



# AzAA Matter of Fact

## News from the Arizona Airports Association

[www.azairports.org](http://www.azairports.org) / email: [info@azairports.org](mailto:info@azairports.org) / Newsletter Editor email: [ryan.toner@dibblecorp.com](mailto:ryan.toner@dibblecorp.com)

Arizona Airports Association  
Newsletter

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## SPRING CONFERENCE RECAP

### In Case You Missed It....

It is hard to believe that 2016 is halfway over, and as quickly as the 2016 Annual "Dutch Bertholf" Spring Conference came, it went by equally as quickly. Between colleagues catching up, engaging sessions and discussions, and all of the entertainment (from activities and by certain people), it is no wonder that several days passed in what seemed to be a blink of the eye. In case you weren't able to attend the conference, here are some highlights and photos capturing some of the fun and productive interactions that took place at this year's spring conference.

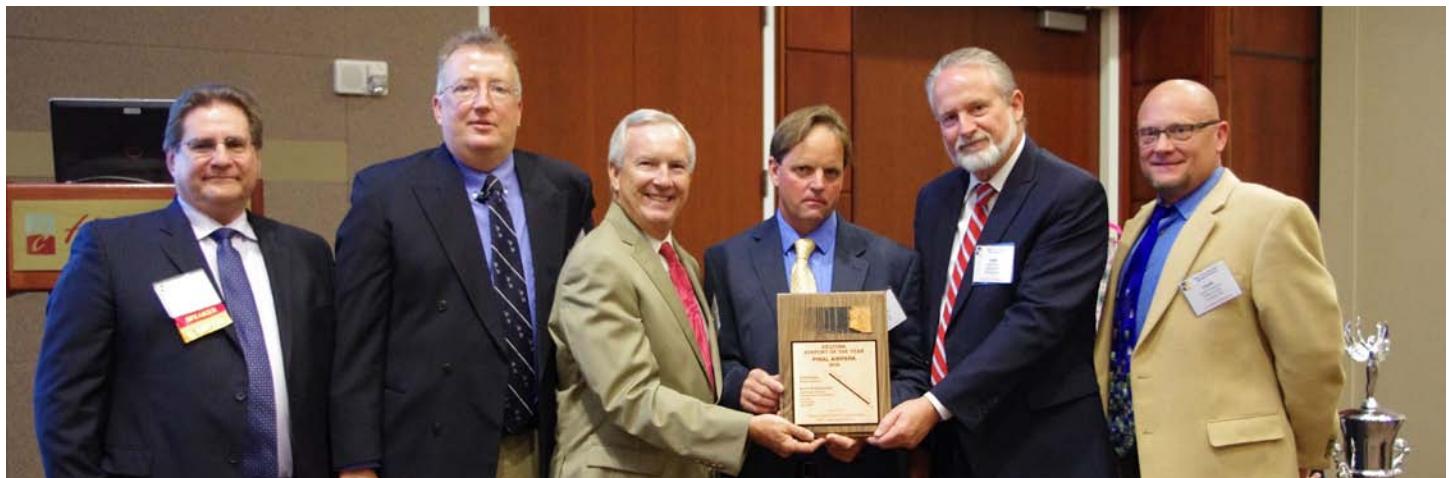
More than 160 people attended the conference up in beautiful Flagstaff, Arizona. We weathered the elements, too! Cool rain gave way to a couple inches of fresh snow, but the conference ended sunny and warm. Although the golf tournament was canceled due to Mother Nature, several committed conference attendees weren't going to let the rain and snow keep them away from the golf course...however, some of the golfers claim that it was the distractions of the deer and the elk that impacted their ability to swing a club.

This year's Spring Conference was chock-full of very relevant and thought-provoking sessions. Some of the most notable topics were the always-popular FAA AND ADOT Update; UAS/Drones – The Good, the Bad & the Ugly; and a presentation by City of Flagstaff staff sharing their approach to Airport & Community Marketing. **Mike Williams, FAA ADO Manager**, shared that the State of Arizona did very well in 2015 with the amount of grant funds received by Airport Sponsors, although we have work to do in expending our grant funds in a timely manner. **Mike Klein, ADOT Aeronautics Group Manager**, reminded the organization that the State Aviation Fund continues to have the eyes of the legislature focused upon it. Our vigilance in helping to educate and protect the Fund was evident and in action at the conference, and we must continue that commitment with tenacity.

