

Plane News



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“Compass Points”

By Peter Drinkwater, Director of Airports

San Diego County Airports are Economic Engines:

County Airports generate local economic strength and value to the communities they serve. The County of San Diego operates a system of eight airports with about 1,700 based aircraft, and handling approximately 625,000 annual aircraft operations from 11 runways. County Airports owns approximately 3,000 acres of land including several industrial/business parks that help fund Airport expenses.

No County of San Diego general fund money is used to pay for operations, maintenance or other support for County Airports. County Airports’ Enterprise Fund functions similarly to a private business. Revenue comes from a variety of sources including rents and leases, passenger facility charges, parking revenues, customs/landing/aircraft tie-down fees, fuel flowage royalties, permits, and federal aid to airports.

County Airports has an approximate \$1B economic impact on San Diego County’s economy. This impact is the result of direct, indirect, and induced economic benefits. Many of the county’s largest private employers rely on our airports to help support their corporate mission by giving them global reach in a global economy. Non-aviation commercial use businesses on Airport-owned property provide well paying, stable employment. The range of non-aviation industries includes: warehousing, manufacturing, fabrication including high tech systems, service industries, retail, etc. Some of the newest developments underway on Airport property include the Palomar Airport Lowe’s Home Improvement Center, fast food restaurant, gas station and bank. The completion of the environmental impact report for the Gillespie Field Cajon Air Center will soon allow aviation development to move forward. These projects promise to provide jobs, new opportunities, and generate more revenue for the community. County of San Diego’s system of airports is a positive force in the county’s economic vitality.

Clear skies & happy landings,

Peter Drinkwater

Director of Airports

Jacumba Airport... Soaring to New Heights

By John Otto, Assistant Airport Manager

On Old Highway 80, one mile east of the little town of Jacumba and 75 miles east of San Diego, Jacumba Airport, acquired from the federal government in 1953 is used mainly as an operation area for sailplanes, single engine aircraft and gliders, especially on weekends. In recent years Jacumba Airport's 2,508 foot long runway has become a hot bed of activity for glider enthusiasts.

The Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California, Ltd. (AGCSC) currently based at Jacumba can be found soaring to new heights and enjoying the majestic scenery of the high desert. Gliding is the ultimate free flying experience and is a sport for all ages. Gliding is achieved by floating on thermals created by warm updrafts of air under certain conditions, like in valleys and around mountains. Here you can enjoy the experience of flying like a bird while you enjoy the freedom of the limitless sky.

With the purchase of the "Roman's Design Winch" AGCSC has been growing and prospering like never before. It is our pleasure here at County Airports to work with members of AGCSC and Roman's Design to improve the experience of Glider operations at Jacumba Airport.

For more information about AGCSC and Glider Operations at Jacumba, Contact President Bud Robinson at bud.robinson@gmail.com.



Images Provided By: AGCSC

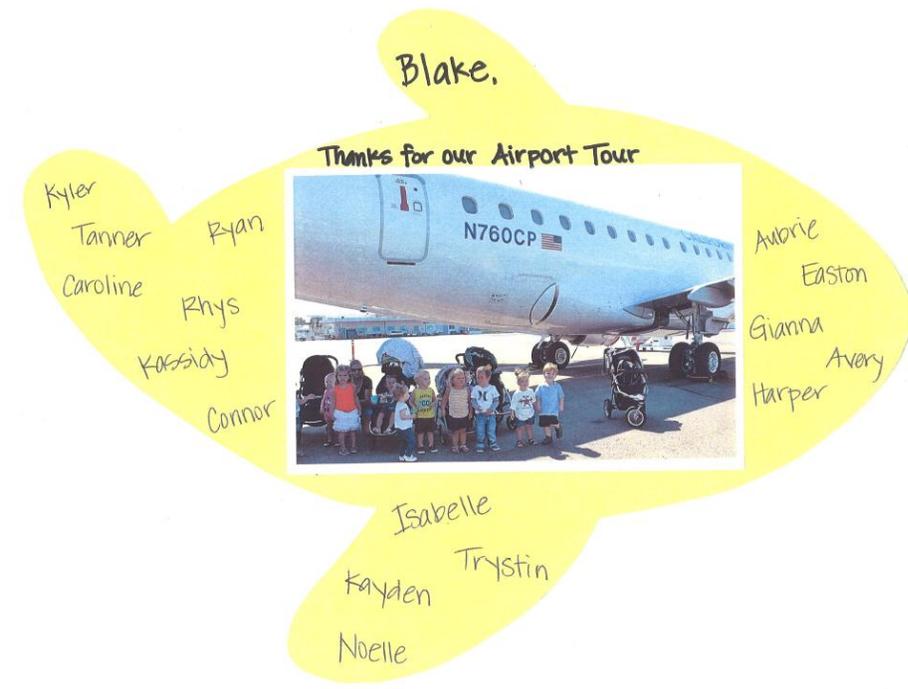
McClellan-Palomar Airport offers Tours of the Field

