
WINGTIPS

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14th Annual Texas Airport Operators Conference A Success!

Over 400 people attended the 14th Annual Texas Airport Operators Conference, including airport managers, sponsors, consultants, speakers, Aviation Division, and TxDOT district staff.

The conference kicked off Wednesday afternoon with a get acquainted reception hosted by a record number of 49 companies exhibiting their latest products and services for the aviation industry.

Thursday night, almost 200 conference attendees enjoyed the Fire Hall Fling. Buses were provided for transport to and from the social for those who chose not to drive. The all-you-can-eat catfish dinner with peach cobbler was delicious! And the Chisholm Hill Band provided some great music for listening and dancing.

Conference workshops were especially helpful and informative this year. Workshop topics included record retention requirements, construction safety, an overview of the new Routine Airport Maintenance Program, the value of general aviation airports to a community, and an update on the State Block Grant Program.

The TxDOT/DOT-FAA "Listening Session" that is scheduled each year at the conference went very well. David Fulton, TxDOT's Director of Aviation; and Otis Welch, Manager of FAA's Texas Airport Development Office, conducted an hour long session fielding questions and accepting suggestions from conference attendees on how TxDOT and FAA can better serve them.

Friday morning sessions included a thorough overview of small airport master planning, a session on the business perspective on the importance of general aviation, and a presentation on the plans for expansion in the Mexico market with the anticipated NAFTA-generated business.

Attendance was exceptional, a great time was had, excellent information was exchanged. If you weren't there, you should have been! Hope to see you next year!

Lloyd Shoppa, President of Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc., was the keynote speaker at the Awards Banquet. A native of Wharton, Texas, Shoppa joined Bell in 1964 and has held positions of increasing responsibility, culminating in his appointment as president last

December. While on special assignment in 1988-1989 at Bell's Flight Research Center in Arlington, Texas, Shoppa expedited the V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft through its assembly, functional checkout, and first flight.



Tiltrotors-- can take-off and land vertically like helicopters. By tilting their rotor systems forward, they can fly

like an airplane at a cruise speed of 300 mph. Tiltrotors have the speed, range and fuel efficiency capabilities of turboprop airplanes. Because the aircraft does not require a runway for takeoff, it will be particularly useful in highly congested metropolitan areas.

To provide proper service to the traveling public, civil tiltrotors will use "Vertiports," especially designed facilities that will provide efficient passenger services and amenities.

The city of Dallas opened a Vertiport in early 1994. Part of the city's convention center, the 3.1 acre facility will be expanded by 1999 to encompass 3.6 acres and include a 900-foot landing area, making it the nation's largest Vertiport.

Edward J. Swearingen Honored With Career Achievement Award

Edward J. Swearingen, Chairman of Sino Swearingen Aircraft Company of San Antonio, has been awarded the Texas Department of Transportation's 1996 Career Achievement Award for his contribution to aviation. "His hard work and leadership is an inspiration to all of us in aviation," said David Fulton, Director of TxDOT's Aviation Division. Tom Griebel, TxDOT's Assistant Executive Director for Multimodal Transportation, presented Mr. Swearingen with the award at the 1996 Texas Airport Operators Conference in Austin.



Mr. Swearingen is highly respected for his outstanding achievements in the aviation industry. His contribution to aviation in Texas and internationally, has been enormous. His commitment to aviation and his innovative ideas continue to inspire.

Mr. Swearingen is an internationally recognized leader in the market identification, design, development and manufacture of precedent setting aircraft and aircraft modification programs. His many design, development and manufacturing accomplishments include the Merlin IIA and Merlin IIB, the Merlin III and the Merlin IV turboprop corporate aircraft and the Lockheed Jetstar II, Piper Twin Comanche and Cheyenne, various research vehicles for Bell Helicopter, and numerous modifications of propeller driven aircraft manufactured by Lockheed and Beech. Swearingen also designed the Metro, a commuter transport that quickly became the most popular aircraft in the worldwide commuter airline industry. More than 1,000 Metros have been manufactured and are in use on an international scale.

