



Lakeway Airpark Newsletter

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President's Letter

Welcome to Summer! This week, it is forecasted to be in the triple digits multiple days in a row, so let's all be mindful of density altitude as part of your preflight calculations.



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On Saturday, June 10th, we had our Annual Meeting of the Airpark at the Lakeway Activity center. We had a full room and great turnout. Charles Edwards, one of our founding members, gave the oral history of the Airpark and it reminds me we have a lot to be thankful for - from the hard work of our past to the present members to make this Airpark the jewel

that it is today.

As part of the Annual meeting, we provided our members updates on our financials, maintenance, safety, and social activities for the past year. We also voted on our open Airpark board positions and the two Class One positions were filled by Jeff Klaas and Phil Thompson, and our Other Class open position was filled by Jeff Brinkman. Going off the board this year are Mike Torbett and Bill Gunn; and I want to personally thank them both for great contributions and, of course, fully expect they will remain active and helpful as members going forward.

The voting Membership also unanimously passed the newly updated Bylaws that contain changes to keep our organization legal, sound, and more responsive to our membership.

After the Annual meeting, the Board of Directors met and selected the officers and key positions for the coming year. For fiscal year 2023-24, the officers and key positions are as follows:

Phil Thompson - President
Pat Hall - Vice President/Maintenance
Josh Cobb - Secretary/Community Relations
Erik Mulloy - Treasurer
Jeff Brinkman - Safety
Scott Epley - Social Activities
Jeff Klaas, Ad Hoc

It has been a real privilege to serve as President for the past year and I look forward to continuing in this position for 2023-24. In the Annual meeting, I provided a recap of our 2022-23 year and I would like to include that in this newsletter for those members who were unable to attend our annual meeting. I will close here by saying - thank you again to our great members and hard working volunteers!

- Phil

2022-2023 Recap

In my current role as President of Lakeway Airpark, I am pleased to present to you a recap of our 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Let me start by saying the State of the Airpark is in excellent condition, we are financially sound, the organization continues to grow, and we are healthy with a wealth of volunteer talent within our membership.

The current board you have today hit the ground running at our first board meeting in July of 2022. With the recognition that several key issues had been open for some time and needed real focus we split the work into four (4) key committees led by board and non-board members.

Our 10-year Capital plan Committee, chaired by Mike Torbett, has provided capital projections for our hard surfaces with a near-term recommendation of \$350K-\$550K for asphalt patching, crack sealing and seal coat. For a longer-term look (8-10 years out), we are considering continued remediation of the hard surfaces for as long as possible due to a full milling and overlay would approach costs in the \$1.6M-\$2M range.

Our Revenue Enhancement Committee, chaired by Erik Mulloy, has been looking at additional ways to ensure we can cover our operational costs and capital costs and is currently modeling plans to meet these needs. Examples being looked at include: the new revenue that will be generated by Condo 2, Hangars 5 & 6, as well as necessary fee changes and ultimately dues adjustments going forward.

The Bylaws review committee, led by Bill Kulpa, has done an outstanding job in updating and modernizing our bylaw structure that all members will have an opportunity to vote on today. I strongly urge your support for the revised bylaws as they contain necessary changes to keep our organization legal, sound, and more responsive to our membership.

Our fourth Committee is the Condo hangar 1 lease review, led by Niels Olufsen, which is working with their Condo hangar members and leadership to update this lease in cooperation with the Airpark board prior to the current lease expiring in 2024.

I cannot give enough praise to the Committee Chairmen and their committee members for the hundreds of hours of hard work, legal reviews, and personal effort given for the betterment of this Airpark and its members.

In parallel to the previous work, I have just mentioned we had Key Airpark members working on improving our situation with the City of Lakeway and our Community at large.

Pat Hall and Bill Cotton have both been instrumental in working with the AV zoning proposals and working as part of the Zapco/City AV committee. While we did not get everything we wanted, we have so far held off onerous actions by the City against the Airpark and actually gained some improvements in our flight rules. With a continued effort and a more favorable City Council, I think we can continue to make progress in this area.

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In the area of Safety, Bill Gunn has been a great asset in helping us update our emergency response plan and has helped us put together and meet with our local first responders. We have had a very safe year on our property, and it remains a key focus.

It goes without saying that in the past, this Airpark (and in many across the country) had a less than favorable relationship with the neighboring community that surrounds them.

To change that perception and to also create new activities for our Members, Josh Cobb has been doing a yeoman's job in leading our Social Committee and Community Relations, along with Scott Epley. His team's work has been nothing short of phenomenal. Starting with everything from revamping our website and social media interfaces to organizing our "Meet the Pilot" events, movie nights at the Airpark, and culminating with our Spring Open house and pancake breakfast to honor not only our Airpark legacy, but to also honor a true American hero, CPL Alan Babin.

