



# Gillespie Pilots Association Meeting Minutes

P.O. Box 711591  
Santee, CA 92072-1591  
May 7, 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. (There were approximately 55 in attendance)

**GPA President Breslin** presented the meeting agenda, welcomed the guest speakers, Amy Reichert and Conway Mitchell, as well as any potential new members. The requirement to wear masks inside the Airport Administration Building has been suspended.

**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. **Len Buckel** has been an institution at Gillespie Field since the 1950’s and his birthday is this week. For anyone who knows Len, they’re encouraged to stop by the Gillespie Field Café on Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 and 10:30 to wish Len a Happy 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday!
- II. **Trevor Jacob Case:** In November 2021, former Olympian Trevor Jacob was flying his Taylorcraft over the Los Padres National Forrest when he claimed to have an engine failure. Jacobs was several thousand feet above the mountains and parachuted out of the plane, with his camera, instead of making an emergency landing on one of the many roads available. Jacobs later posted the event to social media and claimed parachuting out of the plane, and leaving it to crash on its own, was his best option.

Jacob’s claim was immediately met with skepticism and accusations this was simply a “stunt” to garner “views”. Others across social media also pointed out multiple inconsistencies and a willful disregard for others on Jacobs’ part. The FAA investigated the incident and suspended Jacobs’ license while additional penalties are also being considered.

- III. **Red Bull Pilot-Swap:** In another “pilotless” incident, the Red Bull Team, attempted a pilot-swap between two planes in April 2022. The plan was to have two Cessna 182s dive simultaneously next to each other. The sole pilot would exit their plane, freefall towards the other plane, enter it and recover the Cessna. One pilot was successful, while the second was not able to enter the plane because it went into a spiral and crashed in the desert. The second pilot was able to safely parachute down.

President Breslin played a video by AVweb, which discussed the plan and outcome as well as the potential ramifications. Red Bull is known for doing “stunts” like this before and takes a lot of



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precautions. They also reached out to the FAA to get a waiver on the Regs, but it was denied several days before the event. Despite this, the event went on and the FAA will be investigating Red Bull's overt disregard of their waiver denial.

On a side note, the two pilot/skydivers are cousins and President Breslin is a longtime friend of the pilots father and sister. On hearing their names, GPA member Barry Bardack realized he too was familiar and an acquaintance of one of the pilot's mother. This just goes to show how the Aviation community is such a tightknit community.

- IV. **MedXPress:** The FAA has introduced the MedXPress tracking system. Effective April 15, 2022, those who have a medical application with the FAA can see where it is in the process, in real time. This has been a difficult issue for a lot of pilots and this new program is one way the FAA is "attempting to be more transparent with the aviation community."
- V. **CFI Refresher Clinic:** The AOPA CFI Refresher clinics {FIRC) went virtual because of the COVID pandemic. It was just announced they will be offering the clinics in-person again and plan to release the 2023 schedule this Fall.
- VI. **Amy Reichert:** Amy Reichert is running for the San Diego Board of **Supervisor's District Seat #4**, which is currently held by Nathan Fletcher. Ms. Reichert was opposed to the "Working Families Ordinance", along with the GPA, and was helpful in getting the word out about the ordinance when it was being debated. As a candidate for District #4, she was invited to speak to the GPA about her position and candidacy.

Amy Reichert was a co-founder for the "Re-Open San Diego" movement and describes herself as someone who fights for a person's freedom. She was raised in San Diego, specifically Tierrasanta, and remembers as a young girl, her father pointing out the Navy aircraft as they flew over and into Miramar. Like her father, she too has an interest in aviation and supports the aviation community.

Ms. Reichert explained her campaign is focused on the "5-C's" which are:

- **Homeless Colonies.** A new and better approach needs to be implemented to address homelessness in the County.
- **Cost of Living.** As is evident, the cost is continuing to go up
- **Constitution.** Ms. Reichert describes herself as one who supports freedom and is a strong supporter especially of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendments.
- **Crime.** The increase in violent crime is a major priority and she supports law enforcement as well as all first responders.
- **Compassion.** She had compassion on the families and children who were being held back or having a difficult time during the pandemic.

President Breslin opened the time up for questions for Ms. Reichert. There were several who expressed their support for her had some opinion comments about other candidates and politicians. As for questions, she was asked about crime, homelessness, and the Government as a whole. Ms. Reichert answered each of the questions posed and emphasized accountability for the budget, prioritizing of resources, and how issues such as homelessness require enforcement as well as supportive resources.

For specific information on Amy Reichert and her candidacy visit: <https://amyforsandiego.com>



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VII. **Conway Mitchell:** Conway Mitchell is an Air Traffic controller at the **SoCal TRACON**, the busiest TRACON in the Nation, and specifically oversees the San Diego area. Mr. Mitchell provided a lot of great information on some of the considerations ATC has to work with, especially when there is a mix of IFR and VFR traffic. (See the attached Power-Point)

- If you want to do multiple IFR approaches, expect to make a full-stop at each airport.
- If possible, try to do your practice approaches before 1000 or after 2000 hours when volume is down.
- OCN VOR is one of the busiest VOR's for approaches in the Country. For any work over that VOR, contact SoCal.
- If you are flying in the area of a final approach course, especially if you plan to fly the approach, contact ATC at least 10 miles out.
- If you want a Bravo clearance, try to ask as soon as possible – preferably on the ground before take-off.
- Not all aircraft have ADSB. Keep your eyes open. ATC is there to help. They prefer talking to pilots.

(The schedule ran long, but as a reminder of the GFDC and upcoming meeting)

VIII. **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. The next scheduled meeting is set for Wednesday May 18<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.

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: Rich Tomicello

Redbird Simulator: Bob Garton

The meeting was adjourned at 1030 by GPA President Breslin. The next GPA meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM Saturday, June 4, 2022 at the Airport Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Wes Morris, GPA Secretary