

Plane News



☰✉ [Sign Up to Receive *Plane News* Updates!](#)

December 2011 - Winter



In this issue:

[*Happy Holidays from County of San Diego Airports*](#)

[**Toys for Tots Fly-In & BBQ at RNM is next weekend!**](#)

[*Compass Points*](#)

[Ramona Cross Country Team Tours Airport](#)

[*Borrego Young Eagles a Grant Event*](#)

[Day Trippin' at Agua Caliente](#)

[*County Airports Hosts Crouse Hinds Lighting Classes*](#)

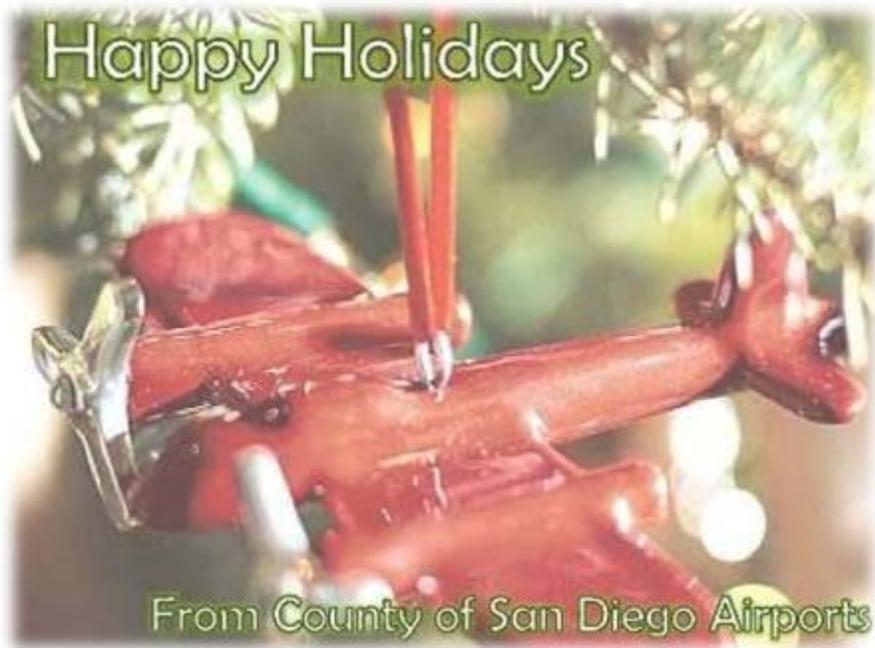
[Feasibility Study at McClellan-Palomar Airport](#)

[*ECEDC Bus Tour Spotlights Gillespie Field*](#)

[Sundowner Event Attracts a Crowd](#)

Thank You, Farewell, and Happy Trails to PN Editor

Meetings, Community Events & Historical Displays



County of San Diego Airports Presents



Saturday, December 10th • 9am-2pm*

Ramona Airport

2926 Montecito Road
Ramona, CA
760-788-3366

*Free lunch for all fly-ins with toys

Saturday, December 17th • 9am-2pm

Fallbrook Community Airpark

2155 South Mission Road
Fallbrook, CA
760-723-8395

***COLLECTION BOXES FOR TOYS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT
McClellan-Palomar Airport • Gillespie Field • Borrego Valley Airport***

Compass Points

As the holiday season approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for continued partnership and support. It is associates like you who make our jobs a pleasure and keep County of San Diego Airports successful. In appreciation of our association during the past year, everyone at Airports extends our very best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. May your holidays and the New Year be filled with much joy, happiness, and success. We look forward to working with you in the coming year and hope our relationship continues for many years to come.

Happy Holidays!

Clear Skies & Happy Landings,

Pete Drinkwater

Airports Director

Ramona Cross Country Team Tours Airport

By Bo Donovan, Contract Airport Manager

On November 8, 20 members of the Ramona High School Bicycle Cross Country Team paid a visit to the Ramona Airport. The team members and four adult advisers were given a tour of airport facilities including the air traffic control tower. As a part of their regular training, the team rides to Ramona Airport and back to the high school area: a trip of about seven miles. Following their tour, each team member was given a gift package by the airport manager.

