



# Gillespie Pilots Association Meeting Minutes

P.O. Box 711591  
Santee, CA 92072-1591  
December 3, 2022  
Membership Meeting

**GPA President Captain Denis Breslin** welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 0901 hours. The meeting is open to all GPA members and those who are signing up at the present meeting, including one visitor who flew down from Bracket Field just for the meeting. (There were approximately 45 in attendance)

**GPA President Breslin** presented the meeting agenda and welcomed the guest speaker, San Diego County Director of Airports, Mr. Jamie Abbott.

**Gillespie Pilots Association Website** <https://www.gillespiepilotsassociation.org>;

- **GPA membership dues** – still only \$20 for the whole year! Time to renew for 2023.
- Check out the GPA on **Facebook**. Be sure to check out the GPA Facebook page.
- **Socialflight.com** – What’s happening in Aviation – GPA meetings are listed under ‘Events’
- List of **2022 GPA Board** members.
- **Classic Aircraft Display** from 0900-1000 on the Admin and East transient ramps.
- **GPA Webcam**: The webcam is up and running again. Here is the link: [GPA Webcam](#)
- **Congrats**: Congratulations to “Albert” who just earned his Private Pilot Certificate.

**I Golden State Flying Club Christmas Party:** All are welcome to the Annual Golden State Christmas Party Saturday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 PM. There’ll be food, drink, and fellowship at Golden State’s office on the corner of Johnson and Bradley.

**II GPA Toys for Tots:** The annual Toys for Tots program is always looking for new donated, un-wrapped, gifts that will later be given to children in the community during the Christmas season. There are several drop-off locations around the County and Gillespie Field. President Breslin asked for any volunteers who would be willing to literally fly the toys up to Ramona Airport later in the day to join the toys collected from other sites. Several people said they were available and would meet up after the meeting adjourned.

**III Aircraft Accidents:** President Breslin discussed some of the recent aircraft accidents, specifically the mid-air crash between a B-17 and P-63 from the Commemorative Air Force on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> over the “Wings Over Dallas Airshow.” There were a total of six fatalities between the two aircraft, with several GPA members acquaintances of those lost.

The incident occurred when a P-63 struck the fuselage of the B-17 just aft the wing as both aircraft were approaching the show centerline. The focus of the investigation is on why the two aircraft were flying on the same line, when they should have been on separate tracks. President Breslin shared a video by Juan Browne, a popular “youtuber”, who focuses on aviation related content on his “Blancolirio” channel. In his assessment, Browne is critical of the “Air Boss” who is the one who directs the traffic, implying their direction caused the aircraft to conflict. The video link is below, but understand this is Browne’s opinion and the investigation is still ongoing and not complete.



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<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=IRVqg-pCb6o>

- IV No January GPA Meeting:** There will not be a January GPA meeting due to the New Year's holiday. There has been however a long-standing tradition of a fly-in to **Chiriaco Summit** (L77) every January 1<sup>st</sup>. The airport is roughly 40 nm east of Palm Springs on I-10 and is part of an old WWII training base. If you plan to fly over, there is no set time, but most plan to fly in for breakfast or early lunch.
- V Thank you Chris "Oz" Van Stelle:** GPA Webmaster, and all-around great guy, Chris Van Stelle has done a lot of work and technical support for the GPA, but in Jan 2023 he will be stepping down from his position. Chris is the VP of the SW Council of Air Shows and is responsible for the annual Miramar Air Show as well as several others, so that is where he will need to focus more of his time. Thanks for everything Chris!
- VI Gas Prices:** Fuel prices continue to be high, but steady with SAN the highest at \$9.36 and SDM the least expensive at \$5.35 per gallon. SEE is in the middle of the pack with prices between 6.79 and \$6.99.
- VII Airport Manger's Report:** Flight Operations at Gillespie continue to be steady and slightly above 2021, but not to the numbers seen in 2020 prior to the pandemic. There has been a dramatic increase in the noise complaints, with 157 in September and 523 in October, but the raw numbers do not depict the true impact. Of the 680 total complaints for the two months, 659 (97%) are from a single household. In contrast, one resident wrote in to say they were appreciative of the efforts the Airport is doing to educate pilots on the noise procedures and they recognize any noise they do get it from the "outliers".
- The **Gillespie Driver Training Program** is an effort to reduce **Vehicle/Pedestrian/Deviations** (VPDs) and since its inception, it's had a noticeable impact. For those driving on the actual "movement area" we are approaching time for the yearly recurrent training. This update training will be online, only take about 10 minutes, and satisfy the FAA's recurrent requirement.
- VIII Gillespie Field Development Council (GFDC):** The GFDC is the body to take issues affecting Gillespie Field before the County Board of Supervisors, and is often the venue where possible changes that affect SEE are discussed before being implemented. Their work has a direct impact on the airport's operations and their 5-member Board consists of two current GPA members, Phyllis Trombi and Barry Bardack. [The next GFDC meeting will be Wednesday January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023](#), at 6:00 located in the El Cajon Council Chambers at 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon. All GPA members are **highly encouraged** to attend the GFDC meetings and be involved in both group's work.
- IX San Diego County Director of Airports, Jamie Abbott:** Mr. Jamie Abbott comes from the Chicago area where he was the Airport Executive Director for Chicago Executive Airport (PWK) for the last several years. He also just retired from the Air National Guard after 27 years. Mr. Abbott has been on the job for about three months now and is quickly learning all he can about Gillespie Field. He immediately noticed there is a different culture at Gillespie, in that the everyone is very active and engaged in their airport. As such he sees his role as a conduit to resources for the Airport Manager as well as liaison between the County and the airport stakeholders.



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As he begins to settle in, Mr. Abbott sees his priorities as:

- 1) Lease issues and moving forward on working on the logjam that has developed. There are a lot of logistical considerations that need to be worked out and once they are, it will help the airport thrive.
- 2) Begin moving on the Cajon Air Center project. There is a large un-tapped area that once the lease issues are worked out, can bring a lot of growth to the airport.
- 3) Learn as much as possible about all the airports in the area. Each has its own unique issues, and Mr. Abbott looks forward to helping them work through the challenges.

Mr. Abbott thanked the GPA for the invitation to speak to the group and opened it up for questions. Much of the discussion was related to the lease issue, how some stakeholders have invested millions of dollars, and the hindrances from the current County interpretation of the 50-year lease. Mr. Abbott recognized the importance and agreed the issue needed to be worked out. Several from the GPA also expressed their understanding to Mr. Abbott the difficult position he was in having to liaison between the different groups, but they were appreciative of his efforts while also offering their support. A specific request was for Mr., Abbott to have quarterly meetings with stakeholders, to which he agreed that could certainly be worked out.

**X Business Shout-Outs:** The GPA wants to encourage and help the aviation community, specifically those with Gillespie Field.

- Mike Johnson has a '68 Piper Cherokee 180 for sale. If you're interested in the 2016 Oshkosh winner, contact Mike.

**XI Raffle Results:** The raffle winners for the 10-gal of gas from Golden State and the 1-hour of training in the Redbird Simulator were:

Golden State 10-gal of gas: Tom Haskin

Redbird Simulator: Bob Antebi

The meeting was adjourned at 1000 by GPA President Breslin.

**---Reminder, there will not be a GPA meeting in January---**

The next GPA meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM Saturday, **February 4, 2022**, at the Airport Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Wes Morris, GPA Secretary