

# FLIGHT TIMES

Winter 2016: Brown Field Edition

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO AIRPORTS  
MONTGOMERY FIELD      BROWN FIELD



*The Future of Brown Field*

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## **Calendar of Events:**

- Jan 1: New Year's Day
- Jan 9: EAA Ch. 14 Open House SDM
- Jan 12: AAC Meeting at MYF, 3:00 PM
- Jan 16: EAA Ch.14 General Meeting SDM
- Jan 18: Martin Luther King, JR Day
- Feb 13: EAA Ch. 14 Open House SDM
- Feb 15: President's Day
- Feb 20: EAA Ch. 14 General Meeting SDM
- Feb 27: Challenge Air SD Jet Center SDM

# Airport Manager's Comments

Dear Readers,

I think you will be eager to learn about some of the interesting things that have occurred down at Brown Field over the last year. The outlook for the future is encouraging, the goals are clear and defined. I am refreshed by what lies ahead.

With 2015 in the mirror, I look optimistically toward an event filled New Year in 2016. It has been a year of change, renewed vision and great expectation. Reminiscent of the departure of some long time colleagues and friends, I look confidently toward the new future at Airports. Please enjoy this edition of the flight Times newsletter compliments of the Brown Field Operations Team.

Sincerely,

Andrew Schwartz  
Brown Field Airport Manager

## A Note from the Deputy Director of Airports

Dear Airport Tenants & Users,

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, I will have been the Deputy Director of the Airports Division, for a year. I am pleased to lead the City's Airports Division and remain committed to operating both Montgomery and Brown Fields safely and efficiently, as they continue to be world class General Aviation Airports, part of a "World Class City".



In the past year, the Airports Division has worked hard creating policy documents including an annual Business Plan, an Operations Policy Manual, and Commercial Minimum Operating Standards in order to clearly and consistently communicate our vision and maximize development opportunities. Our Property Management Section continues to work diligently on eliminating all "hold-over" leases & securing long-term leases for Crown Air, Coast Aviation, San Diego Fire & Rescue Air Operations, National Air College, and all the current hangar tenants located on tiedowns at Montgomery Field. The entire Division remains committed to bringing the "Metro Airpark Project" at Brown Field to fruition.

For the remainder of FY-2016 (through the end of June of this year), the Airports Division will continue to collaborate on the Runway 5 - 23 pavement reconstruction project at Montgomery Field, the Runway 26R - 8L pavement reconstruction project at Brown Field, and Airport Master Plan Updates for both airports starting in June.

We are preparing the FY-2017 Budget which projects an Operating Budget of approximately \$5,000,000. This budget will include the addition of an Airport Operations Assistant for Montgomery Field, an additional Property Agent for the Property Management Section, and a Biologist III to manage the complex environmental issues at both Montgomery and Brown Fields, including conducting "Wildlife Hazard Assessments".

In this new calendar year of 2016, the Airports Division will continue to be pro-active in all that we do, in an effort to serve our customers and airport users to the best of our abilities.

I look forward to meeting those of you I have not yet met and to saying hello again to those whose acquaintance I have had the pleasure of making. Please feel free to stop by or call me with any concerns or issues regarding the Airports Division.

Sincerely,

Rod Propst, A.A.E.  
Deputy Director for Airports  
Real Estate Assets Department  
City of San Diego



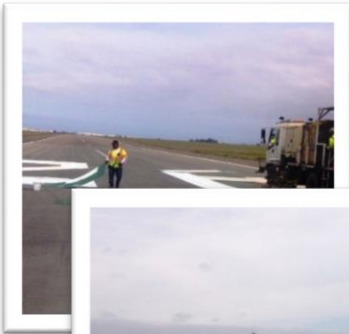
## Metropolitan Airpark

In November, Mr. Richard Sax hosted the South County Economic Development Council at Brown Field. He presented the plans for the Metropolitan Airpark answering questions regarding the project. This development includes a jet aviation business center FBO, a helicopter business center FBO, an eco-industrial park, and mixed commercial, retail and hotel uses. His project is to be powered by 65 acres of solar power. Mr. Sax explained his idea is to add offices to hangars; “Don’t just bring planes, bring businesses.” He does this through “condominiumizing” offices and hangars. He was successful in his Pre-Paid Lease program at Palomar McClellan Airport in Carlsbad. He plans to roll out a similar structure at Brown Field, with one bonus - the City of San Diego allows for a 50 year lease versus the 30 years the County Airport allowed at Palomar. Brown Field is looking forward to the grading to begin on this project soon. The South County Economic Development Council predicts this development will create 4,000 permanent jobs and contribute more than \$500 million annually to the local economy.



