

# Albert Whitted AIRPORT *Flyer*

Vol. 1

An Occasional Newsletter of the

Summer

No. 1

Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society

2004



## AWAPS First Year A Busy One

It's been an incredible year for Albert Whitted Airport. The Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society was formed in May of 2003. The first General Membership meeting convened on May 15. A brochure was created, meetings were attended all over town, and yard signs popped up everywhere. The community began to feel the excitement and the need to help, so supporters – pilots and aviation enthusiasts and non-aviators alike – signed up as members, supporters and volunteers. AWAPS enlisted an attention-getting mascot aircraft, *The Spirit of St. Pete*. We showed up in numbers at countless City Council meetings, while a referendum was written and placed on the November ballot.

In October we staged a hugely successful Air Show celebrating the 75-year history of Albert Whitted Airport, and 20,000 people came! Top name aerobatic performers also celebrated the historic event and showed their support for aviation and our airport.

Election results in November demonstrated overwhelming and unmistakable community support: **The people in St. Petersburg want to keep Albert Whitted Airport an airport.**

In November AOPA presented The Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society and the Airport Advisory Committee advocacy awards. Santa Claus arrived at Albert Whitted Airport by helicopter in December for lunch with our young folks and their families.

In the new year The Albert Whitted Airport Blue Ribbon Task Force Committee began its work. Sub-committees were formed and chairmen elected. The nine-month schedule and guidelines were put before the hard working committee members. In a multitude of meetings, dedicated members have been presenting extensive research and discussion, leading to recommendations to preserve and enhance our Airport.

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AWAPS' historic "flight" down the city streets of St. Pete in the 2004 Festival of States Parade in April.



Kids learn about aerodynamics playing "Be the Wings" when *The Spirit of St. Pete* visits Fairmount Park Elementary School.

Thanks to Steve Lange for organizing us! An average of 50 sign wavers, including Dr. Eric & Mrs. Whitted, faithfully showed up every Friday from June through October, generating community-wide awareness and support.



Santa came by helicopter for a spaghetti lunch Sunday, Dec. 12. Kids took part in arts & crafts, then sat on Santa's lap for a photo and to tell him what to bring for Christmas!

## Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural flight of the official newsletter of the Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society! Amazing to think that a whole year has gone by since two airport loyalists decided to organize a group of supporters to lead the fight to preserve and enhance our historic airport. The Albert Whitted Flyer is your newsletter, and we aim to keep you informed about the progress of the airport, to help you get to know the people that work and fly there, and to provide support for the community that the airport serves. Many pilots of yesteryear called Albert Whitted home, and future pilots who are just dreaming of getting their feet off the ground come to our downtown airport for their first flight. Keep your eyes open for a historic focus, and you won't want to miss coverage of children with interests in aviation. Stay tuned for upcoming airport events, such as the Suncoast Airfest coming October 9th and 10th, and get briefed on updates from the Blue Ribbon Task Force. We welcome suggestions, and encourage your contributions and feedback.

## Coming in future issues:

- Plans for two new observation areas at the airport.
- The plans for an education center and museum.
- The Suncoast Air Fest.
- Grant opportunities for airport enhancement.

—Mark Bogue  
Communications Chair

## AWAPS Contacts

Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society, Inc.

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### Officers

President.....Terri Griner  
Vice President.....Steve Tolliver  
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### Board Members

Steve Bush, Alan Brown, Scott Johni,  
Ron Kuhny, Don Morris, David Oliver,  
Tom Ostermann, Joe Vulgamore,  
Dr. Eric Whitted

### Committees

Airport Design.....Joe Vulgamore  
Communications.....Mark Bogue  
Education.....Don Morris  
Events.....Steve Tolliver  
Fundraising.....needed  
Governance.....Tom Brew  
Grants.....Susan Oliver  
Historic Preservation..Tom Ostermann  
Membership.....Steve Bush

### Ad Hoc Committees

By-Laws, Finance and Nominating

## Airport Contacts

Rich Lesniak - Airport Manager  
Sherri Weaver - Airport Director  
727 893-4767

Ron Methot - FBO  
727 822-4217

Jack Tunstill - Airport Advisory Committee  
727 415-3357

Bill Buston - EAA Young Eagles  
727 894-2072

Bob Adams - Flying Start Program  
727 544- 8124

Gene Olson - Civil Air Patrol  
727 522-0593

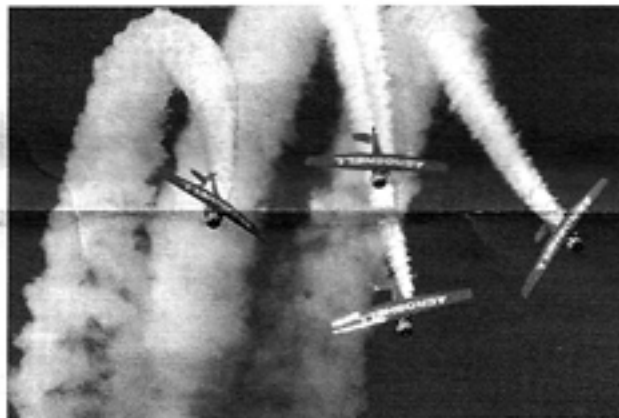
## Join AWAPS Now!

