

# CalPilots



ADVOCATES FOR CALIFORNIA'S GENERAL AVIATION COMMUNITY AND AIRPORTS



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Carol Ford

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Happy Spring everyone!

CalPilots has been very busy.

We are updating our website, but know the link to renew or join is not affected.

Two issues have attracted attention. One is Reid Hillview near San Jose, where the county has made unfounded findings about lead nearby, which doesn't account for the lead paint in nearby homes. \*See SCAPA's discussion of lead near airports. That and other issues cloud the future of the Airport.

We also wrote a letter in support of AB 24, the bill from The Honorable Al Muratsuchi, California State Assembly, which forms the California Aerospace and Aviation Commission. We believe that the creation of a commission to provide statewide private-public policy recommendations on aerospace and aviation issues to the Governor and the Legislature is long overdue. In the past, the close link between the aerospace and aviation industries in their contributions to the state's economy has often been overlooked. The commission created by AB 245 will provide a welcome forum for addressing the challenges and opportunities of the industry.

Blue skies, Till next time.

\* SCAPA's article will be on our web site soon.  
As well as a letter to the county about Reid-Hillview

**OPINIONS** expressed in the *Airport Advocate* are not necessarily always those of **California Pilots Association**.

**MEMBERS** and non-members are invited to submit articles of interest. *California Pilot Association* assumes no responsibility for contributed items or their return without a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Source of the items submitted should be submitted for publication consideration. ALL material is subject to editing required to conform to space limitations. Submit materials to:

**CalPilots Magazine**

**California Pilots Association**

**1414 K Street, 3rd Floor**

**Sacramento, California 95814**

**(800) 319-5286**

Or send by email: [info@calpilots.org](mailto:info@calpilots.org)

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## Changes at Tracy Airport

Tracy Municipal Airport has as of December 15, 2018 hired a new Manager, Paula Jessup formerly Assistant manager at Alturas Airport.

With the change in manager Tracy Airport looks to update and upgrade it's fueling system to create a better situation for the pilots.

A pilot's lounge has been recently completed and is available for pilots needing an area for flight prep, a cup of coffee or just to wait out any mitigating weather situations.

All new pavement has been installed as have new PAPPis (they will be on as soon as tested), and AWOX .

Tracy Municipal Airport is looking forward to the future tom the needs of the pilots.

See you soon at Tracy,

Paula Jessup

**Cover : Tracy Airport CTAF / UNICOM, 123.075 Fuel 100LL Jet-A**

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**March– April 2019**





# Aerospace and Aviation Days

**APRIL 1-3, 2019**

*California Aerospace & Aviation Days at the Capitol* is presented to inform legislators, staff, and the public about the importance of **aviation** to the welfare of the California economy and to raise the level of awareness of the benefits of aerospace and aviation.

April 3, 2019, from 11 am to 2 pm - West Steps of the State Capitol in  
Sacramento  
Aerospace & Aviation Displays, Exhibits & Information

- *Economic impact of Commercial Service Airports on the state of California: \$171.2 billion annually*
- *Commercial Service Airports employment: 1.1 million jobs (\$48.4 billion in payroll)*
- *General Aviation annual economic impact: \$30.2 billion (highest General Aviation impact in U.S.)*
- *As a global Aerospace leader, California generates \$61.6 billion space industry revenues*
- *California Aerospace Industry employment: 511,000 jobs (203,000 direct and 308,000 indirect)*
- *Aerospace Industry spends more than \$24 billion on goods and services and pays \$11.1 billion in wages and benefits*



**March– April  
2019**



Promoting, Preserving and Protecting California's  
General Aviation Community and Airports

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February 27, 2019

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2179  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 245: California Aerospace and Aviation Commission: Support

Dear Assembly Member Muratsuchi:

The California Pilots Association (CalPilots) mission is to promote and preserve the state's airports. As a statewide volunteer organization, we work to maintain the State's airports in the best possible condition.

The California Pilots Association and the San Carlos Airport Pilots Association support AB 245 as they did in 2018.

The California Pilots Association, with the Association of California Airports (ACA) is proud to sponsor the annual California Aerospace and Aviation Days at the Capitol. Despite the aerospace and aviation industries' significance in our state's economy, there is currently no official, statewide voice within the Administration advocating specifically for the industries.

We believe that the creation of a commission to provide statewide private-public policy recommendations on aerospace and aviation issues to the Governor and the Legislature is long overdue. In the past, the close link between the aerospace and aviation industries in their contributions to the state's economy has often been overlooked. The commission created by AB 245 will provide a welcome forum for addressing the challenges and opportunities of the industry.

