

# FLIGHT TIMES

Winter 2012

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



*Stinson SR-9F "Reliant" at Montgomery Field*

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## ***Calendar of Events:***

- March 13: AAC Meeting at MYF, 3:00 PM
- March 30: Cesar Chavez Day- City Holiday
- April 10: AAC Meeting at MYF, 3:00 PM
- May 8: AAC Meeting at MYF, 3:00 PM
- May 28: Memorial Day – City Holiday
- June 12: AAC Meeting at MYF, 3:00 PM
- June 30: FY12 Ends
- July 1: FY13 Begins
- July 4: Independence Day – City Holiday
- July 10: AAC Meeting at MYF, 3:00 PM

## Airports Advisory Committee Holiday Luncheon

On December 13, the Airports Advisory Committee (AAC) held its 2011 Holiday Luncheon at the 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron located next to Montgomery Field. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Planner Margie Drilling and Environmental Specialist Victor Globa made the trip from the FAA Western-Pacific Region in Lawndale to give a presentation to the Committee. The presentation gave an overview of the Western-Pacific Region's role in airport planning, environmental, compliance, AIP funding, certification and safety.



## Helicopter Operations at Montgomery Field Revisited



On February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Airports Division hosted a meeting to discuss helicopter operations at Montgomery Field. Airport Manager Ernie Gesell explained revised approach and departure procedures, which prohibit low overflights of airport structures, people and parking areas. These changes were made to avoid unnecessary risk to personnel and property on the airport, as well as to the helicopter crews, and to reduce noise impacts to adjacent communities. Airport Noise Officer Wayne Reiter reminded helicopter operators of

the noise-sensitive areas near the airport, and encouraged the use of patterns north of Aero Drive and freeway routes for non-emergency transitions. In attendance were representatives from San Diego Fire-Rescue, San Diego Police (ABLE), Air Methods (Mercy Air), Corporate Helicopters, DEA, and Montgomery Tower. The FSDO representative, Jim McNamara, was unable to attend, but his supportive position was conveyed by Mike Tussey, the Airports Deputy Director.

## Fence Project Complete at Brown Field

February marked the completion of the Perimeter Fence Project, Phase II at Brown Field. The project, which began in May 2011, added or replaced over 4,500 linear feet of fencing, and installed five pedestrian gates and seven vehicle gates. The purpose of the project was to enhance airfield safety and prevent runway incursions by enclosing the southern perimeter of the airport, with the added benefit of increased security. The project was largely funded by a \$460,942 FAA grant.

# Airships Visit Brown Field

The Goodyear blimp “Spirit of America” was in town to provide aerial television coverage for two college football games at Qualcomm Stadium – the Poinsettia Bowl on December 21 and the Holiday Bowl on December 28. Spirit of America moored at Brown Field alongside the Hangar 1 Vodka airship, which was in San Diego as part of a national promotional tour.

The Hangar 1 Vodka airship is an A-60+ airship identical to the MetLife airship. The promotional tour began in Miami, Florida, making its way up the east coast before heading west. On August 14, 2011, the airship made headlines when it broke free from its moorings during strong winds at the Ohio State University airport in Columbus, Ohio. The airship landed in a back yard approximately two miles from the airport, then deflated.

The Spirit of America is a GZ-20A airship based in Carson, California, between Long Beach and Los Angeles. It is 192 feet long, 55 feet in diameter and 59.5 feet high, with an envelope volume of 202,700 cubic feet and a gross weight of 12,840 lbs. The blimp is powered by two fuel-injected Continental IO-360 engines, each producing 210 horsepower. This gives it a top speed of 53 miles per hour and a cruising speed of 35 miles per hour, with a maximum endurance of 24 hours. The gondola can hold one pilot and six passengers, or one pilot and one camera operator with television equipment. The electronic sign consists of 82,656 light emitting diodes (LEDs), which enable the blimp to display color text, animation and video.



