

## LAM Newsletter – Jun 2018

### Los Alamos Airport Serves as a Staging Area for San Antonio Firefighting Crews

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, lightning started a fire in the Valles Caldera National Preserve near San Antonio Peak. The terrain in the area is very rough and steep making fighting the fire challenging. The US Forest Service responded to the fire and challenges by deploying helicopters, equipment and fire support crews to Los Alamos Airport. Due to the available facilities and the airport's location relative to the fire, helicopters can quickly transport firefighting crews, equipment and supplies, conduct aerial assessments, and deliver slurry – pivotal in containing and extinguishing the fire.



### Perimeter Fence Project

After receiving notification of grant funding availability from the FAA, the Los Alamos Airport issued a request for bids to replace the existing perimeter fence adjacent to highway 502 and Airport Road. Bids were received on June 13<sup>th</sup> and are being reviewed by county staff and the airport's on-call engineer. This fencing will improve safety, security, and appearance of the airfield. If the apparent low-bid is accepted, the airport will submit grant applications to the FAA and NMDOT to cover 95% of the costs. Construction of the fence is expected to begin later this fall and completed by the end of the year.

### Transient Aircraft on Business

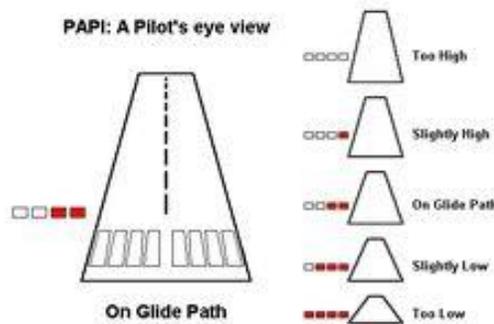
There is a common refrain amongst economists: opportunities fly into communities. The point is clear – businesses rely on air travel to expand and communities with airports are the benefactors. While many may associate business travel with scheduled airline service, the Bureau of Labor Statics show business travelers only accounted for only approximately 25% of all commercial air passengers in 2017 – and the number has been declining for decades. An often overlooked yet vitally important (and growing) component of air travel is business-owned aircraft. FAA statistics show business-owned aircraft account 34% of the 166,167 total privately-owned aircraft registered in the US and 68% of 20,101,949 total hours flown by those aircraft in 2017. A recent

informal survey of transient pilots visiting Los Alamos Airport determined 70% were here on business. Pictured below are a just a few of the aircraft that have visited Los Alamos recently.



### Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI)

The quarterly inspection of the PAPIs was completed. The two individual PAPI units were inspected, cleaned, seals and blubs were replaced, and azimuth and elevation was recalibrated.



### New Aircraft Hangar Construction

Hangar construction was temporarily delayed due some changes in the International Building Codes requirements for wind loads. The county contracted the necessary engineering analysis and submitted the results to the state. The state has determined the building meets all of the all the applicable requirements and has reissued the building permit. Construction is scheduled to resume the second week of July and be completed by the end of the summer.



## Upcoming EVENTS

- **July 7: A Celebration of Life for Bruce Hudspeth.** Bruce, who recently passed away, was a local pilot and aircraft owner. He was also instrumental in transitioning the airport from the DOE to the County. This event will honor his life and contributions to our community. This event will be held in the terminal building between 11:00 and 1:00. Please RSVP to Will Fox at: [geejar@earthlink.net](mailto:geejar@earthlink.net)
- **September 14: AOPA Fly-In Excursion – “The Secret City Unlocked”.** This is an opportunity for those participating in the AOPA Fly-In and Conference in Santa Fe to come up and tour Los Alamos with an emphasis on its atomic energy history. Information can be found at: <https://www.aopa.org/community/events/aopa-fly-ins/2018-aopa-fly-ins/santa-fe/fly-outs>
- **September 27-30: US Pilot’s Association Fly-In.** They are planning on having a “Mountain Flying Safety Seminar on Thursday evening and tours/activities based around Los Alamos’ history the rest of the weekend. Information can be found at: <http://www.uspilots.org>
- **September 28-30: Shot Wing Piper Club Southwest Regional Fly-In.** This group plans on spending time with a local Piper Tri-Pacer owner and visiting the Bradbury Science Museum and Los Alamos History Museum Campus, Bandelier National Monument and the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Information can be found at: <https://www.shortwingpiperclub.org>

**Volunteers Still Needed:** Hosting the above events will require some help with parking aircraft, meet-and-greet, and various set-up and tear-down chores. If you are interested and willing to help, please drop me an email at: [cameron.humphres@lacnm.us](mailto:cameron.humphres@lacnm.us)



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