A tremendous thanks goes out to the **20 exhibitors** and **27 sponsors** that were able to help make this conference a success. As always, the Conference Planning Committee, made up by many members of AzAA, did an outstanding job of planning and executing the conference.

Be on the lookout for information on next year's Spring Conference!





## 2016 ADOT AIRPORT OF THE YEAR

There are never a shortage of pleasant surprises in our great organization, especially at our Spring Conferences. The 2016 Spring Conference was no different.

For many years, Pinal Airpark has endured a lot of criticisms, uncertainties, perceptions (true or otherwise), and had been compared to Area 51 for some alleged "shady" activities. If you ever found yourself going down Pinal Airpark Road towards the airfield, you were met with guards and a security gate. The Airpark had dropped out of compliance for several reasons, and FAA removed it from the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).

In 2012, Pinal County set out to change those perceptions and turn the Airpark back around to promote its positive contributions to Arizona's economy and the flying public. From 2012 through today, the County has made numerous positive changes and improvements to the Airpark. Pinal County renegotiated lease terms with the tenants to take back some of the operational

control of the airfield, removed the security gates and guards and returned the Airpark to a public-use status, made security improvements to the Air Operations Area with some new chain-link fencing and powered gates, completed a much-needed Airport Master Plan, and rehabilitated Runway 12-30 to address the safety concerns of the deteriorating pavement. Pinal County is now working with the FAA to relist Pinal Airpark back into the NPIAS.

When Mike Klein, ADOT Aeronautics Group Manager, presented Jim Petty and other Pinal County officials with the ADOT Airport of the Year Award at the 2016 Spring Conference, there were some surprised reactions throughout the audience. As Mr. Klein read the numerous accomplishments and dedicated steps that Pinal County had taken to address some of the concerns and misconceptions of Pinal Airpark, it was very clear that Pinal County was very much deserving of this recognition.

Congratulations to Jim Petty and the rest of the Pinal County staff and officials for this awesome achievement!



### 2016 Airport Executive of the Year

**Barney Helmick, AAE**  
**Flagstaff Airport**

### ASAG Arizona Safety Award

**Payson Airport**

## ADOT AERONAUTICS CORNER

ADOT's Fiscal Year 2017 is now underway, and Airport Sponsors and ADOT Aeronautics are busy partnering and coordinating for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 through Annual Planning Meetings and the Airport Capital Improvement Programming (ACIP) process. The process never seems to end, but that is a good thing because proper planning is essential to orderly airport development. Below are important dates to remember for Sponsors' upcoming ACIP submittals:

- September 2, 2016
- September - November
- December 19, 2016

- ACIP Submittal Deadline to ADOT's website
- ADOT Evaluation of ACIP Submittals
- ACIP Data Sheets due to FAA

As we all know, previous sweeps of the State Aviation Fund continue to have a negative impact on grant funding even today. Budget issues are holding up the issuance of new FY 2017 grants. Rest assured that ADOT Aeronautics staff are working hard to provide the ADOT budget office an accurate cash flow so that grant funds can be released for important projects throughout Arizona. ADOT Aeronautics staff will contact Airport Sponsors as soon as they know when the FY 2017 funds are released.

On a more positive note, ADOT Aeronautics has added two new staff members to the group. These new additions will help ADOT Aeronautics better assist Airport Sponsors and operate on a more proactive basis.



Don Kriz joined ADOT Aeronautics in April as the State Airport Engineer. Don enjoys his position because he has a chance to help each and every airport in the state, and to work with all of the consultants in Arizona to make our airports the best in the USA. While at ADOT, Don will be responsible for performing 30% plan reviews, engineering for the Grand Canyon National Park Airport, and he will be the program manager for the Airport Pavement Maintenance System.

Don graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and spent the majority of his career living and working as an airport consultant in Tucson. He enjoys doing stained glass, and now that he has moved to Phoenix he spends nearly all of his free time renovating his new house.



Matt Smith returned to ADOT as the Prodigal Son (aka Grant Manager) in January. Matt is happy to be back at ADOT because airport grant management is a legal and generally healthy outlet for his obsessive compulsive disorder. In addition to day-to-day grant management, Matt works on special projects to help update and streamline Aeronautics processes.