Thank you for reintroducing this bill. If you have any questions, please contact John Pfeifer, ACA Legislative Committee Chair, at 530-226-5117 or Carol Ford 650 591 8308.

Respectfully submitted,

*March– April 2019*



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## How dangerous are drones to aircraft?

Any midair collision with an object is dangerous to aircraft, as exemplified by the crash of US Airways Flight 1549 in January 2009. Capt. Chesley Sullenberger steered a passenger jet carrying 155 people into the Hudson River after it hit a flock of Canada geese shortly after taking off from La Guardia airport in New York City. The birds destroyed both aircraft engines.

The weight of a Canada goose — between 2kg and 6.5kg — is exceeded by some professional-quality camera drones. Pilots have called for more testing on the potential impact of a drone on an engine — tests that manufacturers routinely apply for bird strikes — but this would be expensive.

Thousands forced to spend night at airport as chaos continues — as it happened

How common are near misses between drones and aircraft?

The rate in the UK has tripled since 2015. The UK Airprox Board (UKAB), which monitors all near misses involving commercial aircraft, said there were 92 between aircraft and drones in 2017. That was more than three times the number in 2015: 29. In 2016, there were 71 and the data is clearly tracking the growth in drone use.

What are the UK regulations?

It is against the law to fly a drone higher than 120 meters or in restricted airspace such as near an airport. Further restrictions apply if the drone is fitted with a camera. The Dronesafe website, operated by the aviation watchdog and national air traffic control, outlines a series of guidelines for drone flying, including keeping the drone in eyesight at all times.

What can be done to stop them flying over airports?

Guardian Today: the headlines, the analysis, the debate - sent direct to you

Prisons could help provide the answer. The government is looking at introducing an anti-drone system to stop drug smuggling in English prisons following a successful six-month experiment in Guernsey. The Sky Fence system blocks radio signals around a prison whenever drones are detected and is used to prevent them from dropping drugs to inmates.

But jamming the signals used to control the drone could be risky in an airport, where the risk of inadvertently damaging other critical communications may be too high.

Endangering people by flying a drone illegally can lead to a custodial sentence of up to five years, but police have found it very difficult to identify the operators of drones that have been spotted by pilots, hence the calls for a mandatory register of drones and their users, and for "geo-fencing".

How easy is it to break geo-fencing restrictions to fly a drone?

Very easy. Some drone manufacturers, such as China's DJI, operate GPS-powered "restricted zones", which will prevent operators from flying over areas such as airports, prisons and sporting venues. But even those restrictions can be unlocked for users who contact the company with appropriate authorization — and companies such as Russia's Copter safe will perform the unlock for anyone who can afford to pay.

Other drone manufacturers do not implement those restrictions, as the patchwork of local, national and international laws leave companies uncertain as to their own obligations, and with some models of drone



### **How far can they fly?**

Even with a 30-minute flight time, the range of most drones is limited by connectivity requirements, rather than fuel. Basic consumer drones will connect with their controllers over bluetooth or wifi, giving them a range of a few hundred meters at most, but more expensive "prosumer" devices use purpose-built radios to communicate over longer ranges of up to five miles.

With enough money, however, there is effectively no upper limit: companies such as Botlink and Globe UAV sell add-ons for professional drone operators that allow them to control their craft over 4G, meaning they can fly anywhere with cellular reception.

### **Could the Gatwick drone incident be an organized protest?**

There will be plenty of speculation about who is behind the Gatwick drones, given the impact they have had, but the fact that the disruption was sustained for a long period points to a deliberate act. Sussex police said it was "a deliberate act to disrupt the airport" but added: "There are absolutely no indications to suggest this is terror related."

### **Why not just shoot down the drone?**

Drones aren't (usually) bulletproof, and a well-placed shot will end their journey sharpish. But, for obvious reasons, police are loath to discharge weapons in sensitive areas like airports: bullets are dangerous on the way down, as well as the way up, and the risk of collateral damage from a missed shot is high. And the chances of a shot being missed may be quite high. A small drone moving rapidly almost half a kilometer in the air presents a difficult task for anyone but a trained marksman.

Despite that, police carrying long-range rifles have reportedly been placed along the runway, ready to shoot down any trespassing drone.

### **How could the operator be tracked?**

A long-distance drone typically communicates with its operator using a high-powered radio connection. That can be traced with a directional antenna, eventually leading back to the operator themselves — but only while it is in operation. Unfortunately, the police have found, the operator appears to be aware of that fact: "Each time we believe we get close to the operator, the drone disappears," said Supt Justin Burtenshaw, the airport's policing commander. "When we look to reopen the airfield, the drone reappears."

