

Albert Whitted AIRPORT *Flyer*



Vol. 2
No. 1

An Occasional Newsletter of the
Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society

Spring
2005

AWAPS Institutes Membership Dues

The Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society's membership has grown tremendously over the last year. With almost 2000 members and the increased cost of operations, the AWAPS Board of Directors requested the Membership Committee to put together a membership dues structure. Featured below are the criteria the committee put together for AWAPS membership. The committee will be calling each member personally to discuss his/her choice of membership and answer any questions. Additionally, these calls will verify each member's correct postal address, email address, phone number(s) and which committee(s) he/she wishes to volunteer on or receive more information about.

The Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society Board appreciates the dedicated members and supporters who have contributed to the

Membership Category	Fee	Included
Single (Individual)	.....\$20 / yr.....	1 member
Family (Husband/Wife)	.....\$30 / yr.....	2 members
Five Year (Individual)	.....\$75 / 5 yrs.....	1 member
Five Year Family (Husband/Wife)	.....\$125 / 5 yrs	2 members
Lifetime (Individual)	.....\$200 / lifetime	1 member
Lifetime Family (Husband/Wife)	.....\$300 / lifetime	2 members

goal of preserving and enhancing Albert Whitted Airport. We wish to continue working to fulfill the goals and objectives of AWAPS and want to continue to strive to allow everyone to be part of Albert Whitted Airport, St. Petersburg's community airport.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed membership envelope and send it to the office, visit our web site at www.albertwhittedairport.org, or wait until the committee gives you a ring. If you have any questions or comments, contact Steve Lange at (727) 823-7868 or Terri Griner (727) 822-1532.

Visit Our Website:

www.albertwhittedairport.org

To view an events calendar, order AWAPS merchandise, see great photos from every event, find a chronology of Albert Whitted Airport history, and be in touch with all the latest AWAPS news, just set your browser to our home page. You can read a past newsletter you may have missed, and even join AWAPS on-line. It's easy to contact Board Members and Committee Chairs via the website, too!

SPG made the cover of AOPA's 2005-2006 international airport directory, used by pilots everywhere. The photo shows off our proximity to St. Petersburg's growing downtown district and our waterfront location.

Parking, Painting and Piles of Rock

All airport users are requested to visit the airport manager's office Monday – Friday between 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., to pick up a free hang tag for your vehicle(s). Titan Cruise Line employees have been parking in airport lots, even those clearly marked "AIRPORT PARKING ONLY." The hang tags will help identify those allowed to park and those cars illegally parked. You can help by calling the airport office when you see someone who is illegally parked.

If your plane needs a new coat of paint there is a paint booth available in Hangar 1 for airport tenants' use. Call Dean Grimm in Hangar 2 to set up an appointment to use the paint booth. Hangar tenants are requested not to spray paint inside or outside of their hangars. For questions, please call the airport manager's office.

The City's Engineering department assures us the large stockpile of concrete rubble resembling Stonehenge placed along the airport seawall east of Runway 18/36 meets environmental standards. The concrete has been placed to fill the washed out areas between the ailing seawall and berm area which run the length of the airport.

AWAPS Contacts

Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society, Inc.
Hangar 1, Albert Whitted Airport
107 8th Avenue Southeast
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone 727-822-1532 Fax 727-820-0303
www.albertwhittedairport.org

Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society
is a 501c3 non-profit corporation.
Your contribution is tax deductible.

Officers

PresidentTerri Griner
Vice PresidentBill Shivers
TreasurerJohn Bowman
Secretaryneeded

Board Members

Alan Brown, Jeff Hahn, Sandy Hall,
Don Morris, David Oliver,
Joe Vulgamore, Dr. Eric Whitted

Advisory Council Liaison

Dave Thompson

Committees

Airport Design.....needed
Communications.....Mark Bogue
EducationRhonda Johnson
EventsAnna Maria Pellett
Development.....Rick Scanlon
GovernanceTom Brew
GrantsRichard Blommaert
& R.C. MacMillan

Historic PreservationGlenn Anderson
Membership.....Steven Lange

Ad Hoc Committees

NominatingDr. Eric Whitted
Building Renovation/Facility.....Bill Shivers

Airport Contacts

Rich Lesniak - Airport Manager
727-7657

Sherri Weaver - Airport Operations
727 893-7049

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!

Join AWAPS and receive every issue of the Albert Whitted *Flyer* by mail. It's easy to stay updated on upcoming events and current news, just use the enclosed membership envelope to join, or log on to www.AlbertWhittedAirport.org and click on the "Membership" button. Thanks for your support of Albert Whitted Airport.

Help Wanted!

Thanks to the tremendous growth and enthusiasm AWAPS is experiencing, there are some crucial volunteer positions which must be filled in the coming weeks.

