

NEWSLETTER

WATSONVILLE PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Serving the aviation community in Santa Cruz County since 1987

Steady Progress

BY RYAN RAMIREZ - President, WPA

It has been close to two months since the shelter in place order has taken effect. I hope everyone is doing well and having the opportunity to stretch your wings often. I'm out on the field and flying at least once a week and the sky is always looking busy with traffic over KWVI! I cannot tell you how grateful I am to be able to freely exercise my pilots license for recreation and travel during this crisis. Through all this, the WPA has continued to make steady improvements and growth in various areas of our organization.

It is part of our mission to continuously keep you informed and foster connections among the local pilot community. We do this through these newsletters, our website and member forum, social media and most importantly, our members meetings. I was so disappointed to have had to cancel our meeting in March along with our guest speaker. We were heading towards a big turnout, but in hindsight I believe we made the right call. Now, as we are navigating through this shelter in place period, the WPA decided to sign up for a Zoom video conferencing account. We will use it to host our meetings online and record them for future viewing. I'm excited to try this out for the first time on **Thursday June 18th at 7:00pm**. It will be our first online members meeting and our first meeting of 2020. Our guest speaker will also be returning 'virtually' to show off his photos from the Reno Air Races. *See page 4, or go to our [website](#) for details.*

We also extended our social presence last month and started up a facebook page! If you are on facebook, find us and follow us at www.facebook.com/watsonvillepilots/. Also, remember that we have our private discussion forum available on our website, and it is only accessible to paid WPA members. You can use it to plan fly-outs, find partnerships, buy/sell gear or share pictures and stories knowing that it is exclusive and private. Zuckerburg does not have access to our forum.

Beginning in November 2019, the WPA restarted publishing our newsletter and mailed it out to all the past and present members that we had addresses for. The airport lobby was stocked with a few stacks to get the word out that the WPA was alive and growing. If you missed it, that issue has been posted to our online archive. You can find it, along with all our newsletters dating back to 2006 at www.watsonvillepilots.org/newsletter-archive

We would love to get the newsletter to a quarterly publication cycle with more content. In order to achieve this, we are in need of an enthusiastic volunteer to take over editorial and layout for us moving forward. If you know someone, or if you feel like you are that person, let's talk! You can reach out to us at mail@watsonvillepilots.org.

It may or may not be known to everyone that we are a chapter of the [California Pilots Association](#). The WPA is strongly aligned and supported in our missions to protect our airports from overdevelopment of surrounding land and encroachment. We will begin to make the CalPilots newsletter available for download from our website as they are published. It's a great way to be informed about the latest news and issues affecting the all of the airports around our beautiful state.

Lastly, if you have written a story, article or have some noteworthy news related to aviation or the Watsonville Airport that you would like to share, please let us know! We'll be happy to consider it for inclusion in our next newsletter or posting on the website. We've received some great stories from you so far and can't wait to share them in this and future newsletters. If you'd like to contribute, contact us at: mail@watsonvillepilots.org. Stay safe out there folks and we'll see you online and in the air!

- Ryan



Support WPA

Good news. Our membership is growing! For those that have renewed your membership and donated to the WPA, we thank you. As of the end of May, we have 90 paid members.

Our goal for the first half of 2020 is to match the level we had in 2018, before the WPA had gone in to "hibernation". That number was 120 active members.



Help us achieve our goal! If you have not yet renewed or are thinking of joining, please make a donation today. It's easy from our secure website and is fully tax deductible.

Sign Up

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, 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.

