

# Albert Whitted AIRPORT Flyer



Vol. 2

An Occasional Newsletter of the

Winter

No. 4

Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society

2005

**AWAPS GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7<sup>TH</sup>  
PLAN TO ATTEND!**

## AWAPS to Recognize Congressman Young at General Meeting December 7<sup>th</sup>

Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society has

arranged to present Congressman C.W. Bill Young The Preservation and Enhancement Award at our upcoming General Meeting. The award is presented to special individuals who through their leadership and dedication have helped preserve and enhance Albert Whitted Airport. This year's recipient Congressman C. W. Bill Young has been recognized for his steadfast and ongoing commitment to Albert Whitted airport. The award acknowledges the time and effort Congressman Young has contributed to ensuring the funds available for a new control tower, providing the support necessary for bringing Military Aircraft to the Suncoast AirFest and all his past efforts in preserving and enhancing Albert Whitted Airport. Please plan to attend the presentation acknowledging a fellow aviator who truly believes that Albert Whitted Airport should be preserved and enhanced for all the past, present and future aviators as well as for the St. Petersburg community.

Other items on the December 7th agenda include a gift to all in attendance from the AWAPS Board of Directors, AWAPS Board elections, committee updates, an opportunity to meet the newest business at Albert Whitted, a presentation from AV-STACK Systems, Inc.,

(multi-story aircraft hangars), an update on all the AWAPS projects and

long range planning for the airport, giveaways (theater tickets, Busch Gardens Adventure tickets, gift certificates, hats, t-shirts and holiday refreshments and cheer.

## AWAPS Moves to New Home

The AWAPS office has been newly located at 451 8th Avenue SE. The new facility provides expanded work/project areas, committee and board meeting space, storage, kitchen, restrooms, parking and designated area for an aviation museum. We have many development plans and the need for volunteers to assist with painting, landscaping, small construction/building projects (bookshelves, reception area, displays for museum and brick laying). A schedule will be posted in the office on the bulletin board and on the website at [albert-whittedairport.org](http://albert-whittedairport.org). beginning Jan 2nd. If you have available time before Jan.2nd just ring the office at 727 822-1532 and we will provide a task. Maybe the tasks above are not things you can do but you still want to volunteer, great! We have envelopes to stuff, cards to organize, calls to make, staffing the office (a few hours a day), errands to run, copies to make, lists to alphabetize, data to enter, food to cook/serve, events to set up, events to clean up, tickets/merchandise to sell, and committees to join. We need and want everyone who believes in Albert Whitted Airport to become an AWAPS member, committee member and/or a volunteer in 2006.

It's the combined efforts of everyone that will preserve and enhance our community airport.



## Call to Order

### AWAPS General Meeting

Wed., December 7 • 7:00 PM  
Florida Fish & Wildlife Bldg.

#### On the Agenda:

Preservation & Enhancement Award to Congressman C.W. Bill Young

Election of Board of Directors

Refreshments & Door Prizes from Busch Gardens, Chick-fil-A and AWAPS.

Start your holiday shopping, AWAPS merchandise on sale at 50% off

#### Free Gift to Everyone in Attendance

Florida Fish & Wildlife building is directly across the street from Albert Whitted Airport; meeting is in Auditorium 2nd Floor. Park at Airport.

RSVP 727-822-1532 by 11/30

Cruise Terminal

Florida Fish & Wildlife

8th Avenue SE

Albert Whitted Airport

1st Street SE



## Santa Arrives at Albert Whitted Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>



Santa's scheduled landing is 1:00 p.m. via helicopter. Join Santa and his aviation elves for storytelling, holiday activities, photo opportunities and a delicious spaghetti lunch. The event runs from noon to 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 per person; call the AWAPS office 727-822-1532 to make reservations. See details on page 3.

**Thanks to sponsors West Florida Helicopters, Orange Blossom Catering, Chick-fil-A and Spartan Italian Restaurant!**



Santa and a friend at 2004 Spaghetti Lunch.



