

Albert Whitted AIRPORT Flyer



Vol. 2
No. 3

An Occasional Newsletter of the
Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society

Fall
2005

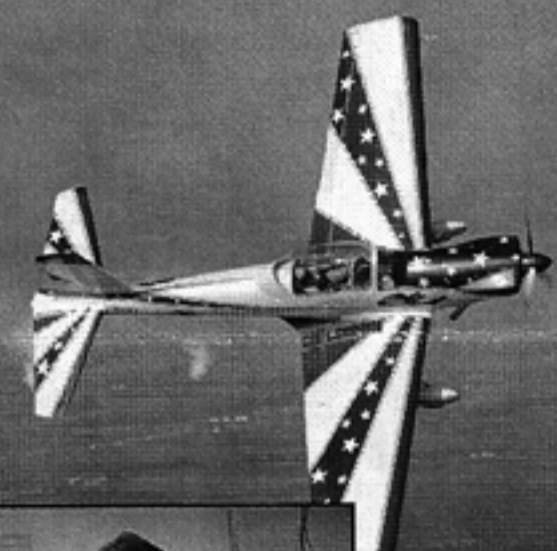
Skies will Thunder with Suncoast AirFest 2005

Exhilarating aerobatic acts, meticulously preserved vintage aircraft, and awesome military air power will take the to skies over Albert Whitted Airport on October 8th & 9th, as the Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society, the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg and the City of St. Petersburg present "Suncoast AirFest 2005".

Two action-packed days will feature three-time world aerobatic champion Patty Wagstaff (Extra 300), John Mohr (Solo Stearman), Jim "Fang" Maroney (Super Chipmunk), Otto the Copter (Solo Helicopter), Bob Cox (Solo T-6). Crowds will also thrill to World War II vintage aircraft flights and static displays, antique cars, exhibits, food and music. Attendance for this two-day-long event is expected to be between 25,000 and 30,000.

AWAPS Moving

Dreams DO come true! The Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society will be moving to 451 8th Avenue S.E. (old Flying Club) on Friday, September 2nd. The lease will be presented to City Council on Thursday, September 1, for Council approval. If everything goes according to schedule, the AWAPS Board, Committee Chairs, members and volunteers will be spending the Labor Day weekend of September 2-5 cleaning, painting, repairing, enhancing and moving into the new AWAPS office (home). If any of these tasks seem exciting to you or you have some special skills and or tools, we could sure use your help. Please call the office 822-1532 to volunteer or check out the website for a list of things to be done and the work/moving schedule. They'll be plenty of food, beverage, laughter, sweat and no doubt a few good aviation stories or tales. You won't want to miss the fun and excitement, come share your talent. There's no time to waste!.... Suncoast AirFest is 5 weeks away!



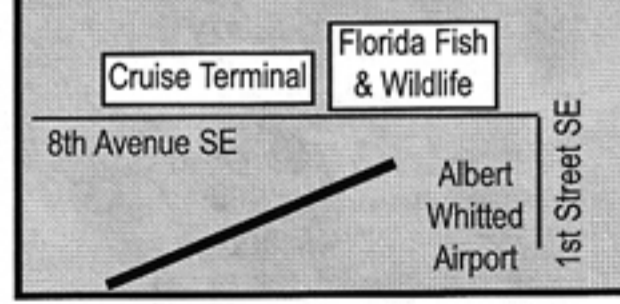
AirFest volunteers busily assemble hand-out materials. To help with AirFest 2005, contact bencoleman@albertwhittedairport.org or call 727-510-2451

Communications Update

I have recently taken over the duties of Communication Committee chair from Mark Bogue. I would like to thank Mark for all of his efforts on behalf of the entire AWAPS community and his ongoing work maintaining our website. I have been tasked with reorganizing the communication committee into several core functions including: internal communications, media relations, membership communications, printed/marketing materials, and whatever project we can think of to increase awareness of our airport within the local, regional, and national community. If you have been looking for a way to contribute directly to the success of the airport and AWAPS, now is your chance; contact me. Thank you for your interest and commitment to making our airport a cornerstone of the St. Petersburg community.

