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Ella's At The Airport Opening In February

Scott Williams

After months of waiting, the pilot community received good news that the Watsonville Airport has reached an agreement to lease the restaurant facility to Ella's Café. It will be located within the Airport terminal building at 100 Aviation Way. I contacted Ella via email and she said they are slated to open mid-February. I've included below a portion of her email to me:

"We're finishing the menu now and it is quite extensive compared to our little sister's offerings... We're Californian Fare (food made from scratch using local ingredients - no tofu on the menu, though :-)) with a nod to Italy; we will be open for Lunch, Dinner & Weekend Brunch, Tuesday-Sunday...with full bar & gorgeous patio seating taking in the fly-by's and those green hills of ours!"

Let's help Ella get off to a fantastic start. So keep your eyes and ears open for the grand opening, and pass the word.

Watsonville Three Departure Update, April 2015

Scott Williams

The FAA has confirmed that Watsonville will have its ODP updated on April 30th of this year. The FAA web site, under the IFP Information Gateway section, states in part:

"The aircraft will fly 15 degrees offset (213 degrees magnetic) of the runway heading (198 degrees magnetic) until 1000' MSL; then climbing left turn to intercept SNS R-293 to SNS VORTAC. This will avoid the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary until the aircraft is above 1000' ft. AGL. The climb gradient for Runway 20 takeoff will remain standard with some low, close-in obstacles noted."

Study Shows Too Much Automation Affects Pilots' Thinking Skills

Published in AOPA Online 12/2/14

Just take time to fly by hand; and use raw data, part of the time.

A study from the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society shows that prolonged use of cockpit automation can negatively affect pilots' navigation skills and ability to troubleshoot. Researchers studied 16 experienced pilots as they flew routine and non-routine routes in a simulator. While "stick-and-rudder" skills remained reasonably intact, the pilots struggled to maintain awareness. "Our results suggest that we might be a bit less concerned about things that pilots do 'by hand' in the cockpit and a bit more concerned about those things that they do 'by mind,'" said Steve Casner, co-author of study and research psychologist at NASA's Ames Research Center. [Business Standard \(India\)](#)

WRAP Successful In 2014

Dan Chauvet, corporate pilot- retired (Watsonville)

The aviation community has a PAC (Political Action Committee) that's called Watsonville Regional Airport Promotion. Its purpose is to help protect and support Watsonville Airport (KWVI). It does this by supporting pro-airport candidates for local offices and other related actions. It promotes better local government. With that everybody wins. WRAP is a stand-alone entity, not connected to any other organizations (like WPA, EAA or 99s). It's supported by the both the aviation community and the local community. With contributions from aviation and local individuals, each person leverages their political support and influence. WRAP is known in Santa Cruz County, although not by any means "a heavy hitter."

In the June 4 Primary Election you and WRAP were particularly successful. Measures H, I, and J passed by substantial margins in all Watsonville voting districts, even though majority of city council members opposed these measures. These measures improve local government and were pushed by a citizens group called, "Let the People Vote." That pointed the finger at those who backed better government, and those that didn't. It let the voters see who was who, and the voters responded. WRAP supported three Watsonville city council candidates and they won. Gone are anti-airport city council members Daniel Dodge and Eduardo Montesino. WRAP backed District 4 Supervisor Greg Caput, who won by 62% of the vote. In the Assembly vote, Hollister pilot Mark Starritt (an underdog)lost to Assemblyman Luis Alejo.

WRAP's purpose is to make an effort to **improve local government**. That's beneficial to everybody, including Watsonville Airport, and all those that are in any way connected with it. This includes hangar and tie-down tenants, airport businesses, over 100 business and corporations that fly into Watsonville, aircraft owners, and all that in any way benefit from having an airport in Santa Cruz County.

How does WRAP know who to support and ...ah, not support. Generally it's obvious, but not always. WRAP officers meet and interview candidates. We solicit the opinions of local people who know what's going on. They are invited to edit WRAP's send-out voting recommendations. If there's a difference of opinion, the WRAP board decides who (or what) to support, or not.

WRAP especially appreciates Nancy Shott who prepares and turns in the FPPC reports. Again, we want to thank all who contributed, big or small. It all counts.

Dan Chauvet, WRAP Chairman
Grant Wrathall, Vice Chairman
Nancy Shott, Secretary-Treasurer

WPA Meetings & WINGS Seminars

Scott Williams

I'm sure many of received John Cowan's email regarding the issues pertaining to the WINGS Seminars. As of this publication nothing has been scheduled and John has called for a WPA Board meeting to address this year's meetings and seminars. If any of you readers have suggestions, or are willing to lead a seminar, please contact John or Marjorie Bachman at their email listed below.

The following **WINGS Seminars** are scheduled for the first quarter 2015:

January:.....TBD

February..... TBD

March TBD

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