturday November 3, at 6:30 p.m., at the Green Valley Grill, the speaker will be Abel Maldonado, State Senator and pilot. We suspect he will be talking about Watsonville Airport, aviation and airports in California, and related legislation.

WRAP is the Watsonville Regional Airport Promotion – Political Action Committee. This PAC represents aviation and airport supporters; it backs candidates for the Watsonville City Council, Board of Supervisors and other public offices, which are important to the future of Watsonville Airport. At last years election we made significant progress by supporting some really good pro-airport people. Attending the dinner gives you an opportunity to visit with some of these people as well as Senator Maldonado. Right now WVI needs all the political support it can get.

Last year we moved the dinner to the Green Valley Grill and the food was—great. We plan the same fare again, with three (3) choices. You can choose one or all three.

Yes, it kind of a dress up affair, with men wearing a sport coat and tie, and women wearing the usual, anything they want. Entry is \$50.00 per each. There are no tickets. If you're not already on the attend list, you get on it by calling Chairman Dan Chauvet at 831-724-8256. Or better yet, send a check made out to "WRAP" to: 147 Mesa Verde Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076-0949. We need to know projected attendance ahead of time, by at least seven days.

~ Dan Chauvet, WRAP Chairman ~
~ Grant Wrathall, Vice Chairman ~
~ Hal Zamora, CFO/Treasurer ~

Harvest Festival—A Success

The Friends of Buena Vista (FOBV), with some help from the Watsonville Pilots Association (WPA), put on a successful event called the Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 7th. The event was a barbecue lunch, a silent auction, and a fine social event. Two different groups supplied music. Hawaiian dancers provided entertainment. The setting at the Corralitos Community Center, under the redwoods, helped make the day. The silent auction contained many very interesting bid items, including services.

As a fundraiser to support the legal action against the City of Watsonville, it was successful. The FOBV did the heavy lifting, organizing, cooking, and setting up the silent auction. Still the WPA legal fund benefited by \$2,000 dollars. It's all one lawsuit and one legal brief. If FOBV wins so does WPA, as does the local chapter of the Sierra Club, the State Division of Aeronautics, and aviation in general. Solidarity and mutual concern among those involved in our case strengthens our position. An attorney attending the event says that this case is being watched by many in the State. The ramifications of this decision are big. The hearing is scheduled for October 26.

The main organizer, Karin Kerber Smith, spoke briefly about the legal effort and why it is vital. Mike McIntyre, WPA President, filled in on the need to protect the airport from encroachment and its importance to the region.

The attendance represented a broad base of both County and City of Watsonville residents.

~ Dan Chauvet ~
~ WPA Board Member ~

Open House WVI

On Saturday September 15, 2007 Watsonville Airport held their annual Open House. This year there was a car show as well as the usual aircraft display and Dime-A-Pound rides sponsored by the Monterey Bay Chapter of the 99s. On Friday members of EAA Chapter 119 prepared the ramp for both the aircraft and the car show. On top of that members worked all day Saturday parking airplanes and ensuring safety as people moved between the terminal and the car show. Special thanks to Dennis Thomas, Bill Derochey, Leslie Grate and everyone, who parked airplanes, helped with setup and teardown. Flying the rides were EAA members Tom Hail, Jim Young, Doug Glass, John Nogatch as well as members of WPA, Grant Wrathall, Hal Zamora, Rayvon Williams, Ben Rolfe, Ricky LiFo Sjoe, and Bob Hendrickson. Dan Chauvet, CFI, was the Pilot briefer.

We flew 100 people and 13,000+ pounds. Preliminary estimate of income added to our scholarship fund is \$1,300.00 plus or minus.

~ Sarah Chauvet and Michaele Serasio ~
~ Event co-chairs, Monterey Bay Chapter of the 99s ~

Diversion of Airport Funds - Letter to Congressman Farr

Watsonville Pilots Association
P.O. Box 2074
Watsonville, CA 95019-2074
October 11, 2007

Congressman Sam Farr
Fax 202-225-6791

Dear Congressman Farr:

This letter is a request that you contact the FAA regarding the continued diversion of funds from the Watsonville Airport enterprise fund to the Watsonville City General Fund. When the FAA grants funds to an airport for projects, there can be no diversion of enterprise funds, according to FAA regulations. Here, since 1976, the amount diverted is 4.2 million dollars. A spreadsheet was submitted to the local ADO, plus other substantiating records.