Throughout his career, Swearingen founded a series of companies including Fairchild Aircraft Company and Swearingen Aircraft, Inc., where he created innovative aircraft designs and modifications. He also

served in a variety of key design and development roles while he was the assistant director of research and development for Lear, Inc. In this position he played an instrumental role in the preliminary design stages of the aircraft that became known as the Lear Star.

Swearingen began his aviation career at the age of 16, alternating his work between mechanics and electronics. Today, he is heavily involved with his newest program, the development and production of the SJ30 high performance, affordable, light twin engine business jet. To accomplish this goal, Sino Swearingen Aircraft Company was formed as an international partnership between Sino-Aerospace Investment Corporation of the Republic of China and Swearingen Aircraft, Inc., of San Antonio in January, 1995.

Site preparation for the SJ30 manufacturing facility in Martinsburg, West Virginia has begun. The new plant will include 120,000 square feet of manufacturing space. The company plans to add a 30,600 square-foot flight-operations building in 1999 and an 18,750 square-foot paint building in 2000. Plans also call for 255,000 square feet of asphalt for aircraft parking, fueling, engine run-up and preflight.

Soon Mr. Swearingen's dream of a new era in small corporate jets will become a reality.

Regional Planning Meetings

Regional Planning Meetings to review short and long range plans for future improvements to area general aviation airports are scheduled to be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the dates and in the locations listed.

Dates	Meeting Locations
June 26	Rio Grande City
June 27	Edinburg
June 28	Harlingen
August 21	Bowie
August 22	Decatur
August 23	Seymour
September 19	Lockhart
September 25	Houston
September 26	Houston
September 27	Houston
October 23	Laredo
October 24	Eagle Pass
October 25	Devine

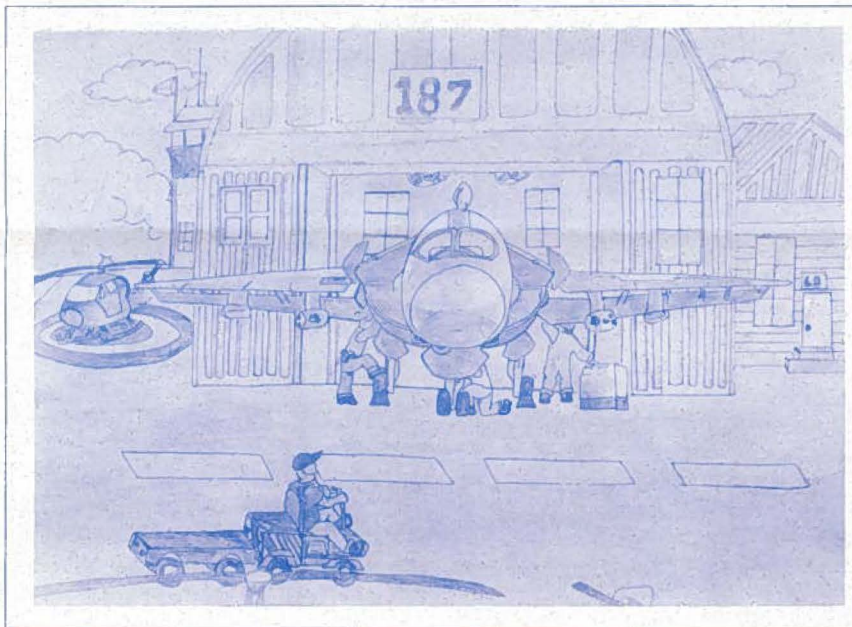
Kids Get Into Aviation Art!

One hundred seventy children from across Texas submitted artwork for the 1996 International Aviation Art Contest. The best artworks in each age category were selected as the state winners and runners up. All winners received a certificate and recognition from their state. First place artwork was forwarded to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national competition.

A couple of interesting happenstances occurred this year. First of all, two of the winners, Rhet Wylie and Roxanne Wylie are brother and sister! And secondly, all winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) in the Category III age group were from the same high school. Way to go guys---and way to go Harlandale High School!