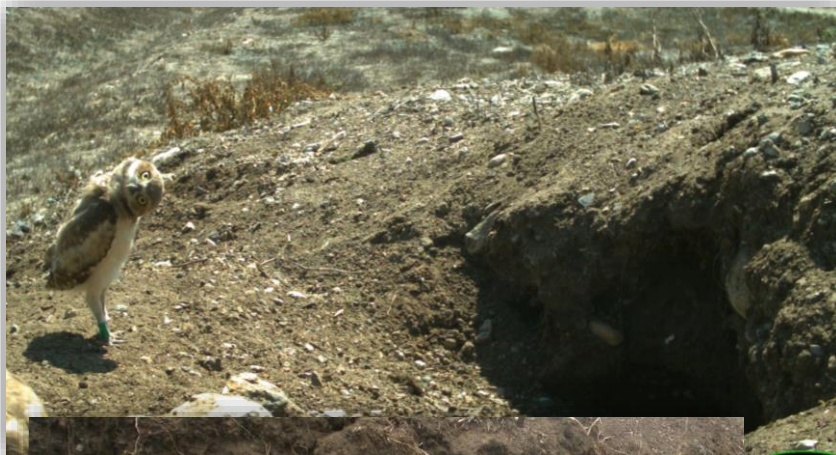


## Runway Paint Striping



A lot has been happening at Brown Field. The Airports Division has multiple projects lined up to improve and enhance the KSDM airfield for users! Projects in the works are modernizing the restrooms to meet ADA compliance, painting the runway markings and a future runway renovation project. Airport Operations completed the paint striping project in June. Both Runway 26L/8R and 26R/8L have been painted and marked. We use durable long lasting paint which is highly reflective to enhance the visibility of markings, ensuring a safe operating environment for our users. With two runways, one of which is 7,972 feet, we used over 71,000 square feet of paint.

## Burrowing Owls



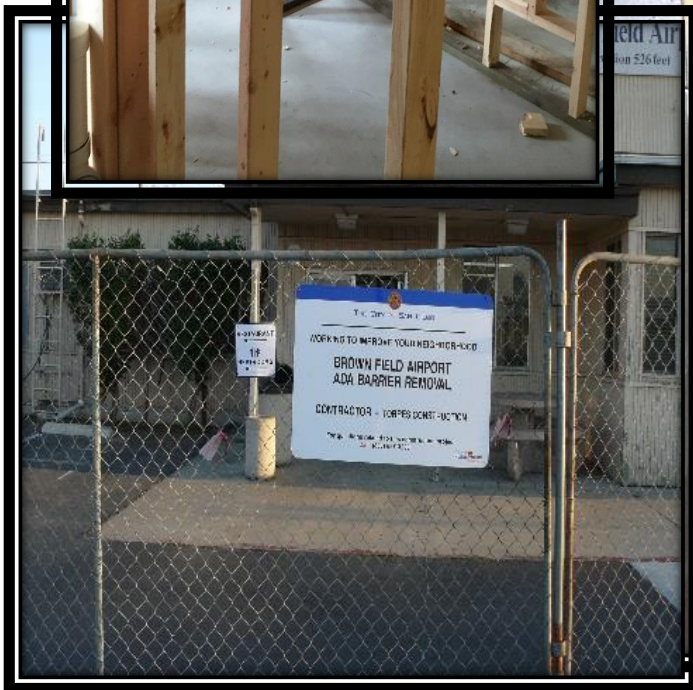
We have included some pictures of the elusive Burrowing Owls living at Brown Field. These cute little critters are very shy. These owls don't nest in trees, they prefer underground burrows, stealing the burrows from squirrels. They prefer living in open dry areas with low vegetation. Their diet consists of insects, small rodents, and the occasional butterfly. Airport Operations works closely with wild life biologists from the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research to ensure the sustainability of the Burrowing Owls.



