

Truckee Tahoe Airport CONNECTED BY MORE THAN A RUNWAY



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Dive Into Tahoe's Blue Sky for a Bird's Eye View

BY LAUREL LIPPERT; PHOTOS TOM LIPPERT



▲ Jules Drew, Mike & Jen Swanson – owner operators of Skydive Truckee Tahoe.

Seeing sparkling blue Lake Tahoe and the stunning Sierra Nevada mountain range from an airplane or a peak is a special experience, but have you ever flown above it, untethered, with outstretched arms, floating freely like a bird, with breathtaking natural beauty all around?

Thanks to Mike Swanson, his wife Jen, and her sister Jules Drew, owners of Skydive Truckee Tahoe, you can do that now in a tandem skydive! What does it take? Being at least 18 years old (one of their enthusiastic customers celebrated his 90th birthday with a jump), healthy, somewhat fit, not too heavy, and eager for the thrill of a lifetime. That's it!

Raised in Williston, Vermont, Mike, a skier and snowboarder, was introduced to skydiving by his father, an experienced skydiver and commercial pilot who runs a small nonprofit skydiving center where Mike took his first jump at age 16.

Jen and Jules Drew grew up in South Africa where horseback riding was their "life and passion." By chance, tenants living on their family property were skydivers, and "adventurous" Jen made her first tandem jump at age 17 and loved

it. Older sister Jules was terrified of heights and not convinced that it could be fun. Months later, when she thought she might be missing something thrilling, Jules took her first skydiving jump (she has since made 1,000). In their early 20s, while visiting a skydiving center in Florida, Jen and Jules met Mike Swanson who had begun a career as a skydiving competitor.

A mutual love of skydiving kept them together. Jen and Mike married and moved to Southern California, home of one of the largest skydiving centers (or drop zones) in the world. Mike continued to enter and win international skydiving competitions, perfected his base jumping and wingsuit flying, joined the Red Bull Air Force, and flew stunts in films including "Transformers 3" and "Point Break." All three have jumped all over the world, including, most recently, Dubai, and worked at major skydiving centers in Florida, New Jersey, and Chicago.

When Mike and Jen visited a Tahoe friend in 2005, they "fell in love with the place." Soon after, they sold their home in Southern California, moved to Truckee and persuaded Jules to join them.

Inspired to share their love of skydiving, in 2015 the three began the involved process of determining whether they could successfully operate such a business here. While there are people who have done a parachute jump, not so many have experienced a free fall. "There are skydiving centers all over the world," said Mike, "but there are none quite as beautiful as this." As parents of a two-year-old daughter, Mike and Jen, along with Jules, mother to a daughter as well, were committed to safety from the start.

"In the 70s, early 80s, skydiving was a rough and tough sport," said Mike, who has made over 23,000 jumps. "You had to be able to take hits, because, with the round parachute, you landed hard every time; there was really no way around it. Now, we've progressed so far with equipment that anyone can skydive, because it's safer, you

can land softly, and everything is so reliable that anyone can do it. When you walk onto a large drop zone, there are people from all over the world, from all different walks of life, and with different histories and athletic abilities."



▲ The Skydive Truckee Tahoe Family.

Opened in May 2016, Skydive Truckee Tahoe considers itself

a tandem skydiving operation, although certified, experienced solo skydivers are welcome. "The beautiful thing about the tandem skydive is that you don't have to go through a lot of training, because you're with an instructor who has a great deal of experience," explained Jules, herself a skydiving instructor who has trained many beginner skydivers.

Some skydiving centers have landing areas off-site, but Skydive Truckee Tahoe's office is at the drop zone. Customers gear up and board the plane, then return to land in the same spot. Skydive Truckee Tahoe encourages customers to bring their friends and family, whoever wants to watch the fun.

A Cessna 206, flown by their chief pilot, with its roll-up door and bench seats, can carry up to six passengers or three tandem pairs. The flight begins with a climb to 10,000' AGL (above ground level)

north of the Airport with great views of Prosser, Boca and Stampede Reservoirs, then south to Lake Tahoe, for 20 to 25 minutes total. Once over the drop zone, jumpers exit the airplane to free fall with their tandem instructors for about 45 seconds before activating the parachute and floating for another

Construction Begins on 10 New Exec Hangars



▲ New hangar rows November and Papa will be parallel to the Mike row.

