

The Diablo Aviator

A Publication of the Contra Costa County Airports Division

Buchanan Field and Byron Airports - www.buchananfield-byronairports.org

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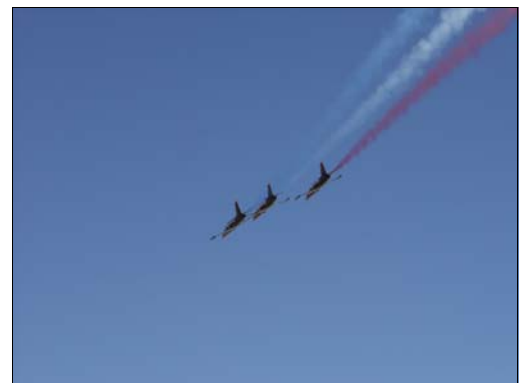
Environmental & Community Relations Officer/ Editor

Doreen Arens

Byron Airport Turns 10!



Left: Supervisor Greenberg welcomes visitors to the celebration. Above: Lauren Jeffries gets last minute instructions before her Young Eagles flight. Below Left: Small visitors enjoy the Kid Zone while parents look on. Below Right: The Patriots Jet Demonstration Team's second fly-by



Inside this issue:

Buchanan Field Security Upgrade	2
Buchanan Field Master Plan	2
PSA Hosts a 20-Year Party	3
Aviation Advisory Committee	3
Flying Friendly	4

On Saturday, October 9, 2004, the usually quiet Byron Airport was buzzing with excitement. More than 250 people came out to the airport to help celebrate the 10th Anniversary of its opening day and dedication on October 8, 1994. District III Supervisor Millie Greenberg gave a short welcoming speech and then dedicated the airport's new flag pole.

Visitors were entertained by skydivers and glider flights throughout the day. Those between the ages of 8 and 17 were offered free flights by the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Program. Approxi-

mately 15 youngsters took the opportunity to take an introductory flight. The little ones were entertained at the Kid Zone which included two different bounce structures. The event was capped off by an incredible fly-by of the Patriots Jet Demonstration Team, which is based at Byron Airport.

Airports' staff would like to express their thanks to all the people that helped make this event a success, including Bay Area Skydiving; EAA Chapter 393, especially Pat Peters; the Ninety-Nines; Northern California Soaring Association; and Patriot Jet Team, especially Randy Howell.

Buchanan Field Airport To Get A Security Boost



Now that the Airport has just about completed the punch list for its airfield signage upgrades, it will be moving on to its security upgrades. The two projects are part of the \$2,069,550 in FAA and Caltrans grant funds the County accepted for Buchanan Field Airport. The first of two phases for the Buchanan Field Airport security upgrades has already begun. In that first phase, a consultant will be hired to plan and design the security upgrades. During the second phase, a contractor will be selected to purchase and install the security upgrades.

On July 19, 2004, the Airports Division released a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) soliciting consultants interested in providing security planning and design services for the upgrades to Buchanan Field Airport. Nine (9) companies responded with proposals. The nine companies submitting proposals were: Catalyst Consulting Group, Inc., CTI Consulting, Glover/Resnick & Associates, Inc., Industrial Management Consultants, International Security Defense Systems, LLC, Ross & Baruzzini, Mead & Hunt, Franklin M. Sterling & Associates, and Ultra-Safe Security Specialists.

On September 29th, the Buchanan Field Security Upgrade Steering Committee met to distribute copies of the submittals so that they could be ranked. Committee member

rankings are due back to the Airports Division by October 22, 2004. After rankings are tabulated, the top 3-4 consultants will be called back for an interview with the Steering Committee so that a final selection can be made. The Steering committee members include: Doreen Arens (Airport Environmental and Community Relations Officer), Mike Bruno (representing the Airport Business Association), Kenton Coyle (Supervisor of Airport Operations), David Evans (representing the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association), Keith Freitas (Director of Airports), Patricia Howlett (representing the Aviation Advisory Committee) and Eric Imhoff (representing the Sheriffs Office-Homeland Security Unit).

It is expected that the selected consultant will work with Buchanan Field Airport's pilots, tenants, and businesses. They will gather input on the most efficient and effective security measures appropriate for them. Fencing, security access control system, vehicle and pedestrian gates, and closed circuit television are what Airport management envisions will be the focus. There will also be a simultaneous evaluation of security upgrades for the Byron Airport. The security upgrades are expected to be installed by the end of 2005.

Buchanan Field Master Plan Process Begins



The Buchanan Field Airport master planning process was initiated in April 2004 through the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP invited experienced aviation consultants to submit proposals for the master plan process, including a Federal Aviation Regulation Part 150 noise study and an airport business plan.

The Airport received two RFP submittals for consideration. Airport staff, working collaboratively with a ten-person Steering Committee (comprised of pilots, businesses and community members), reviewed and ranked

the proposals and subsequently interviewed both firms. The team led by Bernard Dunkelberg and Company (BD&C) emerged as the preferred consultant.