*Photos compliments of the San Diego Zoo  
Institute for Conservation Research*

# ADA Barrier Removal

On August 11th, The City of San Diego Airports Division began the first of two voluntary ADA Barrier Removal and Bathroom upgrades to modernize current facilities at both of its airports. Brown Field will be the first of the two City Airports to receive the makeover and will serve as the model for the second phase of improvements to begin at Montgomery Field. The project at Brown Field is expected to take 100 working days to complete and should be finished in February of 2016. The renovation will improve accessibility and provide optimal mobility for all transiting the terminal. Improvements will include enhanced paths of travel inside and out, automatic doors, improved signage, drinking fountains a fire alarm and renovated restroom facilities. The improvements should be well received by tenants and users of both airports and are definitely a touch of World Class Quality for all. Stay tuned...





## Military Aviation at Brown Field



Have you ever wondered why there are so many military aircraft at Brown Field Airport? Feeling the rumble from two General Electric F404-GE-402 turbofan engines as they push toward the sky and 11,000 lbf of thrust rattling the silverware as you enjoy a hamburger at the local airport café. We as operations, receive many inquiries as to why we have such a large military aircraft presence at the airport.

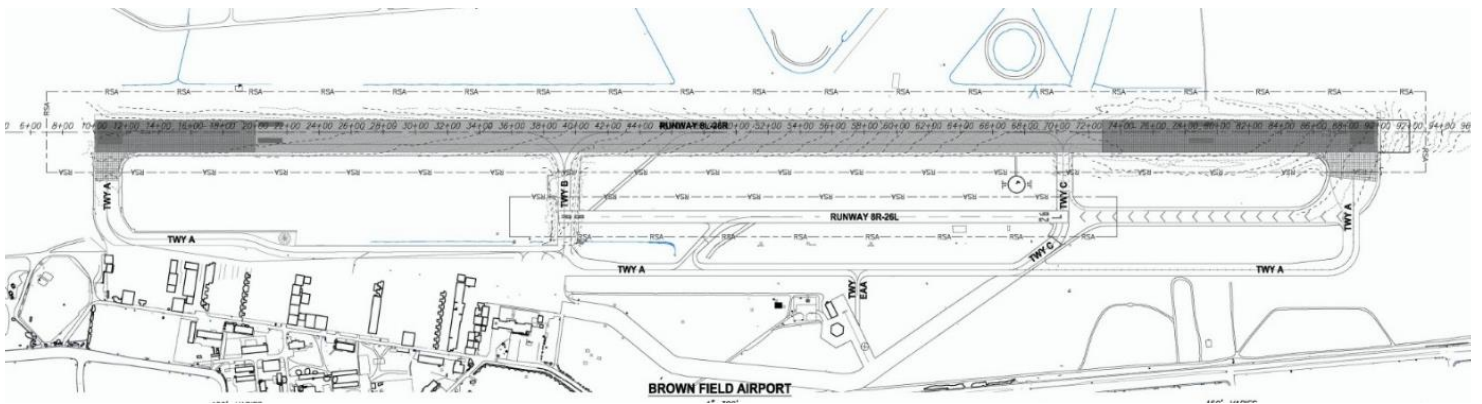
Many people don't know that Brown Field started as a military training airfield after WWI and even after being turned over to the City of San Diego in the 60's it has always been used by the military as an auxiliary airfield for air operations.

The airport initially was started as a bombing range for Army Air Corp pilots after the First World War and continued as a training ground for our countries aviators throughout the pre-war, WWII and post war years. Currently, despite being a civilian airport, Brown Field with its exceptionally-long 7,972 ft. runway is utilized by various branches of our military's air operations as a vital staging area for their training, fuel re-supply and maybe most important of all "Hamburger" re-supply at our local café! I'm sure I can speak for all when I say that the patrons and employees of Brown Field Airport are proud to be vital contributors to our countries service men and women and enjoy watching the little air show each day that they are here.