Sign up for free AWAPS membership and receive every issue of the *Albert Whitted Flyer* by mail. It is easy to stay updated on upcoming events and current news, just log on to [www.AlbertWhittedAirport.org](http://www.AlbertWhittedAirport.org) and click on the "Membership" button. Thanks for your support of Albert Whitted Airport.

## Aeroshell Team To Headline Suncoast AirFest 2004



The Suncoast AirFest will proudly feature one of the top aerobatic teams in the country. The Aeroshell Team will take to the skies over St. Petersburg during the two-day event, to be held October 9th and 10th at Albert Whitted Airport.



Wayne Boggs, air boss and technical advisor for the show, announced, "This is a four ship act with lots of smoke and noise and it's sure to be a crowd pleaser."

A formation aerobatic team flying the World War II trainer AT-6 Texans, the aircraft that launched thousands of American and Canadian cadets on their flying careers generations ago, now thrill audiences everywhere as the pilots take



## Blue Ribbon Report

An update from the City of St. Petersburg's Albert Whitted Airport Blue Ribbon Task Force Committee

**JUNE 7, 2004** The Airport Task Force announced seven recommendations to be included in the final report to the City Council. The Phase I improvements should be complete within 5 years.

1. Build an intermodal general aviation terminal in the northwest corner of the airport. Approximate size should be 10,000 square feet. Terminal should include a restaurant, a conference room, an observation deck, and a pilot's lounge and work area. Terminal building should be constructed in a way that it could be

these valiant old birds through a series of precision formation aerobatic maneuvers. The Team combines the skill, competence and flair of these pilots with the roar and billowing smoke of the powerful 600 HP Pratt and Whitney engines. Watch as they perform a series of precision formation aerobatic maneuvers, including their bomb burst, vertical rejoin, avalanche, and the breath-taking "Switch Blade", along with graceful loops and rolls. The Team will bring a lump to your throat and a tear of remembrance to your eye.

--Steve Tolliver  
Air Show Chairman

## Join the Excitement !

Volunteers for event planning and day-of-show activities should contact event chairman Steve Tolliver. You can contact Steve at 813-917-1967 or at [stevetolliver@albertwhittedairport.org](mailto:stevetolliver@albertwhittedairport.org). It takes A LOT of volunteers to plan an event of this magnitude and to man all the jobs on show day, but it's fun and rewarding, too! Stay up to date on all the latest air show information at [www.suncoastairfest.com](http://www.suncoastairfest.com).

easily expanded at a later date. Public art and a historical display along with transient accommodations should be included.

2. Build a ramp of approximately 14,000 square yards for transient aircraft in front of or adjacent to a new terminal.

3. Build multiple-aircraft storage hangars in proximity to the new terminal, subject to market demand.

4. Build a new air traffic control tower.

5. Make Albert Whitted Airport fully Small Aircraft Transportation System (SATS) compatible.

6. Repair seawall around airport.

7. Incorporate new parking lot design to southwest corner of the airport.

--Jack Tunstill  
AOPA Airport Support Network

**AWAPS First Year...continued from page 1**

In April AWAPS joined in the Festival of States celebration by pulling an aircraft down our city streets. In May Dr. Whitted, his grandson and some members made pancakes for the Bay Air Flea Market Fly-In. On July 4th we celebrated with a cook-out and fireworks.

It certainly has been an exciting and eventful year. We could not have accomplished any of these things without the support and dedication of our many generous volunteers and donors. We appreciate and thank you, and we look forward to more good things to come.

*-The AWAPS Board*



Flapjacks were flyin' at AWAPS' May 15th pancake breakfast thanks to the efforts of Bob Cummings (left), Terri Griner, Bill Shivers (right), Nancy Shivers and Betty Blanks (not pictured).



Albert Whitted has something for everyone! These Young Eagles are still aloft after their flight experience.



The 2003 airshow at Albert Whitted commemorated our airport's 75th Anniversary.

AWAPS founding members at the initial meeting, early May 2003:



Eugene Naves, Steve Tolliver, Rick Carr, Joe Vulgamore, Dave Oliver and Joshua Garfield.

(Not pictured: Steve Bush, Tom Gibson, Terri Griner, Greg Howard, Ron & Gloria Kuhny and Joty Puckett.)



Boca Ciega HS student builds a model wing as part of the Aviation & Aerospace curriculum. AWAPS provides students actual flights to test the accuracy of the flight simulation they create in the two-year coursework.