Matt received a BA entirely unrelated to Aviation from Hobart College, and an MS in Aviation Management from ASU. Prior to returning to ADOT, Matt taught in the Marine Transportation Division at Korea Maritime University where he also did a PhD in Maritime Environment and Safety in his spare time. He lives in Gilbert with his wife, Judith the Singing Gourmet, son Archer who wants to be a helicopter pilot, and daughter Felicity who is partial to C-130s.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Each time I attend an AzAA conference, I am inspired and grateful for the tremendous knowledge, efforts and professionalism in our organization. We are fortunate to have incredible members from airports, engineers, consultants, contractors, and students. Our diverse members and their commitment is directly responsible for our high-quality conferences, Aviation Day at the Capitol event, and AzAA operations. It is an honor to serve as your President for 2016-2017, and in partnership with our dedicated Board of Directors, we look forward to serving you and supporting airports this year!

As discussed at the 2016 Spring Conference, this year AzAA will continue to focus its efforts on several key areas:

- Protecting the state Aviation Trust Fund for airport development
- Identifying additional training and development opportunities through our conferences and other forums
- Expanding AzAA membership

If you have ideas or suggestions on these or other topics, please don't hesitate to call or email any Board member.

Please join me in welcoming and congratulating the 2016-2017 members of the AzAA Board of Directors who were elected by the membership at the Spring Conference:

**Past President:** Gladys Brown-Wiggins, CM, Airport Director, Yuma International Airport

**1st VP:** Ed Faron, A.A.E., Airport Manager, Deer Valley Airport

**2nd VP:** Steve Johnston, CM, Airport Manager, Lake Havasu City Municipal Airport

**Executive Director:** Carmen Williams, CM, A.C.E., Management Analyst, Scottsdale Airport

**Executive Director:** Mike Smejkal, P.E., Senior Director of Development Services, Tucson Airport Authority

**Executive Director:** Arlando Teller, Acting Deputy Division Director, Navajo Division of Transportation

**Executive Director:** Amanda Shankland, General Manager, Sedona Airport

**Corporate Director:** Charlie McDermott, Senior Project Manager, Armstrong Consultants

**Associate Director:** Ryan Toner, PE, Airport Development Practice Leader, Dibble Engineering

Many thanks to **Richard Crosman**, Senior Vice President of Genesis Consulting, for his service as Associate Director; **Barney Helmick**, Flagstaff Airport Director, who is leaving us after serving through Past President; and **Gladys Brown-Wiggins** for her creativity and uplifting energy in service as 2015-2016 President. Their countless hours organizing, coordinating and serving have been evident, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment to AzAA! They have left big shoes to fill!

In addition, we thank **Cathy Herring** who has been our Administrative Director until she was recently promoted within KCA, and we welcome **Desirae Groth** who is taking on the Administrative Director role. KCA staff provide valuable management services and are so helpful in making sure our daily operations run smoothly! Please continue supporting Desirae and the KCA staff with your cooperation as we move into a new year!

Congratulations also are in order to this year's annual award winners:

- **Barney Helmick, AAE - Airport Executive of the Year**
- **Pinal Airpark - ADOT Airport of the Year**
- **Payson Airport - ASAG Airport Safety Award**

Their achievements, contributions, service and professionalism are inspirations to Arizona's airports and aviation industry.

Another round of thanks goes out to **Barney Helmick** for hosting the 2016 Spring Conference in Flagstaff! Barney was instrumental in organizing and assisting with all aspects and details of the conference. This year's event would not have been as successful without Barney's involvement and tireless efforts.

In closing, thanks to all who attended the Spring Conference and for the tremendous support from the Conference Committee and all those who volunteered their time and expertise to make it a success! Be sure to mark your calendar for the Fall Conference that is scheduled Thursday, Oct. 13 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Phoenix. See you there!

**Brad Hagen, AAE**  
AzAA President

## Mark Your Calendars!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for these important events:

- Airport Capital Improvement Programs/Plans (ACIP's) due to ADOT Aeronautics  
On or before September 2, 2016
- Southwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (SWAAAE)  
Airport Management Short Course  
Monterey, CA  
January 29 - February 1, 2017
- AzAA Fall Conference  
Four Points by Sheraton  
Phoenix North  
Phoenix, AZ  
October 13, 2016
- AzAA Spring Conference  
Prescott Resort, Prescott, AZ  
May 20 - 24, 2017
- Aviation Day at the Capitol  
January 17, 2017



## Contact Us

For more information, contributions or ideas for future newsletters, please contact:

Ryan Toner, PE  
Airport Development Practice Leader  
Dibble Engineering

P | 602.957.1155  
E | ryan.toner@dibblecorp.com

*Photos in this newsletter courtesy of Kenn Potts*