



## FAA Safety Team Seminars Schedule 2010

Effective 2010 the Watsonville based FAAST members, Sven Bock, Abe Hazbun and Rayvon Williams will host WINGS specific seminars. Seminars are posted on FAA Safety.gov and held the last Wednesday of each month @ 1930, Watsonville Aviation Education Center

<b>January</b>	<b>Plan your Flight and Fly your Plan!</b>	
<b>February</b>	<b>They're parachuting at Watsonville?</b>	
<b>March</b>	<b>Rotary and Fixed wings...in the pattern?</b>	
<b>April</b>	<b>TSA and GA?</b>	
<b>May</b>	<b>An evening with NorCal TRACON</b>	
<b>June</b>	<b>National Weather Service</b>	
<b>July</b>	<b>VFR into IMC</b>	
<b>August</b>	<b>No Seminar</b>	
<b>September</b>	<b>MRY &amp; SNS Tower Controller Q&amp;A</b>	
<b>October</b>	<b>Fuel starvation and exhaustion</b>	
<b>November</b>	<b>No Seminar</b>	<b>Fly safe, enjoy the Holidays</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>No Seminar</b>	<b>Annual dinner meeting</b>

## **Look Back at 2009**

### **Litigation**

The litigation between Watsonville Pilots Association, Friends of Buena Vista, and the local Sierra Club versus the City of Watsonville was extended through 2009 by the city's appeal. The Caltrans Division of Aeronautics is also involved. The lawsuit commenced on May 24, 2006, the day after the Watsonville city council voted to approve the new General Plan 2030. GP 2030 provided for airport encroachment severe airport operational restrictions and eventual closure of runways 8 and 26. The Superior Court ruled in favor of the pilots association and others.

In 2009 the city filed two motions with the appeals court. The first was to consolidate the superior court and appeals court legal costs. The superior court ruled the city must pay legal costs. The second motion was to exclude the Division of Aeronautics from the case. Both motions were denied. On November 4<sup>th</sup> the court began reviewing the case. Oral arguments are expected in early 2010 and a decision within 60 days thereafter. Many thanks to all who have contributed to saving KWVI, including the Wittwer-Parkin law firm.

### **WPA and Safety Meetings**

Designated FAA safety counselor Rayvon Williams organized outstanding safety meetings. Rayvon is also AOPA's airport support network representative at KWVI. See page 1 for the 2010 schedule.

### **WAAC**

The Watsonville Airport Advisory Committee (WAAC) was started in March 1995. Its purpose is to advise the city manager and airport manager on various factors that affect the airport. Some of those are safety, economics, and policies. Representatives on the committee are from the EAA, 99s, WPA, FBOs along with a Watsonville resident, a county resident, and a Watsonville businessman. The secretary is the airport manager. In 2009 the Chairman was Kurt Yeager, a county resident. He did an excellent job in his 2 year term. One of the original members of the group, Donna Crane-Bailey representing the 99s resigned in 2009. Over the years she contributed many great ideas and much wisdom.

In 1996 the airport manager asked the WAAC to produce a comprehensive land use plan as required by the state law. That plan was rejected by the city.

In 2009 the city manager engaged the WAAC in special meetings to respond to his proposals to form an airport land use commission (ALUC), which would produce a Watsonville Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). An airport compatibility plan must become part of a general plan.

After considering two stacked ALUC proposals, the WAAC advised the city to join with the county and form an ALUC formulated as described in the state aeronautics act.

The WAAC gave sound reasons for its counter proposal. The county and city response is to form a committee to prepare a compatibility plan, and there will be no ALUC. A committee gives advice; a commission makes decisions.

The next WAAC meeting is January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and will be led by new Chairman Chris Gularte (WAAC's FBO representative). Dena Taylor will join us as the new 99s rep. The court decision and the production of a good ALUCP are both critical to the future of KWVI.

Dan Chauvet

## **Looking Ahead at 2010**

Best wishes for a prosperous and superior year 2010.

Who knows, perhaps the economy will improve more than many forecast. CEOs of companies that build airplanes are optimistic about more production and sales. Cessna just hired 180 people.

### **Litigation**

The lawsuit has stopped Watsonville's General Plan 2030, adopted on May 23, 2006 and has protected runway 8-26 from more encroachment and possible closure.

In early 2010 the appeals court is scheduled to make a decision that is critical to the airport's future. Odds are a favorable decision, but nothing is for certain.

Plus the court will be ruling on the cross-appeal which is land use related, involving California Environmental Qualities Act (CEQA) issues, like airport noise and safety plus, and water availability.

### **WAAC**

Discussions at the Airport Advisory Committee (WAAC) meetings indicate that there will be the development of a Watsonville Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. There appears to be support by the County and City of Watsonville. In 2010 a special committee will be formed to produce a plan. Will it be one that protects the airport from encroachment and ensures its long-term viability? Will it be one that prevents the creation of new noise and safety problems? It needs to be definitive and specific reflecting local characteristics, weather and traffic patterns and existing development. It needs to reflect the goals of the California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook (Handbook) and State Aeronautics Law (SAA).

The state system for supporting airport protection and safety consists of four basic elements, like the legs of a chair or stool. The first leg is the State Aeronautics Act; the second leg is the state Handbook; the third leg is a local compatibility plan; and the fourth leg is an airport land use commission (ALUC). Watsonville Airport has had no support in the past, hence the current problems. The law has been ignored or bent. The Handbook has been ignored, cherry-picked, and circumvented. There is no compatibility plan. No ALUC--local politicians modified the law to exempt the County from having an ALUC (about 1994).

The airport is getting some legs of support to protect and keep it safe. Safe to arrive and depart in airplanes. The Superior Court decision (in March 2007) upholds the SAA. The court acknowledged the Handbook. By invalidating Watsonville's general plan update, the court established the need for a local compatibility plan. Since the formation of an ALUC is a county function and the county is not a litigant, the court bypassed the ALUC question.

So in 2010 it looks like Watsonville Airport could be supported by three (3) elements of the state system. Missing will be the ALUC. The planning departments (city and county) will "administer" planning in the "airport influence area", covered by the compatibility plan. The question is: who will monitor proposed projects and decide on compatibility plan compliance and/or court directed compliance; and who is qualified to do that?

### **SB 737**

AOPA and State Senator Gloria Negrete McLoed have been working on Senate Bill 737 to improve the ALUC part of the state system. The legislation would eliminate the ALUC exemptions for San Bernardino and Santa Cruz Counties. Whether the Bill will emerge from its place on the shelf in 2010 is uncertain. The City of Watsonville passed a resolution opposing SB 737.

People who want to keep KWVI safe and viable and all runways usable in the future need to keep an eye on what happens in 2010. There are some signs of improvement.  
Happy 2010.

Dan Chauvet

## Coming Events 2010

Jan 27 WPA Meeting 7:00PM  
Feb 2 EAA 119 meeting 7:30  
Feb 28 WPA Meeting  
April 17 Day in the Sky  
Sept. 3,4,5 WVI Fly-In  
Oct 16 WVI Open House  
October 30 WRAP Dinner

### **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,

Jan. 27, 2010 at EAA-WAEC Building  
60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport

**Plan Your Flight and Fly your Plan**

### **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

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