

# Yuma International Airport



## Yuma International Airport Hosts Stakeholders Meeting

The airport invited the community to attend the Air Service Development Stakeholder meeting on June 26th and 27th with Jeffrey Hartz, Senior Air Service Consultant for Mead & Hunt. Jeffrey assists the airport with the various meetings and necessary presentations for air service development and coordination with Network Planners for numerous airlines who may consider Yuma as a possible route. In the Air Service Development meeting, Jeffrey explained the Yuma market, changes within the airline industry and the airport's effort to attract another airline or the possibilities of another route from the existing airline to better serve the needs of Yuma County.

During the presentation information about the deciding factors airlines consider before choosing to begin operations in a specific location such as smaller airports like Yuma. It was shared that there is an uphill battle with the four major airlines—American, Delta, Southwest and United controlling 85% of the market and the fact there isn't much competition so when considering smaller markets there isn't much drive to grow. Jeffrey also explained (based upon data collected on people who flew from Yuma to Phoenix) the three most common connecting destinations are Seattle, Denver, and Portland. It appeared from data derived the best opportunities for Yuma to gain service, Denver may be the best hub opportunity for Yuma.

The airport staff will continue meeting with airlines in an effort to attract them to Yuma. In the meantime, the focus to retain existing air service with American Airlines will be a priority as well as to provide excellent customer service and improve our passenger's experience while they 'Fly Yuma'!

## Fly with the Angels Charlie

Our hearts are heavy with the sudden passing of Dr. Charles Balch. "Charlie" joined the Airport's Board of Directors in January 2014 and has been an exceptional inspiration through his dedication to our community, our airport, his friends and of course, his beloved family. Charlie was very involved with the airport board and many appreciated his willingness to ask the tough technical questions.

One of the fondest memories of our airport staff with Charlie was his constant participation in the airport's events. He absolutely loved to compete in our annual chili cook-offs and made one mean batch of chili in his iron cast pot! His great smile and fun spirit will be with us as we grow.

The YCAA Board of Directors and the Airport Team send our heartfelt condolences to his wife, son and extended family as we all mourn the loss of Charlie. Fly high with the Angels dear friend, for you will surely be missed!



## Good Luck Tofoula Clark!

We would like to thank the outgoing American Airlines' station manager, Tofoula Clark for her strong work ethic and dedication to her team, the airport and the Yuma Community over the past three years. Tofoula Clark accepted the Station Manager position in Knoxville, Tennessee where she will continue to grow and work for American Airlines. The Airport team will miss her candid personality and spunk and wish her the best of luck at her new station.



August 2016

Message from  
Airport Director  
Gladys Wiggins, C.M.



The last three months seem to have 'flown' by and we are happy to share with you some accomplishments and projects the airport team has been working on. The airport will continue to search for additional route opportunities, and work hard to deliver quality services for our customers and community. Our team takes personal pride in "giving it all we can" to make a difference with anyone and everyone throughout the day. Please take some time if you haven't been to the terminal in while to just look around or to enjoy a great meal at the Hapa's restaurant located in the terminal.

### Important Dates:

- 09/8—GA Social on West Mezz from 5:30-7:00 pm
- 09/13—YCAA Board Mtg at 4pm
- 10/11—YCAA Board Mtg at 4pm
- 11/8—YCAA Board Mtg at 4pm

# Aviation Happenings Around Town

## Flabob Yuma to Oshkosh—from Annie and Joe Fisher

This year Annie and Joe Fisher had the privilege and honor to, once again, fly the Flabob Express to Oshkosh, WI for display in the EAA's AirVenture 2016 Antique Aircraft Division. Annie and Joe were two of eight pilots on board, all of different piloting levels with a love of aviation.

The team chose to position the aircraft, crew and passengers at the Yuma International Airport Friday July 22, 2016, due to high probability of low clouds or fog, and planned for a 5:00am wheels up departure on Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>. When the team arrived at Million Air at 4:00am to prepare for takeoff, the weather was clear with light winds. But by 4:30 am the winds were gusting at 40kts from the south and the team had to delay departure due to a dust storm. The winds finally calmed enough to slowly taxi out and depart runway 17 at 6:10am. A fun start to their journey!

The Flabob Express is a DC-3/C47 produced by Douglas Aircraft Co. in 1943 and served in Europe during WWII. Its current configuration is as a passenger transport, and was used by US Airlines in the 40s and 50s. The DC-3 is powered by two Pratt & Whitney Twin Wasp 1830ci 14 cylinder radial engines. One of the unique features of the DC-3 is that it has conventional landing gear, a "tail-Dragger" configuration. Cruising speed is 150 knots and flies at 9,500ft and 10,500ft.

The aircraft is based at Flabob Airport near Riverside, CA and operates as a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to promote youth education in aviation and features an Aviation High School where students help maintain and fly the aircraft. The organization also offers airshow appearances, funeral or memorial flyovers. If you are interested in learning more about this organization, please contact Flabob Aviation Associates, 3980 Chapman Place, Riverside, CA 92506 or [Flabobairport.org](http://Flabobairport.org).



## CAP Cadets fly Harrier Flight Simulator—from Captain Scotty Haskell

Recently, Yuma Squadron Civil Air Patrol cadets and senior members were invited to fly the AV-8B Harrier flight simulator located at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma and coached by Lt. Col. Maples, an active duty Marine officer serving as Marine Aircraft Group 13 Executive Officer at MCAS Yuma and military flight instructor.

Cadets Colin Lovelace, Jacob Meninders, Brandon Sarrasin, Gavin Dupee and Noah Williams each flew the simulator for about twenty minutes. Each flight included take-off, landing, and aerobatics, they also got to fire missiles and drop bombs on simulated targets. When the cadet flights completed their training, the senior members got to fly. First to fly was Capt. Scotty Haskell, an experienced pilot with over 800 hours, the other senior member to fly was SM Matt Brown.

Everyone really enjoyed their time flying the simulator. It was one of the many unique experiences available to members of the Civil Air Patrol. The squadron plans to do it again sometimes in the fall, and look forward to using the F-35 flight simulator in the near future. Our thanks to Lt. Col. Maples and the Marine Corps for making this opportunity available to us!



## Rib Cook Off

This year's annual rib cook-off was loads of fun. From the yummy ribs to the great company it was just an all-around good time. As a team, the Airport likes to stay connected with tenants throughout the terminal by having monthly gatherings for everyone and their families to come out and enjoy. It's a great opportunity to unify our work environments by showing appreciation for one another and for families to come support their loved ones in their place of work and have a good time. These events are just as much for the Airport team as it is for the tenants because it takes each of us to make the airport successful.



## General Aviation Socials

Our quarterly GA Social at Million Air had a wonderful turn out with the awesome Million Air team from the chefs to the customer service reps who provide services for our general aviation throughout the year. Our GA Socials are a great way for our pilots to interact, have some time with the Airport staff and get to know other pilots throughout the community. Not only does the airport encourage our local general aviators but the intent is for future pilots to join us. It's always a fun time listening to their different stories and experiences. Our next event is September 8<sup>th</sup> in celebration of General Aviation Appreciation Month!



## Beautiful New Mural at Ticket Counter

Yuma International Airport is proud to have partnered with the Department of Corrections on a Community Betterment program to create an aviation themed mural behind the airport's ticket counter. The artistic team displayed the utmost professionalism and attention to detail while completing their work. The project took a few weeks and the Airport couldn't be happier with the result! We hope everyone enjoys this new artwork as much as we do. Thank you to the Department of Corrections for their coordination and time to help beautify the terminal.



## Airport Treats Passengers on National Aviation Day

Yuma International Airport staff and ambassadors greeted departing and arriving passengers with a small token of appreciation in celebration of National Aviation Day, August 19<sup>th</sup>. This included a small bottle of water, granola bar and information pamphlet about National Aviation Day and the early history of aviation in Yuma.

In 1939 President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed August 19 as National Aviation Day to promote interest in aviation and to celebrate the world's first pilot. The day coincides with the birthday of Orville Wright, who piloted the Wright Flyer.

Gladys Wiggins, Airport Director shared "It's exciting to bring recognition about this special day and it gave us an additional opportunity to share information about Yuma's rich aviation history and various locations around Yuma they can visit to learn more. It was our way of saying today is special, and so are you!"

Wiggins concluded, "The airport team is passionate and dedicated to promoting aviation programs and creating the best experience for everyone we serve, from our passengers at the terminal to our local pilots and airfield clients. It's the personal touch that enhances experiences and we have more great ideas in store!"



# Community Outreach

## Make A Wish

In June, little Jaiden and his family were given the opportunity to fly to Disneyworld Resort in Orlando, Florida for a week through the Make a Wish organization. This organization is for terminally ill children and their families to be able to take a break from doctor's appointments and visits and be able to really enjoy being a kid and gives the family a nice break from reality and enjoy time together. The airport family learned Jaiden is a big fan of superheroes so we, along with friends from the community and even people as far away as Mesa, surprised him by dressing as various superheroes and showered Jaiden and his family with breakfast, gifts and snacks for their trip!



## Food Bank Water Drive

Our community partners at the Yuma Community Food Bank work tirelessly to help bring awareness of the staggering need for food and water donations to help those in our own community. The airport family challenged each other through a water drive and donated over 75 cases of water and the Yuma International Airport also provided a \$200 check to help feed an estimated 1,800 people through the Food Bank. Our thanks goes out to the amazing team here at the airport, especially to the Enterprise team who gathered a whopping 23 cases and won a pizza party for their office. If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering, please call (928) 343-1243.



## Double Duty Community Support

The Airport proudly supports our community in many ways throughout the year. For the past several years, the airport has helped support kids involved in the FFA and 4-H community by purchasing pigs at the Yuma County Fair. Once the meat is processed, the airport donates a majority of it to our community partners at the Crossroads Mission who do so much for the underprivileged. For more information on how you can help during the hot summer months or during the holidays, please call (928)-783-9362. We are #UnitedforYuma!



## City of Yuma Beautification Project

If you haven't driven pass the airport or used the airport these past few months you may have missed the new look as you exit the airport. The City of Yuma Public Works department has completed several Beautification Projects throughout the city this past year, the latest being an incredible Welcome to Yuma monument at the intersection of Pacific Avenue and 32nd Street directly across from the airport's terminal as part of the City's celebration of National Public Works Week in May.

The "mini-beautification project" led by the City of Yuma Clean and Beautiful Commission took landscaping design provided by the City's Department of Community Development and welding done by the San Luis High School Vocational Welding class to create this beautiful piece of art which will be seen by thousands of passengers new to Yuma every year. Students Alejandro Araiza, Miguel Juarez and Carlos Angulo fabricated the three large desert plant structures.

