

The Diablo Aviator

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Buchanan Field and Byron Airports - www.contracostacountyairports.org

New Airports' Division Phone Number 844-Fly-ToUs

The Airports' Division has recently upgraded its phone system. As such a new Airport phone number was activated on March 4, 2014. This new phone number will allow for parties to call one phone number and reach either airport through an automated system. The new phone number is **844-Fly-ToUs (844-359-8687)**.

Aircraft noise complaints can also be filed by dialing the new 844-Fly-ToUs number and then, once the automated attendant answers, by pressing "4".

New Airports' Division Website

Contra Costa County Airports Division is pleased to announce its new website is now active. The new website is designed to be more user friendly. As the website is still a work in progress, should you have any suggestions you would like Airport staff to consider, please let us know.

Please visit our new website at the new web address: www.contracostacountyairports.org

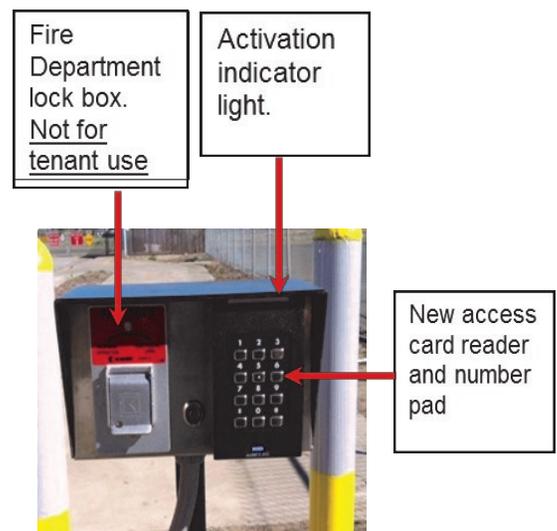
Access Card Reader Use Reminder

How to use the Access Cards:

- Hold the Access Card up to the keypad without jiggling. Jiggling the Access Card will prevent the reader from identifying the card.
- Hold the card flat side facing the access card reader.
- Card must be held within an inch of the keypad.
- Remove the Access Card from your wallet before using if your wallet is thick or if you have multiple cards using the same type of technology.

When used correctly, you will hear a "beep" and see the activation indicator light, above the keypad, change from red to green prior to the gate opening.

Please remember access cards can be damaged by leaving them in the sun where they can warp or by bending them in a thick wallet.



MDPA Safety Forum

By John Potter - Past President 1988



Photo by Madeline Ferguson

The Mount Diablo Pilot's Association (MDPA) started holding regular safety discussions when it moved into its first home at Buchanan Field Airport. At monthly meetings, in the prior years, spontaneous safety comments by an instructor were made but rarely any discussion followed. Topics only got attention when something went wrong.

We have been doing breakfasts ever since Richard Roberts, et al, started to prepare breakfasts monthly when we showed antique aircraft. The breakfast was the keeper - pilots love to eat and gab. Safety Forums were piggy-backed onto the breakfasts eight years ago. Safety discussions following the breakfasts have grown to between 35 and 40 attending and our breakfast menu has improved to include grits, and biscuits and gravy.



Photo by Madeline Ferguson

What Does Airport Operations Do?

By Rusty Milburn, Lead Airport Operations Specialist

The question of what Airport Operations Specialists (OPS) is, is sometimes asked by stakeholders. While article space is limited in this publication, OPS would like to give you an idea of the many hats we wear. It might be surprising to know that your OPS staff actually does far more than OPS staff at most other large airports including SFO and OAK. OPS at CCR and C83 cover all areas that are necessary to make the Airports operate safely.

Perhaps our most critical OPS hat is the one that encompasses all the inspections, escorting, customer assistance, NOTAMs and documentation of FAA requirements. OPS is responsible for making sure the field is maintained in accordance with FAA and CALTRANS rules and regulations, a task that leads to a lot of paperwork filing and updating. We make sure the amenities on the airport are clean and comfortable. OPS staff provides escorts for entities that need to do work on the airfield as well as overseeing construction, such as the Runway 01L/19R project, to ensure the safety of both the construction crews and airport users. These tasks make up a good portion of our work but they go unnoticed because they are often the behind the scenes work.