There is currently a 10 plus yearlong waitlist with over 30 people in line for the 4,025 sq. ft. hangars. Of the 220 existing hangars at KTRK, 200 are considered T-hangars and 20 are executive box hangars. The new executive hangars will fit aircraft types similar to the size of Pilatus PC12 & 24s, King Air 350s and small Citation CJ and Phenom 100-300 jets. At the July 26, 2017 meeting, the KTRK Board of Directors approved building 10 new executive hangars, eight of which have been pre-leased to individuals from the current executive hangar waitlist. The remaining two will be used by KTRK (with one being heated) for short-term overnight rentals, radiant deicing, and for special community events. Total construction cost is projected to be just over \$7,000,000.

The two new hangar rows (November and Papa) will be located on the west side of the airfield parallel to the Mike hangar row. The hangar rows will be similar to the existing Lima row of hangars. Tenant occupancy is expected to be available late Fall 2018.

three to four minutes to the landing.

"I think skepticism and a certain degree of fear come with the thought of having a skydiving center at your airport," said Jules. "But, Truckee Tahoe Airport did its due diligence, as did we, to make sure that what they were going to allow here was a really safe and highly regulated operation."

"We also had an external safety consulting company come in and do an assessment of the airport and how skydiving would fit in with all the activities that go on here," said Mike. "We choose to have only highly experienced instructors that we hold to a higher standard than is generally practiced around

the world." Skydive Truckee Tahoe is regulated by the United States Parachute Association (USPA) with its strict safety guidelines, as well as the FAA.

"Whenever I'm answering calls and telling everybody how beautiful and amazing it is here, I ask them why would they want to go anywhere else," said Jules. "It's exhilarating, empowering for a lot of people facing their fears, because it's scary. But, there's an excitement and sense of accomplishment that activates so many levels of emotion. If you can have that experience and look at the most spectacular scenery, you couldn't ask for anything better."

SKYDIVE TRUCKEE TAHOE
1-888- I CAN JUMP
skydivetruckeetahoe.com

AT THE AIRPORT

SAFETY BEHIND THE SCENES - ANNUAL AIR SHOW TO HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS

BY MARGARET SKILLICORN; PHOTO MARK LOPER



Emergency Response Team (ERT) is strategically positioned on the ramp. Led by Victor Hernandez, Sierra College Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Professor and former firefighter and paramedic for the North Tahoe Fire Protection District, the team spends hundreds of hours throughout the year preparing for show day. The first responders' main responsibility is to react quickly to any incidents.

Heading into the team's seventh year working the air show, the show's first responders have been noted as one of the best teams in the air show industry with a very intricate plan in place and highly trained individuals.

Who makes up the team of first responders for the Air Show?

Hernandez: Our air show's first responder team is comprised of highly skilled volunteers, along with employed personnel. The ERT that I oversee and train for the show consists of all volunteers who are responsible for the overall safety of the crowd. They peruse the ramp on foot and bike observing people for dehydration, exhaustion and any condition that may require medical assistance or simply water and a place to rest. Our First Aid Station is located near the Information Booth.

The First Responder Team also includes Truckee Tahoe Fire (lead on the ramp), North Tahoe Fire, Northstar Fire, Calfire, REMSA, support from Squaw Valley Fire and the United States Forest Service, in addition to Nevada County Sheriffs serving as incident commanders, Placer County Sheriffs, California Highway Patrol, and the Town of Truckee Police Department.

How many volunteers make up the Emergency Response Team?

Hernandez: This year I have between 30 to 35 volunteers, and several of them hold multi-disciplinary certifications. All volunteers are certified as either Emergency Medical Technicians and/or First Responders. We'll also have a local nurse, a physician and search and rescue experts on-site.

Why do you think it's been noted that the show has one of the best ERTs and plan in place?

Hernandez: First, the Airport makes safety its number one priority, and we make it a priority to incorporate all community agencies. It takes hundreds

of hours writing the emergency response plan, meeting with local agencies, attending Air Show committee meetings, practicing drills and training volunteers.

2018 Air Show Highlights: Kirby Chambliss returns by popular demand; he's a world-renowned champion in aerobatics and two-time Red Bull Air Race World Champion. Red Bull Air Force wingsuit team jumpers (the guys who performed in the most recent "Point Break" movie) will again feature two Tahoe locals, Charles Bryan and Mike Swanson.

Sky Dancer, AnnaSerbinenko will make her third Truckee appearance, as her engagement with the crowd and inspirational impact on children is "contagious." She's deemed a perfect addition to our family/youth-focused event. Dan Buchanan brings powerless flight to air shows around the world, and his performance is certain to evoke lots of laughter.

Military aircraft performances include the P-51D ManO'War and North American B-25J Mitchell

"Executive Sweet." Both aircraft will be available for rides for a fee. Please check TruckeeTahoeAirShow.com for details and pricing.