# Runway 8L/26R Rehabilitation Project to Begin February 2016

Brown Field Airport will begin the first phase of the runway restoration project that will rehabilitate the aging and distressed 8L/26R runway. The project will entail shortening the east end of runway 8L/26R by 1,922 feet, employ a displaced threshold, add a blast pad, and utilize a Pulse Light Approach Slope Indicator (PLASI) as part of the reconfiguration process to accommodate uninterrupted operations during construction. The project estimated to cost \$4.8 million, will receive grant assistance from the FAA and Caltrans financing the majority of the construction cost. Coffman Specialties, Inc., will be the construction contractor, working in conjunction with HNTB who will provide design and consultation expertise during the project.



## New Mail Center at Brown Field



In an effort to make mail delivery at Brown Field more efficient, the United States Postal Service (USPS) will be providing the airport with 2 brand new mail center cluster boxes to replace the aging post-mounted mail boxes which occupy the airport in various arbitrary locations. The new cluster units will be centrally located under lighted cover and provide for ADA accessibility at the south entrance to the airport lobby. Although the box relocation may initially provide for some minor inconveniences, the USPS is confident that the delivery processes at Brown Field will significantly improve efficiency and accuracy of mail delivery.

## Snoopy II Returns with a New Look



Met Life Blimp is sporting a new look for the Peanuts movie premier which took place in Westwood, CA last November. The flyover in Orange County capped the star-studded event attended by excited Charlie Brown Fans.

As is typical for this time of year, the Snoopy II Airship has taken-up winter residency at Brown Field Airport. The airship which is owned by the Van Wagner Group will be hovering above the roof tops of San Diego County through January. The 133' long x 44' tall sphere of helium, capable

of traveling at speeds of up to 53 mph (in favorable winds) has finally arrived from its' home base of operations in Orlando, Florida. The trek across the United States typically takes about 2 weeks to complete, depending on weather and logistical challenges. The airship travels with a support crew of 12 technicians and 2 pilots who are on the road almost 365 days of the year providing support and maintenance for the craft. The primary role of the airship is not only to serve as a marketing platform for aerial advertisement, but to provide overhead photography for national sporting events as well. In addition to all the serviceable functions of the Snoopy II, the aviation community is fortunate to lay claim to one of the most identifiable and unique ambassadors in service today.

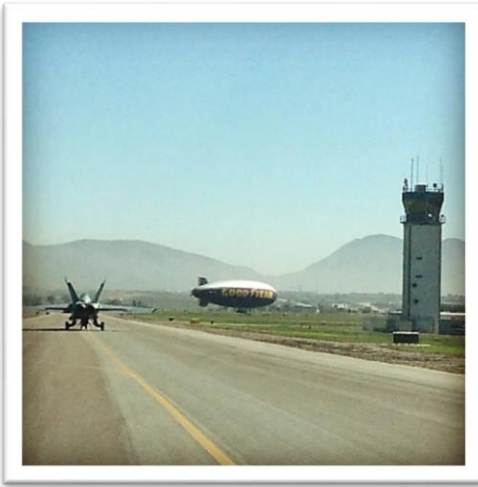


## F-16 Operations

The Colorado Air National Guard 120<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron (Colorado Cougars) flew out of Brown Field for the weekend. This is the first time an F-16 has landed at Brown Field since the 1980's. The 120<sup>th</sup> is equipped with the F-16C and was in town for training exercises with the Marines.







## Controller's Corner

The most important piece of the Air Traffic Control puzzle in the Tower is having good communication between us and you, the pilot. If the Tower does not know Who/What/Where you are and what you want; we cannot determine how to work you into the traffic flow.

Take these two transmissions for example:

“Brown Tower, Cessna 12345,” ..... waiting for a response, or

“Brown Tower, Cessna 12345, Upper Otay, 1,500 feet, information Delta, request pattern work.”

The second transmission gives us all the information we need to start the process of getting you into the traffic flow, determine where you will fit in, and issue pertinent traffic advisories. With the first transmission we know nothing except your call sign. There would need to be two more transmissions (1 from the Tower, 1 from you) before we could issue entry instructions, traffic, or sequence information.

