



PROPWASH

March 2004 - Newsletter of the San Luis Obispo Pilots Association

www.slopilots.org

Hollister Fly-Out

After all the days of bad weather, the SLOPA pilots were given a break by the weather gods. With beautiful blue skies and puffy white clouds, six airplanes and 13 people made their way to Hollister Airport.

After eating (pilot's second favorite thing to do!) we took a brief tour of the Hughes Aircraft Museum. They had a US Army PT-13D Stearman, a Travelaire, "Jacqueline" a beautiful Cessna 170, and the "Flying Lady", a New Standard Model D-25 - all in beautiful condition.

Those that still needed to walk off more lunch (ask Oscar about the Philly Cheese Steak sandwich!) went to "Mustang Alley" to see several Mustangs that were in the process of being worked on.

On the way back, those of us that detoured over toward Morro Bay for some flight-seeing were lucky enough to see the two "Tall Ships" under full sail making their way out of the harbor into the open ocean. - Linda



Toll-Free ATIS/AWOS

There's a new toll-free service that provides ATIS/AWOS info for all airports with access phone numbers. Simply dial 877-anyawos (877-269-2967) and enter the 3 character identifier for the airport you want. You'll then get connected to the current ATIS/AWOS info without having to know the phone numbers for each airport.

More information is available from www.anyawos.com.

MINUTES**SLOPA Board Meeting**

February 14, 2004 9:00 AM

Spirit of San Luis Restaurant**Members Present:** Oscar Bayer, Linda Butler, Elizabeth Dinan, Richard Girard, and Dave Darbyshire**Members Absent:** Mike Kunde**Guests:** None**Reports:** Treasurer's report submitted by Dick Girard and accepted without modification. Balance on hand is approximately \$1961.85.**Minutes:** Minutes of the January 10, 2004 meeting were approved as submitted.**Old Business**

1. Rides for City and County Officials – Need to get commitments from pilots who will fly officials that day. We will need to hold a pre-flight briefing so the pilots will know what to point out.

Actions:

- Oscar to contact Adam Verdin, Jim Maul and John Eichler.
- Elizabeth to contact PCF and Air San Luis
- Linda to contact Wanda Strassburg

2. Oscar has no schedule yet for the EAA Young Eagles flights.

3. April 1st General membership meeting – will be held at Ludwick Community Center.

Actions:

- Linda and Elizabeth to arrange refreshments
- Linda will send flyers to membership about the meeting
- Board will give a doorprize of the speaker's book – Linda will contact him to arrange to purchase a copy.

New Business

1. Renewal of membership in the California Pilots Association approved.
2. We approved the renewal of the domain names "slopilots.org" and "SloPilots.com" at approximately \$16 per year and the renewal of the web page at approximately \$90 per year.
3. Dave Darbyshire to get out a newsletter mid-March – will have info in it regarding the 4/1 membership meeting; the 4/17 flight of officials; Young Eagles schedule and Board minutes.
4. Board decided that it was part of our job to "watchdog" fuel prices on the field and to keep our membership informed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM

Next Meeting

Saturday, March 13, 2004 at the Spirit of San Luis Restaurant

Website Pick-of-the-Month

Hawthorne Flight Service needs our help in order to prove their necessity to the "powers that be". Please click on the "User Survey" and complete the user survey on their website:

<http://www.faa.gov/ats/hhrafss/hhrafss.htm>.

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 1, 2004 – 6:30 PM

Ludwick Community Center
(Santa Rosa and Mill Street, San Luis Obispo)

There will be a general membership meeting and program on April 1st at the Ludwick Community Center, at the corner of Santa Rosa and Mill Streets in San Luis Obispo. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM and refreshments will be served.

The speaker will be **George J. Marrett** who flew 188 Skyraider combat missions in Vietnam and more than forty types of military aircraft as a test pilot for the Air Force and Hughes Aircraft Company. George lives in Atascadero and is the author of "Cheating Death".

The book (which will be available at the meeting) is a tale of deadly aerial combat, thrilling rescues and colorful characters and it depicts some of the most compelling aerial combat of any war, capturing the people, places and battles with a unique blend of warts-and-all clarity, heart-pounding passion, and mordant wit.