## AWAPS Contacts

Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society, Inc.  
Albert Whitted Airport  
451 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

President ..... Terri Griner  
Vice President..... Tim Russell  
Treasurer..... Dr. Richard Byron  
Secretary ..... Jeff Hahn

### Board Members

Sandy Hall, Don Morris, David Oliver,  
Will Slicker, Dr. Eric Whitted

### Committees

Airport Design ..... Steven Lange  
Communications ..... Joshua Shulman  
Education .....  
Events ..... Anna Maria Pellett  
Development..... Rick Scanlon  
Governance .....  
Grants ..... Richard Blommaert  
Historic Preservation ..... Glenn Anderson  
Membership..... Steven Lange

### Ad Hoc Committees

Nominating ..... Dr. Eric Whitted  
ByLaws..... Will Slicker

## 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](http://www.AlbertWhittedAirport.org) and click on the "Membership" button. Thanks for your support of Albert Whitted Airport.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Some of our AWAPS volunteers work behind the scene assisting AWAPS in daily-weekly tasks that keep our organization running smoothly. With the guidance and incredible knowledge of Jody MacKercher we have the technical, data and accountability systems our organization needs. He works countless hours updating and expanding our systems and technical equipment. Jody comes to everyone's call whether it's a committee member working on the database, assisting with a computer that won't work, solving a fax or phone problem, providing/developing a solution to a Board Members, Committee Chair or President new idea/problem. He always provides an answer. Jody is a pilot, a member of AWAPS and has just been elected President of EAA Chapter 47. He dedicates a lot of time to



Volunteer Jody MacKercher looks after AWAPS computers and technical equipment. We are truly grateful for all his help and expertise!

Albert Whitted and we truly are grateful for that. On behalf of the AWAPS Board of Directors and membership we say "Thank you, Jody" for all you've done and will continue to do for our airport.

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## AWAPS Elections at General Meeting

A priority for the Dec. 7th meeting is election of the AWAPS Board of Directors. Dr. Eric Whitted, ad-hoc Nominations Committee Chair, will lead the AWAPS membership through the process of electing board members. Please submit nominations to Dr. Whitted by Dec. 1st to be considered by the nominating committee. Forms can be faxed to 727-820-0303 or mailed to Dr. Whitted. Please call 727-343-6890 or [drwhitted@netscape.net](mailto:drwhitted@netscape.net) for address or any questions.

According to the Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society Articles of Incorporation:

"...Directors shall be elected by the membership of AWAPS. Voting for the election of Directors shall be by written ballot. Each member shall cast one vote per candidate, and may vote for as many candidates as the number of candidates to be elected to the board. The candidates receiving a majority of the votes of the membership attending the general meeting shall be elected to serve on the board.

Selection of candidates for office: *Ad-hoc* Nominating committee begins in August of each year.

Nominations shall be submitted to the Board of Directors in November of each year.

Elections shall be held in December of each year.

Directors assume office in January of each year.

Term of office is for three years."

Nominations may also be submitted from the floor at the general membership meeting.



2228 28th Street N.  
St. Petersburg, Florida  
33713

727-323-3939

727-647-3476

Tye Gruss



**Just some of the images of fun and hard work  
on behalf of AWAPS in 2005**



Glenn Ramsey boards his RV-8



Pre AirFest prep by Sheri Weaver, Brianna Pellett, Fran Burke, Dave Oliver, Lori Burke, Bill Buston, Betty Danison Dornbusch, Anna Maria Pellett, Karen Padgett