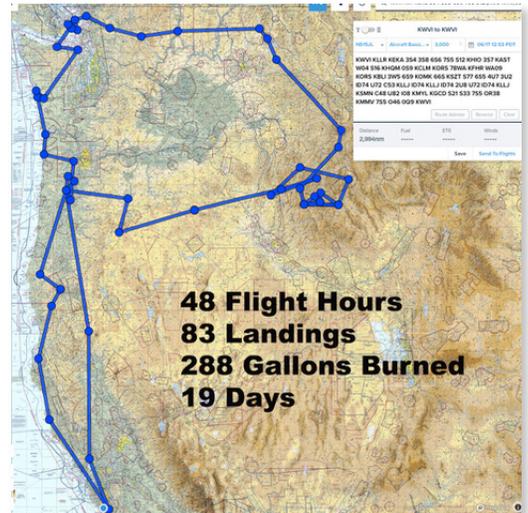
A portion of your membership dues are used to maintain a legal reserve fund, critical for enabling current and future legal efforts. Dues are also used to fund board meetings, member meetings, social events and upcoming services.

Stories From Our Local Pilots

The Airport Car

BY JEREMY LEZIN & BARRY PORTER

We were finishing up a week in the backcountry of Idaho, two Cubs sampling the seemingly endless supply of short, challenging dirt strips that cover the state. We departed Lower Loon and decided to head east from the Salmon-Challis Forest, to stock up on fuel, food and most importantly, wine. Chilled wine. Did I mention it was around 100F outside? After fueling at the self-serve pump in Challis, we found the pilot's lounge. It was a relatively new, two story log building. The door was open, but no one was to be found. We even knocked on the door upstairs, but no one answered. Since our mission required getting to town, the poster offering a free airport car caught our attention. Unfortunately, calling the telephone number yielded no results. But this didn't stop us.



Outside, a very tired Subaru awaited us. The key was conveniently left in the ignition, so we took the highway into town. When we arrived in Challis we graciously filled the car with gas. And then we divided and conquered. Barry went for the ATM, while I went to the liquor store. A few minutes later, while I was trying to choose a wine, a guy



"did somebody here steal my car!"

wearing a nice suit, tie, and a fashionable hat pushed the door open and yelled, "did somebody here steal my car!" My jaw dropped. He continued, "I was at the farmer's market and suddenly saw my car going down the highway. What's going on?" By this time, Barry had returned and was socially distancing himself (way ahead of his time) at the far end of the store, hoping the shelves of canned goods would at least deflect the bullets.

Very quickly we realized that this Subaru wasn't the airport car. In fact we'd stolen this guy's car and now had to face the music. Expecting the worst, I explained the mix-up. He backed off. "This happens all of the time," he said, "no problem." I told him that we'd take it directly back to his home (which happened to be above the pilot's lounge). "Would you like to buy the car?" he asked. I pointed out that we were flying two small planes and that there wouldn't be room. Then I bought him a bottle of wine, which Barry and I left on his doorstep with the key

Our Leadership Team

Officers

President: Ryan Ramirez

Vice President: Barry Porter

Secretary: Brad Smith

Treasurer: Jeremy Lezin

Vice-Treasurer: Ed Bogner

Board Members

Marjorie Bachman

Jack Bernard

Theresa Byers

Sarah Chauvet

Raphael Hebert

Said Karssli

Legal Affairs Committee

Secretary: Sarah Chauvet

Treasurer: Brad Smith

WPA Committee Heads

Aviation Education: Open Position

Editorial: Open Position

FAASTeam Rep: Open Position

WAAC Rep: Jeremy Lezin

PVAA Rep: Theresa Byers

Website Editor: Ryan Ramirez

Editor's Note

To save printing and mailing costs, we are considering moving to a digital-only distribution of our newsletter, starting with our next issue. This would allow for more pages of content. We would still print copies for the airport lobby and other physical locations.

Tell us what you think at mail@watsonvillepilots.org

before we departed Challis. Fortunately we weren't arrested, and no shots were fired during this episode, and we lived to tell the tale.

What did we learn? Well, if there's a key in the ignition, it doesn't mean that it's your car. Or if you're going to commit Grand Theft Auto, don't immediately drive the car into the local town of 1100 people. All-in-all we made a new acquaintance and gained a good story. We hope to see him again when normalcy returns. If he still has it, I think we should buy that car...