Festival of States: We need 20 parade walkers. You will need to attend one brief organizational meeting Tuesday, April 5, 7 pm (part of the Events Committee meeting), and then walk with an AWAPS plane in the Festival of States parade, the morning of Saturday, April 9.

Volunteer Coordinator: An individual to coordinate the many volunteer activities we undertake. Please call Terri Griner (727-822-1532) if you are looking for a great way to get more involved with AWAPS.

Office Clerical: We'd like to staff the AWAPS office 10-2 Mon.-Fri., to answer phones and make calls, sell merchandise, data entry, run errands. It'll take a small team of volunteers with some free time to cover those hours. If you can help, contact Terri Griner.

Graphic Designer for the Airshow Program: The program is largely put together in August and early September. We can supply all the computer files from 2003 and 2004 Airshow programs (QuarkXpress) to start from. Call Shelley Manes to learn more (813-966-3344).

Stenographer: We need someone to take minutes at one board meeting per month and prepare them for distribution.

Air Show Management Team: 18 committees will handle the lion's share of planning and putting on the 2005 Suncoast Airfest. If you can volunteer to head one of these committees, please contact Bill Shivers (727-385-9942) for more information.

Photographer: Can you help shoot AWAPS events with your own photo equipment? We need a couple of shutterbugs "on call" to cover our busy organization's many activities.

Newsletter Ad Sales: Maybe you'd like to coordinate the advertising in the *AWAPS Flyer*. This volunteer will be the contact person who collects the ad payments and gets the advertising materials to the newsletter editor. (4x/year).

Speakers: Education Committee is seeking volunteer speakers for our various outreach and educational engagements around St. Petersburg. Contact Rhonda Johnson via the website for more info.

Volunteer Spotlight

For all events, special tasks, newsletter mailing, and AirFest assignments, this featured spotlight pair have been there to volunteer. Anna-Maria Pellett and daughter Breanna have donated countless hours at the AWAPS office folding and organizing t-shirts, assisting with numerous office tasks, serving food, selling tickets, setting up for events, stuffing welcome bags and always promoting the Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society. Whatever the job has been they have been there from beginning to end.



Anna-Marie and Breanna learned about AWAPS while participating in an EAA Young Eagles event. On February 19th, Breanna was filmed and interviewed by Channel 13 Kids Magazine spotlight segment for the EAA Young Eagles program to be aired on an upcoming Saturday morning. Anna-Marie will be chairing the Events Committee and organizing all AWAPS merchandise sales. During her non-volunteer hours she works at the Ronald McDonald House assisting families of sick children.

The Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society Board of Directors and members want to thank both of you for all your time and giving.

Trivia Question:

Who was the first pilot to fly out of SPG the day the tower opened on June 3, 1966?

Call AWAPS office 727-822-1532 if you know the answer. The first three callers with the correct answer will receive "75 years of service" tee shirts.

SATS Event Draws Local Political Interest

A squadron of AWAPS members flew to Tallahassee, with Senator Jim Sebesta as a passenger in one of three planes, for the FDOT/SATS demonstration, on Monday, February 7th. The SATS program is a NASA/FAA/industry initiative in response to the demand for expanded intermodal transportation as projected in the next ten years. The nation needs an alternative transportation system to relieve the safety and congestion problems on our highways and in the air. With small airports already in place across the country a small aircraft transportation system that is both a safe and affordable alternative to current transportation systems would provide the optimal solution.

Senator Sebesta and the SATS demo team feel Albert Whitted Airport is the kind of airport that the SATS program needs, and that SATS will provide economic growth in the communities that elect to take advantage of this opportunity.

Photos from Santa Event Still Available

If you haven't picked up your photos from our Santa luncheon, here's how to get them: Stop by the lobby in front of the AWAPS office and check the board where the remaining Santa photos are hanging; take any that are yours.



Young Eagles Soar Saturday, March 5th

Join us March 5, for another exciting Young Eagles event at Albert Whitted Airport. It's an opportunity for a free first airplane ride for ages 8-17, and all the excitement that adventure entails. There is also a contest: The EAA Air

Venture Museum and Young Eagles Program are recruiting all young artists for this year's Youth Art Competition to design a paint scheme for the official Young Eagles airplane. Please visit www.eaa.org for all the details. Complete a registration form on line or call Bill Buston at 727-894-2072 to sign up a youngster for a Young Eagles experience. Don't forget a parent/guardian signature is required on the registration form, no exceptions!

Photo Plane Information Sought

EAA is looking at creating a list of FBOs around the country that rent aircraft that could be used for their air to air photography. Specific aircraft include Cherokee 6, Lance, Cessna 210 (late 60's model) and Baron although it is not limited to strictly those listed. If anyone at SPG has similar aircraft and would rent them

for photo missions, please send an e-mail to Jim Koepnick, EAA Chief Photographer at jkoepnick@eaa.org.