Submitted by Charlene Fulton CalPilots





## EXIT THE HOLDIING PATTERN:

### Achieve your Aviation Goals at ACI Jet in San Luis Obispo

Much like flying an actual hold, there comes a time in every pilot's career where an honest assessment of skill, safety, performance, desire, and goals needs to be made. Many pilots that are stuck in the hold, unable to achieve your aviation goals. On Thursday, February 21st, psychotherapist, educator, writer, and instrument pilot, Jolie Lucas, discussed the six keys to exit the holding pattern and reach goals. This fast paced, multi-media presentation explored human factors, brain science, and personality in decision-making, motivation, and follow-through.

Although we normally have temperate weather on the Central Coast of California, on the event date for Exit the Holding Pattern, we experienced sun, rain, hail, sleet and snow. Even with the inclement weather 76 of the 100 registered gathered at ACI Jet to hear CalPilots VP, Jolie Lucas present her multimedia speech about ways to get unstuck in life. Jolie has offered presentations around the country for the last decade that combine her experience as a pilot and a licensed psychotherapist.

ACI Jet, who is a corporate sponsor of CalPilots was an exceptional host for the event. They provided a wonderful space in their corporate hangar, yummy food featuring local wine and beer, and even contributed a fuel card and Tarmac Teddy to the door prizes. ArtCraft Paint, another business sponsor of CP donated an aircraft wash/wax for the door prizes. As well Esmeralda Mendoza the director of operations from Artcraft was on hand to answer questions about painting and protecting airplanes. A sample of their work was in the hangar in Jolie Lucas' 1965 Mooney whom she named Maggie II.

King Schools made the trip from their headquarters in San Diego, CA to film the event for a possible on-line course. King generously donated a certificate for a free course of the pilot's choosing. Happily enough, the winner of the certificate is not yet a pilot. He was thrilled to be able to use the quality education offered by King Schools to finish his PPL.

Jolie Lucas

Vice President Region 3 CalPilots


The headline sponsor for the door prizes was Lightspeed Aviation, long known for their nationwide support of charitable causes. Lightspeed donated a Zulu 3 headset. Also on display was the Sierra and wireless Tango. The winner of the headset was local physician and pilot Susan Mandibles. Susan is also a volunteer for Friends of Oceano Airport.

# Jolie Lucas

## Sun 'n Fun 2019


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## **U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Presents Astronaut Wings to Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo Crew**

WASHINGTON U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao today pinned FAA Astronaut Wings on Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo crewmembers, Test Pilots Mark Forger Stucky and Fredrick CJ Sturckow. Last year's historic spaceflight marked the nations return to space on an American-made rocket and paves the way for future travel to space with commercial spaceflight participants.

We are entering a new and exciting frontier in our nations space activities, said Secretary Chao. These wings represent a remarkable achievement for these crewmembers and tell all Americans that their access to the wonders of space may be within their reach.

On December 13, 2018, Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, named the VSS Unity was carried aloft by the WhiteNight Two carrier aircraft from the Mojave, California Air and Space Port. With Stucky and Sturckow onboard the VSS Unity, the WhiteNight Two gradually climbed to an altitude of almost 40,000 feet where it released the spacecraft. Stucky and Sturckow lit the engine and guided the VSS Unity 51.39 miles (271,340 feet) above the Earth and into space. The vehicle returned from space and safely glided back to the spaceport, guided by its pilots. The VSS Unity was manufactured in America by The Spaceship Company, a California-based company owned by Virginia Galactic and headquartered in the Mojave dessert.

Sir Richard Branson, the Founder of Virgin Group said, The U.S. leads the world both in the exploration of space and in creating the conditions for a new space age, where it will operate alongside and in partnership with the private sector. While todays awards ceremony is, of course, a proud moment for our wonderful pilots and the whole Virgin Galactic team, it is also symbolic of an enabling regulatory framework that allows for innovation while prioritizing safety. It is this which has allowed us to pursue our dreams and which will ultimately underpin our commercial success as we seek to democratize space for the benefit of humankind.

Stucky and Sturckow now become two of only four Americans to receive FAA Astronaut Wings. In 2004, Scaled Composites was awarded the \$10 million Ansari XPrize when it sent the reusable SpaceShipOne on two successful FAA-licensed commercial spaceflights. The test pilots of those flights, Mike Melvill and Brian Binnie, received their FAA Astronaut Wings directly after the last flight of the vehicle on Oct. 4, 2004.

The FAA is responsible for licensing, overseeing, and regulating all U.S. commercial space transportation activities. Among the many FAA requirements for Astronaut Wings is the requirement that the wings are only to be awarded to crewmembers who fly beyond 50 statute miles above the surface of the Earth on a launch vehicle licensed (or permitted) by the [FAAs Office of Commercial Space Transportation](#). A statute mile is one land-measured mile. Learn more about [FAA commercial space transportation activities](#), including FAA Astronaut Wings, on our website.



