



AzAA *Matter of Fact*

SPRING 2024 EDITION

Spring Conference Lookahead

Brandon Robinson, P.E., Kimley-Horn



The wildflowers are once again in bloom which means that it is officially spring in the desert. Join us for warm days, cool nights, and breathtaking views at the 2024 *Dutch Bertholf* Spring AzAA Conference in Yuma, Arizona. The conference is April 21-23, and hosted by the Yuma International Airport.

Participants can expect current and thought-provoking sessions discussing a wide range of interesting topics and presentations, in addition to our well-loved annual events such as the golf tournament, welcome reception, billiards tournament, Monday evening reception, and Awards Banquet, and President’s Reception. There are some special

organized by Yuma International Airport. This includes a guided off-road RZR tour, shooting range outing, and a “paint and sip” morning event. This year’s conference is sure to create some lasting memories for all.

The AzAA 2024 “Dutch Bertholf” Spring Conference is always an opportunity to make connections with colleagues and friends, as well as to get timely updates from the Federal Aviation-Administration (FAA), Phoenix Airports District Office (ADO), the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Multimodal Division – Aeronautics Group, and helpful information from industry experts.

The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Yuma Pivot Point. Register now for the conference, golf tournaments, and exciting evening networking opportunities at: <https://www.azairports.org/2024-Spring-Conference>



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2024 Calendar of Events

April 21-23

Spring Conference
Hilton Garden Inn, Yuma, AZ

October 2

Walter Burg Fall Conference
Phoenix, AZ

AzAA Contacts

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In Memoriam

Carl Dwayne Newman, AAE

October 2, 1955 - October 9, 2023

Chad R. Makovsky, A.A.E., Aviation Director, City of Phoenix Aviation Department | Photo provided by the Newman family

Carl Newman, A.A.E. joined the City of Phoenix Aviation Department in 1980 as an Operations Administrative Assistant. He served over 34 years at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, eventually becoming Assistant Aviation Director.

After retiring from the City of Phoenix, Carl and his wife Jeannette moved to Houston, Texas where he served as General Manager at the George Bush Intercontinental Airport. From there he moved to Jackson, Mississippi to serve as Airport Director at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport. Upon his return to Phoenix in 2019, Carl accepted the position of Aviation Director for the Glendale Municipal Airport in Glendale, Arizona, where he served until December 2022. His health no longer permitted him to work.

A longtime leader, mentor, and friend to so many in our industry, Carl was a tremendous advocate, unrelenting in his commitment to employee development. He created the aviation management development program for City of Phoenix employees that successfully motivated countless frontline employees to pursue undergraduate degrees and promotional opportunities.

Carl was also committed to leadership excellence in our industry associations. He was a long-time active member of the Arizona Airports Association and Southwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives. His work with the chapter provided him the opportunity to serve on the national board and ultimately serve as the first African American Chair of AAAE, the world's largest association of airport executives.

It is undeniable that Carl was an accomplished and distinguished professional who loved aviation and our system of airports. He earned many awards and accolades throughout his career, including AAAE's Distinguished Service Award – the highest honor bestowed upon an airport executive. His dedication, care and advocacy will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.



Airport Spotlight:

Yuma International Airport (NYL)

Kayla Chan, Pursuit Manager, Stantec

Special thanks to Gladys Brown, Airport Director at Yuma International Airport & Rolle Airfield, and Gen Grosse, Property & Community Relations at Yuma International Airport

“Although we’re a small airport, we have a lot to offer when it comes to the industry overall,” says Gladys Brown, CM, CAE, Yuma International Airport’s (NYL) Airport Director. Not many airports can say that they have the US Marine Corps Operation Testing Evaluation Center for the F-35s, have the ability to land one of the largest cargo operators, and support general aviation and commercial users on the same airfield. But to the surprise of many, Yuma International Airport (identified as MCAS Yuma/Yuma International Airport – NYL) can, and in the last few years since they won the 2021 Airport of the Year award, they’ve continued to play a key role in the Arizona aviation industry.

A shared-use airport with commercial air service, general aviation, commercial tenants, and military operations, the airport is proud of its unique ability to support a wide variety of aircraft and operations with its largest runway being 13,300-foot-long and it’s shortest of the four (4) being 5,700 feet. NYL is often overlooked for its capabilities because of its location in Southern Arizona, but the airport has a lot to offer in supporting the missions of our armed forces, playing a key role in advancing aviation, and continuing to serve the Yuma community.