"Ground" Highlights: The KidZone Museum's Family Festival on the green welcomes families to music, puppet shows, stilt walkers, bounce houses, face painting and more! Check out the Suddenlink by Altice-sponsored STEAM Expo, Truckee Optimist Club barbecue, Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) free flights for kids on Sunday, July 15 (sign up on event day at the EAA building), free speaker forums, static aircraft displays, radio-controlled aircraft, free hot air balloon rides by RE/MAX Mountain Living, Mountain Hardware and Sport VIP Hospitality Tent, and vendors galore!

The Air Show & Family Festival committee, comprised of all volunteers, remains true to its mission, "to provide a free interactive, educational and fun-filled family-oriented aviation event for the Truckee North Tahoe region with all proceeds going to local youth and family programs." Three local nonprofit organizations produce the event: Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) local chapter 1073, the KidZone Museum, and the Truckee Optimist Club. Annual combined volunteer hours are in excess of 3,400.

A special thanks to our major sponsors to date – Western Aircraft, Pilatus, Piper, Clear Capital, Mountain Lion Aviation, AV Fuel and Suddenlink by Altice.

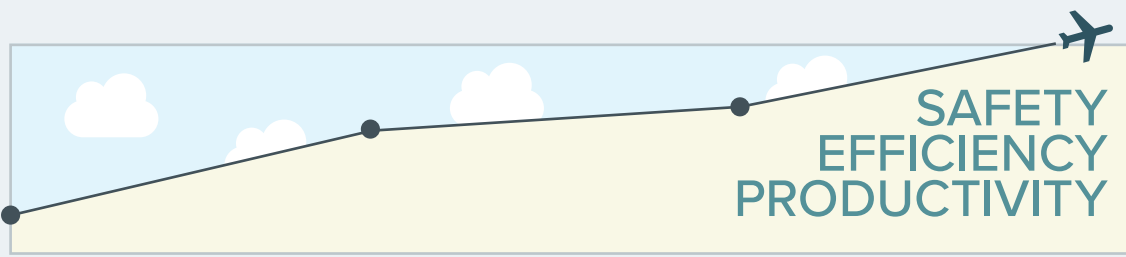
The Truckee Tahoe Airport District generously funds the air show as a gift to the community allowing for nonprofit organizations to raise money to give back to local youth. Since 2012, fundraising efforts have exceeded \$300,000.



▲ Members of the ERT ensure a safe Air Show for all attendees.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

KTRK Represented in D.C.

Hardy Bullock, Director of Aviation & Community Services, traveled to Washington, D.C. on March 14 to testify before a Congressional Committee of Representatives assembled to address airport impacts. The panel had congressmen from around the nation. One of three experts selected to brief the panel, Hardy described the solutions Truckee Tahoe Airport has employed to reduce annoyance while meeting the demands of the

traveling public at an airport that strives to stay community-centric. The District has worked closely with elected representatives over the past year to gain needed federal support for programs ranging from radar surveillance to flight procedures. Additional work with elected officials will continue as the airport strives to enhance its tool set for use in balancing community benefit, safety, and capacity.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

After completing a contracted Greenhouse Gas study last year, the District is actively working on ways to reduce its greenhouse gas footprint. Measures taken to date include replacing all outside

incandescent hangar and shop lighting with auto-dimming LED lights. Operations and Maintenance is replacing one of their gas-powered "mules" with a battery-powered electric maintenance vehicle. It has a small bed on it and can tow ground power units (GPUs) and both water and lav service carts to aircraft parked on the ramp. Other energy-saving initiatives around the airfield include over 400 taxiway lights that are solar voltaic, auto-dimming/auto-shutoff lights around the main terminal building, and LED lights in Hangar 1. Additional reduction measures will be reviewed and implemented by the Board of Directors on a continual basis.

Teaching Pilots to Fly Quiet

The Truckee Tahoe Airport District is offering a new Familiarization Program to pilots aimed at helping them understand Noise Abatement Procedures.

Available to certified and student pilots, the Airport will pay for a \$150 familiarization flight with a local Certificated Flight Instructor. The program goal is to familiarize the pilot with the local airspace and the Airport's voluntary Fly Quiet program.

Pilots learn the area's visual reporting points, safety factors unique to Truckee and its noise-sensitive communities, and procedures for arrival and departure. With successful completion and a verified flight track using Noise Abatement Procedure guidelines, the pilot receives a "Fly Quiet" T-shirt. To learn more, contact Pilot & Passenger Outreach Coordinator, Katie Greenwood, at (530) 587-4119 ext. 122, or visit truckeetahoeairport.com.



KTRK Seeking Housing Solutions

The Truckee Tahoe Airport District has been acutely aware of the local housing crisis as it affects its constituents and its employees.