Joshua Shulman
Communications Chairman, AWAPS
727-302-6019

Call to all AWAPS Members & Supporters:
AWAPS General Membership Mtg & AirShow Volunteer Sign Up
Wednesday, Sept. 7., 7 pm
Fla. Fish & Wildlife Bldg.
Special Guest Speaker
Senator Jim Sebesta
Florida Fish & Wildlife building is directly across the street from Albert Whitted Airport; meeting is in Auditorium 2nd Floor. Park at Airport. Refreshments & Door Prizes!!



ADVERTISE IN THE FLYER!
Do you have an 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 AWAPS with an ad, call **727-822-1532**
Business card\$35 Half page\$100
Quarter page.....\$50 Full page.....\$200

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.

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Vice President.....Tim Russell
Treasurer.....Dr. Richard Byron
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Will Slicker, Dr. Eric Whitted

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ByLaws.....
CommunicationsJoshua Shulman
EducationDoug Scull
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

Airport Contacts

Rich Lesniak - Airport Manager
727-7657

Sheri 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.

Why Aren't YOU a Member of AWAPS?

For the last six months the membership committee has sought out the many participants in the life of Albert Whitted Airport. In the struggles of the referendum and election, to running the last three air shows, we have reached out by newsletter, phone calls, one-on-one discussion and through events that continue to be planned and sponsored by AWAPS. How thankful we are for the continued participation and financial support of those involved. For without your continued involvement, AWAPS would not have achieved some of our goals to date.

But today I am not talking to those who ARE involved, but to those who ARE NOT.

I am talking to those who have drifted away, to those who feel that the job is done, or that there is no longer a threat to the airport.

Neither of which is true. So I ask:

WHY AREN'T YOU A MEMBER OF AWAPS?

Less than 10% of the pilots at Albert Whitted Airport are members of AWAPS. Only 12% of the many volunteers who participated have taken the time to send in their yearly dues. So here is a friendly reminder and heartfelt request to use the enclosed envelope/membership form and send your much-needed membership dues today.

We are only beginning to fight the good fight to reinvent Albert Whitted Airport. We need the strength of a large membership to keep the City's ear tuned to our constituency's needs and interests in the airport.

What is required now is for good people to get involved in the good fight. That means we need your ideas, your strength, your participation and your financial support.

So, I am calling for all pilots, mechanics, and other airport users and supporters TO JOIN. Send in your membership application with twenty, thirty or more dollars depending on the membership level you wish to join.

Do the right thing, step up and support this organization whose entire mission is to preserve and enhance our beloved airport.

*By Steven D. Lange
Membership Chairman, AWAPS
727-823-7868*

PLEASE SEE CHART OF MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AT ABOVE, RIGHT.

JOIN AWAPS!

Send in your membership info and dues in the envelope enclosed with this newsletter!

Membership ..	Category	Fee	..Included
Single (Individual)	\$20 / yr1 member
Family	\$30 / yr	..2 members Children under 18 can be added to Family Membership for \$1 each / yr
Five Year (Individual)		\$75 / 5 yrs	..1 member
Five Year Family	...	\$125 / 5 yrs	..2 members Children under 18 can be added to Family Membership for \$5 each / 5 yrs
Lifetime (Individual)		\$200 / lifetime	..1 member
Lifetime Family	...	\$300 / lifetime	..2 members

Volunteer Spotlight

If you haven't heard her pleasant voice on the other end of the phone when calling the AWAPS office, or stopped in the office to volunteer or say hello, then you've missed meeting another wonderful AWAPS volunteer.

