



Plane News

The Official Newsletter of County of San Diego Airports



NEW YEAR, NEW TERMINAL

Another chapter has begun for McClellan-Palomar Airport (MPA). The airport has long needed to modernize and reorganize its terminal facilities. The design team knew it had to represent the nearby beaches and MPA users' love of aviation. It would also have to be efficient, well designed, and aesthetically pleasing. The new terminal is a building the community can be proud of.

After 13 months of construction, the new terminal opened for business on November 18, 2008. Overhead canopies mimic sailboats and shell-encrusted floors form sweeping conch shell patterns, reminiscent of the ocean only a few miles away. Floor-to-ceiling windows and several outdoor areas provide passengers the opportunity to watch aircraft come and go. Rocking chairs offer a place to sit and wait for passengers or take a quick break.

The terminal will also house a restaurant, The Landings, which will open in spring 2009 and feature indoor and outdoor dining. It's been more than three years since MPA has offered a restaurant to provide travelers and aviation enthusiasts an opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere, good food and time with family.

Airlines housed inside the terminal include SkyWest, which provides up to seven flights a day to and from Los Angeles, and Vision Airways, which provides twice-weekly flights to Bullhead City/Laughlin. Avis and Hertz will provide rental car services to passengers, airport businesses and the public.

related MPA stories featured on pages 4-5



New MPA terminal is open for business. Photos by John Otto.

Borrego Sundowner



Pilot Dennis Foster & prizewinning passenger Kathleen Porter. Inset: Sundowner crowd. Borrego photos courtesy of Mike Himmerich.

An aircraft flips over, shoots straight up into the sky, holds its position, points toward the earth at lightning speed, then pulls back up with just time to spare, thus completing the “Hammerhead Maneuver.”

Who are these guys? A bunch of hotshot pilots? Try a heart surgeon, a heart specialist, several doctors, aeronautical engineers, airline captains, CEOs of large corporations, one astrophysicist, and an opera singer.

But it wasn't just the Cloud Dancers (the aerobatic performers) who got a rush from flying. 75-year-old Kathleen Porter of the Road Runner Club won a raffled aerobatic flight

by Dennis Foster. “All my life I wanted to fly upside down!” Porter exclaimed.

Local kids were bused to the airport for hot dogs and a presentation on flight. After being given backpacks and t-shirts, they climbed into aircraft cockpits. Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) Young Eagles program took over from there, giving most of the kids their first experience in the air!

Check out IAC Chapter 36's web page for upcoming Borrego Airport events: www.IAC36.org. NOTAMs are published when the box (north of the runway) is open for practice.

GPA 2008 AWARD

The Gillespie Pilots Association Trophy is awarded to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to aviation. The 2008 recipient, Rick Beach, was presented the award for his contributions to reducing the height of the Sunroad Enterprises building near Montgomery Field, the County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, the AOPA Airport Support



Trophy winner Rick Beach at left & GPA member Barry Bardack. Photo courtesy of Barry Bardack.

Network and the Cirrus Owners & Pilots Association, as well as being an extremely effective representative of San Diego pilots to local government agencies. Beach has a doctorate in computer science and 20 years experience as a career technician. In 2001, he received his pilot's certification and has already accumulated 2,500 hours of flying. He has proven to be a priceless advocate for Southern California's flying population.

Ocotillo Fly-In



Ocotillo photos courtesy of Linda Ketchum.

My Desert Rose Café offered a selection of breakfast and lunch choices from chicken tostadas to hamburgers. “We all left with our tummies full of tasty food and our eyes filled with the various aircraft, which

[we] later enjoyed watching take off for destinations unknown,” said Linda Ketchum, who attended the event with her husband and neighbors from Temecula. “There was a constant stream of aircraft coming and going.”

Airport Advisory Committees

FALLBROOK AIRPARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE



FAAC members (l-r): Chairperson Carl Morrison, Vice Chairperson Ken Kalbfell, Jeff Holstein, David Duffer & Doug Dwyer. Photo by Bo Donovan.

The Fallbrook Airport Advisory Committee (FAAC) meets four times a year on the first Monday of each quarter in the Public Meeting Room of the Fallbrook Public Utilities District. The aviation community and general public are encouraged to attend FAAC meetings where lively discussions are held that center on the development of the Airpark, the airport's public events and daily operations.