Nut Tree Airport due for overhaul

March 10, 2004- Fairfield Daily Republic, CA FAIRFIELD — The Board of Supervisors Tuesday agreed to form a "blue ribbon" committee made up of current aviation advisory committee members and others to study ways to improve the Nut Tree Airport. Supervisors also plan to hire an airport business manager who will help create a business plan for the airport, located next to the Nut Tree property in Vacaville.

A consultant's audit last year found the Vacaville air field was underused and poorly maintained. The county spent \$700,000 on the airport during the last fiscal year. One of the airport's problems is it had two airport committees made up of the same people who didn't fully understand their roles. Supervisors agreed to leave the Airport Land Use Commission alone, but to broaden the advisory committee to include other voices. Silva, who suggested including people on the committee who represent surrounding properties, voiced concern that many see the airport as a "toy" for pilots. "That's one of the problems I have with this airport," he said. "I look at this as a tremendous asset."

Supervisors asked staff to begin recruiting an airport business manager to oversee the airport. That person will likely play a significant role in addressing issues raised in last year's audit, which found the airport sells fuel too cheaply, lacks a marketing plan and is being maintained below industry standards.

The airport should be "developed and leveraged as an economic engine" for the county, said Aviation Management Consulting Group, the consultant group hired by the county. According to a county staff report, the Airport Advisory Committee and the Airport Land Use Commission met only 22 times during the past three years. Forty planned meetings were canceled.

Concord airport housing plan fights to take flight - San Francisco Chronicle, March 8, 2004

One of the most desirable pieces of land in Contra Costa County doesn't have much curb appeal — it's 600 acres of dowdy asphalt in Concord with some hangars and two runways built by the military during World War II and handed over to the county in 1947 as surplus property. But Buchanan Field Airport, which sits at the junction of two busy freeways, has the ideal location in a growing county that is a commercial hub and home to 1 million residents. That has sparked a fierce battle over whether it should remain an airport or be transformed into a community of homes, businesses, a library and community center.

"Right now, it's a waste of public land," said County Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier of Concord, who wants developers to propose ideas for housing and retail space for the property that could be similar to San Jose's popular Santana Row. "This could change the character of central county. There's a potential to really change the dynamics in a really positive way." Some development opponents allege that DeSaulnier is trying to close Buchanan because of his friendship with Tom Koch, vice president of Shapell Industries, which is building thousands of homes in the Dougherty Valley near San Ramon.

"Tom Koch has a reputation of ramrodding things through," said Dianne Cole, a director of the who adamantly opposes closing Buchanan Field. "Having an airport in the center of the county is really a terrific asset, and there isn't a hue and cry by anybody to shut the airport down." Koch, who said the idea was DeSaulnier's and not his, called the allegations "mean-spirited." He doesn't deny the merits of developing the property. "It's extraordinary. It's without parallel in the county," Koch said. "BART's a short distance. There's no impacts on any species, no wetlands. We're talking about building on an asphalt strip."

But pilots, business leaders, the Concord City Council and U.S. Reps. George Miller, D-Martinez, and Ellen Tauscher, D-Walnut Creek, fiercely oppose building on the airport, which is among the busiest noncommercial airports in the country. Even the East Bay's largest homebuilder, Albert Seeno Jr., thinks it shouldn't be covered with houses. "It's more valuable in driving the economic engine in jobs," said Seeno spokesman Bob Rossi, who added that Seeno and others market their office buildings in Concord as having an airport nearby for business travel. "They like the feeling that their corporate executives can come in here. One mile of runway takes you anywhere in the world. Once you lose that, you lose it forever."

Critics scoff at the notion that an airport is a poor use of land, saying a consultant estimated in 2000 that Buchanan brought \$63 million a year in direct and indirect benefits to the community and that it had business, recreational and emergency response value. "We don't ask for a higher and better use for a freeway or a park or a bridge," Cole said. "You don't expect to make money on infrastructure. Here, actually, the infrastructure is providing some revenue." F

DeSaulnier also faces an uphill battle with the Federal Aviation Administration, which has pointed out that the government's 1947 deed called for the county to run the airport in perpetuity and that the FAA recently provided \$14 million in federal funds to improve it. "The prospects for FAA concurrence in closing Buchanan Field are highly unlikely in light of the circumstances," FAA Regional Manager Andrew Richards wrote DeSaulnier in January. "We note that FAA has only rarely considered application ... to allow for the closure of the airport, and then only in unusual circumstances, often including the construction of replacement airport. "

DeSaulnier, who has backed off his original proposal to upgrade the county's second airport in distant Byron — a small town near Contra Costa's border with San Joaquin County — is suggesting just that. He says a new airport could be built on the site of an old landfill in Martinez or in southern Solano County, and that it would be just as convenient and useful for businesses and pilots. His fellow supervisors agreed to issue requests for development proposals, which will probably be posted in April. Any developer chosen to build at Buchanan would have to build the new airport, and although that would cost probably tens of millions of dollars, it could be worth it, Koch said. "There is precious little land left in Contra Costa County, and prices are hyperinflated now," Koch said. "I know we'll be part of any process that goes forward."