By Blake Matheson, Airport Operations Coordinator

McClellan-Palomar Airport offers behind the scenes tours of its commercial operations. Tours run about 90 minutes and are offered by appointment only, to children (first grade and up) and adults Monday-Friday 9am-3pm. Visitors must provide their own transportation to and from the airport.

The tour is conducted by Airport Staff Members and begins in the Terminal Ticketing Lobby. Visitors are informed about the history and construction of the building. The tour then enters TSA baggage screening for a rare look at the steps taken to ensure that only authorized items are allowed to enter an aircraft. From there the tour group gets to learn about our security operation, which involves of a visit to our Security Operations Center and a brief description of how Airport Security is performed. Next the group is provided an Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter presentation. At this point the Airport Fire Truck is demonstrated and the Fireman is available for questions. The tour ends with a visit to the Airport's Customs and Border Protection Operation. The tour group then exits the Restricted Area through the arrival gate and finishes where they started in front of the Terminal Building.

The Airport Tours have been a useful tool in promoting aviation in the local community. Groups from a wide range of ages and backgrounds have taken this opportunity to learn about our Airport. Past tour groups have consisted of elementary school children, assisted living communities, social groups and college students.



Borrego Valley Akrofest

By Viki Cole, Contract Airport Manager

The annual 2012 Aerobatic Competition in conjunction with the Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce Sundowner at the Borrego Valley Airport was a huge success. Over 200 folks from the community and 75 Chapter 36 members were in attendance. There was not one noise complaint during the entire three days of continual flying. Thursday morning the local 5th graders were bused to the field for our kick off Young Eagles event. Everyone pitched in and the kids arrived ready to eat and fly. We proceeded with a ground school lesson provided by pilots from Chapter 36. It was very exciting for the kids to see the qualifying aerobatic aircraft taking off and landing in extremely high winds. The kids were thrilled to fly in the wind as the parents sat back with considerable 'worry ridden' faces. Frank Himmerich, EAA pilot, flew 31 kids around Borrego Springs. Most of the kids had never flown before. Chapter 36 and the Airport provided t-shirts to all who participated along with hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks. After a day of constant flights in the box hoping to qualify for the event, the competing pilots were invited to attend a great party sponsored by Emmy Lou Brandt at the De Anza Country Club. Friday morning at 6:30AM pilots arrived for their briefing. Flying competition began at 8AM and continued throughout the day. The band began to play at 4 PM and the town arrived en masse. Raffle tickets sold for the aerobatic flights given by Chapter 36. Smoke filled the sky as the unlimited pilots do what they do best. The missing man formation with taps playing softly in the background was a touching moment as we all remembered our aviation friend who recently passed. Bill Bancroft read the poem High Flight and there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd. The party ended at 7:30PM as planned. Saturday was beautiful weather and the contest rolled into the afternoon ending about 3PM Just enough time to get ready for the banquet which was held on the patio at the Borrego Spring Resort. Fantastic food and a wonderful tribute. Sunday was cleanup day and the Airport returned to normal by Monday morning.



Ramona Airport Open House

By Rachel Carter, Contract Airport Manager

Over 2000 people attended Ramona Airport's annual Open House on September 22, 2012. Throughout the day everyone enjoyed a wide variety of static display aircraft, formation fly-bys, and tours of Ramona Airport and all it has to offer.