Current members of the committee are: Fallbrook attorney Carl Morrison, 2009 Chairperson; San Diego businessman Ken Kalbfell, 2009 Vice Chairperson; building contractor David Duffer; marketing consultant Doug Dwyer; and aircraft maintenance facility owner Jeff Holstein. All of the current committee members are pilots and aircraft owners.

In 2008, the committee participated in the guidance and review of a number of airport events, including the Airpark's first Toys for Tots drive and its annual Open House. The bulk of the committee's business throughout 2008 centered on the progress of the Airpark's Master Plan and its Environmental Impact Report. There were also suggestions regarding improvements to the airport and its procedures that the committee passed on to the airport's management.

2008 saw the resignation of two long-time and dedicated committee members—Joe Fedorchak and Tom Cooper. Their service to the community, the Airpark and the committee are deeply appreciated. For more information regarding FAAC, please see their website

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/airports/faacagenda.html

PALOMAR AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



PAAC members (l-r): John O'Reilly, Chuck Collins, Vice Chairperson Tim Hutter, Tom Ricotta, Bill Guier, Bob Gates & John Christensen. Not pictured: Chairperson Ramona Finnilla & Howard Williams. Photo by Dan Thompson.

The Palomar Airport Advisory Committee (PAAC) had its first meeting on July 9, 1979. The committee is chaired by Ramona Finnilla, a past Carlsbad City Council member and a member of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. Timothy Hutter, who owns and manages an aviation insurance business at the airport, serves as vice chairperson. Also on the committee are area residents John Christensen, Chuck Collins,

Bob Gates, Bill Guier, John O'Reilly, Tom Ricotta and Howard Williams.

In 2008, PAAC provided a forum for residents with noise concerns and tried to provide them with accurate information about what the County can and cannot mandate.

The committee also gave invaluable input to Palomar officials and designers regarding the new terminal's development and design of the bridge. PAAC offered suggestions and input for the new restaurant as well.

PAAC meets the third Thursday of most months at the Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad, at 7:00 p.m. For meeting agendas, minutes and schedules, see PAAC's website

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/airports/paacagenda.html

or call the McClellan-Palomar Airport Manager's office at (760) 431-4646.

GILLESPIE FIELD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



GFDC members (l-r): Bob Parker, Vice Chairperson Phyllis Trombi, Chairperson Cliff Leary, Barry Bardack & Ramzi Murad. Photo by Reggie Angquico.

The Gillespie Field Development Council (GFDC) meets the third Tuesday of most months at the El Cajon City Chambers, 200 East Main Street, El Cajon. In 2008, GFDC was chaired by Cliff Leary who has had aviation in his blood from a very young age. He learned to fly at El Cajon Flying Service at Gillespie Field and served in the USAF as a second lieutenant. Leary has extensive knowledge of aviation and gives invaluable input to County staff and GFDC attendees. Vice Chairperson Phyllis Trombi serves Gillespie's flying public as an experienced pilot and an active member of the Gillespie Pilots Association (GPA).

Bob Parker has been a GFDC member for 31 years. He was instrumental in the industrial park development and also saw the closing of the golf course, gun club and the municipal pool. Parker's number one goal is to create jobs for local men and women by utilizing space on the airfield. Ramzi Murad, a local businessman, joined GFDC in January, 2008 and represents the interests of the City of El Cajon. Barry Bardack is the newest member to the council but is definitely no stranger to Gillespie Field. He moved to El Cajon in 1977 and has been flying out of Gillespie ever since. Bardack is an experienced pilot/businessman and a member of the GPA.

GFDC has provided input to County staff and the Board of Supervisors regarding Gillespie's Cajon Air Center, the Airport Land Use Commission, Forrester Creek Development on Weld Boulevard and Cuyamaca Street as well as numerous other topics while also providing a platform for local pilots and residents to share their ideas, concerns and questions. For GFDC agendas, minutes and a 2009 schedule, please see GFDC's website

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/airports/gfdbcagenda.html

or call GFDC Secretary Sarah Solis at (619) 956-4836.



Aerial view of north side ramp at Palomar. County Airports photo.

Past & Present of McClellan-Palomar Airport



In 1957, the former military Del Mar Airport and blimp base was closed to make way for

Interstate 5. The County of San Diego needed a new airport and chose the site in Carlsbad where McClellan-Palomar Airport (MPA) is located. Construction began in 1958, and the airport opened for daytime operations on March 20, 1959.

In April 1991, American Eagle Airlines began service between Carlsbad and Los Angeles, followed by SkyWest serving the same route in 1994. Mesa Airlines, operating as America West Express, began service on April 4, 1999, between Carlsbad and Phoenix, Arizona. Today, SkyWest and Vision Airlines operate from the airport.