The unique partnership Yuma International Airport has with the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma is one of its defining characteristics.

The airport aims to support the mission of commercial air service, general aviation, as well as our armed forces and is the only airport in the United States co-located with a Marine Corps installation in this way. Yuma International Airport and the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma (MCAS Yuma) operate through a



Joint-Use Operating Agreement that allows them to work together with the goal of safety first, security to follow, and to ensure both entities have a clear pathway as to how the airfield operates together.

“The biggest thing people don’t realize is we operate like two separate airports but we’re not, we work in harmony to ensure there is no interference or disruption with the business modeling or execution of our partner’s mission,” says Gladys, who also shared that positive and effective communication is key to this partnership.

Most people are not aware the airport doesn’t maintain or own the runways, and the air traffic control tower is a Department of Defense (DoD) operated tower with active-duty service members



At the end of the day, the community and history are at the heart of the airport's operations.



who are training alongside qualified Air Traffic Controllers. NYL even has a world-class Fixed Based Operator, Million Air, fueled by the Freeman Holdings Group, who currently is the only FBO in the nation who have qualifications and training to hot fuel an F-35. The partnerships required between MCAS Yuma, the Yuma County Airport Authority (YCAA), and each airport user is key to the harmonious airport operations.

Whether it's supporting Boeing's research and development, encouraging more general aviation flying, allowing for commercial flying operations to grow, or the coordination of the MQ-9s set to fly in the 4th quarter by the Marines, Yuma International Airport understands and values the role they play in supporting critical activities necessary to continue aviation advancement.

The YCAA invested in the development of the Defense Contractors Complex (DCC), strategically named as such as a marketing tool over two decades ago. The goal behind the creation of the DCC was to provide the

necessary aviation focused infrastructure and facilities for the ever-growing aviation and aerospace industries testing their platforms such as those at the US Army Yuma Proving Ground and other aviation organizations training in the areas' ranges. The YCAA has found themselves to be attractive to Northwest-based users and newer aviation industry leaders on the rise who enjoy the secured environment within the DCC, the at-sea-level conditions and the hot dry summer months ideal for hot weather testing and the freedom to perform critical testing and training 24-hours a day, 365-days a year. At the end of the day, the community and history are at the heart of the airport's operations.

Yuma International Airport's history dates back to 1911 when Robert Fowler, an early aviation pioneer who entered into a transcontinental air competition, stopped in Yuma. Since then, community and history have been intertwined for the aviation partners at NYL, from the development of the Joint Use Operating Agreement to the day-to-day coordination of users

and mitigating disruptions to any user's testing activities, military missions, or training exercises. The history and heritage of the airport have opened them up to operations and opportunities Gladys believes they wouldn't have if they didn't have that history and heritage or the relationship with the installation. However, it has also shaped the airport's evolution and perspective of community.

Gladys shares, "Something people don't realize it's not just about how can we make money, but are we making a difference? Is it good for the community? Is it good for our industry? For us, it is also about are we being good stewards and partners, and are we able to be compatible when we go and select someone to come and operate here? We are very

mindful about the security and the safety of not just our partner's assets across the airfield, but also those who operate on our side of the airport itself."

With over half of the airport team holding a tenure of more than ten years, the airport's community involvement and employee retention is something Gladys is proud of. Both aspects have contributed greatly to the success of maintaining the mindset of integrating community and history into all that the airport does and in focusing on how the airport and its partners can all be successful for the greater good of the airport, civilian aviation programs, military missions, the nation's security and preparedness overall.

What's in store for the future of NYL?

The master plan completed in 2022 along with their ACIP has provided a foundation for allowing NYL to qualify for FAA, ADOT and funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant Program. These various funding mechanisms allows them to upgrade areas of the airport that are past their life expectancy. Their team focuses on business development necessary to continue growing relationships and partnerships with the airport's general aviation and commercial users for aeronautical or non-aeronautical use as well as to attract businesses and grow the community's economy. Additionally, on the financial side of the airport, Gladys is proud the YCAA has the ability to reinvest into the airport and airfield for future development of its properties.