Over the decades, residents in Concord and neighboring cities have grumbled about noise from planes, most recently when helicopters from a training school, which has since moved to Florida, buzzed constantly over homes. There have been occasional plane accidents, most tragically in December 1985 when a pilot trying to land a twin-engine Beechcraft in heavy fog crashed into nearby Sun Valley Mall, killing seven people and severely injuring dozens of Christmas shoppers. Relieves other airports But the airport is seen as vital to the nation's aviation system as a reliever airport to the Bay Area's international airports. Buchanan Field had more than 129,000 landings or takeoffs last year, and more than 500 aircraft are based there — including 15 corporate jets, two sheriff's helicopters and two life-flight ambulances.

Even "People Over Planes", a citizens' group that has complained about plane noise and fought to keep commercial air service out of Buchanan Field, doesn't want the airport closed. Hal Yeager, the group's president, said that corporate jets have gotten quieter and that closing the airport could put pressure on mobile home parks nearby to constructively evict tenants because the land would become more valuable and owners would want to sell it.

Letter to San Luis Obispo City and County Official

To: Dave Romero, Mayor
 City Council Members
 County Supervisors & Supervisors-elect
 Director of Planning
 Planning Commission Member
 SLO Tower Personnel
 Airport Management
 Media

Dear: _____

San Luis Obispo County and, in particular, the area around San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport, is facing unprecedented changes. Population growth and sociological changes are creating the need to grow to meet today's demands and to be ready for tomorrow's needs.

The Board of the San Luis Obispo Pilots Association ("SLOPA") and it's members would like to invite you, as interested parties, to join us for a flight around the areas being effected by recent and pending decisions and developments. We believe these observations flights will give you a perspective unafforded by "on the ground" tours.

We have planned these flights for Saturday, April 17th (with an alternate date of Saturday, April 24th in case of inclement weather) at 10:00 AM. We will meet on the patio of the Spirit of San Luis Restaurant.

If you are interested in being included, please return the Confirmation Form enclosed or fax it to (805) 543-8850 by April 1, 2004.

We look forward to including you in this unique opportunity.

Sincerely,

Oscar Bayer, President
 SLOPA Board of Directors

Rules For Organizational Failure

Just some "food for thought" as they say.

1. Don't go to meetings.
2. If you go, be late.
3. If it is bad weather, don't even think of going
4. When you do attend a meeting, find fault with tb president and other officers.
5. Never accept an office -it is much easier to sit back and criticize.
6. If you should be appointed on a committee, don , go to the meetings. If you are not appointed, get peeved about it.
7. When your opinion is asked, reply you have nothing to say, and then after the meeting tell everyone how things should be done.
8. Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary. But when others do the lion's share, tell everyone how a clique runs the organization.
9. Don't worry about paying your dues; wait until you receive two or three notices; that will keep the organization from running out of anything to do and getting lazy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1st - Thur. - General membership meeting – Ludwick Community Center.
Guest Speaker (Meadow Park)

SLOPA Board and Officers

Oscar Bayer - President	489-0915	jobayer@slonet.org
Linda Butler - Secretary	543-8837	av8trix@sbcglobal.net
Elizabeth Dinan - Board	541-1038	
Mike Kunde		
Dick Girard - Treasurer	995-3933	
D. Darbyshire - Board		slopilots@yahoo.com

Propwash is published monthly and mailed to SLOPA members and to local aviation agencies. Members are welcomed and encouraged to submit articles and photos for publication. Submissions should be e-mailed to slolaw@yahoo.com or mailed as typed text to PO Box 292, SLO, Ca. 93406-0292, or given to a SLOPA Board Member.

Propwash

San Luis Obispo Pilots Association
PO Box 292
San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93406-0292

Address Correction Requested