



AzAA Matter of Fact

News from the Arizona Airports Association

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Arizona Airports Association

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Chandler, Arizona Hosts 2015 AzAA Fall Conference



And then it was Fall, and time for the AzAA Fall Conference in Chandler, Arizona. But what a time it was. Even though this event is traditionally a shorter day and a half conference, it drew over 153 participants and sponsors to the SoHo63 venue and once again brought us rekindled friendships, technical updates, and a renewed understanding of the issues and challenges facing Arizona Aviation today. Industry leaders, government officials, and airport and operations managers from across the State came together to exchange ideas, concerns, and to better understand the benefits that the aviation industry provides to the Arizona economy every day. Conference goers also got to experience the fantastic variety of restaurants and shopping offered by downtown Chandler as well. The pictures tell it all. A gathering of good friends, a great program, and a fantastic venue inviting all of Arizona's aviation interests to meet under one roof.



Presentations made included FAA Updates, an ADOT discussion of its organizational restructuring, and specialty topics on Security risks and recent trends of laser use against aircraft. Additional subjects included current environmental regulations, and Arizona Town Hall topics regarding Transportation in Arizona. Arizona Highways gave a great presentation pertaining to the evolution of photography over the years in its magazine, highlighting some of the greatest scenery Arizona has to offer. All of this and more were delivered by some of the top names in the Arizona aviation industry. Time now to look forward to our next great event. See you in Flagstaff this Spring.

AzAA 2015 Fall Conference Summary

The 2015 AzAA Fall Conference in downtown Chandler has come and gone. We had a great turn out with over 150 registered attendees. In addition, we had 11 of our corporate partners register as exhibitors for the conference. It was a great conference providing many sessions to update our membership on aviation issues and it also served as a great opportunity for networking!

We would like to thank our corporate sponsors – ADB Airfield Solutions, ADOT Multimodal Planning, AGATE Inc., Applied Pavement Technology, Armstrong Consultants, Inc., Brewer Cote of Arizona Inc., C&S Companies, Coffman Associates, Consulting Engineering Inc., Corbins Electric, CR Engineers, Inc., CSHQA, Delta Airport Consultants, Inc., Dibble Engineering, DOWL, DWL Architects + Planners, Inc., Erect-A-Tube, Honeywell International, Inc., Huitt-Zollars, Inc., Jacobs Engineering, JK Engineers, Inc., Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Mead & Hunt, Inc., Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, PSM2, Rural Electric, Inc., Stantec, Inc., and Yuma International Airport.;

In addition, thank you to our exhibitors – AGATE Inc., Armstrong Consultants, Inc., Brewer Cote of Arizona Inc., Consultant Engineering, Inc., CR Engineers, Inc., Dibble Engineering, MB Companies, Inc., Nicholas Engineering, Inc., Potters Industries, Quality Testing, LLC, and SWCA Environmental Consultants. Without our terrific partners, we would not be able to hold these conferences to learn and network.

We also had 30 fantastic attendee giveaways. Thank you to Kimley-Horn, Trace Consulting, Inc., Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Honeywell, DWL Architects, CSW Contractors, Inc., Tucson Airport Authority, Genesis Consulting Group, LLC, 115 Degrees West, Mohave County Airport Authority, Mead & Hunt, Inc., Eloy Municipal Airport, C&S Companies, Consulting Engineering, Inc., Quality Testing, LLC, Tristar Engineering and Management, Inc., Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and Yuma International Airport.

We now turn our attention to beautiful Flagstaff, Arizona for our 2016 Spring Conference on May 1-3, 2016. The conference will be held at the High Country Conference Center and hotel reservations are being set up for the Drury Inn & Suites, which is attached to the conference center. We will be starting our Spring Conference committee planning in a little over a month. If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, let us know by emailing info@azairports.org. We have already heard from many who would like to participate.

Thank you again for making the Fall 2015 Conference a success and we look forward to seeing you in Flagstaff at the Spring Conference!