Finally, Gladys and the YCAA team are eager to host the Arizona Airport Association's 2024 "Dutch Bertholf" Spring Conference in April. Gladys shared "Arizona's aviation community is something very special as we all work together in the interest of promoting aviation in the state rather than just the success of a single airport. This AzAA Spring Conference is always an opportunity for our Airports to get together, discuss, and share

ideas to continue to position each airport in ways that will benefit all of aviation in Arizona". This will be a conference you won't want to miss as Gladys and the AzAA conference planning team have some pretty exciting and different sessions and activities planned. Check out the Conference Look Ahead on page 1 and the [conference event page](#) on the AzAA website for more information!

FIVE FAST FACTS:

- Four runways that are not maintained or owned by the airport with one Runway at 2.1 miles in length!
- They've had every military service branch on this airfield since the World War II era
- Holds a patent issued by the Department of Interior that allows ingress/egress to NYL runways (forever)
- Testing platform for the Orion space capsule until its delivery to NASA
- In 2017, Gladys became the only airport director in world history to pay for and blow up an airfield and then earn a plaque from the commanding officer and Guinness Book of World Records for the longest Wall of Fire.

AzAA Legislative Day Recap

Aly Hulet, Environmental Planner, Coffman Associates

This past January members of AzAA had the privilege of attending AzAA Legislative Day at the Arizona State Capitol. Upon arrival AzAA members had the opportunity to meet state legislators and discuss the importance of protecting the State Aviation Fund, which is fully funded by airport users and leverages \$9 of federal funding for every \$1 in the aviation fund. AzAA members also got to hear proclamations read aloud in the Arizona House of Representatives and the Arizona Senate, that highlighted the pivotal importance of the aviation industry as a means of transport and its critical role in Arizona's economy.

To further celebrate the importance of AzAA Legislative Day, a mixer for fellow AzAA members was held in the evening, where AzAA members were able to congregate and converse with one another about hot topics in the aviation field.

We hope to continue to provide opportunities to advocate for the State Aviation Fund and can't wait for 2025's AzAA Legislative Day.



See below for the proclamation read aloud in the Arizona House of Representatives by Travis Grantham.

"Whereas, the Arizona aviation industry is a crucial and reliable source of transportation, employment, innovation, tourism, and export income to the state and our nation; and

Whereas, Arizona is home to air and space activity including Ft. Huachuca Army Base, Luke Air Force Base, Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range, the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Goldwater Air National Guard Base, and the United States Geological Survey of Astrogeology Science Center; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona has a significant interest in the continued vitality of the aviation industry; and

Whereas, the Arizona Airports Association is sponsoring a day of events to celebrate the significant contributions of the aviation industry to the State of Arizona.

Therefore, I, Representative Travis Grantham, invite the members of the Arizona House of Representatives to join me in proclaiming January 29th, 2024, as Arizona Aviation Day."

Updates from ADOT

Matthew Munden, Aeronautics Group Manager, ADOT



- The Land Use Study is underway and estimated to be completed by December 2024
- SASP Update RFQ Pre-offer Conference was March 14th. The solicitation due date is April 9th. Any changes to the date will be posted, it will be posted in the Procurement portal.
- The Triennial Study RFQ is expected to be issued by the end of spring 2024
- Carmen Rose, PE was hired as the State Airport Engineer and will start on Monday, April 1st.

Updates from FAA

Mike Williams, AAE, CAE; Phoenix ADO, FAA



STAFFING

Denise Taylor-Sands has accepted a position with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We are really sorry to see Denise continue her career outside the FAA, but wish her much success.

We are actively working four (4) of our staffing vacancies and I anticipate formal announcements in the immediate future. We are working with Matthew Bilsbarrow and Taylor Neal regarding NEPA taskings, making adjustments as necessary.

Ms. Robin Sobotta, Ph.D., A.A.E., has been named as a Program Manager - Planner for the Phoenix ADO. Robin has an extensive career in airport management in Arizona and California. She is joining the FAA having most recently served as the Airport Director for the Prescott Regional Airport (PRC) in Prescott, Arizona. Robin had previously worked for the City of Phoenix Aviation Department at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). Robin received her Bachelor of Science degree in Public Relations/Advertising and Political Science from Grand Valley State University, a Master of Business Administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and her Ph.D in Public Administration from Arizona State University.

Robin is an Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) by the American Association of Airport Executives. Robin will begin her FAA career on Monday, March 24, 2024. Please join me in welcoming Robin to the FAA, the Airports Division, the Western-Pacific Region, and the Phoenix Airports District Office.

