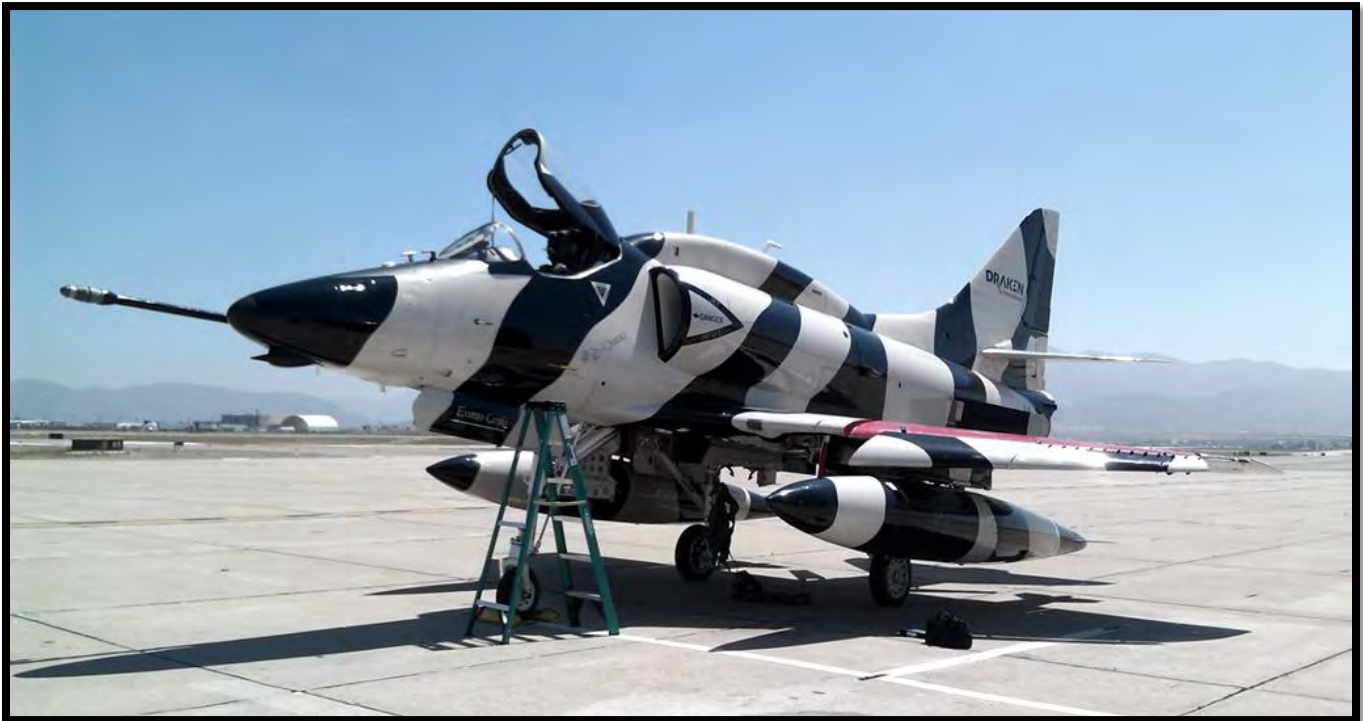


FLIGHT TIMES

Fall 2012

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



A-4 Skyhawk at Brown Field

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Calendar of Events:

- Nov 6: Election Day
Nov 12: Veterans' Day – City Holiday
Nov 13: AAC Meeting at SDM, 3:00 PM
Nov 22: Thanksgiving Day – City Holiday
Dec 25: Christmas Day – City Holiday
Jan 1: New Year's Day – City Holiday
Jan 8: AAC Meeting at MYF, 3:00 PM

Firebird Visits Montgomery Field *by Bill Dalby*

On September 17, Northrop Grumman flew the new radically designed all composite aircraft, the 355 Firebird to Montgomery Field. Scaled Composites, based in Mojave, California, designed the aircraft, which is intended to fill a void between smaller UAV's and larger ones currently in use, such as the Predator and Reaper. Northrop Grumman developed the internal payloads that collect intelligence, conduct reconnaissance and simultaneously execute communications functions, such as real-time video. The Firebird can be flown manned or unmanned, and is adaptable to fly reconnaissance and surveillance missions, as well as strike missions. Payloads are typically carried internally to help reduce drag and extend aircraft endurance, which can be as long as 40 hours. N355SX is a flying demonstrator in a venture to obtain government contracts. The US Army is one such contract eyed to fill the void left by the retired OV-1 Mohawk mission. The Firebird is one of Burt Rutan's last designs before his retirement in April 2011.