By:

*Mrs. Carmen Williams, C.M., ACE
AzAA 2nd Vice President
Conference Planning Co-Chair*

*Grants and Procurement Coordinator
Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport*



*Mr. Bradley Hagen, A.A.E.
AzAA 1st Vice President
Conference Planning Co-Chair*

*Airport Projects Operations Supervisor
Mesa-Falcon Field Airport*



Mesa-Falcon Field Airport

City Celebrates Mesa-Falcon Field Airport Terminal Building Renovation

The newly renovated terminal building at Falcon Field Airport will provide upgraded facilities for pilots, passengers and the public in a modern setting. It will be the first of several improvements to be completed this fall and in early 2016 at Falcon Field Airport.

Construction on the terminal is scheduled for completion in November, and a ribbon-cutting celebration will be held 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, December 12. The public is invited to attend. The terminal is located at 4800 E. Falcon Drive in northeast Mesa. District 5 City Councilmember David Luna will be among City of Mesa officials who will cut the ribbon at 11:30 a.m. to re-open the facility.

“The former terminal was more than 40 years old, so this renovation will provide pilots and visitors with a beautiful and functional entrance to Mesa,” Airport Director Corinne Nystrom said. “We hope the aviation community and residents of Mesa will come out to help us celebrate the opening of this much-needed facility!”

The interior useable area will increase from 3,560 to 5,600 square feet by encompassing the existing building footprint. Interior improvements will include the lobby, public waiting area, pilot briefing room, conference room, and restrooms. The exterior appearance also will be updated, and the public aircraft viewing area will be expanded.



“Pilots will have more space to prepare flight plans, there will be charging stations for electronic devices, and the conference room off the lobby will provide meeting space that can be used by the aviation community,” Nystrom said. Pilots and passengers will have access to restrooms and snack machines 24 hours daily. A shaded patio and grass areas will provide Mesa residents a scenic spot to watch aircraft and have a picnic.

DWL Architects + Planners, Inc. designed the terminal improvements, and Builders Guild, Inc. is the general contractor for construction. The \$2 million project is funded by the Airport, which is a City of Mesa enterprise. The Airport is financially self-supporting through user fees and does not receive City General Fund revenues to operate.

In addition to the terminal renovation, grants totaling more than \$2 million have been awarded to Falcon Field for improvement projects to be completed in upcoming months.

“The projects are included in the approved Falcon Field Airport Master Plan and five-year Capital Improvement Program,” Nystrom said. “We continuously seek federal and state grant funds to stretch our dollars and make regular airport upgrades.”

Realignment of Taxiway A is planned to help prevent unauthorized aircraft and vehicles on the runways. Blast pads on both ends of the Airport’s north runway will be installed to reduce dust particulates and the erosive effects of propeller wash and jet blast. A new aircraft washing facility will be built on the existing site within the Airport hangar complex. The project will include a new 3,000 square-foot covered and lighted drive-through self-service bay, an additional 3,000 square-foot open-air self-service bay, and new washing equipment.



For more information about the terminal ribbon-cutting or other improvement projects, call 480-644-2450 or email Airport.Info@mesaaz.gov.

Walter Fix — An Aviation Success Story

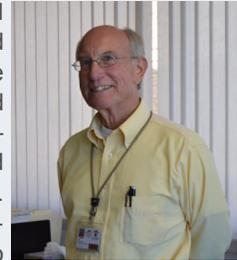
Mr. Walter Fix. You know this guy. At some time over the last 42 years you have crossed paths with him as he fueled your aircraft, filed your flight plan, ran your operations or managed your airport for you. Walt is one of those folks that has literally done it all over the course of his career. I have personally admired Walt and those like him, because he is one of the old school professionals that learned this business from the ground up. None of Walt's achievements are based on theory, or something he read somewhere. Walt instinctively knows how all of the inner pieces of your airport work because there is not an airport job around that he has not been exposed to or done personally.

