From the Manager

BY: TIM WHITMAN
GENERAL AVIATION MANAGER

Where does the time go? Seems like only a few months ago we were dealing with last year’s snow event during Christmas, but a whole year has come and gone. I thought I would take a few lines in this quarter’s newsletter to give you a brief update of the projects we have accomplished over the last year and what we hope to accomplish during the coming year.

At long last the Instrument Landing System for 35R was completed and put in service in October of this year at Wiley Post Airport (PWA). This project gives the airport ILS capability on both ends of the primary runway, which is a great safety enhancement to our airport. It is also an economic and time saving tool which allows aircraft to not have to divert to Will Rogers due to weather conditions and then transport aircraft personnel and vehicles back to Wiley Post. Airport Administration and Management would like to thank everyone for their support during this long process, the companies whose tax dollars helped fund the project, and of course The Oklahoma Department of Transportation and all of the FAA divisions that helped to complete this vital project.

Another important project that was completed this year is the completion of the Taxiway and infrastructure project off of Taxiway A8. We now have development sites for corporate hangars ranging from approximately 10,000 to 28,000 sqf. All sites have utility access and taxiway and road infrastructure in place.

Airport staff also reconstructed and strengthened Taxiways C and C1 and installed MITLs using State, Federal and local grant matching funds. With the increased activity over the past few years on the south end of the Airport, this was a vital safety and maintenance project. The lighted taxiways allow for a second way to access all of the hangars and businesses located on C1 at the east side of the airport such as hangars 2 and 12 and maintenance facilities located in that area of the airport.

At C.E. Page it has been a busy year as well. The design, construction, and installation of a new Fuel Farm which will replace the current 1940s model was contracted. The project has been bid and should begin construction early in the new year. The project will also decommission the old fuel farm and be phased in a manner so as not cause the FBO to be without fuel storage during the project. More on this project to come in the Spring newsletter.

The two GA airports have continued to provide a front door to the community as well as an economic engine to the surrounding communities. Operations are holding steady at PWA and it appears they will come in at around 75,000 landings during the hours the tower is open for this year. C.E. Page shows signs of strong grass roots general aviation and an increase of corporate and business jet operations.

On behalf of all of us at the GA Division and the rest of the Department of Airports, we would like to take this time to thank all our corporate partners and airport users and to wish you and your families a very joyful Holiday Season.

Spotlight On:

Wiley Post Air Traffic Control Tower

Wiley Post Airport Air Traffic Control Tower is part of the Federal Contract Tower (FCC) Program and we conduct operations just as any FAA Control Tower would.

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Tenants of air fields that have control towers in the Federal Contract Tower (FCC) Program can rest assured that the person they talk to in the tower has a wealth of experience in dealing with day to day operations and unusual situations, because, in order to work at an FCC, you have to have a prior Control Tower Operator License (CTO) from another tower. In other words, we don't hire people off the street or right out of college - even if their major was Air Traffic Control.

At Wiley Post Airport, all of our controllers have many years of prior ATC experience either from military or FAA Control Towers, and as a retired Navy Air Traffic Controller, I am extremely grateful for this program because it allows those of us to continue working as controllers that would not otherwise be able to because of age restrictions in place for controllers in an FAA facility.

In our tower we have a staff of 6 people. One Air Traffic Manager (ATM) and 5 exceptionally qualified controllers. Exceptional because if you add up all the years of experience between us it would be around 150 years pushing tin! We have two operating positions in the tower - ground control and local control. Ground control is responsible for the ground operations, (taxing, vehicle movement, reading clearances, etc.) and local control is responsible for local operations, (takeoffs, landings, sequencing inbounds, and separation of aircraft). In addition to performing the duties assigned to each of these positions we also coordinate with other facilities to assist with clearances, observe the weather update notices, update NOTAM information, coordinate with airport personnel, and many other items as necessary to maintain a safe operating environment for you, our customers.

Despite what rumors might be floating around, please feel free to schedule a visit to the tower. We would be happy to show you around and talk. We welcome visits from students, new pilots and even seasoned pilots that fly into Wiley Post so they can meet the people behind the voice on the radio. Sometimes meeting and talking to us it makes a huge difference to new pilots and students that might have a fear of the microphone and it will help them in their ability to talk and understand instructions.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays!

Tom O’Connor
Air Traffic Manager, Wiley Post Airport.

OKC Approach Notes
SUBMITTED BY: SCOTT SLATER
SUPPORT SPECIALIST, OKC ATCT

First of all, I want to thank you for your input and ideas this past year. We truly appreciate the opportunity to develop a better relationship with all of you at PWA.

This past quarter we had two pilots meetings at OKC ATCT.

The first meeting was held to focus on the PWA ILS 35R. As you all know the PWA ILS 35R was commissioned a few weeks ago. The meeting presented for us an opportunity to understand how important the ILS is for the pilots and gave the pilots who attended a chance to see the TRACON and the close proximity of the finals here at OKC and PWA and to understand our procedures for the new ILS.

The second meeting was this past week to focus on VFR east departures in south flow at PWA. We had an outstanding turnout for this meeting. We have had numerous close calls and TCAS events with the PWA departures and arrivals to OKC. Our new procedures are for VFR east departures to remain at least six miles north of Will Rogers at or below 2500 feet until four miles east of PWA. After discussions with PWA tower we felt this was the safest and most expeditious procedure for all of our customers.

A suggestion from the meeting was for OKC TRACON to hold semi-annual meetings at PWA so the pilots wouldn’t have to travel all the way to Will Rogers. We are excited for this opportunity and we are planning for these meetings to be held in April and October.

All of us at OKC ATCT wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

GA Serves America

General aviation is an economic engine that pumps $150 billion into the U.S. economy each year and creates 1.2 million jobs. Yet GA faces challenges from several directions which could cause much, if not all, of that economic activity to dry up. GA Serves America is an AOPA-sponsored educational initiative whose goal is to protect our valuable asset by educating policymakers, opinion leaders, and the public about the economic value of GA to all Americans, whether they fly or not.
The Oklahoma Pilots Association needs your help. The organization needs a louder voice. So that we can continue to become increasingly visible and is adding the ability and strength to support, protect, and enhance your passion for aviation. For those of you that are a paid member, THANK YOU, and please assist the Oklahoma Pilots Association by being proactive and encouraging others to join the organization. There is so much that we can accomplish in the future as a group with proper support and funding, that an individual could never achieve on their own.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jeff Sandusky
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Fellow Aircraft Enthusiasts,

The Board Members of the Oklahoma Pilots Association (OPA) are committed to be there to support aviation and advocate the original mission statement of the organization: “A Member Controlled Not-For-Profit Organization For All Pilots And Aircraft Owners. OPA Strives To Serve The Needs Of General Aviation Pilots Statewide, Promoting Aviation Education And Safety In Personal And Business Flying.” As our membership rises, we become a larger, stronger, more powerful lobbying group for YOU, the aviator so that some of the tough long-term issues facing general aviation today can be addressed with volume. These items include but are not limited to: the possibility of User Fee's; Total overall cost of Aviation; The declining numbers of the total pilot population; and most importantly, The overall ability of the individual who has the passion to venture out to the airport and be a part of the aviation community, but does not have the knowledge or ability to know where to go or who to contact.

In order to be an influential dynamic in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Pilots Association Board, knows we need a strong showing of support, which means “Membership”.

If you would like to submit a photo for the newsletter please send it via email to Kristy Reed at: kristy.reed@okc.gov
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Upcoming Events

Happy New Year!!!—January 1
OPA Meeting—January 4
OPA Meeting—February 1

Monthly Fly-Ins

1st Saturday: Ponca City Aviation Booster Breakfast, Pauls Valley Hamburger Lunch

2nd Saturday: Ardmore Pancake Breakfast @ Lakeland Aviation

3rd Saturday: Alva Regional Airport Breakfast

4th Saturday: Enid Breakfast (Spring to Fall Only)

WANT TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT AIRFIELD NOTAMS AND OPERATIONS MEMOS? - JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!
Send an email to kristy.reed@okc.gov to get on the OKC GA (Wiley Post and CE Page Airports) NOTAMs and Memos email list.

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