The Heart of a Pilot

Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) is a problem almost all pilots face. Most pilots are reluctant to tell their FAA medical examiner if they have had any symptoms of CAD. The fear is that they will lose their medical certification. The FAA allows pilots to fly with CAD as long as they are asymptomatic and undergoing treatment. Chest pain is the most common symptom. It's a harbinger for future problems, namely, heart attack or congestive heart failure. The evaluation of CAD involves stress testing, cholesterol determination and occasionally cardiac catheterization. Most persons with CAD require only medical management, i.e., drugs. Medications used to treat CAD are not disqualifying, but the pilot must be free from side effects that might interfere with safe operation of an aircraft. The FAA will also require a negative stress test, ECG, a cholesterol profile, and a letter from a cardiologist or primary care physician. If the pilot has had a heart attack, a special issuance can be given after a 6-12 month rest period. It's better to treat CAD before a heart attack occurs. It results in less downtime and makes certification much easier. Pilots that have had stents or angioplasty stand a very good chance of receiving certification through a special issuance.

Mark Your Calendar !

**Albert Whitted Airport
Technical Advisory Committee**
Monday Feb. 28th 4:00 pm
City Hall

**Committees Meet at AWAPS Office
at 7:00 p.m.:**

Events Committee

Tuesdays, March 1st+ April 5

Membership Committee

Wednesdays, March 9 + April 13

Communications Committee

Thursdays, March 10 + April 14

Education Committee

Mondays, March 14 + April 11

Grants Committee

Thursdays, March 31 + May 26

AWAPS Board

Wednesdays, March 16 + April 20

Spring Fling Fly-In

Friday April 8 - Sunday April 10

Guest Speaker Dr. Eric Whitted

954-432-2069 for more info

Festival of States Parade

Saturday April 9, 8:00 am

EAA Chapter 47 Meetings

Mondays 7:30 pm

March 21, April 18

Young Eagles

Saturday, March 5 - 10:00 am



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Do you have a message or advertisement you would like to present to our civic-minded readers? The AWAPS Flyer reaches over 1,600 households, and issues are given to incoming travelers at BayAir Flying Service and other downtown locations. To support the newsletter and AWAPS with an ad, please call the AWAPS office 727-822-1532.

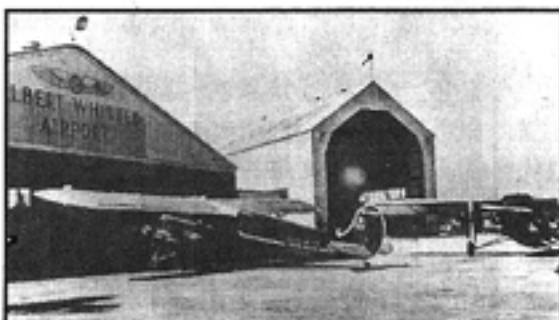
Business card\$25 Half page\$65
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10% discount for pre-paid multi-issue ads.

Remember Whitted When...

For many years, Albert Whitted Airport had an amenity that made it unique among the airports of the world: an airship hangar; one of very few ever built. During the late 1990's construction phase, the remaining vestiges of the blimp hanger were torn down. Reasons given were that this structure was dangerous and no longer usable. It was dismantled piece-by-piece, pieces numbered and trucked off to be rebuilt elsewhere.

Even at its beginning in 1928, Albert Whitted Airport was a modest facility, with only one short runway. Of the three existing St. Petersburg airports at that time, it was the smallest but it was the only one publicly owned. Politicians were keen on attracting more tourists, and developers looked for ways to lure more Northerners to buy into their developments. The City's publicity agent at the time, John



1931 photo shows the Stinson SM-6000-B Tri Motors of National Airline with a blimp in the hangar.



This is an airshow in 1933 with the blimp hangar at upper right.



Early aerial photo of the airport with the blimp hangar at upper left.

Lodwick, decided it needed to be a more exciting place. So, shortly after the airport's opening, he convinced the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio, to bring one of its blimps to the Airport as its home base. In September 1929, city council appropriated \$33,062 for a municipal blimp hangar to house the airships he envisioned coming and going. It was completed and the blimp "Goodyear" flew into the city in December 1929. Unfortunately, the stock market had crashed three months earlier and this aviation venture was doomed for failure. As money dried up for almost every American and the Great Depression cut all activities to the bare minimum, so went the airship enterprise. By April of 1930, every bank in the city was forced to close.

With the Hindenburg disaster, the Depression and the end of the Airship era, our blimp hangar was a white elephant. The building was made shorter in height by about half and that is the way it spent most of its life here.

By Glenn Anderson



107 8th Avenue SE • Hangar 1
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
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www.albertwhittedairport.org

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