



LONG BEACH FLYING CLUB & FLIGHT ACADEMY



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to fly!
With all the aircraft you
need from the first flight
hour to an airline job and
everything in between!*

MAY 2019

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!

EDITOR C. ROBINSON



WHAT'S UP? AVIATION IN ALASKA!

At press time this month I am in Juneau, Alaska! Did you know that Alaska's capital, Juneau, is only assessible via airplane or boat? There are no roads by which to get here. In many of the small towns I traveled through in Alaska to get here, tourism is the main source of income. And aviation is instrumental getting those tourists here.

Today I contributed some serious dough to the Alaskan economy as a customer of Wings Airways. In 2002, Wings Airways purchased the floatplane sightseeing portion of a commuter air service. Operating flights off the downtown harbor adjacent to the cruise ship docks, the company operates five DeHavilland Otter aircraft, all built between 1958 and 1965, which have been converted from Pratt and Whitney 600 horsepower radial engines to 900 horsepower Garrett turbine power plants. The excursion involved a flight of all five aircraft, departing within a minute of each other, to take in breathtaking views of five glaciers flowing from the Juneau Icefield. The trip provided an up close and personal view of Alaska's Taku Glacier, the thickest glacier in the world and one of only a few advancing glaciers in the world. I'm happy to announce that aviation is alive and well in the world, and never ceases to provide a new and interesting experiences!

AIRPORT IN THE SKY REOPENS! From AOPA.ORG May 7, 2019

Catalina's 3,000-foot-long asphalt runway was in a sad state of affairs and becoming worse even though \$250,000 per year had been spent on patchwork. Unfortunately, the patching had no lasting effect. The surface was replete with potholes and loose surface fragments; it was breaking up. Landing there had become an annoying, teeth-rattling experience, not to mention the damage this did to shock struts and tires. Finally, the Aeronautics Division of the California Department of Transportation said that it would not allow the Catalina Island Conservancy to continue operating the airport as a public airport without a viable, long-term repair plan.

AOPA supported the Catalina Island Conservancy in discussions to have the runway redone by the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton as a training exercise. The U.S. Marine Corps and Navy Seabees came to the rescue, as they have so often done in the past. Their involvement became a symbiotic match of a community's need for a new runway and the Defense Department's need to provide real-world training for the Marines and Seabees. Maj. Lisbeth Andriessen said that "if Marines deploy somewhere and an expeditionary runway needs to be built in a hurry, we need the ability and know-how to construct one as rapidly as possible in that deployed environment. The training we received at Catalina helps us to maintain that kind of readiness."

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Pilots all over Southern California and beyond rejoiced May 3 at news of the grand reopening of Catalina Island's popular Airport in the Sky, a favorite fly-in destination that is south of the Los Angeles Basin and 22 miles from the coast of California. The historic airport has been closed since the beginning of the year for runway repairs.

RICHARD'S IN THE NEWS ... FROM THE LONG BEACH BUSINESS JOURNAL May 6, 2019

Richard Garnett has been teaching students at the Long Beach Flying Club and Academy since 2002, and has served as chief instructor since 2011. The company offers multiple tiers of flight training, beginning with private pilot training and moving all the way to commercial pilot and multi-engine courses. Garnett said that the academy is handling more students now than it ever has before, at a record 125.

The academy is one of only two or three flight schools in the area that offers international flight training, according to Garnett. "Right now, we have 25 international students training out of 125," he said. While demand for new pilots is high across the United States, Garnett said it's even greater overseas – especially in Asia.

Garnett said Long Beach Airport is an ideal training airport. Students are able to train over the ocean, which is located just five minutes from LGB. "We have a whole area over the breakwater that's smoother and cooler and has lots of room," he said. LGB also provides students with the experience of communicating with a mix of general and commercial aviation businesses.

"It gives students a good insight into the operations of the airlines, so they're not intimidated later on," Garnett said.

The aviation industry is currently experiencing a high demand for pilots, Richard Garnett, chief flight instructor at Long Beach Flying Club and Academy, told the Business Journal. (Photograph by Brandon Richardson)



CONGRATULATIONS!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS!!!