4th of July 2004 we had a potluck cook-out in conjunction with Bay Air and EAA Chapter 47, with live music, clowns and other kids' activities, and a great view of the City's fireworks.



Who's the fellow surrounded by lovely St. Petersburg bathing beauties in this vintage photo? The first 10 callers to the AWAPS office at 727-822-1532 with the correct answer will receive an aviation poster. Just leave a message including your name and phone number so we can contact you.

# Mark Your Calendar !

**AWAPS General Meeting**  
September 8th - 7:00pm  
Albert Whitted Airport

**Suncoast Air Fest**  
Oct. 9th 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Oct. 10th 9:00am - 4:00pm

**Events Committee Meetings**  
Albert Whitted Airport - 6:30pm  
July 20th  
August 3rd, 17th, 31st  
September 14th & 28th

**Communications Committee**  
Albert Whitted Airport - 6:30pm  
August 10th

**Historic & Education Committee Meeting**  
Albert Whitted Airport - 7:00pm  
July 15th, 22nd  
August 5th, 19th

**Tasks Force Meetings (General)**  
July 12th - 4:00pm  
July 19th - 4:00pm  
August 2nd 4:00pm  
(Public Hearing)  
August 16th - 4:00pm  
August 30th - 4:00pm



Our busy first year included three general meetings, an exhibit of Tom Hurley's WACO in conjunction with a theatrical production for school children about the Wright Brothers at Mahaffey Theater, and AWAPS hosted the Blue Ribbon Task Force tour of the airport.

## Remember Whitted When...

Do you remember when you could fly for a "Penny-A-Pound" at Albert Whitted Airport? In the '70s, flights were offered to folks who would like to see St. Pete from above or experience their first airplane flight. The price was one cent for each pound the passenger weighed. You were asked to step up on a scale to determine the number of pennies it cost you to fly. If you weighed 50 pounds, your ticket was 50 cents!

Today, EAA Chapter 47 offers two great programs where first flights are absolutely free! Young Eagles is for children ages 8-17, Flying Start is for 18 and up; both programs are offered by our local volunteer pilots who give their time, planes and fuel to provide this fun and exciting service to our community. To participate and find out more, refer to the Airports Contact list on page 2.

If you remember or took part in the "Penny-A-Pound" Flying and would like to tell your story, or if you have an old photo from that event, please contact [markbogue@albertwhittedairport.org](mailto:markbogue@albertwhittedairport.org). We would love to hear from you!




Ready for adventure: Young Eagle and volunteer pilot Alan Brown, in his A-36 Beechcraft.

## CAP Squadron Active at Whitted

Albert Whitted Airport is the backdrop and magnet for the St. Petersburg Civil Air Patrol squadron. The CAP was originally brought to life in the early stages of WW II, when civilian pilots, flying slower aircraft, were needed to search for Nazi U-Boats lying in wait off the U.S. coast.

As WW II came to a close, the CAP was moved to US Air Force command. Now, the Air Force came to understand the need to keep U.S. youth interested in the Air Force as a potential career. To this goal, a youth affiliate, the CAP Cadets were born. Cadets, between the ages of 13-18, get regular training in all



**ALBERT WHITTED  
AIRPORT  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

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If you'd like to support future issues of *The Albert Whitted Airport Flyer* and reach our readers with your advertising message, please contact Mark Bogue at [markbogue@albertwhittedairport.org](mailto:markbogue@albertwhittedairport.org).

Business card	\$15	Half page	\$40
Quarter page	\$25	Full page	\$75



The thrill of flight is evidenced by the "Thumbs Up" this Young Eagle gives on his first plane ride, high over the Sunshine Skyway bridge.



**West Florida Helicopters, Inc.**

phases of military discipline and aerospace education. They get to see, smell, touch and, occasionally, fly in government and private aircraft. A pilot's license, an officer's candidate appointment, and admission to the Airforce Academy are all possibilities.

The Albert Whitted squadron cadets come from virtually every lower Pinellas County high school and many middle schools. The squadron is growing rapidly and more young men and women are welcome to join.

The squadron meets every Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the far eastern end of the airport, just outside the perimeter fence. Visitors are welcome; just stop by and ask for Herman Slapo.

To become a CAP cadet, male or female, you must attend at least three meetings. Then you can apply for membership. Once you have passed FBI and CAP checks, you are allowed to wear the Air Force approved CAP uniform and begin training.

Call 727-821-8354 or visit on-line at [www.cap.gov](http://www.cap.gov) for more information. If you need a CAP speaker to talk to your youth group about the CAP, call Gene Olson at 727-522-0593.

The CAP is proud of the valuable role Albert Whitted Airport plays in educating our youth, and preparing them to be our nation's future leaders.

*--Michael Swiller  
Major, Civil Air Patrol*