Telling the Tower you are “inbound for landing,” indicates to us a full stop landing. If a full stop is not your intention, if instead you desire pattern work, please indicate so. The separation requirements between two full stop aircraft are different than one full stop and one touch and go. Telling Tower on short final that you want a touch and go rather than the landing you were cleared for, just might get you sent around in order for tower to maintain runway separation.

If you are given an instruction that you do not understand, please ask for clarification. If the Tower instructs you to report over the prison and you do not know where the prison is, tell the Tower. Telling us you do not understand an instruction helps us to help you.

ATIS: FAA regulations *recommend* that you get the airport ATIS before arriving and before taxiing out, our company *requires* us to ensure you have the ATIS. If you don't report with it, we will ask you for it. Basically, it's all about good communication skills. Tell us what you want to do and every one of my controllers will try and get you what you need.

In the immortal words of Jerry Maguire – “Help me, help you.”

~ Mark Demetris, Air Traffic Manager, Brown Field



## Challenge Air Event

Challenge Air hosts one-day Fly Day Events. The Fly Days are offered at no cost to kids and young adults with special needs. Challenge air needs volunteers to help on the ground as well as fly. You and your loved ones are invited to come enjoy an unforgettable experience that forever changes the life of children with special needs. Families and Pilots be sure to register at this link: <https://www.challengeair.com/air-events/>

**Date: February 27, 2016 9:00am – 4:00pm**

## Flying into Brown Field?

Check out some of these services that are located here on the field:

**First Flight Corp. (619) 661-6522**

(Fuel services, maintenance, hangar/ramp space, flight training)

**Fuel Prices: Jet A \$3.79 Avgas \$4.51**

**Pacific Coast Skydive (619) 804-1494**

(Skydiving and coastal tours)

[www.pacificcoastskydiving.com](http://www.pacificcoastskydiving.com)

**Baja Air Airventures (619) 421-2235**

(Air excursions into Baja California)

[www.bajaairventures.com](http://www.bajaairventures.com)

**Altitude Helicopters (619) 661-1605**

(Helicopter flight training, photo flights)

[www.helialtitude.com](http://www.helialtitude.com)

**San Diego Jet Center (619) 671-9222**

(Fuel/line services, hangar/ramp space, pilot's lounge)

**Fuel Prices: Jet A \$4.59 Avgas \$4.34**

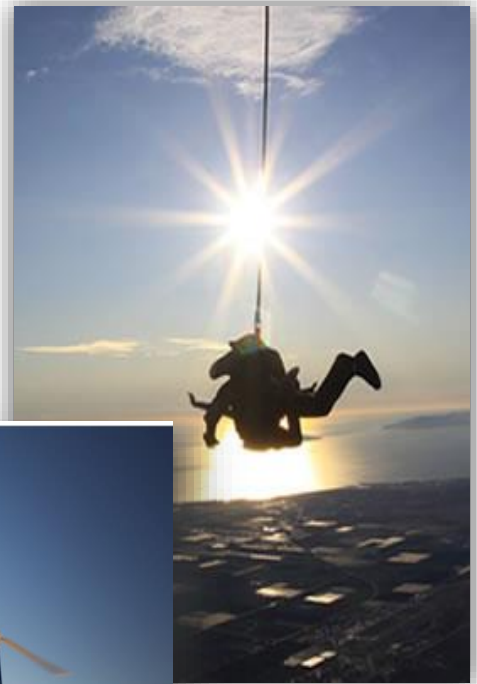
<http://sandiegojetcenter.com/>

**Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)**

**Chapter 14 (619) 661-6520**

(Young Eagles Program, fly-in events)

