

# Contra Costa County Airports Newsletter

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## Buchanan Field and Byron Airports

[www.buchananfield-byronairports.com](http://www.buchananfield-byronairports.com)

## Big Changes In Store for Buchanan Field Airport Signage

In November of 2002, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors accepted \$1,971,000 in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant funding from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The majority of that funding is for completing the airfield electrical and signage upgrades to Buchanan Field Airport.

Airport staff are expecting to solicit interest from construction companies to complete the airfield electrical power, lighting and signage upgrades in April of this year. Immediately following will be the selection of a construction firm and the establishment a project start date. The project is projected to last 180 days.

The project will include significant power upgrades to the FAA Tower and airfield. Additionally, the number of airfield signs will increase from approximately 100 to 185. These new signs will meet the current FAA Advisory Circular standards for airfield signs.



Newer signage will remain

This will enhance position awareness of both transient and based pilots in the Aircraft Operations Area.

The project will be a very challenging for the Airport staff, FAA Tower staff, and airport tenants. Since it will require construction crews to conduct work at basically every taxiway and runway intersection of the airfield, it will be a fluid process. Pilots should, as always, be very vigilant during the coming months and regularly check the local Notice to Airmen (NOTAM's).

## Inside this issue:

Environmental and Community Relations	2
Airport Tour Program is Soaring	2
Byron Master Plan	2
Meet the New Airport Staff	3
Name Our Newsletter	3
Story Ideas	3
Watch Your Prop Wash	3
General Aviation Security Hotline	4
Airport Users Group Meeting	4

## Director's Corner

We are pleased to announce that the Concord Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) is currently in the final stages of becoming a radar-assisted facility.

Contra Costa County solicited support from Congressman George Miller and Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher in making Concord ATCT's radar a priority. The result was that the FAA has installed the necessary equipment, and by the middle of March is expected to start using the radar in the Con-

cord Tower. The Concord ATCT staff has been meeting with Travis Approach Control personnel to formalize their coordination protocol.

Due to radar altitude limitations, the service will be used only to assist Air Traffic Control personnel in providing aircraft traffic advisories, not for separation purposes.

Keith Freitas

## Environment, Noise & Community Relations



Pilots, thank you for Flying Buchanan Field and Byron Airports

### New Noise Complaints Process Brochure

A new brochure is available from the Environmental and Community Relations Office. How Complaints Regarding Aircraft Operations are Handled was created to explain the noise complaint process and give some insight into the Contra Costa County Noise Ordinances and Federal Aviation Regulations. The brochure covers a wide variety of information, such as:

- What hours can aircraft fly into and out of Buchanan Field and Byron Airports?
- How low can aircraft fly?
- Are any aircraft exempt from the County Noise Ordinance?

For a copy of the new brochure call (925) 646-5722 or stop by the Director of Airports' office.

### Storm Water Runoff

The Environmental and Community Relations Office is on track with this year's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Observations. Please remember to use the designated wash racks on the East and West Ramps when washing your aircraft. Water runoff from places other than the wash racks ends up in the storm drains and is carried out to the bay through a series of channels and creeks. If everyone uses the wash racks, the storm water will remain clean and clear. If everyone does his or her part, this will never become a problem.

**Do you have a Community Group that would be interested in having Airport staff come and speak at one of your meetings? If so call (925) 646-5722.**

*To get information on the Airport Tour Program or to book a tour, contact Doreen Arens at (925) 646-5722*

## Airport Tour Program is Soaring

Since initiating the new, streamlined Airport Tour Program in December 2002, Airport tours have become very popular. Since December, more than 250 children and adults have visited Buchanan Field Airport, and the good word is spreading.

A typical tour begins with a short Airport safety briefing. Next the group visits with the California Shock/Trauma Air Rescue unit (CALSTAR). The Flight Nurses and Pilots are always eager to share details about their very important job, flying injured people in their helicopter.

The next stop is usually Sterling Aviation where visitors learn about how an airplane flies. Some groups have been able to climb into a small, single-engine airplane to see what it feels like to handle the controls.

The tour's final stop is the ARFF (Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting) truck. Airport Operations Specialists explain what they do and how they are able to keep everyone safe at the Airport (Plus the kids love when they spray water from the truck's turrets). Tours take about an hour dependent upon the group size.



Can Byron handle cargo operations? We may soon know.

