



# AzAA Matter of Fact

News from the Arizona Airports Association

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Arizona Airports Association  
Newsletter

April 2017

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## 2017 Arizona Aviation Day at the Capitol Education and Collaboration



The 2017 Arizona Aviation Day at the Capitol event, held on January 17th, could not have occurred on a more beautiful day – high clouds mixed with sun and temperatures in the 70's were perfect for promoting partnerships and fruitful discussion among aviation colleagues and members of Arizona's legislature.

For those that don't know, this event takes months of careful planning requiring coordination among a committee of AZAA members, volunteers, public safety officials, public works, contractors, vendors, FAA, ADOT, and, of course, our elected officials and their staffs. The success of these efforts and execution was evident in all facets of the 2017 Aviation Day event, and those that had a hand in organizing the event should be proud.

The event had a little different flavor this year as we had a number of speakers instead of the couple that we have historically had. This approach was well-received, and it gave the attendees some different perspectives on the positive impact of aviation in Arizona. The speakers' perspectives were bridged with a common theme – economic impact. Aviation has an economic impact of nearly \$60 billion in Arizona, and contributes a whopping 8% to Arizona's GDP. Hopefully our legislative body heard the messages being delivered, and will take serious pause in considering any more sweeps of Arizona's Aviation Fund. We have all felt the negative impact that the sweeps from a few years ago have had, and will continue to have for the next year or more. Important planning, acquisition, and infrastructure projects have had to go on hold.



While the 2017 Arizona Aviation Day at the Capitol was a tremendous success, one annual event is not enough to remind our legislative and state officials that sweeps have a detrimental impact to the safety and development of our airports. Consistent communication with our legislature is necessary by Airport sponsors, consultants, contractors, and other vendors because we are all affected by fund sweeps. AzAA encourages all of our members to engage in regular dialogue with their district representatives.

As always, we can always count on our faithful and reliable photographer extraordinaire, Mr. Kenn Potts, for his contributions at AzAA events. Thank you, Mr. Potts!



## ADOT Corner



Since June of 2016 ADOT has engaged in a grant reimbursement request deferral plan. As explained in correspondence from August and October, there are a range of factors contributing to this lower-than-anticipated cash flow situation. As a result, the deferral plan remains in place.

ADOT believes that this condition will extend the deferral program further into calendar year 2017. Because of this deferral extension, ADOT is concerned that Exhibit C, Schedule Two of the grant document requesting the sponsor to submit a cash flow schedule does not portray a realistic payment schedule that the sponsor or ADOT can commit to in these times of extended/deferred reimbursement requests and payments. This section of the grant shows the sponsor's estimate of when cash reimbursements will be requested under normal State Aviation Fund conditions. Under the current conditions of extended grant reimbursement request payments, we believe a new approach to this section is necessary.

Over the next month, you will be contacted to discuss current and future funding requests you anticipate submitting. The intent of these discussions is to develop a clear picture of future expenditure requests and project timing. The goal of this effort is to provide you an estimated reimbursement schedule for decision-making and cash flow planning.

ADOT is considering a new Schedule Two that will allow for recognition of the sponsor's cash flow estimates and a formal notice from ADOT for an estimated date when payments are likely to start. ADOT would appreciate any input you can provide on improvements to this section of the grant agreement. This will take some time, but in the end all Federal/State/Local grants will be honored. Presently, ADOT has 14 pending Federal/State/Local grants that are temporarily held until these changes can be formalized. We are working on these changes and will present them to all of you during the Arizona Airports Association Conference in May; the staff of ADOT Aeronautics hopes to see you all then.

## Changes in the FAA Phoenix ADO

If you've not seen the latest update from Mike Williams, Manager of the FAA Phoenix ADO, the following recaps information related to staffing changes in the ADO:

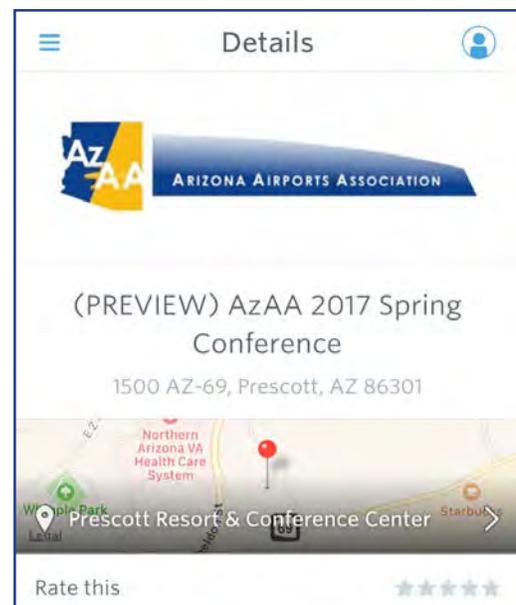
- The ADO recently welcomed Ricardo Sanchez ("Ricky") as a Civil Engineer.
- The ADO recently welcomed Michael Cox ("Mike") as an Environmental Specialist.
- Kyler Erhard was selected as Lead Program Manager for the office.
- Lorraine Herson-Jones accepted a promotion as Manager of Compliance, Office of Airports in Washington, D.C., and will be leaving the Phoenix ADO effective March, 24th.

Welcome and congratulations to our partners above at the FAA! Sponsors should be aware that an updated ADO Sponsor Assignment list was distributed, and if there are any questions or if you have not received it, please contact your Program Manager.