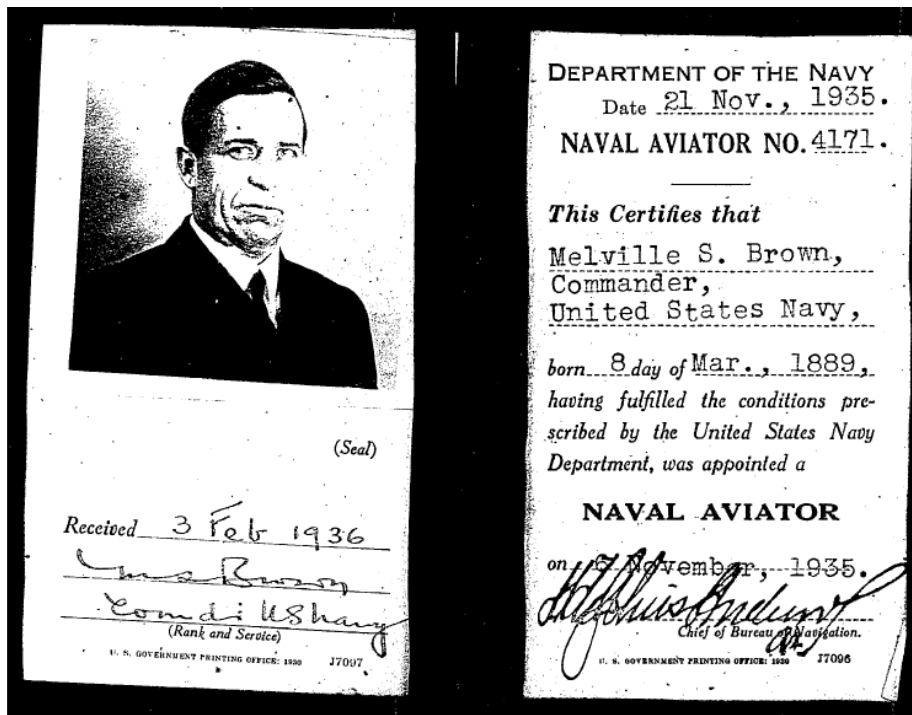
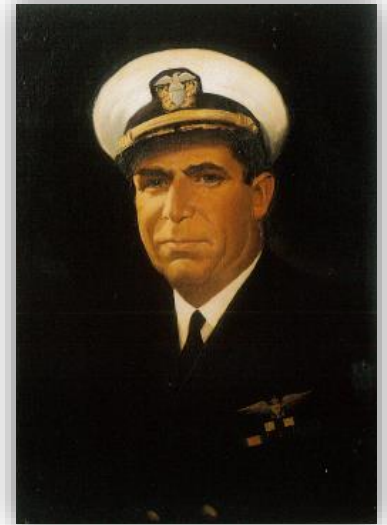
*\*All fuel prices subject to change*





# Melville Stuart Brown

Melville S. Brown was a career officer in the U.S. Navy from 1910 – 1936. Born on March 8, 1889, he was appointed to the Naval Academy in 1906 from Chicago, Illinois and commissioned a Naval Officer in 1910. Lieutenant Commander Brown served as Commanding Officer of two Clemson-Class Destroyers: USS Truxtun (DD-229) when the vessel was commissioned in 1921, and USS Macdonough (DD-331) from 1924 – 1925. He also served on staff at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and with the Department of the Navy in Washington, D.C. In 1935, Commander Brown earned his Naval Aviator designation (No. 4171), and in 1936 was the Executive Officer of the USS Lexington (CV-2). On November 2, 1936, Commander Brown was killed in an aircraft assigned to USS Lexington while attempting to make a forced landing in a cultivated field near Descanso, California. He is interred at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. In 1943, the Navy changed the name of Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Otay Mesa to NAAS Brown Field in honor of Commander Brown.



## Montgomery Field (MYF)

3750 John J Montgomery Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123

Airport Administration: (858) 573-1427  
Airport Manager: (858) 573-1430  
Airport Operations: (858) 573-1440  
Airport Noise Management: (858) 573-1436



## Brown Field (SDM)

1424 Continental Street  
San Diego, CA 92154

Airport Administration: (858) 573-1427  
Airport Manager: (619) 424-0456  
Airport Operations: (619) 424-0455  
Airport Noise Management: (858) 573-1436



For comments or suggestions on the content or format of this newsletter, please contact the editor at:  
(858) 573-1436 or [writer@sandiego.gov](mailto:writer@sandiego.gov)

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