# Skip rush hour traffic and FLOAT

LA VERNE, Calif. (KABC) -- Rush hour in Southern California isn't easy, but a solution may soon give daily commuters the option of flying over it.

"Our idea is to get people to work on a plane. We want to get people off the freeways and fly them to work," said Tom Hsieh, co-founder of FLOAT.

Hsieh is one of three co-founders of Fly Over All Traffic or FLOAT. The idea is to provide Monday through Friday air shuttle service, taking advantage of the 26 general aviation airports across the greater Los Angeles region.

"Reduce commute times from two-plus hours to 15-minute flights," said Hsieh.

It's an idea that might take off.

"I think it would be a positive thing because of a lot of them spend two-and-a-half hours to and from commuting," said Sandra Gomez.

Today, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety released a study stating American drivers are spending more time behind the wheel -- up 8 percent from five years ago.

"Sometimes the 405 and the 10 are ridiculous," said Shaka Dennis.

"Professional people, that time is money. That would definitely be a viable business," said Tim Monnie.

But you don't have to be high on the corporate ladder to experience FLOAT.

"We don't want it to be just the executive or the guy in the corner office. We want the regular worker to fly on this every day," said Arnel Guiang, Co-Founder of FLOAT.

Commuters would subscribe to the air shuttle service, which runs \$1,200 a month or \$30 each way.

FLOAT plans to start offering its flyover commute in the next few months. For more information logon to their website at [www.floatshuttle.com](http://www.floatshuttle.com).

Reduce commute times from two-plus hours to 15-minute flights," said Hsieh. To be continued in future newsletters.



California Airport and Pilot Political Action Committee

## WHAT IS A POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)?

The California Airport and Pilot Political Action Committee is sponsored by California Pilots Association (CALPILOTS). The PAC is an independent legal entity administered by a board of Trustees. All bookkeeping is separate from CALPILOTS and regular reports of income and disbursements are made to the California Secretary of State. All funding is received from voluntary contributions. No CALPILOTS membership dues are used for this purpose.

## WHY DO WE NEED A PILOT PAC?

As a tax-exempt, California public benefit corporation and a Federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, CALPILOTS cannot engage in any "substantial amount" of political activity. The PAC provides an opportunity for the aviation community to support "aviation-friendly"; legislators and candidates. This includes members of city councils, county boards of supervisors and state legislators. Through the PAC the aviation community can support legislation that is favorable to aviation.

The PAC Trustees decide which California Senate and California Assembly incumbents or candidates to support or oppose. Local airport pilot representatives decide which city council or county supervisor candidates to support. Local pilots groups have found that banner towing can be a very effective means of supporting a local "aviation-friendly" candidate. For example, a banner might read "Smith for Supervisor" or "Jones for City Council" or a direct contribution to their campaign. Information for supporting a local candidate can be obtained by contacting the PAC Committee, or 1-800-319-5286.

PAC Committee Contributions can be made to payable to:

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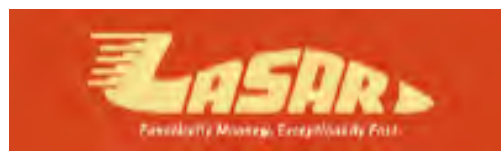


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A Chapter of the  
California Pilots Association

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Disaster Airlift Response Team

**DART**

Dart Coordinator

**PAUL MARSHAL**

408-838-3307

[Paul.Marshall@calpilots.org](mailto:Paul.Marshall@calpilots.org)

## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE TRACKING



California Aviation Related Legislative  
Bill Analysis Summary  
Prepared by the  
California Department of Transportation  
Division of Aeronautics  
October 7, 2016

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[http://dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/documents/leg\\_reports/](http://dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/documents/leg_reports/)





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>>Note: Please use the above address only for membership applications and renewals

**YOU MAY ALSO JOIN OR RENEW ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.calpilots.org](http://www.calpilots.org)**

## PRESIDENT

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**Region 2** March 21-24, 2019

**Ford Tri-motor Fly-In @ Sac Executive Airport**

**Region 2** April 1-3, 2019

**Aviation Days @ State Capital**

**Branson MO** April 11-14, 2019

**Branson Spring Fly-Out for USPA**

**Region 3** May 11th

**Oceano Airport Celebration**

**Region 3** May 11th

**Madera Gathering of Warbirds**

**Region 2** June 21st—24th  
**CalPilots booth**

**Livermore AOPA event Stop in at the**

**March-April 2019**

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