



# Gillespie Pilots Association Meeting Minutes

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Santee, CA 92072-1591  
3 April 2021

## Zoom Virtual Meeting

GPA President Captain Denis Breslin called the meeting to order at 0901 via Zoom.

President Breslin reviewed the ROE and explained some of the “wave” and “chat” features on Zoom.

- I. **Gillespie Pilots Association Website & live camera** (Currently INOP. There is a software issue with the provider, but it will hopefully be fixed soon)
  - <https://www.gillespiepilotsassociation.org>;
  - **GPA membership dues are due** – still only \$10 for the whole year!
  - Check out the GPA on **Facebook**
  - Special thanks for Leslie Day’s video of a PT-19. Be sure to “*like*” and add your trips, photos, and interesting articles to the facebook pages
  - Send articles, pictures and posts to Chris Van Stelle for posting on our website. We need to do a better job of promotion and we need everyone’s help.
  - List of 2021 GPA Officers and Board members
- II. **President Denis Breslin** – GPA wants to recognize **National Vietnam War Veterans Day 2021**, recognizing all those who served in the Armed Forces between 1955 and 1975, with special recognition for those 58,000 who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. The GPA is honored to have a good number of these veterans in the Association. Thank You!
- III. **Annual Financial Report** – Presented by GPA Treasurer Doug Ferry.
- IV. **SEE Airport Manager’s Report**; {information provided by Cathe Johnson}
  - **Vicious Dog Bite**: On Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>, a customer of High Performance was walking near the corner near Joe Crosson and Floyd Smith Dr. when he was attacked by a pit bull.
  - **High Performance** called **911**. Victim transported to ER with a serious injury to his arm.
  - **El Cajon PD** and Animal Control responded. **ECPD** contacted the owner and dog was put into a 10-day rabies quarantine. The fate of the owner and dog is pending, but this incident raised questions about security responsibilities in and around the Airport.
  - This specific incident was off airport property, but clearly had a nexus. Airport Operations had previously reported the **illegal lodging activity** in October of 2020, specifically noting this dog’s owner.
  - Status of that complaint listed by ECPD as “**received**” [no action] but explained the current COVID restrictions limited their enforcement. The latest incident resulted in KSEE Airport Operations linking the “Illegal Lodging” complaint with the dog attack, changing the status to “**received with enforcement action planned.**”
  - **County Airports** includes master leaseholds on security plans and expects each master leaseholder to work with their tenants to provide specific security for each. Some provide onsite security, which is supplemented by Airport Security which patrols the Airport perimeter and assets, but communication between entities could be better. Ultimately, security is a shared responsibility. “**If you see something, say something.**”
  - **For emergencies, call 911**, otherwise the **non-emergency (619) 579-3311**.
  - After any **emergency**, notify the Airport Operations (See attached power point.)



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- **Cajon Air Center:** Currently the project is in **Phase III** with the aircraft parking apron and taxiway construction in progress. Construction scheduled starting this summer and potential physical construction of new buildings as early as the Fall of 2022.
- V. **GCA's at MCAS Miramar** - Precision Approach Radar approach update by LtCol Brad Butler USMC Ops Officer and Plus One Flyers CFI.
  - PAR practice approaches to GA aircraft available on Sundays.1400-1800
  - 15 approaches accomplished the first week, 1 the second week and zero since then
    - (Did the newness wear off?)
  - Check NOTAMs for availability. Goal is to make GCA's available regularly
- VI. **Gillespie Field Development Council** – Next virtual meeting: **Wednesday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1800.**
  - County uses “**WebEx**” for virtual platform (similar to Zoom).
  - Details for meetings and Webex access available under “**Advocacy**” on GPA website
  - GPA members are highly encouraged to attend the GFDC meetings and to be involved
  - Participation by GPA *increases our credibility and leverage* on both minor and major issues
  - GFDC is the first step in the chain of command for issues affecting Gillespie Field pilots prior to policy being set/voted at the County Board of Supervisors.
  - GFDC Member **Barry Bardack** presented an historical analysis of the **Airport Enterprise Fund (AEF)** from 2008 to present
  - AEF is the money generated by the airports, for airports, and is required by the FAA to be spent on airport development and upkeep. Mr. Bardack shared a fiscal summary which is viewable in the meeting power point on this website
- VII. **Airport Property Commercial Development:** The County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the proposed development on airport property at the corner of Weld and Cuyamaca on March 17<sup>th</sup>
  - The 31 acres off the west end of Gillespie Field has been vacant for 15 years but will now add \$420,000 per year into the AEF (**Amazon** is possible tenant, but no contract has been let yet)
  - There was some public opposition to the development, but ultimately the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the project.
  - Several GPA members including President Breslin, VP Day, and Phyllis Trombi (GFDC) spoke in favor of the proposal
  - Despite asking the membership to call, and sending talking points to everyone, only 4 GPA members (mostly leadership) called. We need to do a better job of getting involved and being advocates for our Airport! Please help our own causes by participating when asked...
- VIII. **State of Flight Training 2021 – Redbird Flight Simulation** polled 2400 Americans – mostly pilots, but included “civilians as well - on the state of flight training given an industry devastated by Covid. Pilots, from students to ATPs were asked about their motivation for flying, and factors that affect the future of aviation.
  - Statistics from **Redbird's Migration Conference:**
  - CFI's do a lot of unbilled work in the course of a week
  - 70% of CFI's are over the age of 50; 70% of all pilots (surveyed) are over the age of 55; 47% of all student pilots are over the age of 55 (maturity, financial stability?)
  - CFI motivation at large flight training operations (in order): Helping students; schedule flexibility; interesting flying
  - Pilot motivation (in order): Enjoyment of flying; lifelong goal; personal/ business flying
  - Student motivation (in order): Enjoyment of flying; lifelong goal; travel
  - Average cost of training aircraft \$150/hour; Average cost of AATD simulator \$65/hour



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- CFI average rate per hour: Full time - \$65/hour; Part time \$55/hour
- Cost of ratings: PPL- \$10,000; IR - \$4500; CPL (single) \$16,000;
- Flight time to complete ratings: PPL – 60 hours; IR – 41 hours; CPL - 28 hours; CFI 17 hours
- **Finding:** Students value simulator training more than instructors
  - Student goal is not to get in and fly airplanes, it is to achieve ratings
  - Simulators help them achieve their goal faster at less cost
- **Finding:** Not everyone wants to be a pilot (*shocking!*)
  - 82% of non-aviation respondents said they had no interest in flying
  - BUT – of the 17% who ARE interested – leaves 40,000,000 potential pilots to which aviation marketing should be directed
- **Finding:** The aviation industry needs to do a better job of explaining the benefits of flying to spouses, and bosses and people who are in a position to give permission and encouragement
  - *“The flight training industry needs to reduce the friction its customers face at home by putting more energy into similar efforts.”*

**IX. Historic Aircraft Display** – The same procedure will continue which started in April 2020. Those who have regularly displayed at SEE through early 2020 will be approved for sign off. Once in-person meetings resume, it will revert back to the original process.

**X. Comments and Questions:** The Gillespie Lessee’s Association meeting is scheduled for this week. There was a lot of good information, specifically pertaining to unifying the different groups when bringing issues and proposed solutions to the GFDC and County Board of Supervisors.

- Question: Which is the Weld property development?
  - The Weld project and the 70-acre Cajon Air Center project are two separate developments
  - The Weld project is a *commercial development* west of the runways and therefore does not need to be aviation related
  - The Cajon Air Center project is located south of the east ramp and is required to be aviation related.

**XI. Raffle winner – One hour in the Red Bird simulator:** Greg Finch

Next GPA meeting **Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**. With “Orange Tier” on the horizon, we will be working with the county to see if the meeting can be in-person or if we need to remain virtual a little longer.

Meeting adjourned at 1005 by GPA President Captain Denis Breslin after a motion by Steve Geary.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Wes Morris, GPA Secretary