



COMMUNITY NEWS

A VOICE OF EXPERIENCE FROM THE TOWER

BY LAUREL LIPPERT; PHOTO TOM LIPPERT



▲ Bill Grava brings his experience to the KTRK control tower.

shuttle they managed, was type rated in the Embraer 145 and then became chief pilot there, overseeing 30 pilots at three different bases.

After leaving that operation, Bill learned of the need for a controller at the new KTRK tower facility and was inspired to take the job. "I enjoy camping, fishing and the many outdoor activities in the Truckee Tahoe Area," he says and shares those passions with his family.

Being a controller with pilot and instructor experience, along with aviation knowledge, has been extremely useful in his career. Bill has talked several pilots through potentially serious situations, very possibly saving a few lives. One of the most memorable was a pilot flying a Cherokee who announced she had full power but could not slow the engine, and that her throttle cable had likely broken. Bill confirmed that her engine was running well and decided on a plan of action. "I'm going to have you lean the mixture, let the engine run slightly rough, but not too much. When it starts slowing down, you can begin descending over Mather Airport with a 12,000-foot runway. On short final, pull the mixture all the way off and touch down." She landed safely, while emergency trucks were standing by, but thankfully unneeded.

"One key to being a good controller is having the ability to know what to say and when not to say anything," says Bill, who would like to see the FAA put much more emphasis on educating the controller workforce in basic flying and aircraft control.

"Our primary focus here at Truckee is, of course, safety," says Bill. "Secondarily are the noise concerns. As stewards of the airport, we educate pilots who aren't up to speed on the noise issues and make sure they fly the proper procedures, arrivals and departures. Working the airspace in a mountainous terrain with the mix of traffic we have—jets, flight training aircraft, parachute jumpers, gliders, unfamiliar pilots, often firefighting activity, CHP search and rescue, and Care Flight—there's a lot going on at times. But it's a fun job, because it's a great environment working alongside a professional group of former FAA controllers, several whom I have worked with before, with over 160 years of combined air traffic experience, and a very supportive TTAD staff."

"Truckee tower is very lucky to have Bill as one of our air traffic controllers. Bill's extensive ATC and flying experience is evident in the way he works traffic. He relates well with the pilots and is always deliberate and calm, even when things get chaotic. Bill demonstrates a level of vigilance that keeps safety a priority, and he projects himself into the operation in ways that are helpful to us all. His confident attitude and positive energy contribute greatly to a productive and engaged tower environment. I truly appreciate Bill for everything he does for Truckee tower and the airport community."

— Karin Hardiman,
Truckee Tower Manager

That voice sounds friendly enough, even when it tells you what to do. In the case of Bill Grava, air traffic controller at Truckee Tahoe Airport's control tower, his voice has been heard in many places before that may surprise you.

Born in London, Ontario, Canada, Bill's family moved to Milwaukee, WI where he learned to fly, earning his private pilot certificate at age 17. Only five years later, Bill decided to pursue an aviation career and earned his instrument rating, commercial, and flight instructor certificates. He began teaching at his local flight school, managed the Beech Aero Club, earned his ATP certificate, and flew for local charter and corporate operators.

When the early 1980s recession affected job opportunities in aviation, Bill considered air traffic control and took the entrance exam. "I always liked the technology of ATC," he says. The FAA offered Bill a job as a controller, and, after three and a half months of training and graduation from the FAA Academy in 1986, Bill had a choice of three ATC facilities. He selected Sacramento Executive Airport and says, "The stability of a government job, the pay and the solid retirement guarantee attracted me, and I was still in aviation!"

After two years at Sac Exec, he moved to Phoenix to work at Phoenix Sky Harbor, a very busy airport and a new challenge. While there, Bill worked as a controller, served as a quality assurance specialist responsible for investigating controller and pilot situations, as well as a training specialist, supervisor,

and air carrier briefer.

