



### Citizens fight Buena Vista development

A legal campaign is mounting to oppose proposed growth in the Buena Vista area outside Watsonville, with two lawsuits filed against the city last month.

Homeowner group Friends of Buena Vista and the Watsonville Pilots Association, along with the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, filed lawsuits June 23 in Santa Cruz County Superior Court to challenge the Watsonville 2030 General Plan and an accompanying environmental impact report, which pave the way for new homes and businesses in the Buena Vista area.

Both lawsuits also challenge the Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics for failing to enforce airport safety policies in Watsonville. The Friends of Buena Vista lawsuit charges that city plans for the area will increase traffic, cause a substantial water overdraft and convert 337 acres of prime farmland. Safety issues at the Watsonville Airport are also a concern.

Both pilots and residents say their concerns have been dismissed by the city and were not adequately addressed in the environmental impact report. "We have participated in all those meetings, but unfortunately our input has been ignored," said Karin Kerber-Smith, of the Friends of Buena Vista steering committee.

Kerber-Smith said the 150-member group started out opposed to any development in Buena Vista, but later accepted reasonable development. But when the number of proposed homes shot up in the latest growth plan, trust became an issue, she said. "They've continued to increase the number of homes," she said. "What's currently in the General Plan is 2,250. If an annexation is approved, who knows what that number will be?"

Both lawsuits hinge upon a City Council decision to redesignate crosswind Runway 8 as low activity and eliminate a safety zone near the airport. Those changes allow the city to develop higher-density housing, schools and nursing homes west of the airport.

Pilots have mounted a vociferous campaign against the change, charging that the crosswind runway is needed during strong west winds and persistent fog. Pilot Dan Chauvet estimated that the crosswind runway, including Runway 8 and 26, is needed 13,000 times per year.

"The city has also chosen to ignore departures on Runway 26, which is the second most-used runway," Chauvet said. "Those planes have more chance of having an airplane failure than those arriving." Although there is no city plan to close the airport, Chauvet said building more homes nearby would cut operations by at least 13 percent. Chauvet predicted that new residents will be fed up with noise, water and traffic problems and will attempt to restrict airport operations.

Although city attorney Alan Smith said former CALTRANS officials did not object to the council's decision, officials have since voiced opposition.

Acting aeronautics chief Mary Frederick refused to comment because of the litigation, but in a May 31 letter to the city, CALTRANS attorney Raiyn Bain said the decision to develop near the airport will "create a hazardous and dangerous condition of public properties, thus putting the safety of the public at risk." In the letter, Bain asked the council to appeal its approval of the EIR and General Plan, based on potential development near the airport.

*For complete story see Register-Pajaronian (8/1/2006)  
By Amanda Schoenberg*

### Housing Proposal Threatens Cable Airport

Developers have proposed to build 375 homes on 31.6 acres of land next to Cable Airport in Upland, California. The houses would be located off the end of the runway where landing aircraft turn from base to final and departing aircraft transition to climbout power. AOPA opposes the move, and California's Airport Land Use Planning guidelines prohibit high-density residential housing near that area of the airport.

"Communities often unknowingly create problems for themselves and future generations by failing to follow airport compatible land-use policies," said Bill Dunn, AOPA vice president of airports. The association also urged the city to enforce the existing state guidelines to prevent incompatible development near the airport.

The threat to Upland's Cable Airport is just the latest example of why AOPA has made a formal request to work cooperatively with the California Department of Transportation (DOT) to sponsor a bill in the 2006-2007 legislative session that would better protect the state's airports from residential encroachment, noise complaints, and safety hazards. "AOPA has been actively involved in protecting California airports from threats of operational restrictions, or even closure, for many years," AOPA Vice President of Airports Bill Dunn wrote to the California DOT. "California has several laws already in place to protect its airports, but competing pressures for housing development and airport operation at the local level

have created new threats that we need to address."

### Dear Airport Supporters

Mark your calendar or schedule book for November 4. Ed Rosiak, President of the California Pilots Association (CPA), will be the speaker at the Watsonville Region Airport Promotion (WRAP-PAC) dinner. The dinner is scheduled for Saturday November 4, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. (1800 hours) at the Green Valley Grill banquet room on the 4th floor, located on Green Valley Road, Watsonville. Anyone who has attended a buffet in the banquet room at Green Valley Grill knows that they are in for some good, good eating. This is the Saturday before the election. The dress will be the usual, for men sport coat and tie, for women--anything they want.