Bryan Burrets - Sallie Curtis Elementary - Beaumont



Edward Farias - Harlandale HS - San Antonio



Rhet Wylie - School on the Rock - Tyler

	Category I Ages 6-9	Category II Ages 10-13	Category III Ages 14-17
1st Place	Rhet Wylie School on the Rock Tyler	Bryan Burrets Sallie Curtis Elementary Beaumont	Edward Farias Harlandale HS San Antonio
2nd Place	Tyler Hitt Meridith Dunbar Magnet School Temple	Roxanne Wylie School on the Rock Tyler	Rodolfo Gonzales Harlandale HS San Antonio
3rd Place	David Popham P. H. Greene Creative Arts Elem. Webster	Amanda Behrend Giddings Middle School Giddings	Thomas Gonzales, III Harlandale HS San Antonio

Odessa Schlemeyer Field Airport of the Year

Odessa Schlemeyer Field has been named the state's 1996 Airport of the Year by the Texas Department of Transportation. This award is given not just to the airport, but to the community for a job well done in all aspects of owning and operating a general aviation airport. Pictured right, David Fulton, Director of TxDOT's Aviation Division presented the award to Odessa Schlemeyer's Airport Manager, Don Bonifay.

There are many reasons why this is an exceptional airport. Odessa Schlemeyer has strong local support, good management and provides quality customer service.

"Ector County Commissioners are aviation-oriented and extremely supportive of Odessa Schlemeyer Field," said David Fulton, Director of TxDOT's Aviation Division. "The local airport board has provided strong direction and leadership. Management continues to maintain and upgrade services to pilots and aircraft owners. The result is a well-managed and well-maintained airport that is an example others should follow."



L. A. Miller Airport Manager of the Year

L. A. Miller of the Quanah Municipal Airport is the recipient of the "1996 Airport Manager of the Year" award. Pictured left, is Senator Tom Haywood presenting Mr. Miller with the award.

A flight school for foreign students keeps the airport in use year round. An airplane refurbishing business is also based at the airport. Without Mr. Miller's leadership this airport would not be the success it is today. It is a viable airport in a small city (3,400 population) with 28 based airplanes. The airport is always open and always clean. The airport is well managed and attractively landscaped with a white picket fence and blooming flowers.

"Thanks to L. A. Miller's leadership, Quanah Municipal Airport is an outstanding example of what a small city airport should be," said David Fulton, Director of TxDOT's Aviation Division. "L. A. and his wife Melba live there, and they take great care of things."





Gainesville Municipal Most Improved Airport

Pictured left, Senator Tom Haywood does the honors of presenting Gainesville Municipal's award.

Gainesville Municipal Airport displayed an outstanding commitment to improve the appearance and usefulness of their airport. "The beautiful new terminal building was built with 80 percent local funds," said David Fulton, Director of TxDOT's Aviation Division. The new 2,794 square foot terminal building at the airport has a conference room that can be used by other organizations. The main runway has been extended, the crosswind runway has been rebuilt, and a new fueling system has been installed."

The community has also hired an on-site full time airport manager, Mike Shahan. Mr. Shahan accepted the award on behalf of the city, from Senator Tom Haywood at the 1996 Texas Airport Operator's Conference .

Cotulla Municipal Airport Airport Community Involvement of the Year

Pictured right, David Fulton, Director of TxDOT's Aviation Division presents E. T. Page with Cotulla Municipal's award. This was a declining airport in the late 1980's, until E. T. Page convinced the community to actively support the airport. Mr. Page's commitment and persistence persuaded the community to become involved with the airport and raise funds to make it an integral part of the economy.

After completing a state/federal project, the community extended the runway with their own money. The community is very active in the pursuit of business at the airport. They have a waiting list for available hangar space.

Cotulla Municipal was originally owned by the city, but in the spirit of community development, LaSalle County joined in the ownership and also furnishes funds for airport maintenance. The County even accepted the responsibility of providing matching funds to obtain state and federal funds.

The airport is utilized for many community events, such as a city-wide garage sale. Several times a year, Mr. Page allows military reserve units to set up a temporary

encampment at the airport, which has a positive economic impact on the community.

E.T. Page, the City of Cotulla, and LaSalle County united in a strong community effort to revive Cotulla Municipal Airport, and we congratulate them as winners of the 1996 Community Involvement of the Year Award!



Air Shows/Festivals Great Benefit To Communities!

In 1995, charities received an average of \$41,057 from air shows, marking a 9 percent increase over figures compiled in 1993. This is good news for community groups and charities, many of which are struggling to meet ever increasing demands.

