

Stacey Justesen

Truckee Tahoe Airport Benefits from Navy Pilot's Training

By Laurel Lippert; Photo Tom Lippert

"All in the Family" was the title of an old TV show, but it could also be the motto of the Justesen family, one member whose vital role is safety at Truckee Tahoe Airport.

Raised in Truckee, Stacey Justesen flew with her dad Norm in his Cherokee 180 at KTRK when she was just 13, donning her dad's Navy flight suit with the cuffs rolled up. "I knew I wanted to be a pilot at age seven," says Stacey.

What she didn't know then was that she would train at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola in 1995 (30 years after her dad did), become a Navy pilot and flight instructor, and fly the military T34s, T2s and A4s, just like her dad.

Encouraged by her Truckee High School counselor, following graduation in 1990, Stacey attended the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo. She learned celestial navigation and earned a BS in business along with a USCG Merchant Marine license which, allowed her to sail Merchant vessels.

In 1995, Stacey joined the Navy as a student Naval Aviator. After 20 years, reaching the rank of Commander, her decision to move back to Truckee after flying C2 cargo planes onto aircraft carriers in the Pacific and Atlantic was not a hard one.

"I loved everything about the Navy," she says and shares that passion with her dad who has his own Top Gun flight training stories. Yet, unlike Norm who flew for United Airlines, Stacey had no desire to fly commercially after her military service, and her dad's push for her to find a job at her hometown airport sealed the deal.

Experience as a Quality Assurance Officer in the Navy qualified Stacey for the job as Aviation & Community Services Program Coordinator for the airport with the responsibility for aviation and ground safety, including FAA, OSHA and CAL-OSHA programs.

"In the Navy, it's very choreographed; there's a procedure for everything," she says in explaining her role here to standardize safety operations and build confidence in ramp staff to convey the requirements to local and visiting pilots.

Brought up to leave ego behind, Stacey believes that professionalism supersedes gender. A lead Naval flight instructor, given some of the hardest cases, she tells the story of a female student who needed more confidence flying onto an aircraft carrier, believing she was scrutinized more because she was a woman. "The only thing out there is metal and water, and the only thing that keeps you airborne is lift," Stacey told her student. "So you don't want to hit the water. You want to put metal on metal," she said, reminding her, "You're not a girl out here. You're a professional, and you're being graded every time you fly the plane, based only on how you fly the plane."



Stacey and Norm: retired Navy pilots and passionate community contributors.

Stacey's philosophy, that the success of an organization is determined by the people in it, was developed in the "people-oriented Navy, from that 18-year-old who is taxiing you within six inches of the side of an aircraft carrier. All your trust is in him."

As for her decision to return to Truckee and join the Truckee Tahoe Airport, Stacey says, "I love it here. If you're going to roll out of one incredible fraternity, like the Navy, your next job should be some place like this. With 23 people, you have all different characters that you would in any squadron or ship, but you still have the same fraternity. You have a skipper driving the ship and your direct department head that you will not fail. It's all the same. This place is awesome."

What else does Stacey love outside of the Navy and her job? Skiing, water and snow, and taking long hikes in the Sierra. She also enjoys hunting and gardening, and is working at becoming a better fisherman.

When it comes to safety and security on the KTRK field, Stacey wants to hear from you. She can be reached at stacey.justesen@truckee-tahoeairport.com.

Truckee Tahoe Airport

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Temporary Seasonal Air Traffic Control Tower Update

After a busy first summer with the new temporary seasonal air traffic control tower in the books, Truckee Tahoe Airport District staff is evaluating its impacts on the Airport and local community.

Launched in June to increase Airport safety, reduce aircraft noise and annoyance on the community, and increase airspace efficiency, the tower wrapped up for the season on September 15 after running seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"I think the tower came in the nick of time with some of our biggest peak periods this summer," said Hardy Bullock, Director of Aviation & Community Services. "I think it helped everybody get through a really busy period."