Borrego Young Eagles a Grand Event

By Viki Cole, Contract Airport Manager



On October 13 Borrego Airport hosted a Young Eagles event attended by 44 kids. Each child had the opportunity to fly and attend ground school. They lunched on hot dogs, chips and dessert. Each Young Eagle received a t-shirt, certificate and log book. Everyone had a grand time

and all came off without a hitch.

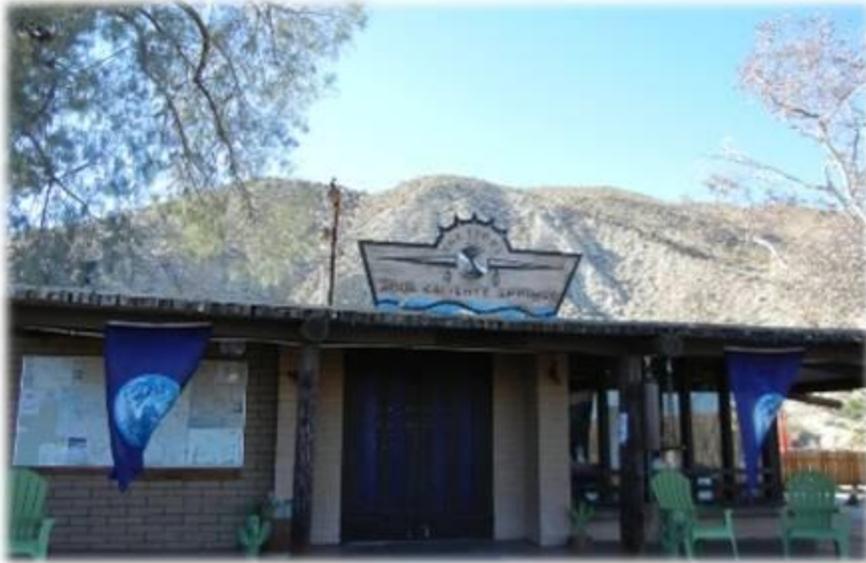
Day Trippin' at Agua Caliente

By Viki Cole, Contract Airport Manager

Escape: take a couple lawn chairs and a sack lunch, and sit under your wing or bask in the warm desert air. If you're in the mood for hiking or maybe spending some time soaking in the hot springs, this is the day trip for you.



Agua Caliente desert airstrip serves as a gateway to a day of camping, wild flowers, hiking and hot springs. Relax in a canyon environment surrounded by majestic mountains that form a protective amphitheater around the camping and pool areas. Visitors can easily explore the diverse geological formations, discovering gentle trails and interesting vegetation. Take a short half-mile hike into the Anza Borrego State Park and follow a portion of the Great South Stage route trail to a small park store that is reminiscent of an Indian trading post of the past. Snacks and unusual items will delight guests. Then proceed into the campground where RV's and tents pepper the landscape. At the top of the park is the hot springs area where you will enjoy indoor and outdoor hot pools surrounded by sunbathing areas.



The paved airstrip is 2500 feet long by 60 feet wide. There are six tiedown spaces. Check with the park for the spring desert bloom dates which vary every year. The park receives visitors from September to May. For more information: [http:// www.sdcounty.ca.gov/parks](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/parks)



County Airport Hosts Crouse Hinds Lighting Classes

By Mike Carson, Maintenance Supervisor

Airports maintenance staff attended Crouse Hinds Airport Lighting Classes October 25 thru October 27 at Palomar Airport. Topics covered were constant current regulators, troubleshooting series circuits, elevated lights, flush-mounted lighting, PAPI maintenance and a host of other important airport lighting components.



Teacher Phil Rakowski teaching Airport Technician Damian Nuñez and class about True RMS current meters



Teacher Jack Bac teaching 26 students from all over the country about Airport Lighting safety.



Many lighting components such as new LED fixtures, flush-mounted lighting, and a variety of bulbs.

This training fulfilled specific job requirements to work on airport lighting and provided important knowledge to safely maintain airport lighting at the five lighted County Airfields.