Walt has held a few different jobs over the years. Beginning in 1973 he began pumping fuel into airplanes, performing general maintenance, and renting cars over on the GA side of Sky Harbor International Airport. In 1981 he became the fuel foreman for the Phoenix General Aviation Executive Terminal. Apparently seeking more excitement he transferred over to new responsibilities as the Operations Duty Manager in 1984, a position he held for many years.

In 1994 Walt transitioned into the "Big Time" and became the Airport Manager at Deer Valley until he finally decided to retire in 2001. However, retirement did not last long as he was almost immediately recruited by Phoenix-Mesa Gateway to become their Director of Operations, Maintenance, and Planning. Finally in 2010 he decided to reduce his presence at Gateway to part time, only to receive a call for assistance at Glendale. He juggled both of those positions simultaneously for six months, when he finally bowed out of Gateway and went full time at Glendale in June of 2012.

Today, after several more years of distinctive service as the airport manager at Glendale, Walt has announced his retirement. (Have we heard this story before?).

Throughout all of this Walt Fix still found time to get married and raise a family of three boys. He served in the Marine Corps, and attended Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Walt has served distinctively in all facets of his life. To say that he serves as an example to all of us of what to do right in life is probably an under statement.



Walt is a quiet, thoughtful, and unassuming man who does not seem to get too excited over anything. He just takes everything in stride and makes it work. So I had to ask Walt for some words of wisdom. Some guiding direction to help the rest of us achieve the success that he was able to accomplish over the course of his career. His words were simple. "Don't burn your bridges" The aviation world is a very small community and you're probably going to see the same people over and over again in various circumstances during your career. "Don't burn your bridges" means keeping your options open, and maintaining your ability to work with everyone, now, and in the future.

My final question for Walt was "What's next", consulting perhaps. No, no he said. This time I really mean it. Retirement for real. We have plans and things to do.

Godspeed Walt. Whatever you do in retirement is going to be great.

By: *Mr. Richard A. Crosman*
AzAA Associate Director

Senior Vice President
Genesis Consulting Group



PHX-Mesa Gateway Airport—New Air Service Announcement

Allegiant Air announced new nonstop service to Memphis (MEM), Des Moines (DSM), and Fresno (FAT) through Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (AZA) with service starting in December. The announcement grows their total nonstop destinations served from AZA to 38 cities.

"Allegiant Air has been a good partner and this is another example of how well we support each other," said Town of Queen Creek Mayor and Airport Authority Board Chairman, Gail Barney. "I look forward to greeting passengers from these new markets and I congratulate Allegiant on another expansion at Gateway Airport."

Memphis Mayor A C Wharton Jr. said, "These new nonstop flights to Phoenix-Mesa are yet another example of positive momentum for Memphis and the Memphis International Airport. Memphians have another destination, and this opens the door for additional tourists to come and see the many great things our city has to offer."

"We are pleased with Allegiant's decision to expand service at Gateway," said Jane Morris, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority's Executive Director. "Because of our Board's commitment to air service development, we have the terminal capacity available to accommodate this expansion of service and more. Residents throughout Arizona will celebrate and embrace these new destinations at Gateway."

And A Few Other Things

You Cannot Get Results?

I have a saying on my personal email, "Don't be upset with the Results you don't get, for the work you don't do." For years I have heard it said, "I should have got that job," or "they should do it this way." Most of the time I hear this I wonder do they think things happen through osmosis. I have yet to find the person who could read my thoughts, or do what I want without getting involved.

AzAA is the same way. If you are not involved, do not get upset with the direction it is taking. AzAA is a great group of likeminded individuals that want to be involved and want to see the best for our industry. If you look at the list of members since its inception in 1979 a who's who of Aviation Leaders all have been involved. Many of which are respected National Leaders. We also have had members that were less memorable, and did not achieve National prominence.

The direction changes every year, some years more than others. Change is most often affected by those most involved. Individually we do not always agree with the changes; however that does not make it right or wrong. Change can be embraced, fought or changed again. It will not change on its own, or by what we think to ourselves, or what we say behind the scene. It can only change from being involved.

Every year we push for membership, we also look for individuals to be involved with the board. And every year we see new faces join, and new members run for the board. We also see old friends retire, and leave the board. We also see members stay in the membership, yet not get involved. I challenge them to stay involved. The direction AzAA turns is dictated by those that are involved. I challenge those old members to recruit new members and make a difference! After all, AzAA can only be as strong as its participating members.

By: Mr. Barney Helmick
AzAA Past President

Airport Director
Flagstaff Airport



Glendale Municipal Airport Receives New Manager

The City of Glendale recently hired Mr. Kenn Potts as the new airport administrator for the Glendale Municipal Air-port. His first day on the job was July 27.

"I have worked at larger airports in the past and have spent the past nine years working for Arizona Department of Transportation," Potts said during a recent inter-view. "I had been in airport management for 25 years before that and I loved it and decided to get back into that."

Potts spent nearly nine years with the Arizona Department of Transportation, in the Multi Modal Division's Aer-onautics Group, and his career of more than 25 years includes managing airports in Michigan, Vermont, and North Carolina. A Glendale resident, he holds a master's degree in business administration from Western Michigan University, has a pilot's license and is a member of the American Association of Airport Executives.

"Kenn will be a great addition to our public works team," Public Works Director Jack Friedline said. "His experience in airport management and his team approach to working with our airport partners and customers will ben-efit the City of Glendale in many ways."

Potts has the advantage of working with former administrator Walt Fix, who retired Aug. 3, but is staying on the job a few weeks to assist with the transition.

"In most of my other jobs, I didn't get to work with the current airport manager," Potts said. "(Fix) has been a great asset and I am taking advantage of him while he is here."

*"Excerpt from the
Glendale Star"*



Mr. Walt Fix & Mr. Kenn Potts
Changing of the Guard
Glendale Municipal Airport

Navajo DOT—Airport System Master Plan



“Nizh ónigo nil a’do t’a’ “ Soaring Ahead



Navajo Nation Division of Transportation’s multi-airport system master plan finalized

The final steps needed for the completion of the Navajo Nation Airport System Master Plan are underway. This important project began in May of 2014 with a traditional Navajo blessing ceremony, followed by a well-attended project kick-off meeting led by Armstrong Consultants, Inc. and the remainder of the consultant team at the Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) Complex in Tse’ Bonito, New Mexico.

The Navajo Nation Airport System Master Plan focuses on five airports within the Navajo Nation which are currently included in the FAA’s National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). The five Navajo Nation airports included in this study are Chinle Municipal, Tuba City, Window Rock (located in Arizona) and Crownpoint and Shiprock (located in New Mexico). These airports were selected for the study because of their inclusion in the NPIAS, and therefore their eligibility to receive planning grants. Furthermore, they were also included due to their location within primary growth centers within the Navajo Nation.

It was apparent before the onset of the study that the airport system plays an important role in the daily lives of Navajo Nation citizens. As such, the consultant team, with great support and assistance from the NDOT – Department of Airports Management, provided opportunities for Navajo Nation citizens that use the airports to participate and collaborate in the study. This was accomplished with the creation of a comprehensive bilingual public outreach program. The outreach program accomplished its goals by listening to the concerns of the public and tribal programs directly involved with each of the airports. Ultimately, the comprehensive feedback collected allowed the NDOT and the consultant team to prepare the Airport System Master Plan.

Along with the input received from the communities, the study describes the short, medium, and long-term developments of each airport. The study also identifies and prioritizes the improvements and the investments needed to enhance safety at the airports and improve operating conditions. The ultimate goal is to provide future direction for the airport system development in a financially feasible manner while meeting the needs of the Navajo Nation.

Mr. Arlando S. Teller, Program Manager of the NDOT - Department of Airports Management, along with the consultant team, presented the draft Airport Layout Plans (ALPs) for each airport at the NDOT Regional Planning meetings held in December 2014 in order to ensure input from the Chinle, St. Michaels, Tuba City, Crownpoint, and Shiprock Chapters was captured and consistent with the vision, goals, and objectives of the surrounding communities. The ALPs depict all of the recommended planned development on and around each airport; the recommended planned development is the outcome of the inventory, facility requirements, and needs assessment portions of the study. The draft final report was released in April 2014, just under the 12-month completion goal for the study.

Currently, the consultant team is in the process of incorporating final comments from federal and state agencies. Once their comments have been addressed, the Navajo Nation President, Mr. Russell Begaye, will be reviewing, approving, and signing each ALP, to finalize the Navajo Nation Airports System Master Plan.

The Navajo Nation Airport System Master Plan has successfully documented the existing and anticipated aviation demand at five of the Nation’s airports, as well as provided practical and implementable phased development plans based on input and guidance from the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), FAA, NDOT, ADOT, NMDOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and most importantly, the local communities. Going forward, the Navajo Division of Transportation now has a powerful resource to help guide the way for a more organized, well-planned, safe, and efficient system of airports within the majestic Navajo Nation.

By:



Mrs. Jenny Watts
Airport Planner
Armstrong Consulting Inc.



A Message from your AzAA President

The Year to be Proactive and Involved

The Arizona Airports Association understands the importance of aviation for our communities and State economy. This is the year to be proactive rather than reactive as the competition from surrounding states work on attracting the Arizona business into their respective state. One of the first items on the long “to-do” priority list is to educate your community, legislative representatives, and local leaders about the business at your Airport. AzAA is encouraging every airport sponsor and/or airport consultants to reach out to the leaders and community by conducting tours, schedule working luncheons and provide presentations in local chapter meetings to highlight your airport and the economic impact of aviation in Arizona.

The AzAA Legislative Committee lead by Past President Helmick has reached out to the membership to encourage getting legislators more involved or knowledgeable about the airport(s) as well as the importance of protecting the aeronautical funding and the ADOT Aeronautics Division. Please take time over the next months to dedicate time from your busy schedule to have these informational meetings sharing the great things which are specific to your airport as well as the statewide concerns especially protecting the aeronautics grant funds.

Another topic shared with me recently was the amount of work airports need to complete such as meeting with FAA and ADOT, the ACIP submittals, the grant application requirements, and much more. Proper planning is necessary for our airports and consultants in order for any project and associated work to be completed in a timely manner throughout the year. Understanding the responsibilities as the airport sponsor and the commitment to get grants started does take proper planning and execution starting from consultant selection to project close outs. Every airport should use the resources readily available as well as work closely with the as-signed personnel from the FAA and ADOT teams. Every year it is important to remind ourselves that through proper planning and communication we can have a successful year and many more to follow.

Upcoming AzAA Events

The AzAA Fall conference at SoHo63 in Chandler with approximately 150 members in attendance had a full day planned with sessions and breakouts to meet with exhibitors. Thank you to those who were able to make it out and attend the wonderful informative sessions, and a special thank you to the sponsors and exhibitors who help make the conferences a success. The updated attendee rosters have been provided, and presentations will be posted shortly as we get the permission for each of them. There are a couple of “save the dates” for your calendar with expectations of more educational sessions as well as networking opportunities with your colleagues and agencies.

- **January 28, 2016 - Arizona Aviation Day at the Capitol**
- **May 1-3, 2016 - AzAA Spring Conference in Flagstaff, AZ**

Lastly, I want to encourage each of the members to reach out when you can to other airports and consultants who may not know about the benefits of joining AzAA. The AzAA Board of Directors are always available to our membership and open to learning how AzAA can improve every year and the opportunity for the membership to be more involved. AzAA is here for you and was formed to bring together the representatives of public/ private airports and others interested in the general benefit of aviation to provide information, expertise and support to all those in the State's aviation industry. Further, AzAA works to foster public recognition of airports and the airport executive profession, and to assist in the future development of air transportation in Arizona. This is the mission and focus of AzAA.

Gladys Wiggins, C.M.
AzAA President

Airport Director,
Yuma International Airport



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or things you might like to see in future newsletters. We can be reached at:

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