



Watsonville Pilots Association

"Serving Aviation and the Community"



Visit us at: www.watsonvillepilots.org

Our 22nd Year, Issue 1 January 2009

Beginning the New Year

January 2009

As we begin 2009 our newsletter will inaugurate a page/column called "WVI—What's Happening at the Airport". We will have reports from Don French, Airport manager, Airport businesses, EAA Chapter 119, The 99s, and other Aviation organization at WVI that want to get information out via our newsletter.

We are beginning with a report from Rayvon Williams, our Flight Safety representative.

"Supporters of Safety at Watsonville..."

Happy New Year! Over the last year or so you have assisted with the on-going effort to make Watsonville Airport a safer place to fly. Thanks for the help. As we begin 2009 the Watsonville Pilots Association, in coordination with the San Jose FSDO and supported by EAA Chapter 119 and the Monterey Bay 99s', is looking forward to your continued support as outlined in the attached schedule. Please take a moment to note the date (last Wednesday of the month @ 1930) we are asking for your help.

January - Civil Air Patrol: Rayvon Williams

February - Surveillance Flying: Mike McIntyre

March - VFR into IMC: Dan Chauvet

April - Stall/Spin: John Cowan

May - no seminar

June - Mountain Flying: Michelle Ruprecht

July - Flight Planning: Abe Hazbun

August - Tower Controllers: Rayvon Williams

September - Emergency Landing: Rayvon W.

October: Ramp Check: Rayvon Williams

>> November - no seminar

>> December - no seminar

WATSONVILLE AIRPORT:

The top of the news is, after twenty-five years of service, Operations Supervisor Sharon Reeder has retired. She pulled on the plug December 26 and will be missed. Her first month of retirement will be on Maui, she needs this time to adjust. She plans on growing flowers and making wine.

We have started hangar inspections and expect to have a few unhappy tenants, the fire Department will be doing the inspections and, I am sure will be much more strict than when Airport personnel were doing them. A round of thanks should be given to Steve Knudsen who arranged for the fire extinguisher service – 122 extinguishers were re certified. The FAA, on December 18th accepted our environmental review and will pass it on the other government agency that have approval authority. This is a huge step in getting future projects funded including hangar construction. The review process can be as short as six months and as long as three years- we are hoping for the six months.

Don French, Manager WVI

MONTEREY TOWER:

Monterey Tower recently had a safety audit in which we did very well. However they did find a few items that need to be corrected. The one item I am writing to you about is a letter to airmen concerning an area of non-visibility for the tower on the movement area. The area concerned is the runway 28L run-up area. A Letter to Airmen will be published. Please post this at your facilities and/or distribute to you tenants as you deem necessary.

James Babcock Monterey Tower Air Traffic Manager Admin 831-375-1211 Tower 831-375-3419 Fax 831-649-5865 Cell 831-239-7623

Ocean Air

As of January 1st, 2009 Ocean Air Flight Services is under new ownership and management. An "open house" BBQ is planned for March (exact date to be announced). With the departure of Bruce Hatch, maintenance is now directed by Dudley Clark (A&P/IA). Harry Ishikawa (CFII) is the chief flight instructor. Ocean Air welcomes James Taylor as office manager. And Karl Massey (CFII/MEI) as our newest flight instructor, providing tailwheel instruction in our 2003 Citabria.

Ocean Air is a LaserGrade testing facility, providing FAA written tests.

We're open 7 days a week, from 8 to 5 weekdays and from 9 to 3 on weekends.

Monterey Bay 99s

On February 28, 2008 the Monterey Bay Chapter of the 99s will host a Flying Companion Seminar at the Santa Cruz Office of Education, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz. The Flying Companion Seminar is for non-pilots who would like to be more comfortable in the cockpit of a small airplane. This seminar is designed to bring increased awareness of the basic principals of flight and to increase your overall knowledge and enjoyment of flight.

Advanced registration is required.

Donation of \$55.00 includes lunch and materials.

Contact:

Theresa Levandoski-Byers (831) 728-5511

Make checks payable to :

Monterey Bay 99s

PO Box 924

Freedom, CA 95019

www.montereybay99s.org

Sharon Reeder Retires

Sharon Reeder has retired from her job working for Watsonville Airport , effective December 31, 2008. To all that knew her there--she will be missed.

My acquaintance with her began when she first came to work here in about 1983. So she has worked at KWVI for 25 years.

She came from Fremont Airport and my recollection was that she flew a Cessna 140 there. Bob Ross, United Flight Services, told me that he had a hangar at Fremont , did some maintenance there and was acquainted with Sharon . He said she worked as Assistant Airport Manager. She did the usual, almost everything, fueling, taking tie-down fees, and other airport jobs. That was in the early 1980s.

Her friendly demeanor and positive attitude impressed me from the start. Most of our many enjoyable visits occurred when she refueled the jet I flew for Granite Construction Company. I was always glad to see her when I called for fuel for my Cherokee 180 or Mooney. At all times she was just plain helpful. She was always interested in the well-being and viability of Watsonville Airport.