On April 7, 1999, in response to public need, a new 3,600 square foot temporary terminal was installed in just 24 hours. However, as time went by, it became apparent that the terminal and supporting facilities needed to be reorganized and modernized.

In the summer of 2006, the True North Ramp tie-down area for private aircraft was completed. In January 2007, MPA staff moved into new offices that were remodeled by the Airports maintenance crew.

MPA is home to numerous Fixed Base Operators (FBOs) as well as Mercy Air, which provides emergency medical transport via helicopter for people injured in accidents and other emergencies. County staff provides *Fly Friendly* presentations to pilots, homeowners associations and other resident groups.

The airport will continue to contribute \$108 million annually to the local economy while being a good neighbor and working with North County residents and government agencies. For more information regarding McClellan-Palomar Airport, please visit:

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/airports/palomar.html



COMPASS POINTS

It took two years from first concept design plan to project completion for the new McClellan-Palomar Airport improvements. This is a record by any standard for producing a new facility that includes multiple concurrent projects such as the construction of auto parking lots, a pedestrian footbridge, an elevator, a new air terminal building with landscaping and high-tech security enhancements, as well as the airside apron, taxiway, and related necessary upgrades to support the new terminal. All these improvements make Palomar feel like it has been upgraded from coach to first class.

Bouquets to our design consultant, Wadell Engineering, the architectural firm of Gensler & Associates, Edge Construction and contract management company, Mendoza & Associates. This expert team along with our County employee support network, brought plans to reality while overcoming challenges to achieve success.

Now we have a building that incorporates environmentally-conscious design which provides sustainable operations and maintenance support. You can see the County's dedication to "going green" at every turn, from the large windows that fully open to the use of recycled materials, energy-efficient lighting, low-flow restroom facilities and reclaimed water for landscape irrigation.

This public investment of FAA and Airport Enterprise funding enhances safety and support while positioning McClellan-Palomar Airport to better serve future North County commercial air service demands. Furthermore, it complements over \$90 million of recent FBO private investment in McClellan-Palomar Airport. San Diego County Airports are committed to serving the regional commercial flying needs of the community safely and efficiently while being cost-effective. The redevelopment at McClellan-Palomar is dramatic proof of this commitment.



Plane landing at Palomar. Photo by John Otto.



Looking southeast at MPA facilities and control tower. Photo by Matt Wenhardt.

Clear skies & happy landings,

Peter Drinkwater

Peter Drinkwater,
Airports Director

Get to Know County Airports: The PALOMAR TEAM

So, who works at McClellan-Palomar Airport (MPA) anyway? We're glad you asked! The airport is owned and managed by the County of San Diego. Airport Manager Guillermo "Willie" Vasquez is the captain of the ship of the airport near the sea. He began his aeronautical career with the Airports maintenance crew and later moved up the ladder as the assistant airport manager at MPA. Vasquez was later promoted to airport manager, first at Ramona Airport, then at MPA.



Palomar team (l-r): John Otto, Dan Thompson, Willie Vasquez, Blake Matheson, OB Brackett, Andrew Wignot & Jim Swain. Not pictured: Vic Sigafus. Photo by Brendan Warden.

Olivier "OB" Brackett serves MPA as assistant airport manager. He retired after 20 years in the United States Marine Corps as an air traffic control tower chief at Camp Pendleton. OB is in charge of security as the assistant airport security coordinator and supervises the airport operations coordinators.

Vic Sigafus, Blake Matheson and John Otto work as airport operations coordinators. Their primary focus is to make

sure the airport is safe, secure, and functioning well at all times. Vic, a trained firefighter and a retired master gunnery sergeant, served his country in the Marine Corps prior to accepting his operations position. Blake brings naval and air traffic control tower experience as well as a dedication to serving the public in his position. John had a 20-year naval career and retired as an aviation support equipment technician, first class, before beginning his County career.

Jim Swain and Andrew Wignot are contractors who serve the airport and community. Jim is the airport environmental sound manager and does community outreach, while Andrew is the North Ramp manager. Dan Thompson is the administrative secretary as well as the Palomar Airport Advisory Committee secretary. He is the first point of contact for those calling or visiting MPA and is always ready to efficiently answer questions. He's the glue that keeps the Palomar Airport team together.

This group of individuals works together on a daily basis to ensure the airport is running smoothly and safely. Don't hesitate to contact MPA staff with questions or comments.