All of this is no small accomplishment, and it takes an ARMY of volunteers. Special thanks to those that bring their planes out for our Meet the Pilot events, as well as all those making these events come off smoothly and safely for our members and guests. Thanks to Scott Epley, Bill Kulpa, Gail Hall, Karen Turchan, and so many others that helped set up and run our Airpark movie nights.

Just to give you a few stats, in the past year we have had over 25 member and community events that have provided interactions with our members and the surrounding community to the tune of interfacing with over 2,000+ individuals. This is a record of activity for the Airpark and in part due to the current Boards understanding that we need the local Community support to exist and thrive as an organization for our members.

Every Airpark volunteer involved in these interactions deserves a round of applause and thanks for your time and efforts given.

Looking forward going into our 2023-2024 fiscal year, we already have scheduled multiple events for our members and the neighboring community. Keeping these interactions going helps to grow the comradery of our membership while reinforcing the social and economic benefits that this Airpark brings to the Community while potentially inspiring others into Aviation for recreation or as a career path.

Faced with the reality of increasing costs to maintain this Airpark, we will be looking at fair and equitable increases in fees and our dues structure. This will not be done in a vacuum, and we will be soliciting multiple inputs from our membership.

Safety will remain a top priority and we have plans to expand meetings with our first responders. A tighter connection here can only help and provides another great asset to our community as a whole. We will remain vigilant with the City of Lakeway government and will respond as appropriate. I think with a more favorable City Council we can expect less friction, but we will stand firm on our rights and convictions as an independent private organization and continue to protect our members and this Airpark from intrusive intervention.

Safety Minute by Bill Gunn

Stringbag Song

June 2023

How tired is too tired for a piston aircraft engine? This is often based on the opinion of the mechanic performing the annual inspection, and if an AI will have to sign off the aircraft as airworthy and safe for flight. Aircraft engines are tough if treated with some respect, and there are cases where the engine ran smoothly with very little to no compression on several cylinders. This is not a proposal to fly around with a no compression engine! However, follows is an interesting story along these lines.

The Fairey Swordfish was a British torpedo biplane that was surprisingly successful in WW II. Years ago, I was lucky to fly as an airshow pilot in the UK, often at shows with the Royal Navy Historical Flight – including their Swordfish, commonly called a stringbag due to the many flying wires holding it together. Watching the engine start one day was revealing – a huge crank winds up a flywheel – the PIC then engages a clutch to start the big nine-cylinder, 1000 HP radial. All this took 30 minutes. The flywheel must have been near supersonic before the clutch was engaged – fuel was running out the carb overflow in gushes, The prop rotated, slowed, and almost still one cylinder reported. More fuel – slowing rotation, two cylinders. Finally, all nine seem to be working. It was exhausting to watch!

That evening in the hotel ,I managed to corner the mechanic (“Engineer” in UK speak). This was tricky as a “Yank”, I could hardly say your British engines don’t like to run. After several beers, this wiry Scotsman looked around (as if the British FAA might be lurking nearby) and whispered to me – “there is na compression wid five o’ the cylinders” I was stunned. They were flying this thing in this condition? Apparently, IF you could get it to start, it ran like a top – and being well under gross weight at shows, flew reasonably well. Why? No pistons or rings for the oddball cylinder size. Today, I can report this is resolved and several are flying.

So, yes, it will run. If you have engine issues inflight, perhaps it is best to immediately turn toward a landing site and milk the engine if it will run until landing is assured. You can get a new engine, but not if you wreck the airframe (or worse).



Footnote: The Engineer also proudly told me “We found a Swordfish at the bottom of Copenhagen harbor – perhaps we can get some engine bits”. Even then, it would have been in saltwater for 30 plus years! Never give up.....



Above: As you can see we had a great turnout at the Annual meeting on Saturday, June 10. Charles Edwards gave us a short history of the Airpark reminding us of how far we have come. Also Board Members reported on their individual offices. Thanks to everyone for coming.

Below: We have a new addition to the Airpark! A new little library! Thanks to Hailey Shelton, Phil Grgurich and Cody Bull for putting this together and installing it near our pilot's building. Take a book or bring a book. I also hear we have some kids books added recently! We have awesome volunteers!!!



Join our Airpark community! To learn more about the Lakeway Airpark, call any of the board members listed below.



We had another great turnout at the Meet the Pilot event on Saturday, June 17. Thanks to all our pilots who brought out their planes and engaged the excited children and their parents.

Send me any photos and articles of you and your airplane. I can always use inspiration.

I hope you enjoy this issue!

Jean Thompson . .
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Lakeway Airpark Board Members

- Phil Thompson, President.....512.810.4052
- Pat Hall, VP/Maint.....281.814.7502
- Erik Mulloy, Treasurer.....512.217.6300
- Josh Cobb, Sec/Web.....626.590.4255
- Scott Epley, Social Act.....432.889.9000
- Jeff Brinkman, Safety512.653.9078
- Jeff Klaas, Ad Hoc.....512.917.7332

Next regular BOD meeting is Sat, July 8; Café Lago 7:30; workday 8:30; meeting 9:30