REMINDERS

BASED AIRCRAFT - The 2025-2029 NPIAS is planned for publication on September 30, 2024. Reminder correspondence has been sent to update your based aircraft information. Accurate based aircraft information is a factor in determining your airport's role, which impacts your potential federal funding. Please make any necessary updates to your based aircraft information by December 1, 2023 (COB).

Public Relations (PR) Committee Quick Facts

This committee of AzAA offers a variety of advertising opportunities for AZ airports/AzAA members through social media posts and newsletter updates. AzAA members please take the time to familiarize yourself with the PR committee and the plethora of ways it is here to support your advertising needs (See below)!

- Airports may ask the PR Committee to highlight any events, volunteer opportunities, and more being held at the airport.
- AzAA members can fill out a Member Spotlight Survey, which will then be posted on all social media accounts run by the PR Committee.
- Other AzAA committees may ask the PR Committee to spotlight its respective ongoing work and/or members.

General inquiries for social media posts or highlights in the quarterly AzAA newsletter can be sent directly to Jenny Watts. Please contact Jenny at (602) 957-1155 or jenny.watts@dibblecorp.com.

Upcoming Airport Events

Please check website for updates with QR

THE GREAT SEDONA FLY-IN

MAY 4, 2024 8AM-4PM

FREE EVENT!

Sponsored by:
Red Rock Aviation

WEAR YOUR BEST **STAR WARS** GEAR FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AIRPORT SWAG!

TWO DIFFERENT WINGS SEMINARS! (1 HOUR AM CLASS / 1 HOUR PM CLASS)

CHECK OUT THE NEW OFF-ROAD RENTAL FLEET!

SEDONA AIRPORT (KSEZ) SEDONA, AZ

PARADISE DAWGS
appreciate every day of the year

old crew
of the South West

sedonaairport.org

President's Corner

*Sarah Demory, A.A.E., ACE, Arizona Airports Association President
Assistant Aviation Director, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport*



Dear AzAA Members,

Spring in Arizona has always been my favorite time of year, with so much going on in our state; it's still ski season in the beautiful AZ mountains, and the Cactus League spring training is in session in the valley.

I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight all of the great work that AzAA leadership has been working on. Monday, January 29, 2024, was proclaimed as Arizona Aviation Day, and AzAA leadership and members spent the day at the capitol in a newly revised AzAA Legislative Day at the Capitol. And what a full day it was!

AzAA had the opportunity to meet with a number of Legislators to discuss a variety of topics; most notably for AzAA members, the main topic of discussion was the importance of protecting the Arizona State Aviation Fund. The State Aviation Fund provides funding for the planning, design, development, acquisition of land, construction, and improvement of publicly funded airport facilities, and it is vitally important this fund remains. The current draft Arizona state budget shows that those funds are in jeopardy of being swept. Thank you to the AzAA members who participated and who submitted helpful survey information which was helpful for the meetings. It was important for AzAA to have the opportunity to interface with state legislators to tell our individual stories as to how vital those funds are to our airports, as our Arizona airports are responsible for over 386,000 jobs and are strong economic engines for our communities. The conversation must continue; I encourage AzAA members to continue the dialogue with your legislators and/or write a letter in support of protecting the fund.

Increased member engagement has been an emphasis of mine; we've held some excellent membership engagement events over the past few months. We held a membership mixer in Phoenix after the AzAA Legislative Day at the Capitol at the Cornish Pasty. It was well attended, and it was great to see AzAA members. We also held our first-ever AzAA Virtual Coffee Break on Friday, March 1st. It was well attended and was another great way for members to network. Be on the lookout for information from AzAA; we plan to make this a quarterly virtual event! Our 2024 Annual Dutch Bertholf spring conference is right around the corner. The conference planning committee has done an outstanding job putting together a very thoughtful and engaging conference agenda. Many thanks to Gladys, Gen, and the Yuma Airport team for their help in planning and coordinating all conference events. I hope AzAA members can spend a little extra time enjoying all that Yuma offers and all the fun conference activities.

I look forward to seeing you all in Yuma and continuing to work with you, our members, and the airport leaders in Arizona.

Visit the website for all things AzAA - mentorship program, scholarships (not just for students!), newsletter archive, and upcoming events news, etc.