Mr. Rosiak's program is a PowerPoint presentation he calls "Saving Your Airport." In addition we expect he will be addressing current legal actions, possible formation of an Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC), and other actions to prevent Watsonville Airport from "Crashing." The Q & A at the end gives will give you chance to bring up any other points. The CPA indicates the WVI situation is: a line in the sand in California. Ed flies a well-equipped Lancair because he likes to see the land and moving map change--fast.

WRAP has been busy supporting sensible candidates for Watsonville City Council. The present City Council majority, with the help of certain downtown staff, has taken actions that endanger WVI. Five of the Council seats are up for grabs in November. The PAC supports again the one Councilman who has voted to protect the Airport. And we are supporting Edward Din, District 6, for the Council. If other sensible candidates decide to run we will support them. For the last two years we have been working with our principle but now the fund needs replenishment. Attend the November 4 dinner.

To get on the dinner list, send a check made out to "WRAP" and send it to Dan Chauvet, 147 Mesa Verde Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076-0949. The dinner costs \$50.00 per each. Note: the new Treasurer is a bull shooter and will be hunting in October. So Dan will again run the dinner list/spreadsheet. Thanks for your past support.

*Dan Chauvet, WRAP-PAC Chairman  
Grant Wrathall, Vice-Chairman  
Hal Zamora, Treasurer*

### Human Resources

The local aviation community has many talented resources, human resources. They do a lot for the public relations between aviation/airports and the general public. The EAA has the Young Eagle's program, which takes a lot of effort, organization and talented people. The Watsonville Pilots Association has the same kind of people, and has long been an advocate for Watsonville Airport and aviation safety. Same for the 99s which has supported aviation safety, airports, and the aviation careers. The Pajaro Valley Aviation Academy (PVAA), set up by Don French, is made up of both aviation people and members of the Community. PVAA is supported by aviation people and has produced nearly \$80,000 in scholarships to young people for aircraft mechanic licenses and pilot ratings. The Watsonville Airport Advisory Committee (WAAC), also organized by Airport Manager Don French, has members who produced a Comprehensive Land Use Plan in 1996, and made other valuable contributions that benefit the Airport. Although the City has ignored the Advisory Committee's inputs, it has produced constructive ideas for "the record."

Mary Doherty is one of our talented people. She has the expertise to help produce programs using PowerPoint. She not only has the expertise to convert pictures for projection (a picture is worth a thousand words) but to produce projected text. Text requires the ability to effectively summarize salient points. Then she can organize a program. She produced the program given to Action Pajaro Valley when they asked for the Airport's side of the story. It was hard hitting. It described responsible airport land use planning. And it laid out the picture of the City's actions to subvert responsible airport land use planning, for the benefit of developers. She prepared Hal Zamora's excellent presentation to a Pajaro Valley group. Mary then produced the PowerPoint presentation given to LAFCO. LAFCO was impressed enough to raise questions that took 35 minutes of discussion. And again she tailored and presented a program for the Kiwanis organization that illustrated responsible airport land use planning. It was enthusiastically received and sparked questions and interested discussion. She deserves a pat on the back--at least, and thanks for sharing her talents and hard work.

Next month I will pick on another human resource, deserving person.

*Dan Chauvet*

**WPA meeting minutes of July 26, 2006**

John Cowan called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM

**Minutes**

The June meeting minutes were accepted as published in the July newsletter.

**Treasures Report**

Sarah Chauvet reported that funds are sufficient for business and that there are no outstanding bills. A few folks still have not paid their dues, but most members are paid up.