The morning started off with the early birds enjoying a pancake breakfast prepared and served by Ramona's local Los Amigos Mexican Food.

Our MC, Larry Goodman presented the opening ceremony and interviewed our Guest of Honor, Captain Claude Rowe. An original Tuskegee Airman, Captain Claude Rowe posed for pictures and signed autographs throughout the day. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for many having this aviation hero present and interacting with the public.

Our local JrROTC did an outstanding job presenting the colors. They were very polished and mature young adults and made us all very proud.

Our static display turnout was huge this year thanks to many local pilots, the 99's, and Gillespie's Air Group 1. The aircraft varied from experimental to warbirds and everything in between, including an Amphibious, "Boat that can fly." The pleasant reactions of the spectators during the Classic Fighters formation fly-bys and our very own George Watson in his T-34, was heartwarming.

Our Booths and Points of Interest throughout the day included; Ramona Fire Dept. Station 80, E7810 and Light and Air 7882, Cal Fire Air Attack, US Forestry Department trucks and Helicopter, Sheriff's Department' Copter 10, Smokey Bear, "Props and Rods," Young Eagles, Air Group 1, and CERT Volunteers.

The businesses of Ramona Airport, Pacific Executive Aviation, Julie Keane Aviation, Jimmy Carter's Flight School, Cal Fire, Chuck Hall Aviation and Classic Rotors Museum, each opened their doors to the public and displayed their facilities and our airport beautifully.

After such a tragic start to this year, with the passing of our friend, Airport manager, and my mentor Bo, I believe he would have been very proud with the success of the day.



Wings Over Gillespie 2012

Thousands showed up for the 17th annual Wings Over Gillespie Air Show which showcased the B-17 Flying Fortress, F4F Wildcat, B-25 Mitchell bombers, the SBD Dauntless, Northrop N9M Flying Wing, the TBF Avenger, the A6M Zero and other vintage aircraft.

Also on display were the USN/USMC helicopters, military and law enforcement vehicles, a NASA display, and much more.

The Air Show presented a unique family, vacation day event and had a special KidsZone area. Amusements, rides, entertainers, games and prizes, face painters, education displays, a great variety of food and beverages, and SHADE were abundant for the entire weekend.



Borrego Days Desert Festival

By Viki Cole, Contract Airport Manager

Every year pilots volunteer their airplanes and their time to help support the local Chamber of Commerce by planning the flyover for the opening parade of the Borrego Days Desert Festival weekend celebrations. This has become a tradition representing Borrego Valley Airport, the 99's and the Anza Borrego State Park. Billy Bancroft and Rick Fordom are two of the pilots who lead the pack. For added excitement this year and as a special treat for the onlookers Billy flew his Extra 300 with plums of smoke trailing as the National Anthem was sung.



All For a Good Cause

By Viki Cole, Contract Airport Manager

The Borrego Valley Airport proudly announces that during the annual Borrego Days Desert Festival weekend free flights sponsored by the San Diego Burn Survivors Foundation's blood drive was deemed a great success. Offering Helicopter rides for blood donations, Jim McCoy, pilot for Raven Helicopters out of Gillespie field, flew 39 passengers in two hours around the Borrego Valley with the help and support from his volunteer group; Alana Robinson, Christian Romero, D. Henry Jr. and Duane C. Henry.

Marcus Phares, a burn survivor himself led the brigade organizing this annual event for the San Diego Burn Survivors Foundation. Marcus, after his helicopter crash in 2000, with burns over 80 percent of his body was kept in a drug-induced coma for four months and given 26 pints of blood. Marcus has inspired all who meet him with his dedication, enthusiasm and strong will. After more that 10 years of surgeries, Marcus, behind dark glasses and a long sleeve shirt in the Borrego heat, makes sure that all passengers are briefed and escorted to the helicopter for an exciting ride around the Borrego Valley Airport, the Anza Borrego State park and over their residence if they live in the Borrego area.

Marcus' ordeal is not over by a long shot, or for the many burn survivors out there who need blood. This is an annual event and the Foundation hopes you will join us next year. You can find out about the Foundation and what you can do to help by going to www.sandiegoburnsurvivors.org.



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