More than 300 pilots were surveyed regarding the tower, and the vast majority felt it enhanced safety and airspace control, and improved the Airport as a whole. Staff is still evaluating the tower's effect on noise and annoyance. The Board of Directors will decide on future tower operations – potentially including December 15, 2017 to February 28, 2018 and summer 2018.

The tower will remain assembled while not staffed and the Tower/CTAF frequency will remain in effect. CTAF (Common Traffic Advisory Frequency) is most often referred to as a VHF radio frequency used for air-to-air communication. It is designated for pilots to communicate position and altitude while operating at an airport that has no control tower, or an airport where the control tower is not operational. All traffic entering Truckee Tahoe airspace must be on the CTAF frequency 120.575.

UNICOM 122.8 will be used for FBO services, parking and air-ground communications. All transient aircraft must contact UNICOM at 122.8 prior to entering the ramp.

Frequencies:

Tower frequency/CTAF: 120.575 Mhz
UNICOM/FBO Services & Parking: 122.8 Mhz
AWOS: 118.0 Mhz



The Board of Directors will be discussing future tower operations in October.

Additional Info:

Estimated costs to construct and operate the tower for 2017 are between \$400,000 and \$500,000. If the program is continued, the Airport will have FAA Class D designated airspace by summer 2018. To learn more, go to truckee-tahoeairport.com.

TOWER STAFF REPORT

A staff report on the Tower will be presented to the Board of Directors at the October 25, 2017 Board meeting. Public comment is encouraged. The meeting starts at 4:30 p.m. in the Main Terminal Building, Board Room A.

THE BUSINESS OF THE AIRPORT IS YOUR BUSINESS



The Truckee Tahoe Airport District continually strives to improve safety, service and efficiency for users, and reduce noise and annoyance for local residents. Following is an overview of initiatives the Airport is currently working on to further these goals.

Hangar Two Update

The Truckee Tahoe Airport District is moving forward with plans to replace Hangar Two, which collapsed under excessive snow loads last January.

The Board of Directors is finalizing the scope of work and architectural design contract with Truckee Architect Scott Ryan, AIA with Ryan Group Architects, and Mead & Hunt as aviation consultants.

Exact building plans are still being worked out, but tentative plans include hangar use with possible for-profit and not-for-profit aeronautical tenants, an Airport lounge, public meeting rooms, offices for tenants and potentially Airport staff, along with a kitchen, bathrooms and other elements. In addition to replacing Hangar Two, plans also include expanding the adjacent Katie's Playground.

The Airport's goal is to have the building occupied by December 2019. Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to provide input at truckeetahoeairport.com.

2017 Godbe Survey Results

Truckee Tahoe Airport District hired Godbe Research to conduct a public opinion survey, following similar surveys in 2005, 2009 and 2013. The 2017 survey showed positive progress in community awareness of Airport efforts to reduce community noise and annoyance, and in awareness of the District's overall outreach efforts and level of community involvement and support. To see the results, please visit the Airport's website at truckeetahoeairport.com/administration/publications.

Airport's Economic Impact Study Update

The District has commissioned a study to assess the economic impact derived from the activities and operation of the Airport to local Truckee and Lake Tahoe communities. The contract was awarded to Sacramento-based Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS). The company is currently working with Airport staff in

surveying aviation flight crews and passengers to gauge their economic footprint in the region during a visit. The final report expected in January 2018 will look at direct, indirect and induced economic impacts. This information will be used to help guide the District Board of Directors in understanding its role in the local economy, and help guide future decision making and planning.

Sierra Aero Receives New FAA Certification

KTRK's on-field aircraft rental, flight school and maintenance facility, Sierra Aero, has received new FAA Limited Part 145 certification. This certification qualifies Sierra Aero to perform required 24-month testing on both transponder and pitot static system re-certifications. The roughly one-and-a-half-year FAA application process means Sierra Aero can now perform required re-certifications for both VFR and IFR pilots.

