



The Beginning of the End?

Since the beginning of the WPA organization in 1986, the newsletter has been the main means of communication with its members. Over the years we have had great newsletter editors ending with Bob Olmsted, who retired in April, 2008. Since then several of us (Sarah Chauvet, Cicely Randolph, and John Cowan) have tried to fill in but with limited success. Most of our members today communicate via the internet and the newsletter format is changing. Sarah and John have been discussing changing the newsletter format to a bi-monthly e-mail communication and doing a printed newsletter quarterly. We are open to ideas. Is there someone who can take over the newsletter in it's on a monthly basis?

There are a lot of things going on that affect Watsonville Airport. Senate Bill 1118 has been shelved for the year but may be resurrected in a different form next year. WPA's attorney has just filed a petition to enforce the Superior Court injunction that was issued in March 21, 2008.

Continued page2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Injunction
- 3 Survive the Squeeze
- 4 Officers

Annual WRAP-PAC Dinner Speaker: Assemblywoman Anna Caballero

The annual Watsonville Regional Airport Promotion-PAC (WRAP-PAC) dinner will be held on Saturday November 1, at 6:30 p.m., at the Green Valley Grill, 40 Penny Lane. The speaker will be State Assembly Member Anna Caballero. We suspect she will be speaking about airports in general and Watsonville Airport in particular. What's new is that Senate Bill 1118 regarding Airport Land Use Commissions (ALUCs) was just placed on inactive status for a year. Her involvement with that action was significant and her remarks will be very interesting hear.

WRAP-PAC 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 it has ever been 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 who won that election. Watsonville Airport needs local representatives who will not try to convert a safe airport to an unsafe one.

The WRAP dinner gives you an opportunity to visit with AM Anna Caballero, members of the Watsonville City Council, County Supervisors plus several City Council candidates.

Bottom line—we need political progress. WRAP needs your support more than ever.

The cost is \$50.00 per each. There are no tickets, just an attend list. If you are not already on the attend list, get on it by calling Chairman Dan Chauvet at 831-724-8256 or the CFO, Hal Zamora 687-0719. Or better yet, send a check made out to "WRAP" to: 147 Mesa Verde Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076-0949. We need to know projected attendance ahead of time, by at least seven days.

Thanks for supporting KWVI.

The Beginning of the End?

How do we communicate this kind of information if not through a monthly newsletter? What's the best way to keep information flowing? Do we have a member who can take on the job?

Richard Lippi does a great job of keeping our web-site up to date and many people check us out there. But we need to get the information to Richard.

Do we need a monthly newsletter and if we do what form should it take? Please let the board know your ideas via at wpanews@yahoo.com. Is there a member who can take on the newsletter in its present format?

Sarah Chauvet
sarahchauvet@sbcglobal.net

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT THREATENS TRACY AIRPORT

Building homes too close to an airport is bad public policy that threatens investments in airports and creates noise and safety concerns for homeowners, AOPA told city of Tracy officials in a Sept. 10th letter. In the letter, AOPA asks city officials to stop a proposed plan to build homes, an aquatic center, and a commercial district within one mile of Tracy Municipal Airport, a busy field with more than 60,000 annual operations and 120 based aircraft. In fact, the densest residential development of the proposed Surland's Subdivision/Ellis Project lies within the airport's protected zone. AOPA reminded city officials that they have accepted airport development grants that obligate them to protect the airport and prevent development that could threaten airport operations or safety. In addition, the letter points out that the proposed development is not in keeping with California's land-use planning guidelines.

From AOPA e-pilot

Watsonville Pilots Association Sues City for Violating Injunction

On Tuesday September 9, 2008 the attorney for the Watsonville Pilots Association (WPA) filed a Petition of Mandate stating that the City of Watsonville violated the court injunction issued on March 21, 2008. The City, by their planning actions, has ignored the injunction which was issued at the behest of Caltrans Division of Aeronautics and the WPA. Once again city staff has forced the WPA to draw a line in the sand.

Along with the Superior Court's decision on March 21, 2008, the court issued an injunction against any actions that are predicated on the General Plan 2030 or resolution 74-05. Even though the City filed an appeal which stayed the decision, the injunction is not stayed.