Karan Padgett volunteers in the AWAPS on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:00 am until at least 5:00 pm. She's been answering phones, sending faxes, copying, filing, sorting, assembling welcome bags, answering all kinds of questions and assisting in every and any way necessary. Karan started coming to the Friday night AWAPS newsletter stuffing and stamping meetings. She joined the events committee and the membership committee and one night said, "If there is any thing AWAPS needs please let me know". When asked to assist in the office her reply was "I can volunteer Monday, Wednesday and Friday; will that help?" When Karan (and it is spelled with an "an") isn't an AWAPS volunteer she's assisting her mother or spending time with her grandchildren or her best friend Sarah. Karan grew up in St. Petersburg and has many fond memories of aviation and Albert Whitted Airport. Karan is one of AWAPS' many dedicated volunteers whose kind spirit, cheerfulness, knowledge and charm help keep the sometimes confusing, challenging and busy office running as smoothly as possible. So I say to Karan on behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership "THANK YOU"!



Karan cheerfully answers phones and keeps the AWAPS office running smoothly 3 days a week. Thanks, Karan!

AWAPS 4th of July Festivities Sizzled

AWAPS members sizzled, sparkled and popped on the 4th of July at Albert Whitted. We munched burgers, dogs, potato salad, beans, watermelon – and many potluck desserts.



Pilots & Diabetes

A common question from aviators is, "Can I fly if I've been diagnosed with Diabetes Melitus?" The answer is yes for the majority of cases. The most common form of diabetes is Type II diabetes. The majority of patients with diabetes Type II do not require Insulin. Many are controlled with diet, exercise and weight loss. If the disease progresses, the patient may require oral agents to control his blood sugar. These medications by themselves are not contra-indicated with regards to flying. The FAA concern with diabetes and oral medications is the risk of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). Low blood sugar can alter the pilot's awareness of his surroundings. A common symptom is confusion, incoordination, forgetfulness and, if the blood sugar drops too much, unconsciousness—obviously, not good symptoms for a person flying an aircraft.

Similar symptoms can occur if the blood sugar rises too much. The majority of patients with diabetes can recognize the signs of high or low blood sugar and take appropriate steps to correct it. The FAA will issue Medical Certificates to patients with diabetes who are under good control. This is easily monitored by checking fasting glucose levels at home and periodic blood tests. The Hg A1C is a blood test that averages the past 8 to 10 weeks' glucose levels. Typically a level of 7.0 or less indicates overall good control. Additionally, the FAA looks at reports from the Primary Care Physician and annual eye exams. Patients with diabetes have a greater incidence of Coronary Artery Disease. The FAA usually requires initial and periodic stress testing. Those patients requiring insulin fall under the same general rules but with a higher degree of scrutiny. This is

because high and low blood sugar can occur much more rapidly. If the airman takes the time to comply with the FAA requirements the majority will be issued a Medical Certificate. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thomas F. Beaman
727-462-0225



2228 28th Street N.
St. Petersburg, Florida
33713
727-323-3939
727-647-3476
Tye Gruss

Mark Your Calendar !

AWAPS General Membership Meeting & AirShow Volunteer Sign Up

Wednesday, Sept. 7., 7 pm
Fla. Fish & Wildlife Bldg.
Special Guest Speaker:
Senator Jim Sebesta

Suncoast AirFest 2005

Sat. & Sun. • Oct. 8 & 9

Albert Whitted Airport
Technical Advisory Committee
Monday Sept. 12 at 3:00 pm
City Hall

Committees Meet at AWAPS

Office at 7:00 p.m.:

Events Committee

Aug. 30, Sept. 27

Membership Committee

Wed., Aug. 31, Sept. 14 & 28,
Oct. 12 & 26, Nov. 16

Communications Committee

Thurs., Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10

Grants Committee

Thurs., Sept. 29, Nov. 30

AWAPS Board

Wed., Sept. 21, Oct. 26, Nov. 16

EAA Chapter 47 Meetings

Mondays 7:30 pm
Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21

AOPA Expo 2005

Nov. 3-5, Tampa Convention Center

Next issue of the Albert Whitted
Flyer comes out in late November.
Deadline for ads and articles is
November 18.



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Remember Whitted When...

There are a few old timers down at the airport...me being one of them. But another



goes by the name of "N70673." Yes, it's an airplane. A Piper Cub to be exact.

Piper N70673 flew into Albert Whitted Airport brand new in 1946 along with its "litter mate," N70672. The two Cubs had been purchased by an on-field operation and served for some years as trainers. N70673 was sold and then sold again in about 1954 to Bob Graber who was an aerial photographer on Whitted.

Tom Merrifield started Advertising Air Force, the aerial banner towing company on Whitted in 1978 after learning to fly there. He had one plane then, a Citrabria. In the early 80's, N70673 flipped over in a windstorm that swept the airport. Merrifield bought it from Graber, repaired it and converted it into a banner-towing airplane. It has been in service with Advertising Air Force since. Most likely it is the oldest continually operating airplane that has called Whitted home since it was "born," or in this case, came from the factory in Loch Haven. It now has about 16,000 hours on it! Next year it will be 60 years old and most likely will fly on it's birthday.

Merrifield presently has a dozen planes in his stable of which N70673 is one of eleven converted Piper Cubs. The twelfth is a Cessna 150 he is in the process of converting. Incidentally, Merrifield donated over \$27,000 in banner flying in support of the effort to save the airport in 2002-3.

In its banner towing configuration, N70673 is a bit longer than it was originally. Its wings are substantially longer and instead of the factory supplied 40 hp engine that gave it a top speed of 60 mph, it now has a 150 hp engine and special propeller. This is what gives it that power to go almost straight up after picking up the banner.

Merrifield's AAF planes, including N70673, have towed upwards of 60,000 banners. He has had hundreds of pilots earn commercial time by flying for him. A long list of them have had over 1000 hours and one over 5500 hours towing banners.

What will happen to N70673 in the future, like life, can not be known. But it did get its "15 minutes of fame." The 1985 movie

"Summer Rental," starring John Candy, had scenes featuring N70673 towing banners over the beaches.

If you have good stories about Albert Whitted Airport that need to be told and preserved or own items that you might want to donate for a collection we hope to house in a museum area on the Airport, please contact me at my E-mail address, wlfsg914@aol.com, or send a note or call the AWAPS office.

By Glenn Anderson

Whitted Terminal Construction Schedule on TAC Committee Agenda

One of the agenda items at the 9/12/05 Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting is for Mike Connors, City Engineer, to describe where the City is with the details for the construction schedule of the terminal building. If you are interested in the process to build the new terminal building, I suggest that you plan to attend that meeting. It will be in City Hall and start at 3:00 PM.

In a meeting I had two weeks ago with Mr. Connors, we tried to make it very clear that we airport supporters will not tolerate any compromise with the May 1, 2006, construction start date. He understood me and said he has orders from Mayor Baker to meet the deadline.

John Galbraith's contract with the City is only applicable to beginning construction of the terminal building, nothing else. The location of the terminal building in the northwest corner is the same location that is shown on the 1993 Master Plan edition. That



photos by Glenn Anderson

Master Plan was accepted by the City Council, State, and FAA, so further approvals are required before construction can start. The Master Plan revision is scheduled to be completed no later than 11/03/2005.

As for the control tower, the FAA is a slug that moves slowly. The FAA has verified the new location is acceptable to all FAA alphabet groups. They have 3 heights that meet the air traffic control height requirements. The final height selected has to be based on the cost of construction, i.e., the taller it is, the more it costs. The City will receive \$2.05 million for the facility including structure and operational equipment. Given the crazy way construction is booming in FL, we can expect pressures on the budget's bottom line. That too can be said about the cost of building the terminal building.

By Jack Tunstall

AOPA Airport Support Network



F. Dickson Prew

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