Airport staff is working with BD&C to refine the scope of work and contract terms necessary to seek the Federal Aviation Administration's and the County Board of Supervisor's approval of their selection as the consultant for the master plan. The master plan consultant contract is expected to be brought before the Board of Supervisors by the end of November 2004.

Pacific States Aviation Hosts 20-Year Party

On September 24, 2004, Pacific States Aviation (PSA) hosted a party for anyone who has been at Buchanan Field Airport 20 years or more. There was extensive interest for the party from the start. More than 80 people bought tickets by the morning of the event, but approximately 140 people attended.

The guests ranged from people who learned to fly at the airport long ago, to previous PSA employees, to original Airport ten-

ants and Airport staff. Maureen Bell, owner of Pacific States Aviation, summed up the enthusiasm for the party:

“We have been asked to repeat this event within three months—this might be a little soon but we need to get those stories [about the airport in the old days] told, so it will definitely happen. There has been so much interest from “newcomers” that we will drop the 20 year restriction [for the next gathering]...”



Aviation Advisory Committee Moves Forward

During the past three months Contra Costa's Aviation Advisory Committee has witnessed several changes and events of note.

- The Board of Supervisors appointed David Dolter of Alamo, Geoffrey Logan of Walnut Creek, and Ron Yancey of San Pablo leaving only District 5, in east county, without representation. David Freet was reappointed by Pleasant Hill, and Pat Howlett by Concord.
- A well-attended AAC meeting in August was held in Concord's City Council Chambers and featured a presentation by Douglas Draper of Pacific States Aviation. Draper discussed noise abatement, pilot responsibility, the future of general aviation, as well as several current issues. Director of Airports Keith Freitas joined Draper to comment on airport issues and to answer questions from the audience.
- Discussion at the September meeting encouraged AAC members to agree to draft a recommendation to encourage the Board of Supervisors to address the fact that business development at Buchanan Field Airport is being hampered by slow, cumbersome administrative procedures. The document is scheduled

to be approved for mailing at the October meeting.

- Two adult events are being planned for local citizens early next year. First is a one-day tour of Buchanan Field for a group of adult citizens with limited abilities. That event will be sponsored by the city's Parks and Recreation Department. Second will be a course for senior citizens through Emeritus College – Diablo Valley College's senior citizen program – which will provide one two-hour class session about Contra Costa's Airports at the Concord Senior Citizen Center. The second class will be a full tour of the airport led by airport staff and business representatives.

AAC efforts to reach into local communities and develop stronger relationships with area residents will continue, and suggestions about how to expand citizen awareness of and rapport with their airports will be welcomed. “Our goal is to have all people with an interest in our airports work together to support them, be they pilots, people who live near a runway, or local residents who have no connection to and know nothing about our airports ... but *would like* to know more,” said AAC Chair Pat Howlett.



AAC Members from Left to Right: Pat Howlett, Geoffrey Logan, Janet Kaiser, David Freet, John Stucke, Pradeep Panikar. Not Pictured: Phil Day, David Dolter, Russell Roe, Ron Yancey

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You Can Help by Flying Friendly

By Syl Heumann, Excerpt from The California Airport Advocate, Sept./Oct. 2004; www.calpilots.org

Do you know the diameter of your propeller? If you don't, read on, because it has a very important effect on noise outside your aircraft. We are continually faced with noise complaints at airports, and some of them are warranted too.

As the tip speed of your propeller approaches the transonic range, the noise level outside the aircraft takes a tremendous jump. **The transonic range begins about 625 MPH, or Mach .85, and continues until the speed of sound which is 736 MPH (Mach 1) at sea level.** This increase in noise is not as apparent inside the aircraft, as outside. Beginning at approximately 625 MPH, the tip of the propeller is going fast enough to cause compression of the air and is

causing at least two mini sonic booms per revolution.

No doubt you have heard aircraft take off and noticed the noise level increases greatly just as the aircraft is opposite of your position. The reason is that the tips are at transonic speeds, and the sound is radiated on a path perpendicular to the path of the aircraft. The sound appears to drop off as soon as the aircraft has passed, but that disk of noise is following the aircraft, and will continue until the prop tip speed is reduced. It is important to understand that once the threshold of transonic speed is approached, any increase in RPM causes a dramatic increase in noise outside the aircraft.



Propeller Length	RPM's									
	2400	2450	2500	2550	2600	2650	2700	2750	2800	
74	528	539	550	561	572	583	594	605	616	
75	535	547	558	569	580	591	602	614	625	
76	543	554	565	577	588	599	610	622	633	
77	550	561	573	584	596	607	619	630	641	
78	557	569	580	592	603	615	627	638	650	
79	564	576	588	599	611	623	635	646	658	
80	571	583	595	607	619	631	643	654	666	
81	578	590	602	614	627	639	651	663	675	
82	585	598	610	622	634	646	659	671	683	
83	593	605	617	630	642	654	667	678	691	
84	600	612	625	637	650	662	675	687	700	
85	607	620	632	645	657	670	683	696	708	
86	614	627	640	652	665	678	691	704	710	
87	621	634	647	660	673	686	699	712	726	
88	628	641	654	668	681	694	707	720	733	
89	635	649	662	675	688	702	715	728	741	