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|---|
| MAURICIO MEJIA | First Solo | C-172 | CFI RUL YACOB |
| MEGAN LOMBARD | Private | C-172 | CFIs RANJEET (RJ) RAJAN and JOE DEL RIO |
| JESSE BELTRAN | Commercial Single | C-152 | CFI AXEL SEIXAS |
| DAYGUN LEE | Commercial Single | C-172 | CFI MINJUN KIM |
| TING WEN KUO | Commercial Multi | Seminole | CFI JOHN CAMPBELL |

CONGRATS to RICHARD GARNETT, top CLUB CFI for April, logging the most hours of dual given in club aircraft! Runners-up were AXEL SEIXAS and VICKY LIU!!!

TOP GUN AWARD goes to PRAVESH UDHWANI for logging the most flight hours in club aircraft in April! Runners up were HSUAN-YUNG CHEN and NILAN GUNASEKERA!!!

NOTAM: Club pilots wishing to submit articles for our monthly newsletter are greatly appreciated!

REMINDER – Check the renewal date as printed on the front of your airport badge. If your badge expires, the airport sends us a bill for \$200. It is impossible for us to track your badge expiration date since it varies based on the date the badge is picked up from the badging office. Don't let those badges expire!

EASY WAY TO PAY – Using your on-line banking app, set Long Beach Flying Club up as a new payee and have your bank send us a check to deposit money on your club account. Plus, you get the cash rate on your aircraft rental!

NEW & REJOINED CLUB PILOTS!



- RYAN ENDRES
- ANTONIO GONZALEZ
- ZACHARY GURZENSKI
- PETER HANSEN
- AMEER HASAN
- GEEHA KIM
- JUSTIN KIM
- HENRY LAWRENCE
- SINGER LI
- CHUNXIN (MAX) LUO
- MICHAEL MAGDALENO
- RAIMONDO RICCI
- VICTOR ROSAS
- ABDUL SAIDI
- CHEN (WILLIAM) WEI-LIEN
- BRITTANY WEST

(from page 1)

In January, 120 Marines and Navy Seabees landed on the island—it was a friendly assault—with the 500 tons of construction equipment needed to replace the crumbling asphalt runway with concrete. During construction the Marines and Navy Seabees lived in an encampment on the airport that included housing, food service, hygiene, medical facilities, and more.

The new runway is expected to last 75 to 100 years.

The first airplane to land and celebrate the airport's reopening was NC64784, a 1944 Douglas C-47 Skytrain that had been converted to a D-3 in 1947. It was originally owned by Philip and Helen Wrigley and was operated out of Catalina. And it's still in the family, currently owned by Geoff and Alison Wrigley Rusack, William Wrigley's son-in-law and daughter. With only 3,434 hours in its logbook, this apparently is the lowest-time DC-3 in the world. The airplane currently is in the process of undergoing complete restoration by Aerometal International in Aurora, Oregon.

The Wrigley family, of course, is best known for chewing gum and principal ownership of the Chicago Cubs baseball team and its home, Wrigley Field. William Wrigley Jr. also had controlling interest in Catalina Island. His son, Philip, had the airport built by leveling off two adjacent hilltops and filling in the canyon between them. It originally opened in 1941 and was called the Buffalo Springs Airport. It was not open to the public until 1946. The lofty airport is 1,602 feet msl, explaining why it is called the Airport in the Sky.

Philip Wrigley also deeded most of the island in 1975 to the Catalina Island Conservancy, a California land trust dedicated to protecting and restoring Catalina's interior, including its popular airport.

Visiting pilots can once again land at the Airport in the Sky and take a 45-minute shuttle ride down the mountain to visit quaint Avalon, or they can have lunch on the outdoor patio of the airport restaurant, appropriately called the DC-3. This overlooks a magnificent vista that often includes wild buffalo grazing across the valley or giving into an approaching and friendly fox looking for a handout.



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS

- LAUREN AMAR
- LORENZO AVITABILE
- SUSAN BAKER
- TYSON BEAMER
- FRANKLIN CASTILLO
- LAUREN CASTILLO
- ROGAN GIRARD
- ANTONIO GONZALEZ
- HARRISON GURZENSKI
- ZACHARY GURZENSKI
- BRADLEY HARTE
- CHEN EN HU
- JUSTIN KIM
- DWIGHT MCCARTY
- ZACHARY MENKE
- NATHAN RIDDLE
- RAUL RUVALCABA
- ALAN SIMONINI
- DON TERRY
- MIGUEL TORO
- JOY TSAO