- Jeremy Lezin & Barry Porter

KWVI Management Highlights

BY RAYVON WILLIAMS

- ◆ Airport Administrative and Operations Staff have ceased reduced duty hours due to COVID-19. We are back to 0800 to 1700 hrs, daily.
- ◆ Full service fueling is available. See the latest addition to Ops Crew uniform gear below sported by Cris Lopez, Operations Specialist II, SunCrew Lead.
- ◆ Airport received a \$69,000 CARES Grant which will be utilized for airport operational expenses.
- ◆ Airport also received two FAA "Planning" Grants. Both are update efforts. A \$550k grant to update the 2003 Master Plan and \$110k to update the 2010 Pavement Maintenance Management Plan. These update efforts will run for at least 18 months beginning in July.
- ◆ Airport has completed a nine month "Economic Benefit Analysis" which will be published in July. Early returns confirm the airport is an economic engine for the area.
- ◆ Aviation wholesale fuel prices are beginning to creep up. Pilots purchased over 8,500 gallons of AvGas in three weeks. We are anticipating maintaining current fuel prices as long as our current inventory lasts. Second Weekend Fuel Sale will continue for the foreseeable future.
- ◆ Airport will continue to host "Virtual Historical Aircraft Display Days" as long as public gatherings are prohibited. We request interested aircraft owners contact the office.



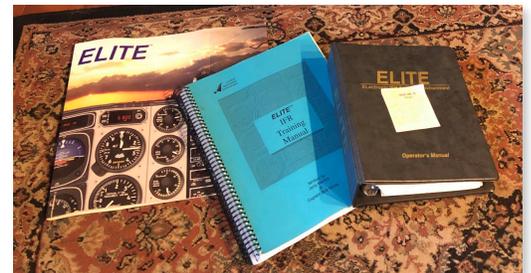
Where can I get one of these masks!?!?

- ◆ Scott Randolph (representing EAA Chapter 119) and Hugh Seagraves (representing County Businesses) have recently joined the Watsonville Airport Advisory Committee (WAAC). Airport appreciates the commitment of Gryphon MacArthur and Ed Bogner for their service.
- ◆ Airport was pleased to take the lead in bringing Lightning Formation Airshows to Santa Cruz County for the recognition of local "Essential Workers" on May 8th.
- ◆ May 22nd was the one year anniversary of the primary runway rehab.

A Special Donation



One of our members has generously donated an Elite ProPanel IFR trainer to the WPA. We would name the individual but we did not get permission before this newsletter went out. But you know who you are, and thank you! Does anyone have any ideas how we can put it to its best use for the benefit of our members? Our first thought was to set it up somewhere so members could have free access to it, but the WPA does not have a physical location on or near the field at the moment. Email us and let us know what you think!



Upcoming Events

For all upcoming events, go to <https://www.watsonvillepilots.org/upcomingevents> for details.

FAA Safety Team Seminar - Webinar

Monday, June 8th - 7:00 pm

STABILIZED APPROACH AND GO AROUND - Topic: Flying a stabilized approach will prevent a loss of aircraft control during touchdown and roll out. Michael Baker, our local FAA Safety Team Representative, will be hosting a FFAST webinar this coming Monday, June 8.

WPA Members Meeting - Online

Thursday, June 18th - 7:00pm

Join the WPA on Thursday evening, June 18th for our first members' meeting in 2020. It's time to reconnect with our local pilot community! Our March meeting had been cancelled due to the Covid19 shelter-in-place directive, but we are back with an online meeting using Zoom. Our guest speaker will be Mike Henniger, an official photographer for the Reno Air Races. He will be sharing photos and stories from the 2019 races. Don't miss it!

If you would like to advertise your aviation related event in our newsletter or on our website, please contact us at mail@watsonvillepilots.org