## New Brown Field Airport Manager

Chris Cooper was recently named the new Airport Manager for Brown Field. Chris started working at Brown Field as an Airport Operations Assistant in 2003, and then was promoted to Senior Airport Operations Assistant in 2007. He has been the Acting Airport Manager since 2010.

Prior to working at Brown Field, Chris worked for the County of San Diego as an Assistant Airport Manager at Gillespie, Ramona and Fallbrook airports. He earned a Bachelor's of Science in Aviation Management from Southern Illinois University and holds a Commercial Pilot Certificate with Multi-Engine and Instrument Ratings.

## AAC Bids Farewell to Kathy Monsour

During the February 14 AAC meeting, Chairman Buzz Fink and Airports Deputy Director Mike Tussey recognized Kathy Monsour for her six-year service on the Committee as the Clairemont Community representative. Kathy recently resigned from the Committee to devote more time to her catering business. She was very popular with Committee members and guests for the tasty treats she brought to the meetings. For her final meeting, she prepared a Valentine-themed array of cookies, cupcakes, and chocolate-dipped strawberries and marshmallow treats.



## Capital Improvement Projects Update

### Brown Field

- Runway 8L/26R Design: 12/06/2011 Council approval; \$1.1 million; awarded to HNTB. Anticipating a \$731,500 FAA Grant in April 2012.
- West Taxiway A Design Partial Rehab: Halted at 30%; will re-advertise and secure FAA grant in 2014.
- East Taxiway A Design Partial Rehab: Planned for 2015.
- Perimeter Fencing Phase II: Complete.

### Montgomery Field

- Access Control: Electronic card reader for the existing gates; \$475,000 FAA grant.
- Runway 10L/28R Construction: Awarded to Granite Construction; \$3.8 million FAA grant; September 2012 start, due to Burrowing Owl nesting season.
- Runway 5/23 and Taxiway G Rehab Design: Complete, awaiting \$4.75 million construction grant in 2013.
- Taxiway C and Runup Design: Complete, expecting construction grant in 2013.

## New Operations Vehicles

Montgomery Field Airport Operations received a new Operations vehicle to replace the fire truck, which was eliminated two years ago due to a shift in organizational priorities. The new vehicle is a Ford F-350 extended crew-cab equipped with a utility bed, lift-gate, aviation radio, loud speaker, work lights and siren. The vehicle will enable Operations staff to efficiently accomplish critical tasks, such as airfield inspections, maintenance, escort, emergency response and personnel transport. It was funded through assignment fees paid by the Airports Division for the purpose of vehicle replacement. Brown Field Airport Operations received a nearly-identical vehicle in February.



## Farmers Zeppelin Returns to San Diego

The Farmers airship “Eureka” moored at Brown Field and provided aerial coverage of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament, which was held January 23 – 29 at Torrey Pines. After the golf tournament concluded, the Zeppelin provided rides out of Montgomery Field. Eureka is a Zeppelin NT constructed by the Zeppelin Company in Friedrichshafen, Germany, and operated by Airship Ventures based at Moffett Field, California. It is 246 feet long, 64 feet wide and 57 feet high, with an envelope volume of 296,643 cubic feet and a maximum takeoff weight of 17,725 lbs. Eureka is powered by three Lycoming IO-360 engines, each producing 200 horsepower. Thrust-vectoring engines and fly-by-wire technology are employed, giving the Zeppelin the ability to take off and land vertically, and rotate 360 degrees on its axis while hovering. The cabin can accommodate 2 crew and up to 12 passengers.



*Farmers Zeppelin moored at Brown Field*

## **Montgomery Field (MYF)**

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Airport Manager: (858) 573-1430  
Airport Operations: (858) 573-1440  
Airport Noise Abatement: (858) 573-1436



## **Brown Field (SDM)**

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For comments or suggestions on the content or format of this newsletter, please contact the editor at:  
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