

Trinity County Pilots Association (TCPA) Meeting Minutes, September 1, 2014

rev September 8, 2014 George Loegering, Secretary

The TCPA had a general meeting in front of the Library/Museum in Trinity Center at 1:00pm Sunday September 1, 2014 as announced in a recent e-mail to members and local pilots. The purpose was to discuss current issues at the five Trinity County airports, determine the activities/status of the Trinity County Airport Advisory Committee (TCAAC), thank past TCPA officers and committee volunteers, get comments and questions from members, update addresses and e-mails and solicit new officer volunteers and newsletter editor.

Historically, TCPA has been supported by as many as 200 member/pilots. TCPA and individual local pilots have and will continue to help the County to fund ongoing airport projects. Hangar development over the past 30 years at Trinity Center was financed 100% by local pilots and that investment (over \$500,000) enabled airport improvements from pre-paid ground lease fees. The pre-paid ground lease fees were a small part of the actual hangar construction project costs but provided the County with seed matching funds to qualify for state and federal grants such as extending the Trinity Center runway by 750ft. Hangar ownership has been reverting back to the County as the leases expire for various construction phases. The first phase at Trinity Center at the SW end was constructed before the end of 1984, extended to 12-31-14 five years ago, is the next to expire. Hangars that are or coming into County possession are rented at reasonable rates. If you need a hangar contact Rick Tippett, TC DOT Director, at 530-623-1365. There is lots of room to build new hangars at Trinity Center but it could be a long term project as the sites need a substantial amount of fill dirt. The rents to the County must be used solely for future county airport projects.

Few of the meeting goals were accomplished but we did have a Treasurer's report from Bob Mazzei and comments from members on some minor problems. Secretary George and Treasurer Bob will continue for another year and we have one or two potential volunteers if President Dave Forbes formally resigns (the Forbes may be retiring to Arizona). Donations of \$100 were also accepted for some of our remaining supply of logoed hats and polo shirts. Those attending and other inputs from those who could not attend, agreed that we should try to maintain the basic TCPA infrastructure; when the members are ready, we can resume regular meetings, organized fly-ins and social events as in past years. This is reinforced by the fact that we had \$10,561.90 in the TCPA bank account as of December 31, 2013. Our Treasurer Bob clarified that as in past years we donated \$1200.00 to the Trinity High School Scholarship fund for qualified applicants going into aviation or aerospace engineering. The funds come from rent paid by Hal Pflueger to Terry Rose who in turn donates it to the scholarship fund – as a result our reserves stay about the same year to year. Thanks Terry Rose. Bob will research about \$4000 of grant funds deposited to our account several years ago; I recall that they were from a private donor/organization to provide camping facilities for itinerants visiting county airports. If anyone has any information/recollection let us know.

Secretary George Loegering started the meeting a little early when Sandra Hickman arrived with questions and comments on Trinity Center hangar F-1 which she owns/rents. In that regard, George had

recently seen a for sale sign on hangar E-1 for \$35,000, it is similar to hangar F-1. Based upon the 18 years remaining on the lease and the current county fee of about 165/month for a basic "T" hangar, the value is about 35K but considering an advance all cash payment it could be less. Sandra was also concerned that the salability may be lower due to lease changes the County BOS will consider on September 9, 2014; a draft airport fee structure document prepared by Rick Tippett was obtained after the meeting by Sandra and is attached for your response

The Trinity County Airport Advisory Committee (TCAAC), which Rick Tippet formally organized in 2012 as a formal Board of Supervisors committee, includes pilot airport reps and we can contact them direct with comments and suggestions. Jim Weddell, who is the chairman/representative for Ruth and Hyampom airports, came to the meeting but I was unable to ask about their past years operations before he had to leave. He emailed me that the next TCAAC meeting is in Weaverville at the Library October 10, 2014 at 9:00am; he will send me an agenda which I will post on the TCPA website; anyone interested can see what is going on by just going on their computer. Mike McHugh will assist by getting these minutes and the TCAAC agenda/minutes posted to the web site.

No one volunteered to serve on the TCPA board but two or three are considering it. There is a technical problem in that our non-profit organizational status was cancelled buy the IRS about the time of the tea party scandal – however we have our status and fees paid to the state of California. We do need to refile with the IRS but it is a now a substantial process and we are not doing much to warrant a problem. I have and will continue to check with our parent organization the California Pilots Association, to get their input before trying to refile.

The only comments on local airports that were received were for the Trinity Center Airport; 1) the paving cracks need to be sealed and weeds abated (see Pat Forbes lette to the editor in the Trinity Journal), 2) the security gate between rows D & E toward the SE need to be locked as it seems to be open occasionally for no reason allowing deer to come into the secured area, 3) there are about 10 hangar leases expiring 12-31-14 so there may be some vacancies for those who have inquired about rentals/leases, see Rick Tippett and 4) the lock on the bathroom door at hangar A-1 can be inadvertently locked by someone exiting – this then closes the bathroom down as there is no key to open the door.

Thanks everyone for coming, the updated contact information and donations. If anyone has contact with a pilot or airplane owner who wants to join us please pass on my email geoloe@tds.net and of course have them review the Trinity County Pilots website which can be googled easily. Note that since TCPA has few on-going expenses there are no dues.