



Lakeway Airpark Newsletter

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Lakeway Airpark Inc.
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www.3R9.org

President's Letter

We had a great annual meeting in June and a very positive wrap up to the last year. We set out with a focused agenda of goals for the board and accomplished many of them over the last twelve months. I would like to thank Niels and Mike who wrapped up their terms on the board and welcome Sharon and Cory who I know will both do a great job.



This year we had more fly-outs, flew more kids, had a few parties, celebrated some birthdays, ate a lot of barbecue and had no litigation. We gained some new members and a new flying club. Steve produced another successful pinch hitter course. It wasn't a perfect year, but we definitely made progress, and that is what we should celebrate.

We worked with the city on a couple of initiatives to help make the Airpark a safer environment by clarifying the rules and responsibility for enforcing the hours of operation. One of the strangest events that I personally worked on this year was defending a 48-hour social media campaign launched by a former member of 3R9 on the AOPA website. This post ultimately reached thousands of pilots and depicted Lakeway as the next Santa Monica Airport. The narrative was full of propaganda and misinformation and was very critical (oddly) of our efforts to make our airport safer. Sadly, this circus reached the AOPA legal team and tied up their resources for a couple of days. Our AOPA representative in Texas was great to work with; and when the facts were known, they wrote a response that was both very complimentary of the Lakeway Airpark and supportive of the City of Lakeway for putting forth a program to protect our pilots and community. Within minutes of the AOPA response, the cyber terrorist took the whole silly post down. The sorties of midnight protest flyovers returned to their bases and the revolution was averted. AOPA will not be soliciting funds for the "Save Lakeway Airpark" campaign. You can't make this stuff up, but it was entertaining.

Our board worked hard to create a better definition of our membership classes to be inclusive of all property owners, pilots, hangar owners and tenants that was consistent and fair for everyone that is based at 3R9. We did good work and produced a good solution. We also spent a lot of time working on the drainage issues affecting our neighbors on Blue Jay Dr. There is more work to do but the City of Lakeway has offered to help. I believe we will have a solution soon.

Finally, we lost Robert White. He was a great aviator, a devoted member and loyal friend to many. I miss Robert's dry one-liners that would have sum up a lot of the stuff we worked on this year, helped us keep it in perspective and made us all laugh. I know Robert would have been happy that we are spending more money on beer and barbecue and less on litigation. We have talked about ways we can memorialize Robert and other pilots that have gone west at the Lakeway Airpark. Some interesting ideas are in discussion and we hope to have an announcement soon on a planned project. Thanks for all of your support and making this place special.

-Russ

June was a busy month at the airpark. We held our annual meeting on June 11 at the Lakeway Community Center and had a good crowd as usual. We held the annual election and elected two new board members, Cory Bull and Sharon Ward. Erik Mulloy and Russ Norwood each agreed to serve another 2-year term. Many thanks to Niels Olufsen and Mike Collier for the years they served. Please see page 3 for a list of the board members and our officers.

Then on June 18, we had the Young Eagles fly-in and flew approx. 25-30 future pilots. The weather was perfect and we got all the kids flown before it got too hot. Pilots were Cory Bull, Phil Thompson, Erik Mulloy, Wayne Wagner, and Jeff Brinkman. As usual, air boss was Niels Olufsen, with Jeff Klaas and Terry Priestap ushering planes on the ramp and kids to and from airplanes safely. Many thanks to Shelly Bull and her crew for their work in getting the kids signed in, and making sure the kids all got their certificates. I know that all I saw were smiles, grins and excitement on all the kids that were flown that day. There were even some cheers of "I did it" from some of the kids when they were united with parents after their flights. Several of the older kids wanted to know when they could take lessons and get their pilot's license. This could not happen without everyone's help and positive attitudes. So many thanks to all the volunteers and pilots.

Summer is now upon us and it is hot, hot, hot and we are in the midst of those pesky afternoon thunderstorms around Texas. But I know many of you will be taking trips with your planes. So be sure to send me some photos and a short note on where you went. I look forward to more social events in the upcoming months - when it's cooler. May you have safe travels, fair winds and remember - Keep the blue side up.

-Jean Thompson, Newsletter Editor



Join our Airpark community! To learn more about the Lakeway Airpark, call any of the board members listed below.

From Steve, the Board Member— This year’s annual meeting begins the second year of a two year term for me on the Airpark Board of Directors. I have served on many boards, councils and commissions in my 38-year career, but have never enjoyed working with a group more than the friendly pilots at Lakeway Airpark. On Fathers Day weekend, 5 pilots volunteered their time to fly 25 kids on another Young Eagles event. Thanks to Cory and all of the volunteers who helped introduce more people to our favorite pass time. This event touches the parents as well as the kids so we make a big impact. When the weather cools we will try to schedule a couple of \$100 burger runs and maybe an Airpark night at the bowling alley. My kids went to high school with the owners of High Five and they will be glad to help us schedule an event. Lastly hats off to Erik and Jeff for finally getting the Flying Club up and running. I have flown with some of the pilots who can now rent a plane on a sunny day and they are like kids again. Spread the word that you no longer need to own an airplane in Lakeway to either learn to fly, get current again, upgrade a rating or just go burn gas and bore holes. Thanks again guys, and to Kim who makes sure we all pay our bills.

From Steve the CFI - . Over the past few weeks, several pilots were tested on their emergency landing skills, typically for engine problems. Most walked away after demonstrating superior airmanship under great pressure. Everyone has seen the Bi-Plane video in Lake Travis from the 4th of July weekend. Not much media bragging about the outstanding ditching technique of the pilot, only a mention that none of the three people were harmed. None were harmed, are you kidding me? We should bronze this guys' license and ask him to give ditching lessons. Sue and I rent a Cessna 172 every year in Hawaii and proper ditching technique is part of the check ride. They tell us that the plane will always flip over and to pre-think your way through getting out of the plane while upside down on final approach to the liquid runway. Have you ever thought about it? I teach my students that given a choice between hostile terrain and water to always pick water. Also like our hero above, pick water close to shore, so you and your passengers don't have far to swim after you have crapped your pants.

Deadline for publication is the 30th of each month.

I hope you enjoy this issue!

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Lakeway Airpark Board Members

Russ Norwood, President.....	512.636.5057
Phil Thompson, Vice President.....	512.413.9262
Erik Mulloy, Treasurer.....	512.261.3480
Terry Priestap, Secretary.....	512.963.7187
Cory Bull, Maintenance.....	512.743.4102
Steve Zbranek, Public Relations.....	512.261.0344
Sharon Ward.....	512.657.6868

Next BOD meeting is Sat, Aug 13, 2016. Café Lago 7:30; workday 8:30; meeting 9:30