

PALO ALTO AIRPORT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



July 2015

AIRPORT DAY IS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27

Airport Day is the main event each year for your association. This event is critical to ensuring that PAO gets needed recognition by the community. It attracts between 3000 and 5000 visitors who have a chance to learn about their local airport. The two biggest attractions are the EAA sponsored Young Eagles flights for kids and tours of the FAA control tower. Civil Air Patrol, Palo Alto Police and Fire, Stanford Life Flight and the Stanford bloodmobile are key public service exhibitors. Raptors and the Palo Alto Junior Museum's zoo are on hand to interest the young crowd. Many types of aircraft are on display and as well as booths with representatives of various aviation-related organizations.

All of this takes a concerted effort by the PAAA to bring it all together. We need your help to pull it off. If you have an historic or interesting airplane or know of someone who does and might be willing to display it, please consider displaying it and/or contacting the person you know about displaying their plane.

We need people to help manage the set-up and take down of exhibits, direct vendors to their assigned places, direct pilots of display aircraft to their parking, direct crowds, set up signage for the event and assist with sign-up and staging of tower tours. There is all of this and much more to do during the event. To volunteer, contact:
ralphbritton@comcast.net

FUNDING NEEDED

PAAA needs additional funding. Since the recession hit, the PAAA has seen several of the organizations we have relied upon in past years reduce or end their commitment

to Airport Day. As the economy has improved, we are working to try to re-establish some of those sources, but so far the results have been disappointing. No non-aviation organization has stepped up to help fund AD15, as PAAA is not the kind of charitable organization they support not do they see the day a useful for business promotion. We do get a useful amount of cash and other support from on-field businesses, and are seeking additional support from aircraft manufacturers (who provided much of our support prior to the recession). But in spite of our efforts, we still need additional funds for AD15. *We are asking for additional contributions from our members to support airport day with a donation of 1/2 of a month's tiedown fee--\$75.* A donation of any amount will help. Please do your part. Send your check to:

Treasurer: Airport Day
Palo Alto Airport Assn
PO Box 60275
Palo Alto CA 94306

You can also donate through the PAAA website www.paloaltoairport.aero. Click on "Renew Membership" use the "Donate" button under "please consider increasing your donation" (even though this is not a renewal).

REHABILITATION PROGRESS AT AIRPORT

With the arrival of warmer weather, the runway has been resurfaced and the major dips and bumps fixed. Minimal service interruptions occurred due to doing much of the work at night. Core samples indicate a possible quality problem with an area of the new paving, the repair of which may require another night closure or two. New markings have been painted on the runway, of course, but taxiways have also been re-marked and repairs have been made to the parking lot in

front of the terminal. High speed WIFI is now available in the terminal building so you can use your tablet computer to plan flights and file flight plans here.

Future planning is already going forward for further repairs to the apron and other improvements. The City is funding some engineering work on further repairs and other things so that these projects can qualify for fast-track FAA funding, which can save up to a year in getting started. This engineering work will qualify for later reimbursement by the FAA.

OBITUARIES

In March, the flying community lost two dedicated pilots and supporters. They will surely be missed by all who knew them.

Bob Briggs

May 28, 1941-March 14, 2015

Bob Briggs was a longtime PAAA member and Board Secretary. His passing was quite sudden, his having been an active bicyclist and Bonanza pilot until the end of last year. Bob also had a helicopter rating. He flew to Oshkosh several times and enjoyed the event and regularly participated in the EAA Young Eagles program. He will be remembered for his careful attention to detail as PAAA secretary and his quiet and subtle sense of humor.

John Grigsby

April 28, 1924-March 12, 2015

John Grigsby was a member of a flying family. His two older brothers were among the first pilots hired by Continental Airlines before WWII. John served in WWII as a radar operator stationed for a time in the Philippines. Flying for John had to wait until he finished his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering at Stanford. He got his pilot's license at Palo Alto in 1959 and also had an instructor's rating. John was an early member of the PAAA and served as board secretary for many years. He owned a Beechcraft Baron which he and his wife

Ginny (also a pilot) flew all over the country. Ginny died in September 2014.

PAO CELEBRATES ITS 80TH BIRTHDAY AS THE BUSIEST SINGLE-RUNWAY AIRPORT IN THE NATION

The airport is also the 11th busiest airport in California and 60th in the nation, measured by number of operations. Note that the list includes all public-use airports! The airport started operations in the baylands in July, 1935. Runway layout was slightly different then, but the two adjacent large hangars are where they were in 1935. One of these was moved from the original airport site near Stanford Stadium, which dated from 1928.

NEW WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

PAAA member Peter Yee has volunteered to rework the PAAA Website. Much of the material has become obsolete and in need of revision. He is looking for ways to make the site more useful as well. Kudos to Paul for taking this on!

FORMER COUNTY AIRPORTS DIRECTOR NOW AT MOFFETT

Carl Honaker, who for many years was County Director of Airports, has been appointed Manager of Moffett Field. The airport operation is contracted to Google.

CONTACT!

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PAAA Board meets the first Tuesday of each month, 12:00PM, PAO Terminal Building. All members welcome.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR AD15!