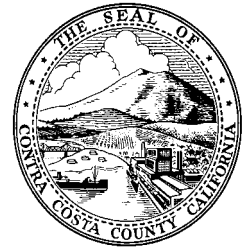
## Byron Master Plan

The Byron Master Plan process has begun with the selection of the consulting firm Leigh Fisher Associates. The first phase of the project will consist of an initial air cargo feasibility study. The project tasks include initial data collection, feasibility of potential roles for Byron Airport, significant public out-

reach and project management. During the first 120 days, the consultant will focus on defining the various potential roles of the Byron Airport, air cargo, general aviation, industrial park, etc. The final decision could include various combinations of the possible roles.

## Get to Know the Staff—The New Faces

- ♦ **Doreen Arens** joined the Airport staff in October, 2002 in the Environmental and Community Relations office. She has a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Business Administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and will complete a Master's degree in Business Administration in June. She has previously worked at ARINC and The Boeing Company.
- ♦ **Jane Overton** is an Airport Operations Technician. She has a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Natural Resources from the University of Georgia and has worked as an Environmental Specialist for the EPA's Office of Research and Development. Jane discovered general aviation in 1997, and she has been hooked ever since.
- ♦ **Yohel Kakuda** has been an Airport Operations Technician since September, 2002. He graduated from San Jose State University with an Aviation Operations degree. He previously worked as an intern for San Jose International Airport and has been interested in aviation ever since he was a child.
- ♦ **Robert Wangan** is an Airport Operations Technician for the County Costa County Airports. He previously worked for United Airlines as a Jet Engine Mechanic and a former Flight Instructor for Korean Airlines. He graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a degree in Aeronautics. He has lived in Contra Costa County most of his life.



## Name Our Newsletter

Airport Staff wants your input. We are looking for a new name for our new Newsletter. If you have an idea for a name, please e-mail it to: [cccalrports@earthlink.net](mailto:cccalrports@earthlink.net)

All suggestions will be evaluated by Airport staff, and the winning name will be announced in our Spring Newsletter.

## Story Ideas

Is there something of interest - an article, an upcoming event - that you would like to see in the Airport Newsletter?

Please send any and all ideas to Doreen Arens c/o Director of Airports Office, 550 Sally Ride Drive, Concord, CA 94520 or e-mail it to: [cccalrports@earthlink.net](mailto:cccalrports@earthlink.net)

### Special Points of Interest

- Noise Management Program Pilot Guides are available from the Director of Airports' Office.
- Aviation Advisory Committee Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

## Watch Out For Prop Wash Damage

By Ray Hammons

Propeller wash has the potential to do significant damage to aircraft and vehicles parked on the ramp. Most instructors touch on this subject early on in a student's instruction. The impression is not strong however until you see your own plane or automobile blasted by someone starting an engine while still in the tie-down space and using 1500-2000 RPM to turn onto the taxiway.

A few minutes of time and a little effort can reduce or eliminate this problem. Consider the following:

1. Before starting your engine, pull your aircraft onto and in line with the taxiway.
2. Clear the area behind your aircraft of any loose debris.
3. Use only the minimum RPM required during taxi.
4. When returning, shut down the engine while still in line with the taxiway.

A little caution and consideration can prevent a lot of damage.



Just being mindful helps the problem.

## Contra Costa County Airports

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### Buchanan Field and Byron Airports

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## TSA Implements Hotline For General Aviation Airports

On December 2, 2002, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) implemented a national toll-free hotline for the general aviation community. Anyone seeing any unusual or suspicious activity on or around an airport should call the hotline at (866) GA SECURE. However, for an immediate response to any emergency, please continue to call 911.

The hotline is operated by the National Response Center (NRC). The call will put you in contact with a trained member of the staff who will evaluate the report and coordinate any necessary response. This hotline centralizes report-

ing to the appropriate local, state and federal agencies.

No one knows the people at an airport or aviation-related business better than those who work there on a daily basis. That's why it is critical to keep a keen eye on the people who have access to our aircraft and facilities.

This new phone number gives instant access to people who are specifically trained to deal with any possible threat to the security of those the airport serves and the citizens of the United States.

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## Airport Users' Group Meeting Scheduled

A joint meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration and Airport staff has been scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord. Topics to be discussed include:

### **FAA:**

- Runway Safety
- Procedures

- New tower displays

### **Airport Staff:**

- A general overview of the Airport
- Construction Projects
- Budget
- Community relations
- Question & Answer

The meeting will be open to the public.

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