Blue Angels over MYF Tower

Miramar Air Show Honors USMC Astronauts

The MCAS Miramar Air Show took place October 12 – 14. In order to accommodate the practice session and show performances of the Blue Angels, Montgomery Field was closed for four hours on Thursday and two hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Impact of the closures to Montgomery Field operations was minimal, since Runways 10L/28R and 5/23 were already closed for a construction project. Several F/A-18's from VMFAT-101 relocated to Brown Field during the air show to continue training flights.

The theme of the air show was "Marines in Flight: Celebrating 50 Years of Space Exploration," recognizing Marine Corps aviators who served as astronauts, including current NASA Administrator and former Commanding General of the Miramar-based 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Major General Charles F. Bolden.

Cal Fire/SDG&E Press Conference at Montgomery Field

On September 18, City of San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders, San Diego County Supervisor Ron Roberts, SDG&E President Michael Niggli, and Cal Fire's San Diego Unit Chief Thom Porter held a press conference at Montgomery Field to showcase Cal Fire's new \$200,000 aircraft-mounted firefighting camera. The camera system, called Operational Downlink Information Network (ODIN), is mounted on Cal Fire's OV-10 Bronco spotter aircraft. Imagery can be viewed simultaneously in the plane and by crews on the ground, facilitating a more efficient response to fires. San Diego Gas and Electric contributed \$100,000 toward the cost of the system.



Mayor Jerry Sanders speaks at Montgomery Field



Cal Fire's OV-10 and Mobile Communications Center

Runway Safety Action Team Visits Montgomery Field

A regional Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) meeting was held at Montgomery Field on August 15 – 16. Representatives from the FAA (Runway Safety, Western-Pacific Region, Air Traffic, and Flight Standards), airport management, flight instructors, and general aviation pilots gathered to discuss ways to reduce or prevent runway incursions through an analysis of operating procedures, airport configuration, signs and markings, and forthcoming construction projects.

A runway incursion is defined as: “Any occurrence at an aerodrome involving the incorrect presence of an aircraft, vehicle, or person on the protected area of a surface designated for the landing and takeoff of aircraft.” The FAA categorizes the severity of runway incursions into four categories, with Category A being the most serious and Category D being the least serious.

Runway incursions are divided into three error types: pilot deviations, operational incidents and vehicle/pedestrian deviations. Pilot deviations (PD’s) pertain to pilots; an example would be taxiing across a runway hold position marking without clearance from ATC. Operational incidents (OI’s) pertain to air traffic controllers; an example would be clearing an aircraft for takeoff while the runway is still occupied by another aircraft or vehicle. Vehicle or pedestrian deviations (V/PD’s) pertain to pedestrians or vehicles entering the movement area without authorization from ATC. Approximately 65 percent of all runway incursions are caused by pilots; and, 75 percent of those are caused by general aviation pilots.

During the time period between July 30, 2010 – July 30, 2012, there were 15 runway incursions at Montgomery Field and 5 non-runway incursions (surface incidents). Of those, one was an operational incident, 12 were pilot deviations, and 7 were V/PD’s. Of the 15 runway incursions, 13 were Category D, while 2 were Category C.

The airport is taking an aggressive approach to prevent runway incursions and V/PD’s. First, all vehicle gate codes were changed. Tenants and users were given new, site-specific codes which apply only to areas they need access to – not the entire airport. Second, additional signage was added to existing gates and entrances to the air operations area. Third, fencing was added to prevent entrance to unpaved field areas. Fourth, penalties and loss of privileges will be implemented as consequence for unauthorized access. Fifth, all vehicle gates will be enhanced with card readers and cameras. In order to receive a card, tenants and users must review and comply with a new vehicle driver and pedestrian policy. Additionally, future construction projects will realign Taxiway Golf between Runway 28L and Taxiway Hotel, and replace non-standard airfield signage.

