



# Gillespie Pilots Association Meeting Minutes

P.O. Box 711591  
Santee, CA 92072-1591  
November 5, 2022  
Membership Meeting

**GPA President Captain Denis Breslin** welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 0900 hours. The meeting is open to all GPA members and those who are signing up at the present meeting. (There were approximately 45 in attendance)

**GPA President Breslin** presented the meeting agenda and welcomed the guest speaker, Gillespie's Airport Manger, Cathe Johnson.

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

- **GPA membership dues** – still only \$20 for the whole year!
- 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](#)

**I GPA Toys for Tots:** The annual Toys for Tots program is always looking for new donated, un-wrapped, gifts that will be given to children in the community during the Christmas season. The drop-off at Gillespie Field is in the Admin Building. GPA will be collecting the toys and flying them up to Ramona Airport Friday morning, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bring a Toy to the next GPA Meeting Dec 3!

**II GPA Nominations/Elections:** The GPA's Board of Directors serve for one year and each November an election is held for the following calendar year. Steve Geary is chairman of the Nominating Committee and presented the names for those who wish to serve on the Board for 2023, and also opened the floor up to any nominations. The only changes from the 2022 Board was to nominate Bill Allen to fill the seat being vacated by Steve Geary and for Jim Gombold to take over the Board seat as well as the Webmaster role for Chris Van Stelle. Steve called for the vote and the Board was unanimously approved for 2023.

**III DPE Scheduling and Prices:** For those getting ready to take a check-ride, or for the CFI(I)'s, Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) prices and lead time for the check have both seen an increase. In 2020, about half of the DPEs were charging \$450-\$650 for a check ride, while in 2022 about half are now charging \$650-\$850, with some examinations reportedly exceeding \$1,000. Scheduling is also taking longer with about a quarter of the DPE scheduling out 3-4 weeks and 38% needing over 4-weeks to schedule the check ride.

**IV 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 6.89 and \$6.99. As prices increase, the 10 Gallons of gas offered by Golden State in the monthly raffle is also appreciating and becoming a better deal each month.....



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- V **Unleaded Fuel for Piston Aircraft:** The FAA has approved the use of unleaded fuel (G100UL) in piston powered aircraft. There are a lot of logistics to overcome, and there is no G100UL being sold, or expected in the near future, at Gillespie, but expect 2023 to be a transition year with 2024 the more likely time for a more widespread roll-out.

With smaller batches, the price will certainly be affected. It's estimated one could see an \$.80 to \$.90 increase Nationally though California could be even more. Additionally, an STC will be required for all engines and airframes going to G100UL. Currently, GAMI has an STC which has been approved for all "spark-ignition engine, airframe combinations."

- VI **New Movie Trailer "Devotion":** The attached trailer highlights the movie "Devotion" scheduled to be released Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The movie is based on the true story of the comradeship between two Navy pilots, Distinguished Flying Cross recipient Jesse Brown, the first African-American to complete the US Navy's basic flight training program, and Medal of Honor recipient Tom Hudner, during their tour in the Korean War.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=NCDEGP6VjYY>

- VII **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 KSEE 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 November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 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.

- VIII **Gillespie's Airport Manager Cathe Johnson:** Cathe Johnson met with the GPA and highlighted two of Gillespie's newest employees. The new **County Director of Airports, Jamie Abbott** and the new **Asst. Airport Manager, Louise Dragman-Renz**.

- Jamie comes from the Chicago area where he was with Chicago Executive Airport since 2004 and also worked in multiple different aviation related leadership roles throughout the area.
- Louise hails from England where she worked in Airport Operations for the Royal Air Force Henlow, England and also managed a flight school.

The **Gillespie Driver Training Program** was the result of the desire to reduce the Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations (VPDs) at the airport and since its inception, it's had a noticeable impact. The impact was so good in fact, the FAA was "amazed" and asked about the program. Cathe attributed it to the cooperation of the Gillespie users and operators. For those driving on the actual "movement area" we are approaching time for the yearly recurrent training each will need. This update training will be on-line, only take about 10 minutes, and satisfy the FAA's recurrent requirement.

Cathe also discussed the proposed plans for the service road connecting the west transient ramp with the area near the Gillespie Café/Tower. The stakeholders adjacent the proposed road had some concerns about the project, with those issues being brought up with the engineers designing the plans. The plans now have the road narrowed to 12', leaving the existing path, and addressing the drainage issue.



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In the near future there will be additional improvements with pavement repairs to the 27R/9L in November and repairs to 17/35 in December. Much of the work will be covered by grants, but those grants often require minimum time before they can be assigned or allocated. Some of the other projects are the Runway 35 LED PAPI in 2023/2024, the 17/35 safety area improvements, and runway rehabilitation of 27L/9R. All of the improvements start from the airport's master plan. If anyone has any ideas or improvements that should be considered, Cathe and Louise are available and have an "open-door".

**IX 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.
- If you just happen to be looking for a flying job and have a DC-9 Type Rating, Skydive Perris has an opportunity for you.
- American Aviation Maintenance recently opened their doors near the base of the tower. If you need some work on your aircraft, reach out and take advantage of their Fall Special: 20% off on labor through the end of the year.

**X 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: Bob Antebi

Redbird Simulator: Gordy Meyer

The meeting was adjourned at 0958 by GPA President Breslin.

The next GPA meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM Saturday, **December 3, 2022**, at the Airport Administration Building. (Reminder, there will not be a GPA meeting in January)

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Wes Morris, GPA Secretary