**New Business**

- Sarah Chauvet reported on the revision of the by-laws as well as its history. This new revision has been shortened from five pages to two. It will soon be on the WPA website. Please visit our site and send Sarah your comments. A 2/3 majority of the association must approve.
- Dan Chauvet reported on the up-coming WRAP-PAC Dinner. Ed Rosiak, president of the California Pilots Association (CPA), will be the speaker at the Watsonville Region Airport Promotion (WRAP-PAC) dinner. The dinner is scheduled for Saturday November 4, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. (1800 hours) at the Green Valley Grill banquet room on the 4th floor, located on Green Valley Road, Watsonville. It is the Saturday before the election. Mr. Rosiak's program includes a PowerPoint presentation he calls "Saving Your Airport." In addition we expect he will be addressing current legal actions, Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) formation, and other actions to prevent Watsonville Airport from "Crashing." The Q & A at the end gives will give you chance to get other questions discussed. Dress is the usual semi-formal, men sport coat & tie, women--anything they want. Reservations for this PAC fund-raiser dinner can be secured by your \$50.00 per dinner contribution. Checks should made out to: "WRAP" and sent to: Dan Chauvet, 147 Mesa Verde Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076-0949

**Security**

Officer Randy Pesce is asking for the help of local pilots by just keeping an eye on the airport and the planes. Most local pilots generally know the goings on at their airport. This familiarity can be a great help to airport security.

**IFR Approaches, Missed Approaches and Holding**

Once again Rayvon Williams presented another excellent wings seminar. He started with an interactive Power Point presentation analyzing a recent C-5A crash. Members then practiced decision making skills through some simulated IFR approaches into Watsonville and reviewed the outcome. Pilots all agreed that good cockpit management, staying ahead of the aircraft at all times, and sharp decision making skills will increase safety and prevent pilots from making similar mistakes. A number of acronyms were suggested to help with IFR cockpit management.

- ◆ **For an IFR clearance: CRAFT**
  - ✓ Clearance Limit
  - ✓ Route
  - ✓ Altitude
  - ✓ Frequency
  - ✓ Transponder code.
- ◆ **For IFR approaches: BARMATH**
  - ✓ Brief
  - ✓ ATIS
  - ✓ Radios
  - ✓ Missed Approach Point
  - ✓ Altitude
  - ✓ Time
  - ✓ Heading

- ◆ **Missed Approach: CCCC**
  - ✓ Cram (*everything forward*)
  - ✓ Climb
  - ✓ Clean
  - ✓ Communicate

*Minutes by Chris Olmsted*

**EAA Guest Speaker**

You are invited to attend the Oct. 3rd meeting of the EAA 119. The speaker that evening is expected to be Officer Randy Pesce of the Watsonville City Police Dept. Officer Pesce was involved in the capture of the criminals who burglarized several hangers at WVI earlier this year. This speaking schedule should be confirmed by the regular Sept. meeting time. The EAA 119 meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the EAA hanger.

**High Flight**

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
 And danced the skies on laughter-silver wings;  
 Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
 Of sun-split clouds-and done a hundred things  
 You have not dreamed of ~ wheeled and soared and swung  
 High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
 I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
 My eager craft through the footless halls of air.  
 Up, up the long delirious, burning blue  
 I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace  
 Where never lark, or even eagle flew.  
 And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
 The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
 Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

*John Gillespie Magee, Jr.*

**Fuel Prices**

At WVI Fuel Island, 100LL is \$4.41 and Jet A is \$3.93 (08/17/2006)  
 At KLSN (Los Banos), SS 100LL is \$4.00 and Jet A is \$3.10 (8/13/2006)

**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: 137 Falmouth CT., Aptos, CA 95003  
***Thanks for Your Support***

**Local Events**

**August 30** -- WPA regular Wed. night meeting begins at 7 PM  
**Sept. 2** -- Young Eagles Rally, Saturday between 10AM & 1PM  
**Sept. 5** -- EAA Chapter 119's regular Tuesday night meeting starts at 7:30 PM. at the WAEC Building, 60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport  
**Sept. 10** -- Northern CA Aerobatics Club IAC38 Chapter meeting; 4 – 6 PM at Attitude Aviation. (LVK)  
**Sept. 20** -- Monterey Bay 99s Chapter Meeting starts at 7pm at the EAA Hanger, Watsonville.  
**Civil Air Patrol Squadron 13** -- meet in the National Guard Armory at Watsonville Airport every Tuesday evening, beginning at 6:30 PM

**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: [rolmstud@yahoo.com](mailto:rolmstud@yahoo.com)

WPA Newsletter  
 PO Box 135  
 Brookdale, CA 95007-0135

**Next Meeting**

7:00 PM, Wednesday, **August 30**  
 at the EAA-WAEC Building  
 60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport