



## ANGEL FLIGHT WEST



As pilots, we all know the value of smaller general aviation airports - at least to us. But there are a group of people that, until fate besets them, general aviation and GA airports don't mean much. But once fate intercedes, a local airport becomes their potential life line. These are people that have discovered that they have an illness or disease that is often serious and even life threatening, and are in need of Angels.

Angel Flight West is an organization whose members provide potentially life saving flights for people with medical conditions that must visit medical facilities far from their home. In most cases, Angel Flight West's patients don't live near an airport with airline service and are usually unable to travel by themselves, either because of medical or financial reasons. Angel Flight West pilots volunteer their time and their aircraft to provide round trip flights to and from medical facilities throughout the United States. In Northern California alone, Angel Flight West pilots have flown over 775 missions so far this year.

The patient's airport is usually a small GA airport and while the destination is always near a medical facility, it is often a smaller airport like Palo Alto. But it can be a larger airport like Oakland. A typical mission involves flying a patient and often a parent or a friend. The typical flight is a maximum of 350 miles. If the distance is longer, a pilot can volunteer to fly the full mission, but it is usually broken up into more than one leg, with each leg flown by a different pilot. Patients must be ambulatory, be able to get into and out of a general aviation aircraft unassisted, and to sit for the full duration of a flight.

Every Angel Flight West pilot talks about the personal satisfaction they receive from helping people in need. Even the IRS sees the benefit and, as such, all angel flights are tax deductible. Only FAA certified aircraft can be used to transport Angel Flight West passengers; although experimental aircraft can be used on the occasional flights that are needed to transport organs and tissue. Angel Flight West also is prepared to work with federal and local agencies to provide air support in the event of major emergencies like earthquakes, floods, fires, and so forth.

Angel Flight West is constantly looking for new pilots to join us in our compassionate missions. If you are interested in participating either as a pilot or in some other way, look at the Angel Flight West website at <http://www.angelflightwest.org/> or contact Joe Shelton, a WPA member, and Angel Flight's Northern California Flight Leader at [jshelton26@yahoo.com](mailto:jshelton26@yahoo.com) or 831-588-3506 for more information.

~ Joe Shelton ~ November 19, 2007 ~

## WRAP Dinner—Great Event

"With an airport, there are options; without an airport there are NO options."—Pilot and State Senator Abel Maldonado. This was an excerpt from a fascinating speech at the Watsonville Regional Airport Promotion – PAC (WRAP) dinner, Saturday evening, November 3, before more than 90 members of the aviation community and community at large. Extra tables were set up to accommodate the bigger than expected crowd at the Green Valley Grill. Yes, the dinner was a big success. The WRAP dinner is becoming more than a fundraiser. It's becoming an – event.

Senator Abel Maldonado is the son of immigrants who began farming in the Santa Maria area. He started his political activity on the Santa Maria City Council and later won the at-large Mayor position. He related how he got into aviation. He started out by buying a Cessna 152. After encountering a big headwind and seeing a groundspeed of 45, he and his wife decided to move up to a Mooney. He still has that Mooney, but also flies a Cessna Conquest and a Cessna 560 (jet). At the dinner he related that he had just finished recurrent training at Flight Safety. Aviation is his number one passion.

Of course he realizes the importance of airports. He realizes that they need to be protected and kept safe. On arrival to Mather at Sacramento he related that he asked the tower how the encroachment on final approach was allowed to happen. Now there are noise complaints there. He is opposed to bad planning and encroachment around airports. During the Q and A session Senator Maldonado made a commitment to contact and support the Division of Aeronautics in their efforts to strengthen the State Airport Planning Handbook and related Aeronautics law.

Grant Wrathall, vice chairman of WRAP, was the MC and talked about what WRAP is and it's relation to the aviation community. It's non-partisan and is not connected to any local organization, such as WPA, EAA, or 99s. It supports local candidates that voice intent to

support and protect Watsonville Airport. Grant then introduced Senator Abel Maldonado.

The event was attended by all four candidates that ran for the City Council in last year's election. Three won, and the other just barely lost. As a result the City Council improved significantly in use of common sense. Also attending were master columnist, Steve Bankhead, excellent columnist Emilo Martinez, and outstanding aviation writer Joe Shelton. A number of past candidates attended and were recognized. People from all of the pilot organizations, plus the Friends of Buena Vista, were recognized.

In conclusion, the WRAP dinner was a success as an event and as a fundraiser to replenish WRAP's finances. The aviation community's efforts to keep WVI safe and viable are phenomenal.

~ Dan Chauvet, WRAP Chairman ~  
~ Grant Wrathall, Vice Chairman ~  
~ Hal Zamora, CFO/Treasurer ~

## Decision Coming December 6<sup>th</sup>

The Superior Court hearing finally happened, on Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>. It started at 0900 and ended at 1530 hours (3:30pm). It was a question and answer session, Judge Paul Burdick asking counsel for explanations of information on the record (briefs and parts of 11,000 record items). The case, the Watsonville Pilots Association, Friends of Buena Vista, local chapter of the Sierra Club vs. the City of Watsonville, involves the update General Plan 2030 (and associated EIR) that provides for at least 2,250 houses in Buena Vista, off the departure end of runway 26. The State Division of Aeronautics is involved because this case is huge for airports in California. Seven attorneys, three for the City and three for the plaintiffs, plus the attorney for the state, explained parts of the record for the judge.

At the end of the day, Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> was picked for the preliminary decision or ruling, with final pleadings by attorneys. Then in early January the judge will produce a final written judgment.

Those attending the hearing could not ascertain how the adjudication will be finalized. The case has two parts, the Aeronautics Law violation by the City and the General Plan 2030/EIR not consistent with CEQA (California Environmental Qualities Act). Most observers are concerned, but feel that the Aeronautics Act is the stronger part of the case. In the CEQA part, the water issue could prevail but most are uncertain.

The judge said that he WILL NOT issue a writ of mandamus requiring the establishment of an airport land use commission (ALUC).

The suit is against the City. The County is not involved. There are two jurisdictions adjacent to Watsonville Airport, City and County. An ALUC is a county function. It looks like the ALUC problem will have to be solved by state legislation. AOPA and others are working on this.

On Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 0830 at the Santa Cruz County courthouse, Department 8 (that's the trailer building in front, north side) the preliminary decision will be made. It should be a much shorter session. I will be a silent observer, how about you?

~ Dan Chauvet ~ 11-19-07 ~



## WPA Christmas Dinner

Just a reminder that the WPA Christmas Dinner Meeting will be held this year on December 5 at 6:30 PM. The dinner will be held again at Maya Mexican Restaurant in Scotts Valley located at 3115 Scotts Valley Drive. Last year we had twenty or so members and spouses, and a very good time was had by all. Hope you will be able to join us this year.

~ John Cowan ~ VP WPA ~

## Watsonville Pilots Association Minutes

Vice-President John Cowan called meeting to order at 7:08.

### Minutes

- The September minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

### Treasurer's Report

- The WPA funds are fine. The interest made on these funds are doing well also.

### Old Business

- Dan Chauvet reported on the WRAP dinner Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a great event and very successful. Please see the story on the front page for further information.

### New Business

- Dan Chauvet spoke of the upcoming lawsuit date of 11/16/2007 and said that he would be there. For further info regarding this trial please see Dan's the article on front page.
- There was discussion about an "Airport Land Use Commission". The City of Watsonville and the Watsonville City counsel oppose it. The State of California says that Santa Cruz County has proved that they need it because of their actions. Dan Chauvet said that he was in favor of such an idea.
- There was discussion regarding the City of Watsonville's practice of siphoning off Airport funds. It has been discovered that over the last 6 to 8 years they have taken about 2.5 million dollars.
- Dan reported that ECO Park is also an issue now. The ECO Park Plan had no mention of the airport in their proposals.

### Announcements

- The EAA Christmas party will be December 4<sup>th</sup> at the EAA building.
- John Cowan talked about this year's WPA Holiday dinner. It will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Maya Mexican Restaurant in Scotts Valley. Please see the article on the front page.

### Wings: Discussion with our local Tower Controllers

This night's Wings presentation is typically a favorite among pilots. It is where a small group of pilots get the opportunity to have discussion and ask questions of local tower controllers. The Salinas Tower was represented by Allie Metcalf (an ATP pilot), and the Monterey Tower by Jim Babcock. It is great to actually meet the folks of the ATC that we speak with when we're flying and to hear their views on topics that are important to everyone. Some points that were made were:

- Always verify runway with heading.
- Listen... Be sure that you don't hear what you want to hear.
- This is not Big Sky Country. There are a lot of NMACs (Near Mid Air Collisions) in this area. These reports can be seen at: <http://asrs.arc.nasa.gov>
- Please use flight following more. It is a tool that can save lives, and controllers prefer it's use to make the Sky safer for everyone. If desired, LA/CA (Low Altitude/Conflict Alert) needs to be requested if VFR Flight Following. It is not automatic.
- Shortening the tail number with ATC is fine but let ATC initiate the abbreviation.
- Sometimes it might not seem like it, but 100 words per minute is the target speech rate of ATC.
- Always, always, always ..... **1) Aviate, 2) Navigate, then and only then 3) Communicate.**

- The question came up on what the actual number of landings and takeoffs each year are for WVI, SNS and MRY. John Cowan verified this info through Airnav and the answer might surprise a lot of folks. The number for **WVI is 126,600** (2002), for **SNS it is 77,700** and for **MRY it is 91,250**.

### Helpful phone numbers:

- ◆ SNS tower: (831) 424-5022
- ◆ MRY tower: (831) 375-1211
- ◆ MRY emergency: (831) 375-3419
- ◆ Lockheed FSS administration: (928) 583-6167
- ◆ TWEB: (877) 484-2799
- ◆ Weather Briefing (wxbrief): (800) 9927433
- ◆ NOTAM Issue: (877) 487-6867
- ◆ Clearance Delivery: (888) 766-8267

### Other Helpful Web sites are:

- ◆ Lockheed Web Site: <http://www.afss.com>
- ◆ For filing a flight plan: <http://www.ftplan.com>

### Email

- ◆ [allie.metcalf@serco-na.com](mailto:allie.metcalf@serco-na.com)

### Next WINGS Seminar

The next WINGS Seminar will be on Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> at the WPA meeting. The topic will be **FAA Ramp check**.

For further information on upcoming WINGS Seminars, go to the WPA Home page at <http://www.watsonvillepilots.org/> and press the **WPA "WINGS" Seminar Calendar** button

### Fuel Prices

At WVI Fuel Island, 100LL is **\$4.45** and Jet A is **\$4.02** (11/18/007)  
At K301 (Gustine), SS 100LL is **\$4.16** (11/18/007)

### 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: P.O. Box 2074, Freedom, CA 95019-2074  
**Thanks for Your Support**

### Local Events

**WPA** -- meet on the last Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport.  
**EAA Chapter 119** -- meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport  
**Monterey Bay 99s** -- meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport.  
**Civil Air Patrol Squadron 13** -- meet 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, beginning at 7:30 PM in the Watsonville Aviation Ed. Center, Watsonville Airport.  
**Northern CA Aerobatics Club IAC38** -- meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at the Livermore Municipal Airport

### 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: [wpanews@yahoo.com](mailto:wpanews@yahoo.com)

WPA Newsletter

PO Box 135

Brookdale, CA 95007-0135

## Next Meeting

7:00 PM, Wednesday, **Jan 30, 2008.**

@ the EAA-WAEC Building

60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport