



April 2006

PROPWASH

Newsletter of the San Luis Obispo Pilots Association

Board of Directors

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President's Post'its:



Wanda Strassburg

Fellow Pilots,

I would like to thank the board and associates for their support of me in stepping into the seat as President of The San Luis Obispo Pilots Association. The passing of our greatly talented President Wanda Strassburg will leave a void forever in the flying community; she will be greatly missed.

Airport Day planning meeting went well on Thursday night. Saturday was a day of some good news on a sad day. Wanda's family gave permission and their blessing to the dedication of the Airport Day to Wanda and in Wanda's name. This service today was very moving and emphasized the great benefit of flying to her sanity and wonder's of God. Thank you all again for your support for Airport Day – we will have a great day.

Please note the following item for your calendar;

April 26th 5 pm, San Luis Avionics on the west side of the airport. This is a SLOPA general meeting with food, hanger flying, and a look at the latest in race planes, glass panels, and two special surprises.

I would like to say to anyone who is interested in or asked to be active as a volunteer or officer with this organization, don't hesitate - - it is a pleasure working with such talented and interested people. We are working as a unit to support GA in San Luis Obispo. We will have a great effect on this airport if we pull together, work together, fly together, and support those who support the general aviation groups in our county.

To invent an airplane is nothing. To build one is something. To fly is everything. – *Otto Lilienthal*

Thank you
John L. Eichler - President SLOPA

San Luis Obispo Pilots Association

General Meeting of the membership and interested parties

Date: Wednesday, April 26th, 2006

Time: 6pm Meeting. Meet, greet and hangar flying 5pm to 8pm

Place: San Luis Avionics, 4339 Santa Fe Rd. #48, San Luis Obispo Airport

Watch for e-mail flier for details

Special Guest – Ed Rosiak

Ed Rosiak, recently elected as President of the California Pilots Association (of which SLOPA is a Chapter) will be at the SLOPA meeting to help us kick off our renewed efforts to support our airport. The California Pilots Association is a statewide, non-profit, volunteer organization whose mission is the promotion and preservation of California's general aviation airports, as well as our rights as pilots.

Ed is passionate in his belief that we must all work together to defend our airports and rights. The California Pilots Association (CalPilots) believes in a three tier airport support model; local/statewide/national. This change of support strategy is necessary due to the fact that our nation's airports are under constant attack by fanatical neighbors, clueless politicians, and the never ending push from developers to use the open land around airports designed as safety and noise barriers.



Photo by Keith Godfrey

Come to the meeting to welcome Ed, who is traveling from the Bay Area to be with us, and your fellow aviators. Please go to the CalPilots website for more information on the organization (www.calpilots.org)

Welcome

SLOPA is ready for take off. We are updating our web site <http://www.slopilots.org/>, re-launching the Propwash newsletter, and are striving to be a major social and informational resource for the San Luis Obispo County aviation community. All pilots and aviation enthusiasts are invited to join SLOPA, and are reminded to frequently check the website for the latest local aviation news, events, hanger talk, and all things general aviation on the Central Coast.

The San Luis Obispo Pilots Association is a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting and improving the enjoyment and benefits of aviation for association members and the general public.



Photo by Keith Godfrey

If you have suggestions for the newsletter, or would like to submit an article, and or photographs, please contact us at Propwash@slopilots.com, or call Bruce at 474-1408. Propwash will be published quarterly with plans, eventually, for monthly issues.

On a personal note: like many, I feel very fortunate to have Wanda's signature in my logbook.

Bruce Brown – Propwash Editor

Announcement

SLOPA is seeking candidates to fill a Director position on our Board of Directors. A Director is a member-at-large, a professional consultant, and has a voting voice. An ideal candidate would be an enthusiastic advocate of general aviation in our community, and willing and available to contribute time and talents to such activities as fly-outs, Airport Day, and promotional “good well” events. To apply, or request more information, contact John Eichler: 543-4366 or jeichler@charter.net

Upcoming Events

April 20: EAA Chapter 170 Meeting, 7pm At the new CDF fire station at San Luis Airport. Enter parking lot off of Broad Street south of Terminal. General meeting and tour of station.

April 26: SLOPA General Meeting. Everyone invited. 5pm at San Luis Avionics, 4339 Santa Fe Rd., San Luis Obispo. Aircraft displays, BBQ? Let us know if you can make it, treasurer@slopilots.com or 542-0850.

May 6: 99's Fly-out to Salinas. Contact Liz Dinan: 545-8663.

May 9: FREE Aviation Safety Seminar - San Luis Obispo Aviation Safety Program, Featuring Andrew Rorke (National Weather Service) SLO Vet's Hall 6:30pm. Gary Sparks 801-6308.

May 12-15: SBP, Collings Foundation Flying Fortress. Wings of Freedom Tour. 800-568-8924 for flight reservations.

June 3: 99's Fly-out to Half Moon Bay. Contact Liz Dinan: 545-8663.

July 24-30: Oshkosh EAA Airventure 2006. If interested in a fly-out caravan, contact John Eichler: 543-4366

New San Luis Airport CDF Station

Article and photos by David Chivens

Fire Captain Don West graciously offered to give a tour of the new CDF station at the San Luis Obispo Airport. Located off of Broad Street, south of the terminal, the new structure is quite impressive and the tour revealed many interesting aspects of the CDF roll at the airport.



General aviation pilots get a huge safety benefit from having the properly equipped fire station on the airport, a benefit that results from FAA requirements for airports that are served by scheduled airline operations. While this station is part of the overall CDF organization and does respond to many types of emergency fire and rescue operations throughout the county, there are always staff and equipment dedicated to airport operations that are available 24/7 at the airport.

The County contracts with the state to provide fire and rescue services through CDF. In the case of the airport fire station, the costs are split between the county fire budget and the airport budget in order to properly allocate costs for providing the aviation requirements. The approximately 2.8 million dollar cost for the new building was split 50/50 between the fire budget and the airport budget.



Captain Don West

Additionally, some of the specific equipment needed for the airport is funded by FAA grants.

The main equipment dedicated to airport operations is the 50,000 pound gross vehicle weight foam dispensing truck. This vehicle, built by Oshkosh, carries a 1500-gallon water tank and a concentrated foam tank that is used to apply AFFF (aquias film forming foam) to suppress aviation fuel fires. This large truck is powered by a 575 HP Detroit diesel engine and has all wheel drive that enables it to rapidly deploy to a crash scene and pump foam through two dispensing nozzles at rates up to 750 gallons per minute. The large steerable nozzle on top of the cab can dispense 500 gpm and the smaller nozzle located above the front bumper can dispense about 250 gpm. The truck carries enough foam concentrate to deliver 6,000 gallons of foam, which of course requires refilling the 1,500 gallon water tank several times. The diesel engine is continuously kept warm and ready to start by means of electric coolant heaters, and the truck carries various rescue equipment, such as the hydraulic “jaws of life”.

There is actually an older second similarly equipped truck that was procured from government surplus that is used for back up, but is generally operationally ready to respond to an emergency as well.



Don West and the Foam Truck

There are 9 full time staff members that man the station. At least 3 are always on duty, often 4, and they have had airport specific training in addition to the normal CDF requirements. For significant emergencies, they can get assistance from other CDF stations and from a 25 person volunteer group that is available. Captain Don West and Captain Mark Cameron are both pilots so their general aviation background is a definite plus should any of us ever need their assistance. Thankfully, we have never had a serious fire at the airport, but it is good to know that we are prepared.

The facility itself is quite a step up from the old prefab building that was previously used. Included are a modern kitchen and lounge area that would look good in any home, and a nicely equipped conference room. The

architecture is very attractive, looks good in the airport environment, and sets the standard that the airport management would like to see carried over to future buildings that are planned for the airport, such as the new terminal and possible new FBO facility. The nice bunch of guys that man the station are rightfully proud of their new home.

From the Airport Desk

"Airport Management is in the process of updating access procedures to the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport. This is being done to effectively meet Federal Security requirements. All airport tenants/users will be required to obtain an access card. Codes will no longer be issued. Codes that have been issued in the past will be expiring.

Individuals who have already been assigned a personal code will soon be receiving a notice of this change. Once notices have been sent, individuals will have 30 days to obtain a card before their code expires. Notices will include a blank application form and procedures on how to obtain the card. If anyone has questions prior to the notices being sent out, an email can be sent to staff@sloairport.com. In addition, a pdf file of the Airport Access Request Form is available to individuals who choose to request a card prior to receiving the notice.



Photo by Keith Godfrey

Please make sure all appropriate sections are completed to avoid a delay in issuing the card. Forms missing necessary information or signatures will be returned for completion." Per Craig Piper – Airport Operations Supervisor

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to David Chivens for his creative contributions.

*San Luis Obispo Pilots
Association*
www.slopilots.org



Note: You can buy a used airplane for about the same price as a new sports car.

Riddle: What's the main difference between the sports car and the airplane?

Answer: If you speed up the sports car to about 75 miles per hour and pull back on the steering wheel, nothing very interesting happens.

---John S. Denker



Spirit of San Luis Restaurant

Located at the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport, the Spirit is at the center of activity for area business, aviation, families and travelers who love its friendly atmosphere and great food. Sit on the patio and watch the world come

and go by air or inside where a century of aviation history decorates the walls. Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner, anytime is great to get "the Spirit".

925 Airport Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA

805-549-9466,

Hours M-Sa 7am-8pm, Sunday 9am-8pm