## Improving Your AzAA Conference Experience

Starting at this year's AzAA Spring Conference, your conference experience is about to get even better! The conference program is going mobile! Using the conference app on your smartphone, you'll have instant access to general conference information, program/session schedule, session speakers, photos and bios, sponsor information, and several other things, including other attendees (if they're using the App). More information will be available in the coming weeks and at the conference welcome table when you arrive to show you how to download the app and how to use it. We're hope you're equally as excited about using this technology as your Board of Directors is! And don't worry...while we're hoping that the membership will take advantage of this mobile technology (and help save the environment!), we will have a limited number of printed programs for those without mobile data capabilities.



# Airport Spotlight



If you're considering flying into or out of Laughlin-Bullhead International Airport (IFP), rest assured that you will be flying with folks who are saying, "Great people!" or "Great little airport!" Don't let the word "little" fool you, though...IFP offers scheduled daily airline service by American Airlines from/to IFP and PHX, with over 70 one-stop destinations available with a connection in PHX. Two charter airlines also serve Laughlin-Bullhead – Sun Country Airlines and Elite Airways. At one point in early 2017, the airport had five airlines operating including Allegiant and Xtra Airways. In 2015, the airport served 213,310 total passengers. The addition of American Airlines in February of 2017 adds 51,100 total seats in and out of Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport, a large increase in passenger capacity. In addition to airline service, the airport regularly hosts military training detachments. In 2015 and 2016, the airport was home to the U.S. Navy Training Air Wing 4, with approximately 25 T-6B training aircraft operating from January through March. The U.S. Navy added over 20,000 aircraft operations during each year of detachment to the airport.

The initial construction of what is now Laughlin-Bullhead International Airport began in 1946 to serve as transportation for equipment and personnel building the Davis Dam Power Plant. The landing field was constructed on land then owned by the Bureau of Land Management. Through a series of leases and sub-leases (and associated improvement requirements) from 1968 to 1991 through various parties including the BLM, Mohave County, Bullhead Airport, Inc., and Mohave County Airport Authority (MCAA/Authority), the Airport finally came under its current location and operator (MCAA) under ownership of Mohave County.

Today, IFP is served by an 8,500-foot runway (16-34), a federal contract Aircraft Traffic Control Tower, an ARFF facility, two main terminals, a Fixed Base Operator (Signature Flight Support), and three rental car companies. In addition, the Airport now owns and manages a substantial Business Park in the "old" Airport location, which provides an excellent source of non-aeronautical revenue helping to keep the Airport self-sustaining. Airport Director, Jeremy Keating, and Assistant Director, Tim Bannon, lead a team of dedicated professionals to keep IFP running day and night, and to help maintain, if not help increase, the tremendous \$100,000,000 estimated annual economic impact to the region! Some notable improvements and accomplishments by IFP in recent years include constructing the Darryl E. Thompson Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Facility in 2013 and constructing its largest project in two decades: a 1,000-foot extension to Runway 16-34 with associated taxiway and lighting improvements.

Whether you're looking for gaming fun at one of the nine casino resorts just across the Colorado River, looking for exciting water-sport activities in the River, or looking to explore the rugged terrain in northwestern Arizona, give IFP a try and see for yourself the convenience and pride of the Airport.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Planning for our 2017 Spring Conference in Prescott is almost complete! We hope you will be able to join us at the beautiful Prescott Resort & Conference Center from Sunday, May 21, 2017 – Tuesday, May 23, 2017. The conference committee has put together many exciting sessions from membership feedback and request, to include:



- The latest information from ADOT and FAA
- An update on FAA reauthorization
- The latest on the FAA hangar policy
- An airport round-table session with several current topics to be discussed
- A remote air traffic control tower presentation
- The latest on Runway Incursion Mitigation (RIM) Program
- And many other dynamic and informative sessions

In addition, the networking opportunities with FAA, ADOT, consultants, exhibitors, students, and airport professionals is always incredibly important.

I'd like to thank Steve Johnston, our conference committee chairman, Carmen Williams, who is coordinating the session planning, and Desirae Groth-Barquin, our Administrative Director, for her ongoing support in helping run the organization so smoothly. In addition, I want to thank John Cox, Airport Manager, and Jessie Baker, Asst. Manager at Prescott Airport for their support and hospitality! I also want to thank so many others on our conference committee who volunteer their time and talents, many year after year, to make such these events so amazing. We will recognize all the committee members at our spring conference!

As always, I'm very appreciative for the tremendous knowledge, efforts and professionalism from our AzAA membership. In addition to our incredible membership, we are fortunate to have an amazing Board of Directors who work very hard and apply their talent and time to improve our organization. The commitment from the Board of Directors and AzAA membership is directly responsible for our high-quality conferences, Aviation Day at the Capitol event, and AzAA operations. I feel very fortunate for the opportunity to serve as your President for 2016-2017, and in partnership with our dedicated Board of Directors, we look forward to serving you and supporting airports this year!

#### Remember these important events that are right around the corner:

- Spring Conference in beautiful Prescott, AZ – May 21-23, 2017. Registration is now open. See the draft agenda at [www.azairports.org](http://www.azairports.org). Please note that the Board of Directors will meet 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 20, and a tour of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University will be offered to all AzAA members 9:00am-11:30am on Wednesday, May 24.
- The Fall Conference will be held at the Sheraton Mesa Hotel at Wrigleyville West in Mesa on Monday, October 15, 2017. Watch for details this summer at [www.azairports.org](http://www.azairports.org). Hope to see you there!

**Bradley Hagen, AAE**  
AzAA President

## Mark Your Calendars!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for these important events:

- AzAA 2017 Spring Conference  
Prescott Resort and Conference Center  
May 21-23, 2017
- Annual Planning Meetings (ACIP's) April - July, 2017
- Southwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (SWAAAE)  
Airport Management Summer Conference  
Marriott Newport Beach, CA July 23-26, 2017
- AzAA 2017 Fall Conference  
Sheraton Mesa Hotel at Wrigleyville West  
October 15, 2017



## Contact Us



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