Successful Season for Soar Truckee

KTRK's on-field glider operator Soar Truckee closed for the season on Sunday, October 1, 2017. Manager Jan Driessen said it was a great soaring season and one of their busiest ever. Jan also said that the temporary seasonal tower greatly helped with record flight operations and that they enjoyed working with Tower Manager Karin Hardiman and her crew. Soar Truckee will open again for the 2018 season on Friday, May 25 at the start of the Memorial Day weekend. More information can be found at soartruckee.org.

Jumper Counts Up for Skydive Truckee Tahoe

Jules Drew co-owner of Skydive Truckee Tahoe said 2017 was a banner year as they celebrated their second season as an on-field operator based at KTRK. Jumper counts were up 50%, and their busy pilots appreciated the increase in air traffic safety working with the new temporary seasonal tower. Operations will close for the 2017 season in late October, and they will reopen in May 2018 as weather conditions permit. For more information please visit skydivetruckeetahoe.com.

AIRPORT HOURS OF OPERATION

Airport: 7 a.m. – 9 p.m., 7 days a week

Fuel: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Self Serve 100LL: 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

ACAT Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 9:15 a.m.

Board Meetings: 4th Wednesday of the month, 4:30 p.m.

General Info: (530) 587-4119

Red Truck Cafe: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Monday–Saturday

Visit our website at truckeetahoeairport.com.

Summer 2017 Operational Stats

Summer is Truckee Tahoe Airport's busiest season with around 60% of operations occurring between June and September. Peak summer days can reach above 500 operations – as high as some major metropolitan airports. This year, the Airport saw a 7% increase in July over 2016*, and an increase in jets over 50,000 lbs. With several fires in the region, there was also a spike in operations from aerial fire fighting aircraft.

With the air traffic control tower in place, the Airport was also able to track training touch-and-go operations – seeing more than 1,000 per month, or an average of 30 per day. It's worth keeping these numbers in mind before taking to the skies in Truckee.

Aircraft Type	June	July	August	Total
Piston Single	1,861	2,424	2,007	6,292
Piston Twin	130	176	161	467
Turboprop	683	998	885	2,566
Jet < 12,499 lbs	84	182	155	421
Jet 12,500 - 19,999 lbs	162	277	253	692
Jet 20,000 - 49,999 lbs	166	225	182	573
Jet > 50,000 Lbs	32	55	77	164
Helicopter	99	192	141	432
Total Powered Aircraft	3,217	4,529	3,861	11,607
Glider	712	1,804	1,444	3,960
Total Operations	3,929	6,333	5,305	15,567

*Total annual 2016 flight operations at KTRK were 32,524.

Winter Preparation for Pilots and Hangar Tenants

Winter is around the corner, and now is a good time to get ready for the snowy weather that comes with it.

Whether you're a hangar tenant or a visiting pilot, it's important to be prepared for snow, ice, wind, low visibility and other challenges – both in the air and on the tarmac. Here are a few tips from Truckee Tahoe Airport District staff to insure a smooth winter season:

Flying in or out, always check ahead: Weather conditions can be very specific and change quickly – so it's always a good idea to take a look at the webcam at truckeetahoeairport.com for a sneak peak at conditions – or call UNICOM for more in-depth information. Don't just check flying conditions either – hangar availability and plowing progress will also affect plans.

Shovel snow in front of your hangar: While Truckee Tahoe Airport District strives to plow hangar rows quickly and as close to hangar doors as possible, typically a berm gets left behind. If you don't shovel the berm, it can get pushed into the tracks of your hangar door – jamming it up leaving you stuck in or out of the hangar. Always have a shovel ready to push snow toward the middle of the hangar row where the next pass of a plow will catch it.

Consider traction on the tarmac: If you use a tug to move your aircraft – consider traction aids in slippery conditions. Just like a car, a tug needs chains or a little help from deicers or kitty litter on slick days.

To learn more about winter operations, go to truckeetahoeairport.com



A hangar door improperly closed over uncleared snow and ice.

Hangar tenants who experience any issues with the operation of their door or notice that the cables or mechanics appear compromised should contact UNICOM on 122.8 or at (530) 587-4119 ext 100.