In June 2004 the Watsonville Pilots Association (WPA) Board of Director's representatives met with Mr. Andy Richards at the Burlingame FAA Airport District Office (ADO) regarding this diversion of funds, which has been on-going. Since then e-mails, letters, and phone calls have resulted no known solution.

The ADO contacted the City. The City responded by presenting a plan to continue diversion, reducing it over a period of time. The FAA is required to stop all diversions of funds. The City acts oblivious to the fact that they signed agreements, FAA grant assurances (FAR 16), not to divert airport funds. The ADO office says that they cannot go back more than 6 years in collection of diversions. Still, using that rule (part of the diverted funds), the City must return at least \$3 million to the airport enterprise fund.

Why are we asking you to take this action? City actions have shown a disregard for regulations, contract agreements, and state laws. In addition to the diversions, past City actions indicate that they no longer have a commitment to be good stewards of the Airport. The City passed an updated General Plan (GP 2030) which provided for annexation of lands adjacent to the airport (including off the end of a runway) to build houses. This will create new noise and safety problems (a violation of State Law). The Pilots Association and others were forced to file a lawsuit (Caltrans Aero is involved) to stop this unsafe encroachment. Also this is a violation of the contract with the Federal Government (Instrument of Transfer) which prohibits construction, on or off the airport, which would cause the airport to be diminished. For a number of years the City claimed that the airport enterprise fund was losing money (while diverting funds)-to justify raising hangar rates and tie-down fees. All we are asking is that the FAA follows their own regulations, stop all current diversion and force the City to return all past diverted funds to the airport enterprise fund.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Dan E. Chauvet, member of the WPA Board of Directors

California Flying

Nov 3 – Livermore, CA. Livermore Muni (KLVK). Young Eagles Rally #8. Young Eagle flights are free and available to ages 8-18. Contact Eric Helms, 925/784-7128; [Email](#) [Website](#).

Nov 4 – Torrance, CA. Torrance (Zamperini Field) (TOA). Grand opening of Western Museum of Flight. War Birds and aviation history and artifacts will be on display. Aviation historians will be present. Contact Cindy Macha, (310) 326-9544; [Email](#) [Website](#).

Nov 6 – Riverside, CA. Riverside Municipal (KRAL). ASF Seminar. "Ups and Downs of Landings 7PM. FREE. Contact John Burnard, 951/688-8066; [Email](#) [Website](#).

Nov 10 – Mojave, CA. Mojave Airport (KMHV). AOPA Southern California Member's Mojave fly-in. 9:00-1:00 morning Mojave run complete with boneyard tour and a great restaurant on the field. Contact Marc Lee, 714/480-5490; [Email](#).

Nov 10 – Palm Springs, CA. Palm Springs Air Museum. Veteran's Day - 11th Anniversary of Palm Springs Air Museum. 82nd Airborne Division re-enactment. Grand Opening of the "Oral History" exhibit. We will have a variety of food vendors. Contact Sheilah Reed, (760) 778-6262 ext. 235; [Email](#) [Website](#).

Nov 15 – San Diego, CA. Montgomery Airfield San Diego (KMYF). International Flying: Have Fun and Fly Safe in Mexico. This presentation by Stephen Blythe is a step-by-step Virtual Flight to Mexico-cross the ADIZ, fly throughout Mexico and get back safely. Master paper work & procedures for Mexico and US Customs. Hear an update on proposed Homeland Security rule. Contact Janet Lapp -- Aviation Safety Counselors San Diego, 619/672-2417 [Email](#) [Website](#)

Watsonville Pilots Association Minutes

President Mike McIntyre called meeting to order at 7:05.

Minutes

- ✂ The August minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

- ✂ Funds are adequate for operations. Sarah asked membership to approve \$50.00 to purchase cookies and beverages for the meetings. Motion carried.

Old Business

- ✂ Sarah Chauvet reported on the WVI Airport open house on Sept 15th. The 99s flew 100 people in the dime a pound event. Many thanks were given to the set up crew, the flight line and pilots who volunteered their time and their airplanes.

New Business

- ✂ Dan Chauvet reported that the litigation status is not changed. The hearing is set for October 26th, 9am in Department 8 in Santa Cruz. He and several others will attend and report to us at the meeting on November 7th.
- ✂ Friends of Buena Vista will be holding their fundraiser Harvest Festival on October 7th. It will be in Corralitos at 35 Browns Valley Rd. from noon to 4pm. The tickets are \$10.00, which includes a BBQ and silent auction. There are many good items to bid on for both aviators and non-flying friends alike.
- ✂ The WRAP report- The dinner fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday November 3rd. It will be held at the Green Valley Grill in Watsonville at 6:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be state Senator Abel Maldonado. Contact Dan Chauvet for tickets. This event supports political action to further our goals to support the Watsonville Airport. This is a great event; invite your friends and neighbors.

