

Plane News



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April 2012 - Spring



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“Compass Points”

Safety First

As life often seems to get busier and busier, with seemingly endless things to deal with and

always something to distract us, it is important for us all to manage these pressures, especially in the world of aviation.

The thoughts in this month's Compass Points will likely be nothing new to most of us, we have heard much of it before, however, it bears repeating and is worth remembering the next time you go flying, or driving for that matter.

Distractions, such as work deadlines, family issues or just being plane busy can often take our eye off the task in hand. In the sometimes unforgiving world of aviation, it is imperative that we maintain our focus and prioritize our thoughts accordingly.

When you get to the airport to go flying, take a moment, take a breath, and focus in on the activity at hand, whether flying for business or pleasure, or to get away from it all for a while and enjoy the world of flight, we have to ensure we focus on what we need to do to conduct the activity safely.

It seems very simple, and it is. It is often said but sometimes too often forgotten. When you go flying – concentrate on doing it safely, time and again.

Clear skies & happy landings,

Pete Drinkwater

Director of Airports

[New stairway at Palomar Airport](#)

Completion of new Palomar Airport stairway with state of the art solar/LED lighting provides customers and staff with improved access between the parking lots and airport businesses as well as a secondary emergency fire escape route. The design of the stairway compliments an existing stairway and elevator structure at the other end of the parking lots.



Ranger Kelly brings students out to Borrego Valley Airport

Anza-Borrego State Park Ranger Kelly McCague took some timeout of her busy schedule looking after the park, to talk to and visit with local children at Borrego Valley Airport this past March. Ranger Kelly, with her aircraft as a nice backdrop talked to the kids about being a Ranger as well as being a pilot. By all accounts everyone had a great time.



Gillespie Field High School visit

As part of Gillespie Field's Community Outreach Program, County Airports has for many years partnered with the Grossmont Union High School District to bring classes out to visit the airport. This year it was the turn of Santana High School from Santee. Students spend two hours at the airport, hearing from airport staff about working in the aviation industry as well as what they might expect as they enter the workforce after school. Each year, the Sheriff's Department provides a helicopter for the kids to tour around and Deputies give a presentation on their role and careers in law enforcement. This March some 15 students and staff attended.



Collings Foundation visits County Airports



Once again this year the Collings Foundation came to San Diego County Airports as part of their 'Wings of Freedom 2012' tour. Previous years have seen the magnificent B-17 and B-24 vintage World War II bombers and this year was no exception, with both aircraft flying regularly at each of their stops at Gillespie Field and Palomar. A most welcome addition to the regular visitors was a P-51 Mustang which also flew passengers during the visit. On April 30, following their visit to Palomar, the Collings Foundation will move over to Ramona Airport until May 2.



In Memoriam

Sadly, this month has seen the passing of two members of our Airports family. Perry Cruz, a member of our financial staff and Tom Becker aka Bo Donovan, Airport Manager for Ramona and Fallbrook. Both will be greatly missed and our sympathies go out to their family and friends.

Wings Over Gillespie 2012 - Jun 2 – 3 2012

For your calendar, Gillespie Field's annual airshow, Wings Over Gillespie will be held this year on the weekend of June 2 – 3, 2012. Organized by the Commemorative Air Force, this year's show is set to be better than ever, with vintage aircraft, exhibitions and family fun. For more information go to

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