Palomar Customs

More than 170 aircraft, mostly Citations, Lear-jets and Hawkers, have cleared Customs since its opening at Palomar more than a year ago. Customs is a joint effort by County Airports and the Fixed Base Operators at Palomar Airport. Thanks to the opening of the new terminal, Customs & Border Protection has a safe and secure state-of-the-art office to serve Palomar's customers. This full-cost recovery service benefits the aviation community with convenience and reliability. Fewer flights from Brown Field to Carlsbad means aircraft are at higher altitudes longer, causing less noise for North County residents.

Gillespie Field (SEE)

Gillespie Field Development Council: Meets the third Tuesday of most months (2008 schedule is posted on the Gillespie Field web page). All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at the El Cajon City Council Chambers, 200 East Main Street, El Cajon. For more information, call (619) 956-4800.



Photo by Matt Wenhardt

Air Group One, Commemorative Air Force (CAF): Join the "Air Force No One Ever Heard Of" Saturdays at 10 a.m. at 1860 Joe Crosson Drive. Pancake breakfast on the last Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. (bring a warbird, eat free). For more information, call (619) 448-4505.

San Diego Chapter of 99's: This organization of women pilots meets the fourth Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. For location or information, call Frankie Clemens at (619) 449-0670.

Civil Air Patrol Squadron 57: Meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Ketema Aerospace, 790 Greenfield Drive, El Cajon. For more information, please call Tom Charpentier at (619) 818-4011.

Air & Space Museum: The San Diego Air & Space Museum Hangar at Gillespie Field is open to the public Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and some Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, Saturday hours and tours, call (619) 258-1221.

Display of historical aircraft: Second Sunday of every month

from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Only for those based at Classic Hangars. For more information, please call Len Buckle at (619) 449-0539.

Safari Aviation West: The fourth Saturday of each month, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Safari Aviation West hosts an aircraft display at Gillespie Field. To display your plane, bring it to Safari Aviation West at 1905 North Marshall at the east end of the hangar complex. For more information, call Dick McDowell at (619) 448-2360.

Gillespie Pilots Association: Meets the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Gillespie Field Administration Building. For more information, visit: www.gillespiepilots.org

Display your historical aircraft: First Sunday of each month from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gillespie Field Administration/Terminal Ramp. For more details, contact the Assistant Airport Manager at (619) 956-4810.

The Wing Is The Thing (TWITT): Meetings are held on the third Saturday of every other month beginning in January at 1:30 p.m. at Hangar A4 on Skid Row. For more information, please call (619) 980-9831 or visit: www.twitt.org.

Fallbrook Airpark (L18)

Fallbrook Airpark Advisory Committee: Meets the first Monday of the second month of every quarter at the Fallbrook Public Utilities District Public Meeting Hall, 990 East Mission Road, Fallbrook. For more information, call Bo Donovan at (760) 723-8395.

Coyote Country Chapter of 99's: Meets the third Tuesday of each month. For time and location, visit: www.sandiego99s.org

Civil Air Patrol Squadron 87: Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the "Scout Shack" (Fallbrook Fire Department conference room and community meeting center), 231 East Hawthorne, Fallbrook. For more information, please contact Jim

Redmon at (760) 728-5388 or Jerry Rohles at (949) 369-9425, or visit the squadron's web site at <http://lsq87.cawg.cap.gov/>.

EAA Young Eagles Days: Three times a year on Saturday. For more information, contact Don Evans by e-mail: zc112-g@sbcglobal.net



Display your antique or classic airplanes: the last Sunday of each month from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. The displays will be located on the transient ramp. The public is invited to visit, and owners of antique aircraft from other airports are welcome to display their aircraft. Contact Bo Donovan at (760) 723-8395.

Borrego Valley Airport (L08)

Borrego Valley Airport Open House & Fly-In

Saturday,
February 21, 2009

Fly-In starts at 9 a.m.

Aerobatics start at
11 a.m.

Aviation Fuel
\$2.50/gallon*

Lunch & bar at
Assagio's
Ristorante Italiano

* Promotional price available
only on 2/21/09

Borrego Springs Chapter of 99's: This organization of women pilots meets the second Saturday of each month at the Borrego Valley Airport. For meeting times or more information, call Louise Phillips at (760) 767-4378.



Display your antique or classic airplane: The second Sunday of the month from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Viki Cole at (760) 767-7415.

