



# AzAA Matter of Fact

News from the Arizona Airports Association

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Arizona Airports Association  
Newsletter

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## 2016 FALL CONFERENCE RECAP



One aspect that is always evident during our biannual conferences is the act of collaboration – industry colleagues coming together to identify issues facing our State's airports, and helping to develop partnerships and solutions to either work around or address these important matters head-on. The Fall 2016 "Walter Burg" Conference was no different, and a lot of ground was covered even in just the day that the AZAA members had together. Numerous relevant and timely topics were presented with tremendous participation from the audience, thereby promoting healthy dialogue among our membership.

The FAA Phoenix ADO was well-represented with **Lorraine Herson-Jones, Assistant Manager**, and **Brad Davis, Lead Engineer**, in attendance. **Mark McClardy, FAA Airports Division Manager** for the Western-Pacific Region, joined **Mike Klein, ADOT Aeronautics Group Manager**, to deliver important current FAA and ADOT information. Mark noted that Arizona has been strong with its grant performance as well as having Airport Sponsors that plan and execute their project well. He also mentioned that \$20M was allotted for Arizona at the end of FY2016, but because there did not appear to be any projects ready for grant funding (ready to go to bid or having actual bid results), the \$20M ended up going to Nevada. It is important to have projects ready to go to bid (or better yet – "shovel-ready") to take advantage of potential leftover discretionary monies at the end of the federal fiscal years. Mike Klein clarified the state of the Aviation Fund due to previous fund sweeps, and while not positive news at this time, ADOT Aeronautics will partner with Sponsors as best as they can in the coming months and years.

Other important sessions included ADOT's Review Policy & Other Things, which helped clarify some of the necessary information for project submittals and set expectations for ADOT's reviews. Many thanks to **Charlotte Jones, Airport Safety Inspector**, for presenting on Airfield Safety Inspections – Great Expectations & How to Solve Issues, which educated us on what to expect during an FAA Part 139 inspection, and what she looks for particularly in doing her inspections. Keep those safety and training records organized and up to date!

One of the liveliest moments of the Fall Conference was **Art Fairbanks', City of Phoenix Aviation Department Special Projects Administrator**, presentation of the Terminal 3 Modernization Project at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Art's enthusiasm and passion for making PHX a better airport and experience came through in every aspect of his presentation. Thank you, Art!

And many thanks to **Kenn Potts, Glendale Municipal Airport Administrator**, for taking the photos throughout the conference and sharing them for this article!



# Recognition of Arizona's Airports



**Improved FFZ Terminal: Looking east**



**Improved FFZ Terminal: Looking west**

This has been a tremendous and noteworthy month for Arizona's airports. Several of our fine airports were recently honored with high-profile recognitions and awards through the American Council of Engineering Companies - Arizona (ACEC-AZ) and Engineering News Record (ENR) Southwest for completion of some outstanding projects:

### **Mesa Falcon Field Airport Terminal Upgrades: Awarded ENR Southwest Best Project – Renovation/Restoration Category**

The ENR annual awards program is dedicated to honoring the best construction projects and companies in regions across the U.S. Among the 20 categories, each project is judged using five criteria: safety; overcoming challenges and teamwork; innovation and contribution to the industry; construction quality and craftsmanship; and functionality of design and aesthetic quality.

Falcon Field is among the top 10 most active general aviation airports in the United States, serving corporate, military, public safety, recreational and instructional aviation uses. DWL Architects + Planners, Inc. completed the renovation, resulting in a \$1.8 million comprehensive remodel and expanding the terminal from 3,560 SF to 4,734 SF. The new terminal includes contemporary aesthetics, enhanced public waiting and pilot briefing space, a meeting room, upgraded restrooms, new airside and landside patios and public aircraft viewing areas, as well as other interior improvements and an upgraded arrival experience.

### **Chandler Municipal Airport Safety Area Drainage Improvements: Awarded ACEC-AZ Grand Award – Drainage Category and 2016 ACEC-AZ People's Choice Award**

This awards program recognizes project achievements within each state across the U.S. Projects are evaluated on the basis

of: uniqueness and/or innovative applications of new or existing techniques; future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public; social, economic, and sustainable development considerations; complexity; and successful fulfillment of client/owner needs.

This year's Grand Award in the Drainage Category went to Dibble Engineering and Chandler Municipal Airport for successful completion of improvements which ultimately solved a major drainage issue within the southwest portion of the airfield. The existing southwestern basin had nowhere to drain and would hold water for several days after rain events, thereby attracting significant waterfowl and other unwanted wildlife on the airfield. Thanks to the partnership with FAA and ADOT over a 4-year period, the project was planned, programmed, a significant environmental analysis was completed, design was completed in 4 months, and construction was completed without any issues on time and under budget.

### **Navajo Division of Transportation Airport System Master Plan: Awarded ACEC-AZ Grand Award – Planning & Studies Category**

Armstrong Consultants and the Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) were honored with the Grand Award in the Planning & Studies category for the unique and successful completion of the Navajo Nation Airport System Master Plan. The plan covered five airports on the Navajo Nation – Chinle, Tuba City, Window Rock, Crownpoint, and Shiprock – and incorporated a bilingual public outreach program, integrating feedback with plans to enhance safety at these airports and improve operating conditions.

Congratulations to these airports and partners for their outstanding work!



**Drainage improvements in action at CHD after a significant rain event.**



**Mary Ortega-Itsell, Charlie McDermott and Arlando Teller Showing pride of the award presented by ACEC-AZ.**

## FAA CORNER

Did you know...that **Mike Williams, Manager of the FAA Phoenix ADO**, sends out regular updates concerning the Phoenix ADO and the FAA Western Pacific Region? If you are an Airport Sponsor and are not seeing these updates, reach out to your FAA Program Manager or Community Planner to make sure you're on the distribution list. Mike recently sent out an update on October 26th, and here are some highlights of the update:

- The Phoenix ADO welcomed their new Management Assistant, Michele Tuhy on Halloween.
- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) frequently asked questions (FAQ), Part 107, and UAS Detection and Countermeasures Technology Demonstration/Evaluations at Airports information can all be found on FAA's website.
- The deadline for comments to Draft Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5200-37A Safety Management Systems for Airports has been

extended to November 10, 2016.

- Beginning October 1, 2016, federally obligated airports will use the Takeoff and Landing Performance Assessment (TALPA) procedures to conduct runway assessments (when not dry) and report those conditions in newly-formatted Field Condition (FICON) Notices to Airmen (NOTAM's).
- December 16, 2016 – Deadline for submission of FY2018-2022 ACIP's to Phoenix ADO.
- December 30, 2016 – Deadline for NEPA determination for FY2017 projects.
- Helpful information on Policy on Hangar Usage - [https://www.faa.gov/airports/airport\\_compliance/hangar\\_use/](https://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_compliance/hangar_use/)



## AIRPORT SPOTLIGHT

### Marana Regional Airport (AVQ)

If you have never had an opportunity to visit Marana Regional Airport, I encourage you to pay a visit to **Steve Miller, Airport Manager of AVQ**, to have a tour of the airfield and lunch at the Sky Rider Café. Steve, along with his staff and with tremendous support by the Town of Marana staff, are breathing new life into the Airport after experiencing several years of stagnation and lack of direction. What is evident nowadays is a great deal of pride in the Airport, and a true desire to make AVQ a better facility for the flying public. Oh, and the food at the Sky Rider Café is a reminder of down home cookin' – simple food made well.

Marana Regional Airport was originally constructed by the U.S. Army during World War II as an auxiliary field to Pinal Airpark, and helped to alleviate flight congestion at Pinal Airpark. Changing ownership several times until 1999, the Town of Marana finally purchased the Airport after a master plan was conducted for the then-named Avra Valley Airport.

Thanks to the partnership with FAA and ADOT Aeronautics, the Airport recently completed two projects – an Airport Master Plan (along with an Airport Business Plan) as well as an airfield guidance signage rehabilitation project. When asked about what he hopes the Master Plan has accomplished, Steve Miller noted that Plan will serve to “right-size” the Airport. AVQ currently has two runways – the primary runway being 6,901 feet and the cross-wind being 3,892 feet. Corporate jet traffic appears to be on the rise for AVQ, and the Airport currently experiences about 90,000 yearly operations. Highlights from the Master Plan include extending the cross-wind runway to accommodate larger aircraft, as well as a potential Air Traffic Control Tower given the operations and increase in size and quality of aircraft. Steve noted that having a Tower, while funding is recognized as a challenge, would only help to drive more corporate/business traffic and have a positive economic impact for the Town and region. Speaking of economic impact, Marana Regional Airport helps to support approximately 150 jobs with \$6.8M in payroll.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Congratulations to all involved on a successful 2016 fall conference in beautiful Phoenix, AZ! Many thanks to **Steve Johnston and our Conference Committee**, as well as our corporate sponsors, exhibitors, and all of our attendees. The opportunity to learn about current issues and policies is helpful for all of us, and the opportunity to network is very valuable as well. We very much appreciate all who registered, attended, and took part in our conference. It was great to have you there, and we appreciate your support! I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the City of Phoenix for their welcome and hospitality.

As always, I'm very appreciative for the tremendous knowledge, efforts and professionalism in AzAA. We are fortunate to have an incredible Board of Directors who work very hard and apply their talent and time to improve our organization. Their commitment, along with our membership, is directly responsible for our high-quality conferences, Aviation Day at the Capitol event, and AzAA operations. I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to serve as your President for 2016-2017, and in partnership with our dedicated Board of Directors, we look forward to serving you and supporting airports this year!

We would like to recognize our **FAA Phoenix ADO and ADOT Aeronautics Group** as our key partners in everything that goes on at our airports on a daily basis. We are blessed to have **Mike Williams and Mike Klein and their staffs** to partner with on all of our projects and issues we deal with. We very much appreciate their efforts and all of the staff who provide a high level of professional customer service. We are also fortunate to have a supportive manager and staff in the Western Pacific Region as well. **Mark McClardy and his staff** do a great job on compliance, and certification issues, in conjunction with the Phoenix ADO staff.

In closing, thanks to all who attended the fall conference and for the tremendous support from the Conference Committee and all those who volunteered their time and expertise to make it a success! Be sure to mark your calendar for our upcoming events:

- Aviation Day at the Capitol – Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Registration is now open at [www.azairports.org](http://www.azairports.org).
- Spring Conference in beautiful Prescott, AZ – May 20-24, 2017.

**Bradley Hagen, AAE**  
AzAA President

## Mark Your Calendars!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for these important events:

- ▶ Aviation Day at the Capitol  
January 17, 2017
- ▶ Southwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (SWAAAE) Airport Management Short Course, Monterey, CA  
January 29 - February 1, 2017 
- ▶ AzAA Spring Conference Prescott Resort, Prescott, AZ  
May 20 - 24, 2017

## Contact Us

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