Announcements

- ✂ Mike McIntyre updated the members that the proposed user fees were defeated in the House.
- ✂ John Cowan talked about this year's holiday dinner. He will set up the event and send out an email in October with the particulars.
- ✂ The October meeting has been rescheduled to **November 7th** since the October date falls on Halloween.
- ✂ Rayvon Williams announced the November 7th program as the night with the tower controllers. Both Salinas and Monterey will be represented. Questions should be sent ahead of time to Rayvon Williams or Dan Chauvet.

The program for the evening was Emergency Procedures Jeopardy. The winner was Mike Spellman of team whiskey.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

~ Charlene McIntyre, secretary ~

Next WINGS Seminar

. The next WINGS Seminar will be on Nov. 7th at the WPA meeting. The topic will be **MRY & SNS Tower Controller Q&A**. For further information on upcoming WINGS Seminars, go to the WPA Home page at <http://www.watsonvillepilots.org/> and press the [WPA "WINGS" Seminar Calendar](#) button.

The EcoPark Plan

The EcoPark Plan (recycling waste materials) by the County Waste Management Planners could be a severe problem for the Airport. If large buildings are built in runway safety zones on the approach end of runway 2, they would forever preclude the Airport from having a low instrument approach. This encroachment becomes a safety problem by creating obstacles; and it would remove open areas for aircraft with emergencies using both runway 20 and runway 2. Specifically sites D, E, and F described in the EcoPark Report are the biggest problem areas. The County Board of Supervisors, in their last meeting, seemed oblivious to this problem. The Airport was never mentioned in the EcoPark Report. A letter to HDR Consultants (working on the EcoPark plans) enumerated the problems, but this was apparently not made available to the Supervisors. However, Ellen Pirie was contacted after the meeting. She voiced concern about this lack of airport land use planning awareness. The question is: WHO is protecting the Airport?

~ Dan Chauvet ~

User Fee Update

The House has passed H.R.2881 which is a bill that would pay for air traffic control modernization (NextGen), support a robust airport aid program, and continue an efficient tax system that distributes FAA funding costs among all aviation users. It has no user fees.

The Senate Finance Committee has approved a tax bill that closely mirrors the House legislation, but it still contains a \$25 user fee. A major battle lies ahead to remove the user fee from the Senate bill, and your support is needed to make a difference.

You can find up-to-date information on this battle along with suggestions on how you can help and whom you can contact at <http://www.aopa.org/aaafundingdebate/>. This is a fast moving issue, and this is the best way for you to monitor the situation. The airlines and the FAA continue to falsely point at General Aviation as the cause of delays arguing that we are clogging the air traffic control system.

~ Bob Olmsted ~

Fuel Prices

At WVI Fuel Island, 100LL is **\$4.32** and Jet A is **\$3.57** (10/25/07)

At K301 (Gustine), SS 100LL is **\$3.99** (10/25/07)

WPA Airport Legal Fund

Please Help WVI with Your Tax Deductible Contributions.

Checks should be made to "WPA" or "Watsonville Pilots Association". On the memo line note: "legal fund". Send your contribution to: P.O. Box 2074, Freedom, CA 95019-2074

Thanks for Your Support

WPA Officers

Mike McIntyre:	Chairman
John Cowan:	Vice-Chairman
Charlene McIntyre:	Secretary
Sarah Chauvet:	Treasurer
Hal Zamora:	Secretary of Legal Affairs
Dan Chauvet:	As. Sec. of Legal Affairs

Committee Heads

Dan Chauvet:	WAAG
Richard Lippi:	Web Site
Randy Pesce:	Field Security
Bob Olmsted:	Newsletter Editor
Chris Olmsted:	News Ed./As.Sec.
Rayvon Williams:	AOPA/WINGS
John Cowan:	Public Relations
Brian Moffet:	Video & Media

Airport Manager: Don French

Feedback: wpanews@yahoo.com

Local Events

WPA -- meet on the last Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport.
EAA Chapter 119 -- meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport
Monterey Bay 99s -- meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport.
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 13 -- meet 2nd & 4th Tuesday, beginning at 7:30 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport.
Northern CA Aerobatics Club IAC38 -- meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Livermore Municipal Airport

WPA Newsletter
PO Box 135
Brookdale, CA 95007-0135

Next Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday, **Nov. 7**
@ the EAA-WAEC Building
60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport