



Gillespie Pilots Association Meeting Minutes

P.O. Box 711591
Santee, CA 92072-1591
August 6, 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.
(Approx. attendance - 55)

GPA President Breslin presented the meeting agenda, welcomed the guest speaker, Capt. Gil Rud USN-Ret, and any potential new members.

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](#)
Special thanks to Jim Gombold, Rick Anderson, Marty Jansen, Chris Van Stelle, and Al Treadwell for all their work over the last couple years to get the issues resolved.

I Memorial Mann Gulch: On August 5, 1949 a wildfire started in a gulch along the upper Missouri River in Montana. As the fire grew, a team of 15 Smokejumpers parachuted into fight the fire. Soon after, the winds changed and 12 of the Smokejumpers as well as one firefighter already on the ground lost their lives. The tragedy caused the US Forrest Service to evaluate and learn from the incident, changing some of the way things were done. The Mann Gulch location is now a designated Historic District and memorialized in the award-winning Norman Maclean book *Young Men and Fire*. President Breslin, who was also a Smokejumper at one time, took time to remember the men and the loss.

II Historic Aircraft Display: Phyllis Trombi, who facilitates the Historic Aircraft Display, advised when submitting one’s paperwork, if they check the box indicating their aircraft is used for “commercial or general operations” then they are not eligible for the waiver. Though there are some exceptions, “general operations” is described as flights to locations and for times that could have otherwise been accomplished by other means of travel. Be sure to adhere to the regulations and reach out to Phyllis for any questions and potential exemptions.

III Gas Prices: Fuel prices continue to be high with SAN the highest at \$9.36 and L08 the least expensive at \$5.61 per gallon. SEE is in the middle of the pack with prices between 6.99 and \$7.16. 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.....

IV Hiring Trends: Aviation related jobs continue to grow exponentially as we come out of the COVID pandemic. All aspects of the industry, from mechanics to cabin crews, and pilots, are all seeing huge



Gillespie Pilots Association Meeting Minutes

growth. Boeing is predicting 435,000 new jobs for these fields over the next 20 years in North America alone. That includes an estimated 128,000 pilots of the 602,000 pilots needed worldwide.

- V **Capt. Gil Rud USN (Ret):** Capt. Rud is a retired Navy pilot with over 5,600 hours and almost 800 “traps”, a prior Blue Angel “Boss,” and commanding Officer of aircraft carriers and fighter squadrons. He is talked about his daughter, also a squadron skipper and accomplished Navy pilot. But Captain Rud is also a very proud taildragger pilot – the owner of an Aviat Husky. Capt. Rud was the Blue Angel Boss responsible for transitioning the team from the A-4 to the F/A-18 in 1988 and then again coming out of retirement to assist with the transition from the legacy Hornet to the new “Super Hornet.”

Capt. Rud gave a background on his journey through aviation including the process he went through both to become a Naval Aviator, and being selected as the Blue Angel Boss. He explained the interview process and how the list was narrowed down to six applicants. He genuinely didn’t think he would be selected, but to his surprise the board’s first choice. Even more special for the GPA and Capt. Rud, was to have one of the six members of his selection board at the meeting. (You never know the stories and people you’ll meet when you attend.)

Capt. Rud shared a history of the Blue Angels and their transition into the different aircraft over the years. There is a lot of challenging work and dedication that goes into an aircraft change, especially flying with the precision this Team does. Capt. Rud discussed some of the operational issues he had to address transitioning to the F/A-18 and how he had to “freeze” the team in order to make sure the focus was the aircraft, not the personnel. The Super Hornet transition required a lot more work than most might realize. Though the planes are similar, they are significantly different being 1/3rd larger, and 1/3rd more powerful – and noisier! See the Blues in their new Super Hornets at the Miramar Airshow Sept 23, 24 & 25th.

There were multiple stories told, but for more from Capt. Rud, be sure to look for his book, *From the Prairie to the Pacific* due out in September 2022. For a short version of Captain Rud’s presentation on YouTube, check this out: [Gil Rud presentation](#)

- VI **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: Bill Allen

Redbird Simulator: Rick Brazeu

The meeting was adjourned at 1014 by GPA President Breslin.

There will be NO GPA meeting in September due to the Labor Day holiday. The next GPA meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM Saturday, **October 1, 2022** - at the KSEE Airport Administration Building. Scheduled guest speaker will be Bob Reddeg from SoCal Tracon. They will entertain your questions after their presentation .

Respectfully submitted,
J. Wes Morris, GPA Secretary