



# Gillespie Pilots Association Meeting Minutes

P.O. Box 711591  
Santee, CA 92072-1591  
June 4, 2022  
Membership Meeting

**GPA President Captain Denis Breslin** welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 0903 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, welcomed the guest speakers, Andrew Hayes and Bill Allen, as well as 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** has resumed from 0900-1000 on the Admin and East transient ramps.
- **Rick Anderson** is working to get the GPA Webcam up and running again.

**I Antique Aircraft Association:** The AAASDC will be having their summer BBQ at Classic Hangers on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 1500 to 1800. Cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for guests. Contact Karl Johanson for more information.

**II EAA Young Eagles:** On Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> the EAA Young Eagles Camp will be having their event at Brown Field. They’re looking for volunteer pilots to help with flights for approximately 60 Young Eagles, but they can also use volunteers to help with non-flying activities at the event. Volunteers need to be EAA members, and the required information is on the attached power point.

**III Webcam:** The GPA webcam has been the most visited site on the GPA website and gives a real-time video of the conditions at SEE. Unfortunately, the webcam has been inoperable for over 2 years. Rick Andersen has been working on replacing it. Jim Gombold has also offered to help. Jim set up the original webcam back in the day – you know, like when things were simple! There are several issues of concern and coordination, but a new webcam system and possible new location need to be identified. Several at the meeting proposed solutions, and several volunteers offered to help. Please contact President Breslin if you can help with this project.



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**IV Gillespie Field Development Council:** The GFDC is the body to take issues affecting Gillespie Field before the County Board of Supervisors. Their work has a direct impact on the airport's operations and their 5-member Board consists of two current GPA members, Barry Bardack and Phyllis Trombi. Only a few members attended the last meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>, but the next meeting will be Wednesday July 20<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.

**V KSEE Updates:** Airport Manager Cathe Johnson forwarded updates. The SEE Asst. Airport Manager has resigned and they are looking for interested candidates with a background in airport operations or management. On the County level, they are still working through the process of choosing the next County Airport's Director. A decision is not likely before the end of Summer.

Fuel prices are still climbing. SEE is around \$6.60, which is in the middle with CRQ the highest at \$8.75 and L08 the cheapest (for now) at \$5.61.

On the pilot hiring front, there was a slight dip in hiring and pilot starts over the last year, but the numbers are still at record highs. One idea to help with the pilot shortage is to raise the maximum pilot age (part 121) to 67 or 68, but there is some opposition to the proposal, specifically the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), citing scheduling and logistical issues with the proposal.

**VI Andrew Hayes:** Andrew Hayes is the District Director for Senator Brian Jones in the 38<sup>th</sup> Senate District. Andrew has been involved in State politics for some time now, getting his start with, then Senator now County Supervisor, Joel Anderson (who has spoken before with the GPA). Andrew recently met with the Gillespie Airport Lessees Association [GALA] as well as the County Airport Lessees Association [CALA], so he understands the issues the GPA is facing.

One of the major issues for those at the airport is the 50-year lease and how it's being interpreted by the County of San Diego. Currently the County interprets the law such that any improvements to the land belong to the County at the end of the lease. This clearly dis-incentivizes lessees from making any improvements near the end of their leasehold. SD County's interpretation of lease-length language is not shared by other counties in California. Senator Jones' office has asked the State Legislative Council to look into the way the law is written that limits leases to 50-years, and give their analysis. Once they provide their opinion, next steps can be planned and implemented.

Andrew went on to explain there are several critical issues they are looking at. Everything from the County's interpretation of lease language to how capital improvements are handled at the end of a lease, to the future of gasoline engines in California. Andrew then opened the floor to questions.

**VII Allen Airways Fly-In 2022:** Bill Allen shared a video of their recent fly-in which highlighted multiple Stearmans and other antique aircraft. A great time was had by all and the greater San Diego community was able to see some of these classic aircraft flying formation around the city.



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Bill Allen also shared a trailer of the movie “*With Flying Colors*”, a documentary by Christina Hogarth of **Rosemary Arnold**, *Australia’s first female helicopter pilot*. Rosemary Arnold was more than just a helicopter pilot, rather she was able to combine her eye for fashion with her skills as a pilot and break through the barriers so many women faced at the time. The focus of the movie is to highlight Rosemary’s journey and to inspire women in aviation. Bill Allen asked the GPA if there was interest for a GPA screening, which was met with enthusiasm. No date has been set, but it will likely be in late Summer.

**VIII Top Gun-Maverick: Captain Gregory “Chaser” Keithley** (USN Ret.) is a retired Top Gun instructor, current president of the Tailhook Association, and technical advisor for “Top Gun Maverick”. He spoke to the GPA last year but was very limited in what he could say until the movie was released. He emphasized the movie was a pilot’s movie and pilots would not be disappointed.

Capt. Keithley was scheduled to attend today’s meeting but had to reschedule due to Covid. His insights on making the movie will be shared in a subsequent GPA meeting, perhaps as soon as August. President Breslin showed several trailers for the movie and spoke about some of the behind-the-scenes details from the movie. This included some of the actual pilots who flew for the movie, the subtle “Easter eggs” throughout, as well as the San Diego Air and Space Museum’s own F-14 that was used in the filming.

**IX 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: Doug Fronius

The meeting was adjourned at 1015 by GPA President Breslin.

**NO GPA meeting in July due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.** The next GPA meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM Saturday, August 6, 2022, at the Airport Administration Building. Tentative guest speaker is Retired Blue Angel Boss responsible for the Blue Angels transition from the A-4 Skyhawk to the F-18 Legacy fighter, and then again when they transitioned to the Super Hornet 2 years ago – **Captain Gil Rud**.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Wes Morris, GPA Secretary