Montgomery Field Runway 10L/28R Construction Begins



The Montgomery Field Runway 10L/28R Rehabilitation Project began October 1. The project requires the primary runway, 10L/28R, to be closed for approximately one month, with additional partial closures for repainting the markings. During that time, the crosswind runway, 5/23, will be closed for approximately two weeks. As a result, the only runway available for fixed-wing operations is 10R/28L. Temporary lighting and reflectors were installed along 10R/28L to allow limited operations at night, albeit at pilot’s own risk.

The purpose of the project is to completely rehabilitate the primary runway and extend its life for 20 years. It is being funded largely by a \$3.8 million FAA grant. Granite Construction, Inc. was selected as the contractor for construction through a competitive bidding process.

Airports Advisory Committee Vacancies

There are currently two vacancies on the Airports Advisory Committee (AAC): one representing Brown Field tenants and one representing the Clairemont Mesa Community.

The AAC advises the Mayor on issues related to the operation and development of Montgomery and Brown Field Airports. It is composed of twelve members who represent aviation tenants and users at each airport, and community planning groups in the vicinity of the airports. Three of the members have special expertise that could benefit the Committee. The AAC normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 3 P.M. at Montgomery Field, with one meeting per year at Brown Field. Members are appointed by the Mayor and serve four year terms.

If you belong to one of these groups, and have an interest in serving on the Committee, or know someone who might be interested, please submit a letter of interest and statement of qualifications by November 30, 2012 to:

Mike Tussey, Deputy Director, Airports
3750 John J. Montgomery Drive
San Diego, CA 92123
858-573-1441
Mtussey@sandiego.gov

If submitting via email, please use "AAC Letter of Interest" in the subject line.



Airports Division Receives FAA Grant

The Airports Division received \$2.36 million as the first installment of a \$4.75 million FAA grant for the construction of Runway 5/23 and Taxiway Golf at Montgomery Field. The project will rehabilitate the sections of 5/23 north and south of Runway 10L/28R, and reduce the width of the runway from 150 feet to 75 feet. It will also rehabilitate Taxiway Golf and realign the portion of the taxiway between Taxiway Hotel and Runway 28L. This intersection is a known 'hot spot,' where pilots have inadvertently ventured onto 28L while taxiing on Golf. The project design was completed by Kimley-Horn; construction is anticipated to begin in two years.



EAA Hosts Mayoral Candidates at Brown Field

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 14 hosted two forums for the two City of San Diego mayoral candidates, Congressman Bob Filner and City Councilmember Carl DeMaio, in their large hangar at Brown Field. Councilmember DeMaio spoke on September 15, while Congressman Filner spoke on September 22. Discussion and attendance were limited to general aviation topics and aviation-minded people.



Photos used with permission from the EAA

Brown Field Tower Frequency Change

The primary frequency for local control (Tower) and the common traffic advisory frequency (CTAF) at Brown Field was changed from 126.5 MHz to 128.25 MHz at the end of July. 126.5 remains as the backup frequency for Runway 8R/26L operations, if needed. The change was necessary due to persistent frequency interference on 126.5, which often resulted in pilots receiving Mexican radio traffic while approaching the airport.



Brown Field Development Interview

In September, local news channel 10News did a story on the proposal by Distinctive Projects Company (DPC) for the development of a significant portion of Brown Field. During the interview, DPC President Richard Sax and City Real Estate Assets Department Director Jim Barwick described the proposal, which calls for the development of over 350 acres in four phases over a 20-year period, beginning next year, and explained the short- and long-term benefits of the project to the local economy.

The project will include aviation and non-aviation development, including a fixed base operator, hangars, office space, industrial, retail, a hotel, and a solar field.

Montgomery Field Runway 10L/28R Rehabilitation Project



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 Abatement: (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 Abatement: (858) 573-1436



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

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