Jamie Bennett & John Bryan, St Petersburg Council



Volunteer coordinators Lori and Fran Burke



Jamie Bennett and Virginia Littrell with 2 Civitans from SPHS



Steve Lange and his sons, 2nd generation AWAPS supporters



Bobbi O'Malley, Bill Buston on patrol for AirFest



Dr. & Mrs. Eric Whitted, nearly omnipresent in support of AWAPS



Clowning around at the AirFest



The Osprey was a big hit at Suncoast AirFest 2005

**Come See Santa arrive  
at Albert Whitted  
Airport by Helicopter &  
enjoy a special Holiday  
Lunch!**



**Join us Sunday,  
December 11th  
12:00 noon - 2:30 pm  
Santa will arrive 1:00 pm**

**Holiday Stories  
& Activities**

**Photos  
with Santa**



*Lunch Menu:*

*Spaghetti  
Salad  
Bread  
Beverage  
Dessert*

**Tickets:  
\$5.00  
per person**



**RSVP  
727-822-1532  
by Wednesday,  
December 7th**

**Proceeds benefit the  
Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society**

**Thank You to our Wonderful Sponsors:**

**West Florida Helicopters  
Orange Blossom Catering**

**Chick-fil-A  
Spartan Italian Restaurant**

Graphics work for AWAPS and our gem of an airport has truly been a labor of love these past few years, but it's time to pass the mouse to another. This is the last Airport Flyer I will be able to layout for AWAPS. I must express my sincere thanks to the many columnists, advertisers, and AWAPS members who have supplied photos and content for the newsletter, and especially to Susan Oliver for her eagle-eyed proofreading. And, like so many things, no newsletter would ever get out if it weren't for Terri Griner's diligence to pull it together and get the job done.

Shelley Manes

# PILOTMALL.COM WAREHOUSE STORE Albert Whitted Airport (Now Open)

We are now located at Albert Whitted Municipal Airport (SPG) in St Petersburg, Florida. This prime location at Albert Whitted offers PilotMall.com customers the convenience of being able to either fly or drive in to shop for a wide assortment of aviation supplies. Our warehouse store is now open, next door to the Bay Air FBO.

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## So You Think We Have an Airport? Membership Committee Report

Some of you think we have a real airport. And then again some of you think we have the mere shadow of an airport.

Which version do you think is more accurate?

When I look out I see a decrepit, underfunded, non-landscaped, poorly signed, underdeveloped, choked facility suffering from deferred maintenance on every building. I see forces in the community trying to move in on the airport from every direction with no end in sight. I see a depletion of our once mighty coalition who fought to save the airport and have not drifted away.

But I am not deterred. And you should not be either.

The key has been and always will be motivated airport supporters all bringing their talents and contributions to bear on the issues. We need everyone's help.

Some folks help by contributing an idea. That's great. Some folks help by writing a check. That's great also. But what I am after are boots on the ground membership!

You want a great airport? You want to have all of the facilities, building, services and yes, amenities, then get involved.

When you receive this newsletter, fill out the membership form and send in your membership fee. If AWAPS is going to succeed, it needs you. If this newsletter is in your hands, you are who we are speaking to. Please help and please join if you have not already.

If you need a vision to motivate you, I'll share my vision for Albert Whitted Airport with you:

Think of an airport with all new buildings, new hangars, and new aviation interests. Think of no pilot waiting list. Think of landscaping and trees. Think of benches and public spaces, including viewing stations to watch airplanes come and go. Think of the absolutely best general aviation airport in the country. Try. Think of increased city and airport economic development. Think of jobs. Think of fun, excitement and airshows. And think of all of this being done in the next ten years. That is my vision.

Now, think what might be if you don't help. It's your choice. Please help create the best GA airport in the country. Help make Albert Whitted your airport.

*Steven D. Lange*  
Membership Chairman  
727-823-7868

## JOIN AWAPS!

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

Membership	Category	Fee	Included
Single (Individual)		\$20 / yr	1 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

## Pilots & Vertigo

Vertigo is a condition that produces a sensation of rotation. Patients describe swaying or falling. This may be accompanied by altered gait (walking), nausea, vomiting and sweating. The origin may come from problems affecting the brain stem or, more commonly, the inner ear. Some patients complain of fullness in the ear, tinnitus (ringing of ears) or hearing loss. Sudden change in body or head position may exacerbate the symptoms (e.g. arising from a supine position.). Some common names for vertigo are Benign Positional Vertigo (BPV), Labyrinthitis, and Menier's Disease. The origin ranges from suspected arterial ischemia (lack of blood flow) viral, bacterial or autoimmune disease.

Obviously, pilots who experience vertigo should not fly. The FAA will allow pilots who have experienced vertigo to fly again if the etiology is clearly defined and treated. A waiting period will be requested in order to be sure there is no reoccurrence. Most cases of BPV and Labyrinthitis are treated with antihistamines, steroids or antibiotics. Depending on the cause for the vertigo, the majority of pilots that experience short-lived vertigo can safely return to flying.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me.

*Thomas F. Beaman, D.O.*  
Senior Aviation Medical Examiner  
727-462-0225  
[www.faamedex.com](http://www.faamedex.com)

ask for directions! Of course, looking out the window is a key to successful navigation. Pilotage involves looking out the window and comparing geographic features you see with those on a chart. Lakes, roads, certain buildings, bridges, etc., all give the pilot a point of reference to figure out which way is which. Technology has long been the friend of the pilot; and as time goes by the navigational toys get more accurate and to be honest, really cool. Pilots can use the VOR (Very high frequency Omni-directional Range), to help guide them along their way. The VOR is basically a radio signal set at a particular frequency. Using a receiver, a pilot can tune in that frequency and follow the signal either TO or FROM the VOR. So the VOR allows pilots to travel to specified locations and use two VORs to obtain a current position.

Now, for the really cool stuff: GPS (Global Positioning System) uses fixed satellites in space to figure out where we are. The GPS receives signals and determines how far away the satellites are to tell us where we are; GPS units can even tell us our altitude. The greatest thing about GPS is not just knowing your exact location, it is knowing your ground speed, direction of travel, distance to destination, time to destination; the list is almost endless. Integrated GPS units now include radar for weather and airborne traffic as well as databases with airport information and other pieces of useful information.

Every year the tools for assisting with navigation get more accurate and useful, so pilots now have no excuse to not know where they are going, although what they are going to do when they get there is another story.

*Josh Shulman*  
AWAPS  
Communications Chair



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## Remember Whitted When...

"History is a vast early warning system," wrote Norman Cousins.

I was reminded of this quote when I made the acquaintance of a lifelong airport enthusiast, Stewart C. "Sonny" Jones, down at Albert Whitted Airport. In fact he remembers Albert Whitted Airport being built! With his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday coming up in December, Sonny has a lifetime of airport memories including his Dad riding in the blimp Goodyear. He said that the blimp pilots regularly got into trouble for hovering over the old Solarium on Spa Beach where nude sunbathing was practiced.

Born in Colorado, he moved with his parents to St. Petersburg when only six months old. "Dad got out of the cold and brought me along."

When he started flying he was actually too young to fly solo legally. His first pilot certificate was called a "ticket" to fly and was a full sheet of paper. He is the first pilot I have known who flew Clyde Cessna's first commercial airplane model, the C-3. Pictures of it remind me of a flying bathtub. Sonny remembers helping his friend Bob Frances rebuild a Cub which was the first to tow banners from Whitted. At that time, Frances owned Flight, Inc., a flight school where he taught and towed banners. Sonny recalled that after doping the wings he felt totally drunk from the fumes. Later he flew the two Cubs that were purchased new in 1946 as rentals, one of which is still flying at Whitted for Tom Merrifield's Advertising Air Force. Along the way, he flew J-2, 3 and 4 Cubs, Aeroncas and Taylorcraft. Over the years he owned or shared ownership in a Cessna 150, Cessna 172 and a 182. He had an airplane hangared in one of the first T-hangars on the field.

But I was struck most by his story of the St. Petersburg Aviation Association (SPAA). In the early 60's the airport was under attack by the politicians, the *Times* and developers. (Does this story sound familiar?) A strong group of people, primarily pilots, came together as the SPAA to be a force to keep the airport as an airport and fight the detractors. The group met regularly at the airport or one of the local restaurants. They had parties, hired bands and had dances, and sponsored dinner parties, all for the purpose of raising funds to defend the airport. Most pilots involved all wore wing patches which identified them as SPAA members. And they proudly displayed their SPAA insignia on license plate signs on the fronts of their cars. Sonny said the group started strong and lasted 8 to 10 years when it slowly died for lack of interest. But, while they were active, no more airport development threats came.

So, what's the message here? Will AWAPS stay strong and help keep airport advocacy alive? History has shown that these developer threats come when it looks like airport support is weak. History continues to warn us.

By Glenn Anderson



photo by Glenn Anderson

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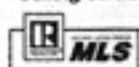
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 Santa drops in on December 11, too!**

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## ADVERTISE IN THE FLYER!

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