



Watsonville Pilots Association

"Serving Aviation and the Community"



Visit us at: www.watsonvillepilots.org

Our 21st Year, Issue 10 October 2008

AOPA REPS MEET LOCAL PILOTS

AOPA representatives recently met with local pilots, including Rayvon Williams AOPA's Watsonville Airport Support Network representative. The meeting was general in nature covering a number of topics of mutual interest.

One topic was the recent legislation supported by AOPA, Senate Bill 1118, which including changes in the State Aeronautics Act. Goals of AOPA, California Pilots Association and local pilot organizations were compared. It was agreed that future actions need to be a joint effort to be effective. There will be an opportunity to meet with other AOPA leaders at the AOPA Expo in San Jose on November 6-8.

Dan Chauvet

AOPA EXPO

This year's AOPA Expo will be in San Jose November 6, 7 and 8 at the McEnergy Convention Center, 150 West San Carlos Street, San Jose, CA 95113. 408-295-9600

Parking Information

Parking is available in the main Convention Center garage located at 408 South Almaden Blvd. or 350 South Market Street. The current rate is \$1.00 per 20 minutes. AOPA attendees receive a discounted rate of \$12.00/day during the AOPA Expo.

Parking is also available at area hotels (prices vary) and public lots.

Annual WRAP-PAC Dinner:

The annual WRAP-Pac dinner will be held on Saturday, November 1st, 2008 at 6:30 PM at the Green Valley Grill, 40 Penny Lane, Watsonville. The speaker will be State Assembly Member Anna Caballero who knows the Watsonville Airport situation thoroughly.

WRAP is the Watsonville Regional Airport Promotion – Political Action Committee. It represents aviation people and airport supporters. It supports local candidates for the Watsonville City Council, County Board of Supervisors and other public offices, whose positions recognize the importance of Watsonville Airport as a regional asset. This year the PAC is more active than ever in supporting candidates for the Watsonville City Council and Board of Supervisors. In the last election we made significant progress by supporting some really good pro-airport people. Watsonville Airport needs local representatives who will not try to convert a safe airport to an unsafe airport.

The WRAP dinner will give you an opportunity to meet Assembly Member Anna Caballero, members of the Watsonville City Council, County Supervisors plus several City Council candidates.

The cost is \$50.00 per each. There are no tickets, just an attend list. If you are not already on the list and plan to attend, call Chairman Dan Chauvet at 831-724-8256. The restaurant needs to know how many people are coming to dinner.

Or send a check made out to "WRAP" to:

147 Mesa Verde Drive,
Watsonville, CA 95076-0949.

HOUSES AND AIRPORTS 'DON'T MIX,' AOPA SAYS

By AOPA ePublishing staff

For the second time in a year, AOPA is asking officials in Sacramento County not to allow development of 208 homes less than 700 feet from the runway at Rancho Murieta Airport.

In a Sept. 24 letter, AOPA asked the county not to grant a rezoning request for the proposed Murieta Gardens II development. Instead, the association wants the county to develop a compatible land-use plan specifically for the airport, rather than relying on general countywide policies to guide future development.

AOPA's letter points out that building homes so close to an airport inevitably leads to problems for both residents, who object to noise and low-flying aircraft, and airport users, who come under pressure to restrict operations.

"Just because a development like this isn't specifically prohibited by county policy doesn't mean it's a good idea," said Heidi Williams, AOPA senior director of airports. "Common sense tells you that houses and airports just don't mix."

October 2, 2008

NEW COURSE TESTS PILOT DECISION-MAKING SKILLS

Many (if not most) aircraft accidents can be traced back to poor pilot judgment. This sobering fact gave rise to the concept of aeronautical decision making (ADM), an FAA initiative that many pilots found too unwieldy for real-world use.

A unique new course from the AOPA Air Safety Foundation has given the ADM concept a fresh spin, focusing on simplicity and practicality.

"Do the Right Thing: Decision Making for Pilots" (<http://flash.aopa.org/asf/decisionmaking>) shows how to anticipate and recognize basic problems and take timely action to correct them.

But the course's highlight is its interactive scenarios.

Created using "Microsoft Flight Simulator," the five video scenarios let you "choose your own adventure." You'll make choices for fictional pilots, see where those choices lead, and hear feedback on how you did. Will you get the pilots home safely?

AOPA e-pilot October, 2008

Watsonville City Owes Pilots Legal Fees in Buena Vista Lawsuit

By Linda Fridy, Mid-County Post September 2, 2008

On Aug. 27, Judge Paul Burdick ordered the city of Watsonville to pay for the attorneys' fees of Friends of Buena Vista and the Watsonville Pilots Association (WPA) in the lawsuit they won earlier this year. The lawsuit was brought against the city's general plan, specifically the plan's intent to annex and develop land adjacent to the airport. Watsonville has appealed the initial verdict in the case.

The two groups — WPA and FBA — argued successfully that the city did not follow proper procedure in its review of the plan. The pilots, supported by the state's Division of Aeronautics, opposed the re-designation of a runway and the elimination of safety zones designed to limit development under airports' traffic patterns.

POWER PLANT THREAT AT CALIFORNIA AIRPORT TOPPLED

By AOPA ePublishing staff

The California Energy Commission on Oct. 8 denied a permit that would have allowed a Texas energy company to build two energy plants less than two miles from Hayward Executive Airport. AOPA, the local aviation community, residents, and environmentalists had opposed the Eastshore Energy Center.

“We’re pleased the energy commission weighed the potential negative impacts this center would have had on the community and the safety of pilots operating at the airport,” said Heidi Williams, AOPA senior director of airports.

AOPA first objected to the proposed power plants in July 2007 and continued its case in December that year and most recently in June.

AOPA told the commission that smoke and vapor plumes from the proposed power plant could pose a hazard to aircraft using Hayward Executive. “Power plants near airports pose an obvious hazard,” Williams said. “The commission recognized that and took a stand for aviation safety.”

KMRY & KSNS Tower Controllers Are Back!

Monterey and Salinas tower controllers will spend an evening with local pilots for a Q&A.

WHEN:

On Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at 7:30 PM

WHERE:

Watsonville Aviation Education Center (WAEC)
60 Aviation Way,
Watsonville, CA 95076

WHAT:

Monterey's Jim Babcock and Eric Fleming and Dave Greene from Salinas to discuss local aerodrome operations.

YOUR INTENTIONS:

Pre-submitted questions are encouraged.

Please submit to cfii@straight-and-level.com by October 24, 2008.

The sponsor for this event is:
San Jose FSDO and WPA

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 2008

Oct. 29 WPA Meeting 7:00PM
Nov 1 WRAP Dinner
Nov 6-8 AOPA Expo in San Jose, CA

Fuel Prices Locally

	100LL SS	FS	
WVI	5.19	5.67	
CVH	5.45	5.75	Hollister
OAR	5.69	n/a	Marina
E16	5.47	5.67	SoCounty
SNS	5.15	5.45	
MRY	5.68	6.04	

SS=self serve FS=full serve

Oct 14, 2008 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,
October 29th 2008 at EAA-WAEC Building
60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport

**Tower Personnel from Monterey and
Salinas.**

Bring your Questions!