Air show rates are growing annually. In 1995, the average attendance per show was 60,627. Total North American attendance at air shows has skyrocketed to more than 27 million, making air shows the second most attended spectator events. Air shows are second only to major league baseball, with attendance rates at 50,469,236. Automobile races and NFL football attendance rates follow with 14,873,796 and 15,047,058, respectively.

Air shows have evolved into world-class entertainment events. The combination of the festival-like atmosphere and the chance to get close to aviation brings families back to air shows year after year.

Communities in which air shows are held typically experience show-related economic booms. Most show attendees reside within 50 miles of the event, but local businesses see increases in gasoline, fast food and other sales associated with festivals.

For additional information, contact Rebecca V. Scullon, International Council of Air Shows at (517) 782-2424.

Listed below are several upcoming airshows. Attendance at any of these will probably get you hooked!

Catch Some Air Shows!

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 20-23 | Air Race Classic, Corpus Christi. Pauline Glasson, 512/289-1101. |
| June 21-23 | IAC, Chapter 24 Lone Star Aerobatic Championships, McGregor Municipal Airport, McGregor. Karen McCollough, 214/458-9759. |
| June 25-30 | Lone Star Unlimited Expo Formula 1 R/C Air Race, Gainesville Municipal Airport. Joe Nelson 214/539-3868 or Mike Shahan 917/668-4565. |
| June 29-30 | NAS JRB, Fort Worth. Performers: U.S. Navy Blue Angels, Golden Knights, USAPT, Collmer Air Shows, Red Baron Squadron. Contact Cdr. Jim Martone, 817/782-5750. |
| July 4 | Fly In Breakfast, Colorado City Airport. J. O. Dockrey, 915/728-2542. |
| July 17-19 | Safety & Rescue Training, Kingwood. Basic Structural Collapse Rescue Course (Airport Emergency Rescue Personnel). USA Tech Corp, Inc. 713/359-7773. |
| July 17-21 | Spaceweek Intl. Assn. Spaceweek '96, Houston. Susan O. Davis, 713/333-3627. |
| Aug. 4-10 | Soaring Contest-Region 10, Uvalde. Kerry Huffstutler, 210/278-4481. |
| Aug. 17-18 | Gathering of Memories, San Marcos. Lilian Ayars, 210/833-4659. |
| Aug. 23-25 | All American Sport Aviation Fly-In, Alliance Airport, Fort Worth. Workshops, forums, aviation exhibits, daily airshow, fly market, awards banquet. Camping on airport. 817/572-7455. |
| Aug. 31- | Gulf Coast Regional Aerobatic Championship Contest, Jackson County Airport, Edna. Contest Director, Andy Miller, 713/487-5215. |
| Sept 7-8 | Flight Through Time Air Show, Dallas Love Field, Dallas, Texas. Contact George Lodge, 214/350-3600. |
| Sept. 21-22 | Wings Over Houston, Houston, Texas. Contact Jack Amuny, 713/644-1018. |
| Sept. 28-29 | Confederate Air Force Airsho '96, Midland, Texas. Contact Barbi Woods, 915/563-1000. |
| Oct. 12-13 | El Paso Int'l Amigo Airsho, El Paso, Texas. Contact Gwen Leatherwood, 915/545-2864. |
| Oct. 12-13 | International Airshow '96, Fort Worth, Texas. |

The 99's Stripe Again!

Would you think twelve people could do such an outstanding job of painting 19,200 square feet of pavement in only 2 1/2 hours? That would be 1,600 square feet per person...and that would be 128 square feet per minute! Wow! Well, that's just what members of the San Antonio Chapter of the 99's did on a recent Saturday morning at the New Braunfels Municipal Airport! The group members painted 16 threshold bars on runways 17 and 35 at the airport.

After Airport Manager Darrell Phillips received some expensive bids from commercial painters to do the job, he decided he would call the 99's to see if they would consider the project. He knew of other jobs (aerial paintings, hangars, compass roses) chapter members had voluntarily done at airports, and thought he would give it a shot and ask them. They agreed to do the job.

The city bought the paint, and two street department workers assisted in the painting project.