After 13 years at Sky Harbor, Bill moved back to Sacramento, working as a radar controller at NorCal Approach where he stayed until retiring from the FAA in 2011. Having maintained his flying currency, he was then hired by XOJet, a private jet charter company based at McClellan Airfield in Sacramento, and type rated in the Challenger 300. He later transferred to the six-aircraft corporate

AIRPORT NEWS

INVESTING IN TAHOE'S LOCAL YOUTH



▲ Attendees of the first Aviation Academy.

But you did not know how involved your Truckee Tahoe Airport District is in local youth programs. The Airport District's Mission Statement is: "The Truckee Tahoe Airport is a community airport that provides high quality aviation facilities and services to meet local needs, and strives for low impact on our neighbors, while enhancing the benefit to the community-at-large."

Besides the substantial positive economic impact to the local region generated by jobs creation, aircraft operations and related local business activity (see back page "Economic Impact" article), the Board of Directors and staff have made support of local youth programs a major focus of this mission statement.

The Airport District positively impacts a wide variety of local youth programs

in many different ways. The District sponsors programs directly by hosting airport and aviation specific events and programs, or indirectly through financial support via the Community Sponsorship Program. The focus is on educational STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) programs and/or support of local teams, clubs, organizations and events. The District has also entered into a three-year Service Contract agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe to provide full-time STEAM Coordinators in both Kings Beach and Truckee.



▲ Mission to Mars cadets show off their rockets.

Following is a partial list of youth programs supported by the District in 2018:

- Annual Air Show & Family Festival
- "Aviation Academy" cosponsored with Mountain Lion Aviation
- Boys and Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe – Two full-time STEAM Coordinators, Girls STEAM Event, Aviation Summer Camp
- Community Sponsorship program financially supporting over 25 local District youth teams, clubs, organizations and events
- Civil Air Patrol's "Mission To Mars" – Airport-based summer camps
- EAA Young Eagles – Monthly free flights for kids ages 8-17
- Pathways to Aviation – High school career counseling events
- Santa Fly-In – Annual family Christmas Holiday event
- Airfield Tours for local school groups
- Truckee Thursdays – Flight Simulator experience
- TTAD has a presence at TTUSD's career and family fairs
- TTUSD's "Challenger Series" – TTAD funds 17 fifth grade classes to attend

For more information on the Airport District's support of youth programs, visit our website at truckeetahoeairport.com, or email Marc Lamb, Aviation & Community Services Manager, at marc.lamb@truckeetahoeairport.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

KTRK Future Home of Tahoe Food Hub

The Tahoe Food Hub is planning a move into an Airport District non-aviation warehouse space near the Truckee Roundhouse Makerspace facility on Aviation Way. The Tahoe Food Hub expects to move into the 4,000 square foot space sometime in the first quarter of 2019. Facilities are currently being remodeled by the Airport District.

Tahoe Food Hub is a non-profit organization whose mission is to galvanize our community to build a regional, sustainable and equitable food system. Tahoe Food Hub is working to build a local food system for North Lake Tahoe. A local food system increases market opportunities for small farms while increasing access to local, year-round food production.

The Food Hub wants to increase access to nutritious, ecologically grown food by creating a network of regional farms within 100-miles of North Lake Tahoe and connecting them to restaurants, small grocers, schools and hospitals. They are committed to reducing food insecurity by sourcing food regionally and ensuring equal access while exploring ways to grow food locally using four-season growing techniques at the Sierra Agroecology Center.



Make the Move Fund Drive

Help Tahoe Food Hub make the move to their new location! The Food Hub is currently conducting an online crowdfund campaign. For more information or to donate, visit tahoefoodhub.org/product/make-the-move.

Keep up with KTRK's operational status during Winter Storm events.

