



Gillespie Pilots Association Meeting Minutes

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Zoom Virtual Meeting 6 March 2021

GPA President Captain Denis Breslin called the meeting to order at 0900 via Zoom.

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

- I. **President Breslin** - Welcome to another virtual GPA meeting!
- II. **Gillespie Pilots Association Website & live camera** (Currently INOP, but should be fixed soon)
 - <https://www.gillespiepilotsassociation.org>;
 - **GPA membership dues are due** – still a great deal at \$10 (*Easy – pay online from our website!*)
 - Check out the GPA on **Facebook**
- III. **President Denis Breslin** – Presented meeting agenda and welcomed guests. Flight plan “gotcha”: *IFR Magazine* article reminds pilots to double-check nav-aids along their route to ensure waypoint continuity. FAA is decommissioning VOR’s rapidly. If you use a decommissioned VOR in your flight plan – you may wind up without a plan in the system when you call for clearance...
 - **KSEE Airport Manager’s Report:** President Breslin presented Cathe Johnson’s report. There continue to be taxiway incursions with two in February, both involving delivery drivers.
 - As a reminder, YOU are responsible for those you let onto the airport.
 - Do not give out gate codes - escort your deliveries in and out of the area.
 - The **Cajon Air Center** project is ahead of the June 2021 schedule with the wash racks possibly opening a couple months early.
 - **Noise complaints** are coming from residents on Fanita Dr. under the left crosswind turn from 27L. Pilots advised to ***start crosswind turn after passing SR125.***
 - The County looking for new **Sky Harbor** lessee. County is currently running the lease. The next step is to complete hangar by hangar inspections to determine the building’s condition and airport/code compliance. Airport staff is also working on a *request for information* to see what aviation uses, or parcel sizes potential lessees would like to see on the site.
- IV. **Introducing Gillespie Tower Air Traffic Manager Thomas Gordon and Air Traffic Controller Stephen Price:** **Mr. Gordon** has worked several stations including SMO, CRQ, and the SoCal TRACON before taking over the management duties here at SEE. **Mr. Price**, in addition to his controller duties, is also the Safety Council Representative and prior MCAS Miramar controller. Both prioritize a good positive working relationship between the controllers and pilots who use SEE.
 - Clear 2-way communication is paramount both in the air and on the ground.
 - Good comm allows controllers to know what you’re looking for and how they can help make it happen while ensuring safety.
 - Gillespie tower has some new controllers, so be patient as they acclimate to the new assignment.
 - COVID and retirements really affected staffing, but with recent increases and lessening of the pandemic more controllers will be available.
 - ***KSEE tower returns to regular operating hours of 0700-2100 (local) starting Sunday March 28***
 - As conditions continue to improve, more operations will open up including tower tours.



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- As operations increase, and with some flight schools limiting their students to 27R, understand pattern work on 27R will become increasingly limited.
- Be prepared for denials for T&G on 27R if pattern becomes saturated

V. Miramar PAR with LCDR Brad Butler USMC Ops Officer and Plus One Flyers CFI. MCAS Miramar has started offering Ground Controlled Approaches (GCA) - nameley PAR (Precision Approach Radar) practice approaches to GA aircraft.

- GCA's offered to General Aviation pilots on **Sundays from 1400-1800** (local) but check NOTAMS for possible changes to the days and times. (*weekends are usually available*)
- Be prepared: Information on PARs can be found in the **AIM 4-5-4** or the **Instrument Procedures Handbook 4-69, 4-72** (*see slides in Power Point of meeting for graphics*)
- Review YouTube videos before contacting SoCal for PAR to KNKX, especially those which include audio so you can hear the controller's directions.
- These approaches are only available during VMC, so procedurally, pilots will listen to the Miramar ATIS on 133.475 and then request the PAR from SoCal.
- When appropriate, SoCal will automatically switch the pilot over to the Miramar controller.
- The controllers will expect pilots to hold exact headings and read back all directions until told otherwise.
- Pilots approach at speeds and descents, similar to an ILS, to 24L(R) with a "[low approach](#)" **only**. (**Do NOT land at Miramar! – unless you want to donate your airplane to the Marines!**)
- Climb out instructions - climb straight ahead to 1500' MSL antenna and turn to a heading of 340 when passing TACAN antenna. Continue climb to 3000' MSL. (See PowerPoint and photos in GPA Meeting Power Point presentation for additional detail.)

VI. Gillespie Field Development Council – The next virtual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 17th at 1800. They have changed their virtual platform from Bluejeans to **WebX** (<https://www.webex.com>).

- Check their website (GPA website has link to GFDC) for details and how to provide input as well as the agenda for docketed items.

VII. Commercial Development at Cuyamaca & Weld on KSEE airport property: The County Board of Supervisors will be meeting on March 17th, 2021 to take action regarding the Ground Lease with SGCLMC-WELD Investment Company, L.P. commercial project. It concerns the proposed development by **Amazon** of the 31 vacant acres off the west end of Rwy 27 L/R.

- Public opposition to the development exists, citing problems with Amazon as a lessee, environmental issues, and even union concerns. There is a strong NIMBY reaction which should be countered by the humanitarian consideration for lost jobs due to covid.
- It's unknown whether the Board will approve the lease, but those interested in speaking to the Board can submit comments online or call into the Board meeting during the hearing. (Instructions are on the Clerk of the Board website)
- GPA supports the development project with both GPA President Denis Breslin and GFDC past president and current GPA member Phyllis Trombi speaking for the record to the Board on issues of funding the Airport Enterprise Fund (AEF) and jobs for locals.
- The 141,000 sqft warehouse will be the "*last mile*" distribution facility for East County.
- Revenues of \$35,000/month (\$420,000 annually) replenish AEF funds.
- Projections are for up to 500 good-paying jobs to the local communities.



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- With the Weld Station trolley stop across the street, “Green” delivery trucks, and overall reduction in total “Amazon” traffic, the project will have a positive environmental impact on the area. This is an overall win-win for the residents and businesses in the area.
- GPA will send out information on how members can speak to the to the Board prior to the meeting on the 17th.

- VIII. Stay positive on pilot jobs** - Though COVID has led to furloughs, the Bureau of Labor projects a 4.8% growth for pilots between 2020 and 2029. Currently a pilot’s median salary is roughly \$121,430 which ranks #14 on the list of best paying jobs. Being a pilot also ranks #3 in best social services, where the “job is more of a *calling* than a *choice*” showing additional positives for the career.
- Estimates show significant pilot shortages by 2023 and crisis shortages by 2025
 - Don’t lose hope on aviation careers – they will rebound
- IX. Passing** – GPA VP Leslie Day asked everyone to remember **Hal O’Neil**, who passed away on January 8th and **Don Henry** who passed on March 2nd. Mr. O’Neil was a past president for the GPA and Mr. Henry was a long time SEE pilot known for flying his classic Pietenpol.
- X. 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.
- XI. Caution - Mr. Cliff Leary** noticed the new, higher power lines in the area of Lakeview Rd. and Julian Ave. in Lakeside towards El Capitan. These lines are substantially taller than their predecessors. Though the new lines have marker balls, some of the other lines in the area do not. *Caution for pilots flying from the northeast though the area to SEE.*
- XII. Pilot Reminder** - With the rainy season, be sure to check aircraft fuel tanks for water (Example shown)
- XIII. Raffle winner - Red Bird simulator:** Robert McAllister. (Still looking for additional raffle prizes)

Next GPA meeting **Saturday, 3 April 2021** (Easter weekend in person/virtual)

Meeting adjourned at 1008 by GPA President Captain Denis Breslin.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Wes Morris, GPA Secretary