The flashiest and most obvious hat that we wear is our emergency response duties. Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) ends up being a smaller portion of our day most of the time, thankfully, but it will be there in case the need ever arises. In fact, OPS staff is part of the Contra Costa County Emergency Response in major events such as earthquakes.

The third hat we wear is that of a security guard. Our patrols around the airport are a visual deterrent to the "bad guy". While OPS certainly cannot see everything, we provide a security blanket over our little corner of the world that makes the airport one of the lowest crime areas in the County. A big part of that security is you, the tenants. Please do not hesitate to call OPS any time something doesn't seem quite right.

Finally, OPS wears a down and dirty hat known as maintenance. We are responsible for all above ground maintenance at the airfield for the County run portions. This ranges from cleaning the restrooms, changing airfield light bulbs, airfield painting, sweeping, mowing, pavement repair and building maintenance. These tasks are the ones you are most likely to be aware of OPS performing, since they often directly affect you (not being able to use a runway for example). We try to prevent our maintenance tasks from affecting the tenants as much as possible but it is sometimes unavoidable. Please be patient when OPS maintenance interrupts your plans, keeping in mind that the airport would fall apart without maintenance.

We hope this article gives you an idea of just what Operations does. OPS looks forward to continuing to serve you at both Buchanan Field and Byron Airport, no matter which hat you may need us to wear.

Meet the Staff



My name is Becky England. I worked for Contra Costa County for 32 years and retired in 2011. I will temporarily be filling the vacant position left by Raj, until the airport position is permanently filled. I'm married, have one daughter Malissa, son-in-law Armory and a grandson Aidan.

Hello my name is Elizabeth Catlin; I go by Liz. I have worked as the Airport Receptionist as a temp since September 26th, 2013. I live in Vacaville. I am married, have three sons and one daughter. I love spending time with my family and I am a very friendly, outgoing person.



My name is Edward A. Genochio, I am from San Francisco, CA. Prior to working for the Airport, I was in the U. S. Air Force for 4 years, working as Firefighter, at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, CO. I am still a reservist, stationed at Travis. I enjoy reading, working out, and finding a new challenge every day. I am also approachable and friendly; so do not be shy to say "hi" or if you have questions that you may want to ask.

Hello everyone my name is Bikramjit Bhullar. I just started as an Airport Operations Specialist at the beginning of the year. I was in the Marine Corps which is where I got most of my training in aviation and aircraft safety. I am an Eastbay local so it is nice to be back in the area. I wish you all a good year and be safe.



My name is Taka H. Gainous and am one of the three new Airport Operations Specialists at the Airports. I was born in Hawaii and moved to the Bay Area when I was 12. I am currently serving as an Air Force Reserve Firefighter at Travis AFB. I love spending time with my family and travel whenever I get a chance.

2013 AAC Tenant Recognition Awards

The Aviation Advisory Committee (AAC) Tenant Recognition Awards Program completed its 7th year with the following winners:

Congratulations to the Mount Diablo Pilots Association (MDPA) and Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) for receiving the 2013 award for their combined efforts on the Airport Clubhouse renovations. Maureen Bell accepted the award on behalf of the MDPA. Bill Reining, President, and Scott Achelis, who headed up the project, accepted the award on behalf of the EAA.

Congratulations also goes to Sterling Aviation. Larry Rohrbacher, of Sterling, was nominated for his knowledge and helpfulness. Sterling Aviation was also nominated by one of its customers and for its recent work with the Patriot Jet Team Foundation. The nominations were combined with Larry accepting the award on behalf of Sterling Aviation.

Airport Happenings

County Airports:

- Coming Soon—NEW Electronic and Credit Card Payments - An email announcement will go out once the system is in place.
- Aviation Advisory Committee Meetings—2nd Thursday of the Month at 10:00 am

Buchanan Field:

- East Ramp Hangar Paving Project - April/May
- Tenant Appreciation BBQ - Save the date; Thursday, May 1, 2014
- Early May - Annual Stormwater Inspections
- Fall 2014 - Hangar Inspections

Byron Airport:

- Late April/Early May - Annual Stormwater Inspections
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