I talked to Vern Ackerman, past Airport Manager, who hired her. His comment: " Sharon was one of my very best employees, honest, trustworthy, reliable, hard working, -- everybody liked her."

My suspicion is that one of her biggest job challenges was in October 1989, after the Loma Prieta Earthquake caused so much damage; including closing almost all access highways and roads in this area. The airport was the life-line of Santa Cruz County, when thousands of emergency flights brought medical supplies, food, clothing, and emergency workers here. Sharon managed the airport operations efficiently, smoothly and effectively. These kind of complimentary articles sound like "throwing flowers around" – well, with Sharon that's easy -- it reflects who she is.

Dan Chauvet

LOOKING TO BECOME A SPORT PILOT?

Whether you've had a medical reason to let your medical expire or are looking for a pilot certificate that doesn't require a flight physical, check out the sport pilot certificate. Already certificated pilots need no additional training to switch to sport pilot. It allows you to carry one other passenger onboard the aircraft. Just switch to a new market of aircraft--called light sport aircraft—and follow the regulations for the sport pilot certificate. Some familiar airplanes, like the Piper J-3 Cub and Aeronca Champ, are considered light sport aircraft. You don't need to have a current medical, just a driver's license. The only catch is that your previous medical can never have been denied. For more information, see our Sport Pilot Regulatory Brief

(http://www.aopa.org/sportpilot/?WT.mc_id=090109epilot&WT.mc_sect=sap),

or call the experts in AOPA's Pilot Information Center at 800/USA-AOPA.

AOPA asks FAA to suspend rulemaking for Luke Airspace

In [formal comments filed Dec. 15](#) with the FAA, AOPA asked the agency to suspend the current rulemaking process until more information can be gathered about the need for and impact of proposed special air traffic rules around Luke Air Force Base.

The Air Force wants to create a special air traffic rule (SATR) to help separate civilian and military aircraft in the congested airspace near Arizona's Luke Air Force Base. But AOPA contends that the military has not produced recent evidence demonstrating the need for the airspace and that [the airspace, as designed](#), could create new safety problems for general aviation aircraft transiting the Phoenix area.

The Air Force is basing its request on near midair collision data from before 2000. But that information is outdated and does not account for the voluntary efforts by AOPA, local airports, and the Air Force to reduce the problem—efforts begun in 2000.

In addition, [the proposal](#) could create new hazards by crowding VFR traffic into narrow corridors at low altitudes in order to avoid the special-use airspace, and it does not account for how that might affect pilots and people on the ground, AOPA argued.

HISTORY OF WATSONVILLE AIRPORT

Dale Skillicorn is writing a history of Watsonville Airport and is seeking funding for the project. This will be a valuable addition to the history of Watsonville as well the history of aviation in Santa Cruz County. His purpose is to document the value and necessity of Watsonville Airport as an emergency transportation facility, a supporter of business and jobs, an educational asset and career starter, a historical institution, and irreplaceable regional transportation resource.

He proposes to donate net sales proceeds to a local aviation scholarship program and the Pajaro Valley Historical Association. The plan is to publish 200 to 250 copies and have them available at the Watsonville Fly-In and other events locally. Dale estimates that the total costs will be about \$5000 and breaks down the costs as follows: Printing & Bindery: \$1,500; Graphics including photo layouts: \$400 - \$700; Photographs: \$300 - \$500; The balance of the \$5,000 budget is for research and writing. For more information or to support the project, contact Dale Skillicorn at 722-0580 or at daleskillicorn@gmail.com

Coming Events 2009

Jan. 28 WPA Meeting 7:00PM
Feb 25 WPA Meeting
Feb. 28 Flying Companion Seminar

Fuel Prices Locally

	100LL SS	FS	
WVI	3.67	4.00	
CVH	3.58	3.78	Hollister
OAR	n/a	n/a	Marina
E16	3.70	3.90	SoCounty
SNS	4.70	4.90	
HAF	5.32	Jan 11	

SS=self serve FS=full serve

Jan 15, 2009 from airnav.com

WPA Officers

Mike McIntyre	President
John Cowan	Vice-Pres
Charlene McIntyre	Secretary
Sarah Chauvet	Treasurer
Hal Zamora	Sec. Legal Affairs
Dan Chauvet	Assist. Sec. Leg. Aff.

Committee Heads

Dan Chauvet	WAAG
Richard Lippi	Web Site Editor
Randy Pesce	Field Security
Rayvon Williams	AOPA/WINGS
John Cowan	Public Relations
Brian Moffet	Video & Media
Airport Manager	Don French

Feedback wpanews@yahoo.com

WPA Airport Legal Fund

Please help WVI with your contribution

Write check to "WPA" or
Watsonville Pilots Association.
On the memo line note "legal fund"
Mail to: PO Box 2074,
Freedom, CA 95019
Thank you for your support

WPA
PO Box 2074
Freedom, CA 95019

NEXT MEETING

7:00PM Wednesday,
January 28, 2009 at EAA-WAEC Building
60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport-
Civil Air Patrol: