

# The Strobe



EAA 512 Placerville

November 22

## Prez Sez...

### WHAT'S NEW?

#### Farewell

Two weeks on the job, the new county airport employee resigned his position on the airport staff. Jeromy is solo again working both Placerville and Georgetown airports and splitting his time between the two.

This Sunday morning, I headed down to the airport to see what's happening. It is a clear sharp morning with unlimited visibility. I can see the peak of Mount Diablo 85 miles to the west as I drive down highway 50. I met the usual friendly cast of aviators who occupy the airport office during the early hours of operation. The ramp to

## GENERAL MEETING

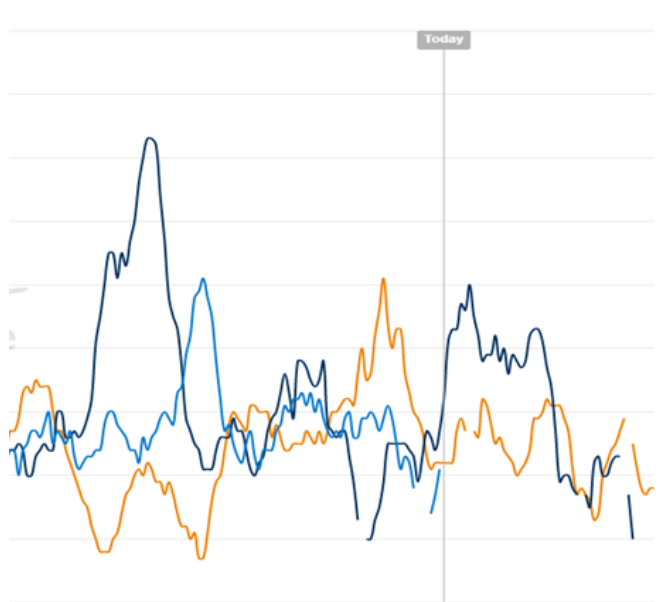
November 16

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the east is empty. All the fire helicopters departed at the end of October.

July 1 to December 2020-2022



**Airport Operations:** The Flight Aware graph shows activity for the last 3 years from July to December. The highest blue spike shows the peak of the Caldor fire on Sept 5, 2022, with 73 operations (landings and takeoffs) per day. The light blue spike is the Mosquito fire that peaked on Sept 15, 2022, with 48 operations. The faint vertical line on the chart is today's date, Nov 13. The time interval on the x axis is 180 days. Operations have declined 25% from last year as the light blue line indicates. The area under the curve represents 2020 (dark blue), 2021 (orange), and 2022 (lite blue). Why the precipitous decline in airport operations? Look no further than the price of aviation fuel.

### Price of Avgas 100LL

September of last year, 100LL was less than \$4 per gallon. Now it is above \$6.50 across the US.

Looking at the Flight Aware data above over the past 3 years, flight operations at PVF are down by 25%. This is largely correlated to the price of fuel. The price at PVF is exactly the national average of \$6.68.

## Fuel price report

### Summary of fuel prices at 3636 FBOs nation

		FUEL TYPES							
		100LL Avgas				Jet A			
	FBOs	FBOs	Avg	Min	Max	FBOs	Avg	Min	Max
Nationwide	3636	3527	\$6.68	\$4.63	\$14.00	2570	\$6.63	\$3.99	\$14.00
Alaska	82	66	\$9.64	\$7.46	\$11.57	66	\$8.14	\$5.00	\$11.00
Central	357	351	\$6.36	\$4.80	\$8.51	213	\$6.27	\$4.40	\$10.63
Eastern	357	344	\$6.96	\$5.30	\$9.79	252	\$7.28	\$5.10	\$11.25
Great Lakes	730	718	\$6.62	\$4.90	\$9.70	488	\$6.36	\$4.69	\$10.06
New England	138	133	\$7.10	\$5.14	\$9.86	87	\$7.46	\$4.75	\$11.42
Northwest Mountain	386	376	\$7.02	\$5.15	\$9.04	263	\$6.97	\$4.78	\$10.53
Southern	671	660	\$6.52	\$4.75	\$14.00	528	\$6.44	\$4.54	\$14.00
Southwest	573	558	\$6.33	\$4.63	\$9.86	414	\$6.34	\$3.99	\$11.36

### Hangar Use Update

The box hangar H19 next to Hal's hangar was finally vacated 5 years after the death of the owner. Why did it take so long? Three aircraft had to be repaired, dismantled, and sold by the widow. Any hint of a hangar for sale can start a bidding war due to the scarcity of hangars. In the five years, the hangar probably went up in value 10% each year.

The FAA hangar use policy states that a hangar must be used for aviation purposes, not for storage of personal property. But ask the question: How long can a hangar be vacant? I know of three hangars that are vacant, including one for nearly 4 years. The demand for hangar space is very high with no relieve in site. No one I have asked can give me a definitive answer.

**Chapter Membership:** Unofficial Chapter membership listed on MailChimp at the beginning of the year was 118. Today membership has grown to 148. The chapter invites new members to come out to the next chapter meeting and introduce yourself. Tell us a brief story of why you are passionate about aviation and joined the chapter. Monthly chapter gatherings are always the third Wednesday at 7 PM.

**Picnic Meetings at the Chapter:** The next picnic meeting will be Wednesday April 19, 2023.

**Election of Officers, Directors, and Coordinators:** The chapter is required to hold an election and publish the slate of candidates each year. This is also your chance to write-in a name, to nominate someone you would like to see on the board. It could even be your name! Or think about it for next year. A position on the board is how you can contribute and perpetuate the life of the chapter 512 and the spirit of aviation.

#### **Slate of Candidates:**

- The ballot was published in an email sent to all chapter members on November 8. All incumbent officers will serve another one-year term.
- We will tally the results and announce at the November General Meeting on the 16th.

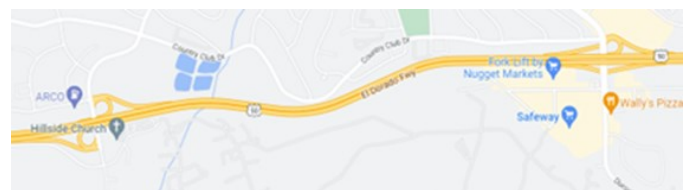
Position	Elected
President	Jim Wilson
Vice-President	Jim Pinkowski
Treasurer	Judi Gordon
Secretary	Rob Bulaga
Director at Large	Dick Wampach
Director at Large	Neil Robinson
	Non-elected
Strobe Editor	Helen Brand
Past President	Al Herron, retired Tim Sullivan
Webmaster	Jim Wilson
Adopt-A-Highway Coordinators	Jim W, Neil R, Judi G
Young Eagle Coordinators	Jim W, Jim P
Membership	Sam Garcia with Jim W and Judi support and training
Fundraising	Tracey Fremd is moving out of state to Carson City NV.

Scholarship Committee	Jim W. Judi G. Andrew G.
Tool Crib	Dale Kral
Pancake Breakfast coordinators	Jim W, Dale K

**NEW CFI for C150:** Cindy Ashmead is an RN at Marshall, CFI, CFII, owes a C-182, tenant of the airport and gives flight reviews. She is a dedicated instructor and great mentor for young aspiring student pilots. She brought in a new student, Vanessa Densmore, who started her first lesson last month in my C-150.

**New Ray Aviation Scholar:** Sam Garcia of Placerville graduated from high school last year and is attending Folsom Lake College studying mechanical engineering. He was selected and approved by the chapter board for the 50/50 matching fund scholarship. He will start flight lessons in November and should earn his private pilot certificate by next summer.

**Adopt-A-Highway Program:** Our first workday is November 19. The chapter is assigned the 2-mile section of Highway 50 between Exit 34 and Exit 35, between Cambridge Road and Cameron Park Road in 2 Hwy 50 Exit 34 to Exit 35



both directions. If you want to volunteer for the program, contact Judi or Jim W. to get on the list. A 15-minute training video is required. Our plan is to meet one Saturday each month at McDonalds, usually the 3rd weekend, and begin walking the shoulder facing traffic at 9AM . A dozen people will split into two groups and spend about two hours collecting litter. For our



efforts, the chapter will earn \$500 per month. This is a 5-year contract. We currently have 25 people not counting spouse on the list. We can make this fun and rewarding by taking those earnings to build our scholarship fund and hangar improvement fund.

If you wish to sign-up for a work party, go to [www.chapters.eaa.org/ea512](http://www.chapters.eaa.org/ea512) select Adopt-A-Highway, at the bottom of the page, select Schedule 2022 or 2023, complete the form and SUBMIT.

**Chapter Projects:** A work party completed demolition of the old shed on the west side of the hangar. We call this Area 51.2. Our plan is to install a door in the center of the west side of the hangar to provide access to the area. Long term, we plan to build a structure for tools and small projects in the 17 ft by 30 ft area (512 sq ft).



Thanks to the work party (Jim, Dale, Sam) and especially to James Johnson for his big tractor and Jim Sidebotham and Jim Golding for the dump truck that made the job of disposal very easy.

**Chapter meeting:** This Wednesday Nov 16 at 7 PM. Guest speaker Brian Brown, FAAST Team, tells his amazing survival story of a mountain crash in SW Idaho.

**Holiday Party at the 512 Hangar:** Save the date, Wednesday December 21. Social Hour at 5, dinner at 6. Optional gift exchange. Gift less than \$20.

**Joke of the Month:** As Joe Biden would say, "It's No joke". Well, that is the joke. It's time to elect a younger president.

By Jim Wilson

## GENERAL MEETING

November 16

NO PICNIC

Meeting 7pm

# IN MEMORY OF GAIL BRANDT

Gail Brandt, wife of Jared Brandt for 61 years, passed away on October 31, after being under the care of Hospice for several months. She was born in Big Sandi, MT, and was a teacher for 35 years. They have two daughters.

JC is a long-time member of our EAA chapter.

A memorial service will be held for Gail on Friday, December 5, at Green Valley Mortuary at 10:30 AM.



Golden Gate Bridge on its opening day in 1937

## Dear Reader

The newsletter is made up ENTIRELY of content submitted by YOU. If there is something you'd like to share with the membership about an airplane project, weekend flight, a joke, a pastime, photos without context, etc.—we would love to hear from you. *Don't talk yourself out of it!* Send your stuff to this easy-to-remember email address at:

[more\\_right\\_rudder@yahoo.com](mailto:more_right_rudder@yahoo.com)

It's that simple.

Sincerely,

The Editor



## Coffee and Doughnuts

most Sundays at  
KPVF FBO  
sometime after 8:30am  
to  
sometime before lunch

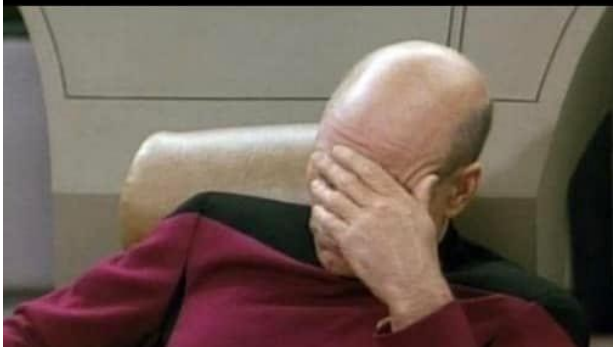




## If I won the 1.9 Billion Powerball...



**ATC: TRAFFIC AT YOUR 2 O'CLOCK,  
DO YOU HAVE THEM IN SIGHT?  
STUDENT: YUP, GOT THEM ON THE FISH FINDER  
INSTRUCTOR:**



Dang it, I was weird again. 🙄  
Starbucks barista: I like your earrings.  
My brain: Don't do it.  
Me: Thanks, I have airplanes on my shirt too.  
Barista: very cute.  
My brain: Don't do it. Don't do it.  
Me: I'm a pilot.  
My brain: 🙄🙄  
Barista: Oh that's cool.  
My brain: Happy now? Let's get out of here.  
Me: I have other pilot stuff. That's my pilot headset in the seat there.  
Barista: Oh, um, nice.  
My brain: 🙄🙄



# Contacts

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### AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS VS. PILOTS

If a Pilot screws up, the Pilot dies  
If an Air Traffic Controller screws up... The Pilot dies

## ON THE 12TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY GENERAL SENT TO ME