The petition filed by WPA's attorney is 20 pages long detailing numerous instances of the City relying on resolution 74-05 and General Plan 2030 in recent documents supporting a large industrial building located along the airport boundary fence adjacent to the end of runway 8. For example, the city staff informed the City Planning Commission that the building was located entirely in the airport influence area (zone 6). This would be true only if the City based planning on the resolution 74-05 which removed zone 3 from the Buena Vista area. We are asking the Court to enforce the injunction.

Dan Chauvet

If Speed is life

Then

Altitude is life insurance

Survive the Squeeze

Hangar and tie-down rates are increased each year at Watsonville Airport using the CPI (consumer price index). There are several inflation indexes. Right now the PCE (personal expenditure index) is 2.4%. There is a "headline inflation" figure which is now 4.5%. The CPI core inflation figure is 2.5%, and the CPI headline rate is 5.6%. Guess which one is used to increase hangar and tie-down rates?

One definition of a recession is two consecutive quarters of negative real gross domestic product (GDP) growth. A recession by this definition has not occurred yet. But using some other measures, such as a job growth or decline, we are in a recession. Reportedly Granite Construction has sold their Citation N900GC. That airplane came to Watsonville new in 1976. Granite still has another larger Citation. The crews have been cut from two to one, so two pilots were let go. For those cut--we are in a depression.

Overall business is in a decline. Fuel prices are near an all-time high. Airplane owners are caught in a squeeze. The value of airplanes has declined about 25% and a number of owners have requested that the county assessor adjust their value downward.

With all this economic stress pilots at Watsonville are still volunteering to fly young people on EAA's Young Eagles program. And pilots are volunteering to fly on September 20, the Airport's open house day. The aviation community is asked to support the Pajaro Valley Aviation Academy (PVAA), a scholarship organization for young pilots and aviation mechanics. The community has supported a political action committee (PAC), called Watsonville Regional Airport Promotion (WRAP). The aviation community has been contributing to Watsonville Pilots Association's lawsuit. The suit is to prevent the Airport from being converted from a comparatively safe airport into an unsafe one. At stake is runway 8-26. So, what can you say about the spirit and generosity of our aviation community?

A couple of months ago Salinas Airport put on "tenant appreciation day" which included a barbeque lunch, attended by 179 folks. Salinas has had a land use problem involved with Hartnell College. The area in question is off the northwest end of runway 32, a short runway used for flight training and by helicopters on the east side of the airport. The City there mitigated the problem with a land swap. These kinds of things will happen at Watsonville only after there are some big changes in Watsonville's downtown City government. Fortunately, the city folks employed at the airport work hard to support the positive activities. My sense is that they are pro-airport and understand the situation. Meanwhile let's survive the squeeze as best we can and hope for change.

Dan Chauvet

History of Watsonville Airport

Watsonville City Councilman Dale Skillicorn has taken on the task of writing the history of Watsonville Airport. His intent is to be as factual as possible. This history will be his research, no way representing the opinion of others in the city or others with an agenda. Another objective is to counter the contentions of some anti-airport people.

Dale will be attending the September 24th WPA meeting requesting pictures, possible text, and funds for book production. Proceeds from book sales will benefit the Pajaro Valley Aviation Academy scholarship fund and possibly other aviation activities at the airport.

Coming Events 2008

Sept 27-28 Salinas Air Show
October 29 WPA Meeting
Nov 1 WRAP Dinner
Nov 6-8 AOPA Expo in San Jose, CA

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
Randy Pesce Field Security
Rayvon Williams AOPA/WINGS
John Cowan Public Relations
Brian Moffet Video & Media
Airport Manager Don French

Feedback wpanews@yahoo.com

Fuel Prices Locally

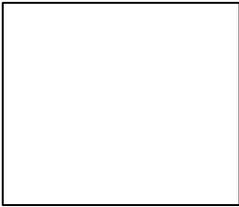
	100LL	SS	FS	
WVI		5.27	5.60	
CVH		5.35	5.55	Hollister
OAR		4.779	n/a	Marina
SNS		5.82	5.82	
E16		5.35	5.55	SoCounty

SS=self serve FS=full serve

September 18, 2008 From airnav.com

WPA Airport Legal Fund
Please help WVI with your Tax deductible 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 September 24th
2008
At EAA-WAEC Building
60 Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport

SAFETY SEMINAR
Wild Card Session