"The 99's did a fantastic job, and their efforts are appreciated" said Phillips. "Commercial painters could not have done a better job. Not only did the volunteers save the City a considerable amount of money, everyone had a great time doing the work. One of the 99's even brought her 8 year old grandson who also helped. The group was just great to be around. The morning was filled with lots of fun, laughter and hard work."

Texas Hosts '96 World Precision Flying Championship

Meacham Field in Fort Worth will be the site of the 12th World Precision Flying Championship, Sept. 28 - Oct. 6.

The 99's will host the event, and one of the functions they perform is to help the foreign countries locate suitable aircraft to fly in the competition because the cost of shipping their own airplanes over here is prohibitive.

THEY NEED HELP! They estimate they will need 75-100 single engine airplanes to rent for about \$35/hr. (dry) for 50-60 hours of rental time during the two weeks the competitors will be in Texas. Almost any single engine is acceptable: home built, modified production aircraft and even some ultralights if they meet minimum weight and 3 hrs. sustained fuel capacity requirements. So far, the airplanes requested have been mostly C150s and 152s, but also some C172s and a PA 18.

It is urgent that contacts be made soon so that non-U.S. Pilots can be put in touch with willing aircraft owners so they can work out their own deals. Contact person is:

Pat Ward, Rt. 1, Box 206M

Aero Country Airport, McKinney, TX 75070.

Tel:214/346-3517, Fax: 214/347-2917

Compuserve 76764,1253

Internet Pat M. Ward 76764.1253 @ Compuserve.com.

WHO ARE THE 99's?

The 99's are women pilots, mechanics, flight instructors, air traffic controllers, homemakers and other professionals from 35 countries. The organization was founded in 1929 by Amelia Earhart and other early women pilots. Of the 117 U.S. licensed women pilots of the day, 99 became charter members of the organization and took the name from their number. Their purpose is to offer mutual support for women in aviation and to support the advancement of aviation. The organization is well known for its involvement in education, charitable and/or scientific activities as they relate to aviation.

There are thirteen chapters in Texas. For information about a chapter in your area, call Marie Peinado at our Aviation Resource Center, 1 800-68-PILOT.

LIGHTING DOLLARS SURVEY

We are surveying airports to find out what their annual expenditures are for airfield lighting. Please call, fax, or mail this information to TxDOT - Aviation Division, Planning and Programming Section 1-800-68-PILOT, Fax: 512/416-4510.

Sky King Videos!

The final 20 unreleased episodes of the 1950's television series Sky King, an action/adventure program that featured extensive use of aviation, have been packaged for release by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Aviation Foundation. What are believed to be all 64 existing full episodes of the series are now packaged into 16 four-episode tapes. The five new tapes contain the 20 programs that have not been seen by the public for more than 30 years.

Sky King, which originally aired on NBC and ABC from 1952-1954, was developed from a radio serial of the same title. The TV series featured Kirby Grant as Schuyler "Sky" King as a former Navy pilot-turned rancher in the western U.S. Numerous adventures and mysteries caused King, his niece Penny (Gloria Winters) and nephew Clipper (Ron Hagerthy) to use airplanes for various assignments. The airplanes included a Cessna T-50 "Bamboo Bomber" in early programs and later a Cessna 310. Both airplanes were known as "Songbird" in the TV series. Sky King videos are \$24.95, and may be ordered by calling EAA at 1-800-843-3612.

'96 Summer Olympics Flight Procedure Video Available

The FAA has designed and produced an information video for pilots detailing what they may expect when flying to Atlanta for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.

The video details procedures that must be followed for flying into Atlanta for the Games, such as required arrival and departure reservations and temporary flight restrictions.

Information contained in the video is accessible on the FAA's corporate bulletin board by dialing (800) 224-6287 and is published in Notices to Airmen (NOTAMS).

A copy of the "Olympic Flight Plan" video, which is free of charge to NBAA members and \$15 for non-members, may be obtained by calling the NBAA publications line at (202) 783-9286.

A copy will soon be available for check out from our Aviation Video Library, 1-800-68-PILOT.

Submit articles for WINGTIPS Write to TXDOT-Aviation Division
125 E. 11th Street, Austin TX 78701-2483
Attention: Cheryl Williams, or fax to 512-416-4510

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