

FLIGHT TIMES

Spring 2013

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



B-29 Superfortress FIFI at Brown Field

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Calendar of Events:

- May 14: AAC Meeting at MYF, 3:00 PM
May 27: Memorial Day – City Holiday
June 11: AAC Meeting at MYF, 3:00 PM
June 30: Fiscal Year 2013 Ends
July 1: Fiscal Year 2014 Begins
July 4: Independence Day – City Holiday
July 9: AAC Meeting at MYF, 3:00 PM

PBY at Brown Field

On January 15, a PBY Catalina landed at Brown Field to clear Customs, enroute to Gillespie Field in El Cajon. A local businessman purchased the aircraft two years ago while it was in South Africa undergoing restoration. The trip from South Africa to San Diego took three weeks and made stops in Namibia, Angola, Cameroon, Liberia, Brazil, French Guiana, Trinidad, Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico.

PBY's were manufactured between 1936 and 1945, most of them by Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego; this example was built by Canadian Vickers in 1944. During World War II, PBY's were used for anti-submarine warfare, maritime patrol, night attack and naval interdiction, and search and rescue. Some PBY's continue to serve as aerial fire bombers.



Airport Street and Parking Lot Repairs

The Airports Division completed a series of pavement repairs to streets and parking lots at both airports. Total cost of the repairs was \$1.6 million. Ramona Paving and Construction was the contractor used for this project under a City-wide general requirements contract.



MYF Runway 10L/28R Rehabilitation Project Completion



Montgomery Field completed a \$4.1 million rehabilitation of the primary runway, 10L/28R, and a portion of the crosswind runway, 5/23. The project, which began on October 1, overlaid the 1,200-foot displaced threshold, and completely rebuilt the remaining 3,400 feet of the runway. In addition, an 800-foot long section of 5/23 was rebuilt where it intersects 10L/28R. The runway opened at 7:25 P.M. on November 13, with the first aircraft landing on it at 7:26 P.M.

The project was funded largely by a \$3.8 million FAA grant. Granite Construction, Inc. was the contractor for construction, while Kimley-Horn provided design and consulting services.

B-29 Superfortress Highlights Commemorative Air Force Visit to SDM

The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) brought the only flying B-29 Superfortress in the world, *FIFI*, to Brown Field March 11 – 13, along with the P-51D Mustang *Man O'War*, C-45 Expeditor *Bucket of Bolts* and SNJ Texan *Sassy*. The visit was part of the *CAF AirPower History Tour*. Rides were offered in each aircraft for a fee ranging from \$65 - \$1,595.

According to the CAF, *FIFI* was acquired in the early 1970's when CAF members located it at the U.S. Navy Proving Ground, China Lake, California, where the aircraft was being used as a missile target. The CAF rescued and restored *FIFI* to flying condition. After 30 years of flying, *FIFI* underwent an extensive four-year restoration that included four new custom-built hybrid engines. *FIFI* returned to flying status in 2010 and has traveled across the country.

Sassy is a 1943 North American SNJ-5 operated by Air Group One of the CAF in San Diego at Gillespie Field, where rides are offered.



Noise Reminder

The recently completed runway project at Montgomery Field demonstrated the importance of using the full length of runway 28R for noise abatement. Pilots of aircraft with high noise levels, such as high-performance pistons, twins and turbines, are requested to use 28R for westbound departures, and to utilize the north pattern for touch and go operations and eastbound departures.



As a reminder, there are noise limits in effect for Montgomery Field. The limit for nighttime operations (11:30 P.M. – 6:30 A.M.) is 70 decibels, while the limit for daytime operations (6:30 A.M. – 11:30 P.M.) is 88 decibels. Exceeding the noise limits may result in a fine of up to \$250. The best way to avoid exceeding the noise limits is to avoid takeoffs between 11:30 P.M. and 6:30 A.M., and to use a good noise abatement departure profile at all times.



New Lobby Furniture at Brown Field

The terminal lobby at Brown Field received new furniture as a result of the Terminal 2 expansion at San Diego International Airport. One of the venders, Arconas, who did not win the bid to furnish the new terminal, decided it was not economical to ship the demo units back to Ontario, Canada. Instead, Arconas contacted Brown Field to see if they would take the units, paying only for transportation and installation. As a result, Brown Field paid less than \$500 for \$18,000 worth of furniture. The new units have self-contained power ports for standard 120v plugs and USB ports.

Montgomery Field Tower Renovation

Over the course of the next year, the FAA will be renovating the control tower at Montgomery Field. The project will require the use of a temporary tower cab, which will be placed adjacent to the existing tower. Transfer to the temporary tower cab is scheduled to occur in June, where operations will remain until February 2014.

Use of the temporary cab should have minimal impact to operations. Controller sightlines will be reduced slightly, and there will be one fewer controller position, which could result in fewer locally-filed flight plans. There will also be fewer visitors allowed during the project.



Commemorative Air Force at Brown Field



P-51D Mustang *Man O'War*



SNJ-5 Texan *Sassy*



C-45 Expeditor *Bucket of Bolts*



P-51D Mustang *Man O'War*



B-29 Superfortress *FIFI*



Brown Field Tower Closure

On March 22, the FAA announced the closure of 149 contract air traffic control towers across the country due to sequestration, one of them being Brown Field. The closure was initially set to occur on May 5, but was pushed to June 15 by the FAA in response to pending litigation by airports and airport organizations, and to allow airport sponsors time to implement plans to either self-fund the towers, or convert to non-towered airports.

The City of San Diego intends to file independent legal action, which requests relief from the FAA decision to close the tower, and a stay of such action until the court has rendered a judgment. The action was sanctioned by City Council during a closed session hearing on April 16, and will be filed with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

In the meantime, Brown Field users should re-acquaint themselves with operations at non-towered airports, should the tower close on June 15, as scheduled. When reviewing procedures, consideration should be given to the following factors: Brown Field's proximity to the international border (1.3 nautical miles), U.S. Customs activity, Border Patrol and military helicopter operations, fixed-wing military transports and fast-moving jets, parachute operations in the vicinity, banner tow operations, airship operations, proximity to San Diego Class Bravo airspace, tall mountains to the east, NOLF Imperial Beach to the west, and POGGI VORTAC to the north (2.3 nautical miles). In addition, Brown Field may be used to support emergency services during natural disasters, such as wildfires.

Capital Improvement Project Update

Montgomery Field Runway 5/23, Taxiway Golf Rehabilitation

This project is in the design phase. It will rehabilitate the sections of runway 5/23 that were not completed during the runway 10L/28R project, rehabilitate taxiway Golf south of taxiway Hotel, re-align taxiway Golf between runway 28L and taxiway Hotel (making it a 90 degree intersection), reduce the width of runway 5/23 from 150 feet to 75 feet, and reinstate the run-up pad on taxiway Hotel next to taxiway Foxtrot.

The purpose of narrowing the runway is to comply with current airport design standards. The realignment of taxiway Golf and the reinstatement of the run-up pad were the result of recommendations made by the Runway Safety Action Team. Non-standard airfield signage associated with taxiway Golf will likely be upgraded to meet current design standards. Kimley-Horn is the consultant designing this project, who is also updating the airport layout plan, at the request of the FAA. A \$2.7 million FAA grant has been received, with another \$2 million expected this year.

Brown Field Runway 8L/26R Rehabilitation

This project will rehabilitate the primary runway at Brown Field; it is also in the design phase, beginning in April. HNTB is the consultant designing the project, using a \$731,500 FAA grant. A \$6,350,000 FAA grant is expected this year, to be used for phase one of construction.

Around the Airports



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:
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