



# Gillespie Pilots Association Meeting Minutes

P.O. Box 711591  
Santee, CA 92072-1591  
7 August 2021

## Meeting (Live – in-person!)

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.

- I. **President Breslin** - Presented the meeting agenda and welcomed the guest speaker, Captain Greg “Chaser” Keithley USN Ret.

This is the first physical meeting held since Spring of 2020 when COVID restrictions were implemented. The use of the Airport Administration Building was conditional on all attendees wearing a facial covering except for when they are eating or drinking. This was regardless of the person’s vaccination status. All attending complied and were provided masks upon entry if they did not already have one.

II. **Gillespie Pilots Association Website**

- <https://www.gillespiepilotsassociation.org>;
- **GPA membership dues are due** – still only \$10 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 2021 GPA Officers and Board members
- Due to technical/software issues, the camera is not working and the GPA is looking to replace it.
- Classic Aircraft Display has resumed from 0900-1000 on the Admin and East transient ramps.
- Scheduling a GPA Fly-In to Borrego Air Park for Mid-October. (More to come.)

III. **Advocacy:**

- **GPA – Gillespie Pilot’s Association:** The GPA advocates for Gillespie Field and all of its operators, users, and enthusiasts. It’s a way for those who use the airport to stay connected and involved through in-person meetings, social media, fly-ins, and community action to maintain the airport and its operations.
- **GFDC – Gillespie Field Development Council:** The GFDC meets bi-monthly and represents all SEE pilots, owners, business owners, and vendors. They are an arm that reaches out to the elected officials and works on behalf of those who use Gillespie Field.
- **“The other side”** – A group titled **“HELPP (Help Eliminate Loud Planes Practicing) OVER ALPINE”** is a group of residents in the Alpine area who are tracking those aircraft using the “dirt patch” for presumably ground reference maneuvers. According to their data, there were 496 flights by 125 different aircraft, excluding single passes through the area, over a 68 day period in the Spring of 2021. When the N-numbers are reviewed, 6 of the 14 are based at SEE. The group is very organized and is looking at legal action to curb the issue. Pilots are urged to be respectful of the neighborhoods.

- IV. **Webcam:** The SEE webcam has been inop for several months and the only practical solution is a new camera. President Breslin offered an hour in the Red Bird simulator for the first five who donated \$100 towards a new webcam. The offer actually raised \$775 from seven donors.



# Gillespie Pilots Association Meeting Minutes

- V. **SEE Airport Manager's Report:** Cathe Johnson was not at the meeting she shared information for our meeting:
- The wash racks are now open.
  - The Cajon Air Center project is progressing
  - New VDP training will be coming soon. VDP is **Vehicle and Pedestrian Deviations** and there have been several in recent months at KSEE. As a result, anyone driving on the access roads will need to attend mandatory training, with different courses depending on the specific roads or taxiways used. Cathe Johnson will be at the October meeting to give more detail about the training to be required for both the movement area and the non-movement area.
- VI. **Gillespie Field Remembrance:** Over the last few months several friends of Gillespie Field have “**Gone West**” and are no longer able to join us. We’d like to remember:
- James Harrell
  - Rob Hembury
  - Dick McDowell
  - Emidio DelConte

- VII. **SD County Ordinance: Board of Supervisors Proposed Ordinance – Fair Employment Standards on County Owned Leased Property:** The SD Board of Supervisors has proposed an ordinance, authored by Supervisor Lawson-Remer and Supervisor Fletcher which they claim will provide for the working families who are in need. The ordinance will, in reality, mandate unionized labor on all building projects and require all lessees to pay their workers a “*prevailing wage*” in addition to benefits. There are multiple issues, but the overall impact is multiple business on and around Gillespie Field will not be able to absorb the increased costs, thereby reducing their workforce and/or moving their business off county property, if not closing altogether.

The GFDC, GPA, 99’s, and multiple businesses in the area are all opposed to the new ordinance. Several groups met with Supervisor Anderson on Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the potential ramifications. All agreed, the ordinance will remove jobs from the area. El Cajon is already an economically disadvantaged area and has the highest unemployment rate of all the cities in the county. To remove multiple jobs from not just KSEE, but all the surrounding businesses actually defeats the proposed purpose of the ordinance.

The Ordinance is set to be heard at the Board of Supervisor’s meeting in early October, but everyone is being asked to help prior to that. How can you help?

- Reach out to the “**Office of Equity and Racial Justice**” with letters on how this ordinance will negatively affect your business, your employees, and those disadvantaged.
- Speak to the Supervisors, specifically Supv. Lawson-Remer, Supv. Vargas, and Supv. Fletcher who are all tentatively in support, with the same information on how it will impact those it’s intended to help.
- Call into the Board of Supervisor’s Meeting (tentatively scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup>) and share how the ordinance will cost the jobs of those it’s intended to help.
- Volunteer to walk the airport properties in teams to sign the petition and make everyone aware of the burden this places on all of us.
- Reach out to Nora Vargas (District 1) as her district is also economically disadvantaged. We need her (swing vote) to defeat or modify the ordinance. (3 of 5 votes needed – Anderson and Desmond are a NO already – just need one more)



# Gillespie Pilots Association Meeting Minutes

(For specific information on what you can do and who you can contact, refer to the meeting Power Point posted on GPA website)

**>>> Additional information including the petition is available on the “Jobs on County Land Coalition” website: <https://jobsoncountyland.com>**

**Click on the link, sign the petition and respond to email to confirm your submission.**

**VIII. Capt. Gregory “Chaser” Keithley, USN (Ret)** – Capt. Keithley grew up in San Diego and enlisted in the Navy in 1981. Just as he finished his first enlistment, he decided to pursue Naval aviation as a Naval Flight Officer (NFO). After earning his degree from UCSD, “Chaser” was commissioned and ultimately went on to become an elite Top Gun instructor. After 33 years, and leading several different Commands, Chaser retired as a highly decorated Captain and is now the Executive Officer for the **Tailhook Association** based here in San Diego.

Soon after retiring, Chaser was asked to be the technical advisor for the **Top Gun II** movie which was beginning production. Chaser is still under non-disclosure agreements, so he could not talk about the content of the movie, but he gave a lot of insight into all the behind the scenes work that goes into the making of a film this large. There were several specific things he did want to convey to the group:

- Capt. Keithley considers his time with the Navy’s Top Gun, specifically the pilots, one of his proudest times. As a result, he was adamant to ensure the pilots and what they do was accurately portrayed.
- The flying you will see in the movie is all real! No CGI!. The precision of the pilots really comes through.
- The people behind the scenes who are making these movies, are some of the hardest working people he’s seen. There are an infinite set of moving parts and all the detailed logistics necessary to bring it all together is astounding.
- By comparison, the 1985 movie was considered a joke by “real” Top Gun pilots – so much so, that if you mentioned any of the bylines from the movie in the squadron spaces – you were fined \$5!
- But Top Gun II Maverick is all real – approved by real Top Gun pilots.

**IX. Raffle winners:** Golden State 10gal of gas: Andre Zeehandelaar (Donated to Young Eagles)  
Red Bird simulator: Bill Allen

Next GPA meeting **Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**. Due to the Labor Day holiday, there will not be a meeting in September.

Meeting adjourned at 1030 by GPA President Breslin. Respectfully submitted, J. Wes Morris, GPA Secretary