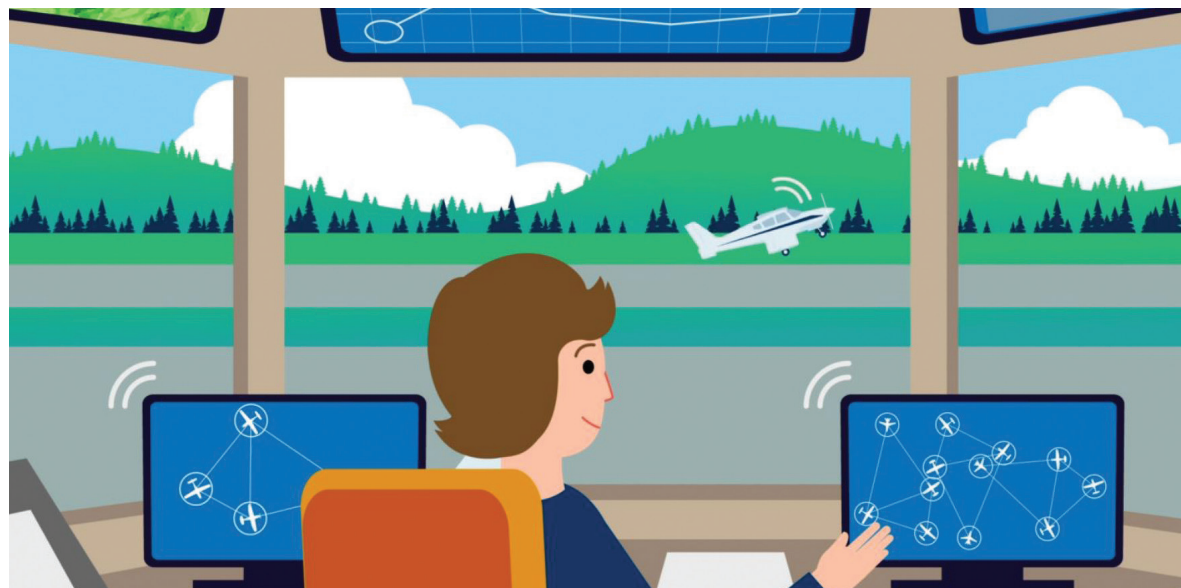
Check Notices to Airmen (NOTAMS)
<https://pilotweb.nas.faa.gov/PilotWeb>

Check KTRK's 360 Webcam
truckeetahoeairport.com/webcam

Visit the Snow Day page for snow clearing progress and updates
truckeetahoeairport.com/aviation/snow-day

AIRPORT NEWS

ADS-B INSTALLATION A POSSIBILITY FOR KTRK



Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) is a long term and a technical subject. KTRK is not covered by radar. ADS-B is the Next Generation solution mandated by the FAA for air traffic control in the national air space across the U.S. skies by January 1, 2020.

It's designed to act as a data network of satellite and ground station coverage painting a full traffic picture for pilots and air traffic controllers. The Truckee Tahoe Airport District (TTAD) has been working to gain FAA permission to add ADS-B surveillance service at KTRK for the past two years. In early August the FAA approved TTAD to enter negotiations with Harris Corporation to design

and build an ADS-B station providing airborne coverage of aircraft from the ground to the flight levels over KTRK. Staff expects a contract and a final plan for installation, pending final Board approval in early 2019. The advanced air traffic control system is estimated to cost approximately \$2M. The benefits? SAFETY, reduction of community annoyance, enhanced situational awareness, better operational data, and an airport ready to meet the transportation needs of our community. The District is also studying any unintended impacts ADS-B may have for the community. To view a video of ADS-B and what it will mean for KTRK, visit <https://vimeo.com/300875793>.

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.

TTAD Awarded Large Business of the Year

Your Truckee Tahoe Airport District was honored at the Truckee Chamber of Commerce's 65th Annual Awards Dinner held at the Ritz Carlton on October 12, 2018. The Airport District was nominated and won the "Large Business" of the year award at the gala. The competition was tough, with 10 other well-deserving, community-involved large businesses also being nominated. The "Cele-

brate Truckee" themed event was held in honor of recognizing business leaders in our community for their commitment to Truckee's vitality and quality of life.