Feasibility Study at McClellan-Palomar Airport

By Lee Ann Lardy, Real Property Supervisor

McClellan-Palomar Airport covers 487 acres and has a single runway measuring 4,897 feet. The airport has been significantly upgraded over the past several years. Using Airport Enterprise funds and Federal Aviation Administration grants, the County rehabilitated the existing runway and built a new terminal, parking facilities and a restaurant. These improvements, along with approximately \$100M in private investments have helped make McClellan-Palomar Airport an attractive facility for airlines, business and passengers alike. The airport is an important economic driver in North County, promoting business and providing jobs.

In June 2011 at the request of airport lessees and aviation stakeholders, and with support of key members in the neighboring cities, the County Board of Supervisors directed staff to prepare a scope for a feasibility study that would thoroughly examine the question of whether or not the runway can be extended, as well as any potential benefits or drawbacks of doing so.

On September 28, 2011, the Board received a staff report which outlined the scope, cost and timeline for the proposed study. After receiving the report, the Board directed staff to proceed

and established appropriations of up to \$767,000 to complete the study.

The purpose of the study is to determine if the runway could be improved by extending the east portion (shown in the picture below)., If this extension is possible, it's expected that it will increase usefulness and safety of the airport. It would also reduce noise to the surrounding communities. This extension would not allow larger aircraft to use the airport because the use would still be limited by other features, such as the distance between the runway and taxiway.



The scope includes review to determine if a runway extension would improve runway safety, reduce airport noise, increase operational efficiency, and increase business prospects at McClellan-Palomar Airport.

Portions of the proposed extension are over an inactive landfill. Landfills are inappropriate for footings because they are uncompacted and produce a variety of gases. This study will determine if a technological alternative exists to allow a runway extension to be constructed over this area.

After evaluation of all the options, a preferred alternative will be selected and preliminary engineering for that alternative will be completed. Kimley-Horn & Associates has been retained to complete the work. The entire feasibility study will take approximately 15 months to complete.

ECEDC Bus Tour Spotlights Gillespie Field

By Roger Griffiths, Program Coordinator



The East County Economic Development Council (ECEDC) hosted an East County bus tour for over 120 regional business people showcasing business activity. The tour around Gillespie Field included narration about the facility. A 45 minute stop was made at the Allen Airways hangar. County staff posted story boards showcasing the 70-acre EIR progress and Gillespie's ALP. A video of Gillespie activities looped while staff answered questions and handed out a Gillespie 'Economic Engine' airport stats brochure. The event was well-received and showcased the airport.

Sundowner Event Attracts a Crowd

By Viki Cole, Contract Airport Manager



The Sundowner Aerobatic Competition aviation event at Borrego on October 14 was attended by over 160 people and 57 aerobatic competitors. A total of 15 aircraft and 33 pilots competed in the two day meet. No accidents, incidents or runway incursions occurred. Assaggio's served food

and a band played live music.

Thank You, Farewell, and Happy Trails

During the past four years, Sarah Solis has been the driving force behind “Plane News.” She has served as researcher, writer, editor, layout artist, and done just about everything else involved in turning out a regular publication. In that time, under Sarah’s direction, “Plane News” has evolved into a publication we are all very proud of. The readership and popularity of “Plane News” has increased substantially – it now ranks in the top 10 of DPW websites. Sarah has done an incredible job. Sadly, this is her last turn as editor of “Plane News,” having accepted a new position outside Airports. Fortunately, she is not leaving County service.

Thank you, Sarah, for all that you have done, and best wishes in your new position.

Michael Drake

LUEG Communications Officer

**Editor's note: working as Plane News Editor for the last four years has been a blast!*

Thank you for your interest & continued support! Keep those story ideas coming.

Happy Holidays & Warmest Wishes,

Sarah Solis

Looking for a specific story? Check out our [Plane News archive](#)

[Historical Aircraft Display Information](#)

[Airports Home](#) | [Plane News Archive](#) | [Contact Editor](#)

Plane News is published by the County of San Diego [Department of Public Works](#)



Board of Supervisors:

[Greg Cox](#) | [Dianne Jacob](#) | [Pam Slater-Price](#) | [Ron Roberts](#) | [Bill Horn](#)

Chief Administrative Officer: [Walt Ekard](#) | **Director of Public Works:** [Rich Crompton](#)

Director of County Airports: Peter Drinkwater

[AIRPORTS HOME](#)