McClellan-Palomar Airport (CRQ)

Palomar Airport Advisory Committee: Meets the third Thursday of most months. All meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad. For more information, call (760) 431-4646, extension 5.

Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 286 (North County): Meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the County Administration Building at McClellan-Palomar Airport, 2192 Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad. For more information, call Bob Wilson at (760) 489-9031.

Palomar Chapter of 99's: This organization of women pilots meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. For meeting location or more information, contact Robin Gartman at (760) 931-0546 or palomar99s@gmail.com

Ramona Airport (RMN)

Classic Rotors Helicopter Museum: Open to the public Friday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open Tuesday through Thursday by appointment: (760) 803-0244

Display your antique or classic airplane: The third Sunday of each month from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Chuck Hall Aviation, Cruiseair Aviation and Pacific Executive Aviation. For more information, call Chuck Hall Aviation at (760) 789-8178, Cruiseair Aviation at (760) 789-8020 or Pacific Executive Aviation at (760) 789-6384.

Jacumba Airport (L78)

Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California (AGCSC): For meeting schedule and other information, call Rolf Schulze at (619) 286-3855 or visit: www.agcsc.org

The Landings at Carlsbad— Bringing the Coast Even Closer



Site for future outside dining. Photo by John Otto.

A new restaurant and bar, The Landings at Carlsbad, is slotted to open at McClellan-Palomar Airport in the late spring or early summer of 2009. The restaurant will have an upscale, modern feel, designed to blend well with the new terminal design. Restaurant plans tie into the land/sea concept of the terminal, bringing an outdoor feel indoors, complete with a steel replica of a California oak tree over the full-bar area. Outdoor patio dining will be available overlooking the airport.

The restaurant will be operated by the same group that runs three airport cafes in Southern California: Foxy's Landing at Fox Field, The Voyager Restaurant at Mojave Airport, and Foxy's at the California City Airport.

The Landings will initially be open for breakfast and lunch. The menu is expected to include traditional breakfast fare and lunch selections including a host of appetizers, soups and salads. It will also offer signature burgers, pizzas and sandwiches ranging from the time-honored Club Sandwich to the exotic Castro Pressed Cuban, with tenderloin pork, ham, provolone cheese, pickle and a mustard sauce "pressed" on a Cuban bun.

HIGH-FLYING FOOD

Places to eat at County Airports...

Borrego Valley Airport:

**Assaggio's
Ristorante Italiano**
Next to the terminal on
Palm Canyon Drive
(760) 767-3388

Tue.–Thu., 11 a.m.–9 p.m.
Fri., 11 a.m.–9:30 p.m.
Sat., 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m.
Sun., 10 a.m.–8:30 p.m.

Gillespie Field:

Gillespie Field Cafe
Located near the tower on
2015 North Marshall Avenue
(619) 448-5909
Mon.–Sat., 7 a.m.–3 p.m.
Sun., 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

McClellan-Palomar Airport:

The Landings at Carlsbad
Coming soon!



Last December, *Gillespie Field* celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Apollo 8 Mission, assisted by **Bill** and **Claudia Allen** who hosted a lunch for some Apollo luminaries (see photo below) at the *Allen Airways Flying Museum*. Earlier at the airport the guests visited the *San Diego Air & Space Museum*, and **Alan Anders** joined the anniversary events with a T-6 flyover. In 1968, using a Saturn V booster rocket, Apollo 8 had launched **Frank Borman**, **Jim Lovell** and **Bill Anders** into space for the first manned trip circling the moon. No one knew if they would return from the highly experimental mission. Apollo 8 had to maneuver through a figure eight around the Earth's and moon's orbits, as well as their gravitational fields, for the round trip. Famed aviator and local guy, General **Robert Cardenas** (Northrop Flying Wing test pilot), was also among the Allens' guests at lunch.



At Gillespie Field, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Apollo 8 Mission (l-r): Apollo Project Flight Director Gerry Griffith, also a former Johnson Space Center director; Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong, first man on the moon; Apollo 7 Astronaut Walter Cunningham; Anniversary Hosts Bill & Claudia Allen; Apollo 8 and 13 Astronaut Jim Lovell; & Apollo 12 Astronaut Alan Bean. Photo courtesy of Bill Allen.

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The Official Newsletter of San Diego County Airports

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Permit #571
San Diego, CA



Photo by Matt Wenhardt

Winter 2009

Plane News is published quarterly
by the County of San Diego

Department of Public Works

5555 Overland Ave. (MS O332)
San Diego, CA 92123-1295

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