360 Degree Live Webcam

Have you ever been curious what the aircraft ramp activity is at KTRK, or wonder what the weather is doing at elevation 5,901? If so, just check out your Truckee Tahoe Airport District's live 360 degree webcam! You can find the webcam icon on the top ribbon of the home page of the District's website at truckeetahoeairport.com. The webcam is a favorite among locals and out-of-towners alike, with some months seeing over 30,000

visitors from as far away as Australia and South Africa!

Red Beacon Goes Green

Airport staff is working with local solar contractors and Liberty Utilities to convert a legacy obstruction beacon tower to solar power. The project will convert the obstruction beacon and flight tracking ground station to solar, enhancing fire safety by removing nearly 1.5 miles of power lines in Waddle Ranch. Additionally, the view shed in Martis Valley and Waddle Ranch will benefit when the lines and poles are removed. This upgrade will be the second of the three beacons surrounding Martis Valley to go solar.

COMMUNITY NEWS

AIRPORT'S REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT VALUED AT \$73M

The Truckee Tahoe Airport District just released an *Economic Impact Study* completed by Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. and Hansford Consulting out of Sacramento, CA.

The Truckee Tahoe Airport generates far-reaching impacts throughout the District with aviation and revenue paying passenger activity as reflected in this latest study using 2017 data. Its monetary impacts are characterized in terms of direct, indirect, and induced activities.

In 2017 revenue passengers utilizing the airport brought approximate \$30 million of direct spending to the local economy. Total impacts are defined as the operations of the airport itself and spending from revenue passengers. In 2017, this totaled more than \$73 million, but does not include the \$1.6 billion in taxable residential property valuation attributable to second home ownership of those revenue passengers.

Direct impact is the airport-related dollars that are generated directly as a result of airport employment and the operation of airport businesses.

Indirect impact measures the economic activity associated with the dollars spent in the community by airport patrons (hotels, restaurants, rental cars, resorts, grocery stores, etc.).

Induced impact attempts to measure the multiplying effect of successive turnover of the dollars spent in the community. The multiplier effect is an economic principle that recognizes that every dollar expended by an airport patron in the community is further recycled or channeled throughout the community to generate additional income or revenue.

To read the full Economic Impact Study, please visit the Airport District's website at truckeetahoeairport.com/administration/publications and scroll down to the "Economic Impact Study" link.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY TEAM WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome new Airport Community Advisory Team (ACAT) members Stacy Caldwell and Lynne Larson, who were appointed by the District's Board of Directors as Community Member representatives at the September 26, 2018 Board meeting. Kathryn Rohlf was also reappointed to another three-year term. We're glad to have "Kat" continuing on the team!

The District greatly appreciates the past dedication and service of outgoing ACAT members Lisa Krueger and Joe Polverari!

The Airport Community Advisory Team, founded in 2005, works to develop solutions and strategies to minimize impacts of the airport on surrounding communities. Additionally, ACAT works to generate ideas around garnering public benefits from the District. ACAT is comprised of community volunteers dedicated to serving both the local community and the airport, and finding win-win solutions wherever possible. Recommendations from ACAT go directly to the Board of Directors on a monthly basis. ACAT's focus for 2019 includes trail projects, airport signage and messaging, and enhancing aeronautical usage of the airport by the greater community.

The Truckee Tahoe Airport District's ACAT members typically meet in the Airport Terminal building, Board Room A on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:15 a.m. The public is encouraged to attend. For additional information about ACAT, please contact Hardy Bullock, Director of Aviation & Community Services at hardy.bullock@truckeetahoeairport.com.

ACAT meets in the Airport Terminal Building, Board Room A, on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:15 a.m. Meetings are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

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

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The Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Management Association is partnering with the Truckee Tahoe Airport to offer a Peak Ski Season Park and Ride Shuttle Program.

- Service available late December 2018 – early March 2019
- Parking available at the Airport for 150-200 vehicles
- Shuttles will run every 30 minutes to Northstar Ski Resort
- Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows route option also available

Visit TahoeTruckeeTransit.com for more information.



Truckee Tahoe Airport. Connected.
10356 Truckee Airport Rd., Truckee, CA 96161