District board members have taken an active role in seeking out potential solutions, and the Airport has considered funding housing projects to be a part of the solution. The Airport was also one of the first members to commit funding to the Mountain Housing Council of Tahoe Truckee, a group of 28 agencies, businesses and nonprofits seeking to accelerate achievable housing solutions.

The Airport Board of Directors also adopted the Mountain Housing Council's expanded definition for achievable housing – a definition that strives to include residents that may make too much money to qualify for traditional affordable housing, but too little for market rate housing. That group, termed the "missing middle," includes teachers, firefighters, police and Airport employees.

The Airport is dedicated to finding solutions for the region's housing problems – both working with the Mountain Housing Council and searching out its own unique opportunities.

The Mountain Housing Council is a three-year initiative powered by the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation. To learn more, visit mountainhousingcouncil.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

EXPERIENCE TRUCKEE ON A SHARED BIKE

In 2017 your Truckee Tahoe Airport District spearheaded a Zagster bike share program (lead by District employee Roger Pynappel) with 10 bikes and two dock stations (one at the airport and one in downtown Truckee by the fire station). The original goal was to allow visiting pilots and Airport District customers a fun way to get downtown. Now that idea has expanded with other local agencies expressing interest to allow anyone in the area to enjoy the fantastic trails network around Truckee!

What is a bike share you may ask? It's a bicycle-sharing system in which bicycles are made available to individuals for shared use on a very short-term basis for a price. You need to download an app and set up an account to be able to unlock and pay for a bike. In the Truckee area, the Zagster bikes rent for \$3 per hour or an annual \$25 membership option.

Bike share programs are becoming more and more popular across the nation and the globe. Many start-up entrepreneurial companies like Zagster, LimeBike, Mobike, Bird and others, have entered the booming market renting multispeed bikes, E-bikes and even E-scooters.



Shared bikes make it easy for residents and visitors to explore.

The Truckee Tahoe Airport chose to go with a system using a docking station where you pick up and drop off bikes. Both the cities of South Lake Tahoe and Reno have implemented "dockless" LimeBike programs where users can find a bike through the app, ride to their destination, sign out and just leave the bike wherever their ride terminates.

The Truckee Donner PUD has added a dock station and five bikes to the network at their offices on the west side of town. Tahoe Forest Hospital District has expressed interest in possibly expanding the program network with a dock station and more bikes at the hospital.

There are lots of great reasons to bike share in the Truckee-Lake Tahoe area. You can help preserve our beautiful natural environment, experience Truckee Tahoe in a new way, or maybe try biking for the first time in a long time! Whether you are using a bike share at Lake Tahoe, in Truckee, or in Reno there are some simple ways you can be a bike share "roll" model by keeping you, your friends, and others safe while blazing a trail of kindness.



- Be seen, Be visible
- Ride on right, pass left when safe
- Alert others when passing
- Park responsibly – keep walkways clear

- Bike predictably
- Use safe speeds
- Bike the same direction as traffic
- Obey traffic signals and signs

ABOUT THE AIRPORT

Hours of Operation

Airport: 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Fuel: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Red Truck: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Mon. – Sat.)

Contact

10356 Truckee Airport Road
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 587-4119
(530) 287-2799 (Community Hotline)
info@truceetahoeairport.com

General Information

www.truceetahoeairport.com

Executive Staff

Kevin Smith,
General Manager
kevin.smith@truceetahoeairport.com

Hardy Bullock,
Director, Aviation & Community Services
hardy.bullock@truceetahoeairport.com

Sally Lyon,
Director, Finance & Administration
sally.lyon@truceetahoeairport.com

Dave Hoffman,
Director, Operations & Maintenance
dave.hoffman@truceetahoeairport.com

You're Invited! AIRPORT COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS: Wednesday, June 13 & Monday, July 9, 6 – 8 p.m.
Come to the Airport Terminal building to let us know how we are doing and learn about various Airport initiatives.



Connect with the Truckee Tahoe Airport District on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date with all the latest news and events.

*****EGR WSS POSTAL CUSTOMER



Truckee Tahoe Air Show & Family Festival
Saturday, July 14, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

10356 Truckee Airport Rd., Truckee, CA 96161

Looking for a VIP experience? VIP Hospitality Tent Tickets are \$75 in advance and \$100 at the door. Tickets can be purchased for the seventh year, this year's show will pay tribute to all first responders. Don't miss this exciting family-friendly event. Back online.

Free Admission! Free Parking

Looking for a VIP experience? VIP Hospitality Tent Tickets are \$75 in advance and \$100 at the door. Tickets can be purchased for the seventh year, this year's show will pay tribute to all first responders. Don't miss this exciting family-friendly event. Back online.

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