

# Exploring a World of Tastes on the Runway

By Laurel Lippert

You might imagine that an accomplished chef would be totally consumed by food planning and preparation. But then there's Larry Abney, owner and head chef of Red Truck Cafe at Truckee Tahoe Airport. At age 47, Larry finds his inspiration for creating delicious, unique dishes while skiing, rock climbing, mountain biking, motorcycle riding, and exploring the world.

His idea for Red Truck began 12 years ago when he joined the very new food truck trend. Two years later, in 2012, when Larry's Red Truck was well-known in Tahoe, he was offered a chance to open his own cafe at the airport and jumped on board.

Raised in Sheridan, Wyoming, Larry credits his mother for stirring his dreams of cooking as a profession. "My mom was a great cook, and I was always in the kitchen trying to help or eat!" That, and his grandparents' garden, enhanced Larry's appreciation for making and sharing good food. "I know what a garden smells like and what a tomato tastes like when you pick it," he says.

After two years at Montana State University, he worked on a cattle ranch near home. Rounding up cattle and helping with chores, Larry was impressed by the great sense of community. During that time, he also discovered a small Italian bistro in Sheridan where he got the first restaurant job that changed the course of his life.

At age 21, Larry attended the New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, Vermont, a top culinary school. He and two other top students represented the school in a cooking contest on the Food Network. By then, Larry knew he wanted to be a chef.

After culinary school, he apprenticed in Washington, D.C., under renowned chef Yannick Cam. "It was a high-end French restaurant, extremely fast-paced with zero room for putting out food that wasn't perfect. I was able to learn so much from him, but the lessons came with a ton of hard work and a bit of yelling," he says.

From there, Larry headed to Tahoe to ski and to work under

Douglas Dale, owner of Wolfdale's in Tahoe City. Later, he was drawn to Las Vegas, working at the Eiffel Tower restaurant and exploring all of the rock climbing that nearby Red Rocks offered.

In 2002, after a short stint working at restaurants and skiing in Aspen, Colorado, Larry's friend Billy McCullough called him to say he was opening Dragonfly and asked him to return to Truckee to help with his new Asian-flair restaurant, which Larry eagerly agreed to do.

An appetite for the varied world of food tastes has led Larry to take trips abroad, often motorcycling through Italy, France, the Pyrenees, Portugal, Spain, Germany and Thailand. "On every trip, I get really excited about the food, and it always makes it into my



Larry brings his world of experience to life at Red Truck. Photo Tom Lippert

house," he says.

Larry's goal is clear. "I want to keep making Red Truck better and focus on that," he says. His high standards include using local food sources such as Tahoe Food Hub, Hole-in-One Ranch and the Truckee farmer's market. "Local and sustainable food is so important," he says. "It's how we all have to live if we want to survive on this earth."

He is grateful for Red Truck's airport setting, now more than ever, where his appreciative clientele come to enjoy the Martis Valley, eat good food, watch kids at the playground, and see airplanes take off and land. "The beauty here is unmatched," he says, "as is the welcoming attitude of the airport."

Besides cooking for Airport customers and catering for businesses and gatherings, Larry has one more goal and that is "to hit the darn golf ball straight." Unlike with food, he doesn't keep score (yet), but says, "Driving around in a golf cart, chasing a stupid white ball is kind of fun."

Whether in the kitchen, on the slopes, on a mountain bike or golf course, Larry will always return to Truckee. "This town is home for sure."

## RED TRUCK CAFE

Open 7 days a week, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Breakfast 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

(530) 587-1394

www.redtrucktahoe.com

Located at the Truckee Tahoe Airport Terminal Building

Truckee Tahoe Airport

# PILOT NEWS

CONNECTED BY MORE THAN A RUNWAY



WINTER 2020/2021



## Ready for Winter Operations at TRK

Your Truckee Tahoe Airport District and its Operations & Maintenance (O&M) team are well equipped to handle whatever Old Man Winter can throw at it! Pictured is the Airport District's fleet of 10 pieces of heavy equipment used to clear over 4.5 million square feet (or 104+ acres) of asphalt surfaces at the airport. Each Sierra snow event is unique, but the priority for the O&M team in the sequence of operations in airfield snow removal is generally consistent:

1. Public access roads, primary parking and landside business access
2. Care Flight EMS and hangar rows Lima, Mike, November and Papa
3. Terminal airside "Front Yard" and airside businesses (i.e., Air Traffic Control Tower & Hangar 1, Sierra Aero/Mountain Lion Aviation)
4. Runway access ingress/egress, full wing tip clearances
5. Runways and taxiways
6. All hangar Rows (priority hangar row clearing requests can be made to [snowday@truckeetahoeairport.com](mailto:snowday@truckeetahoeairport.com))
7. Secondary taxiways, fire hydrants, transformers, etc.
8. Martis Dam Road as a community access winter walking trail

Note many of these operations will take place simultaneously with a team of staff operating multiple pieces of heavy equipment. Final snow event cleanup can take up to 5–7 days after a heavy storm event or storm cycle event.



KTRK has an experienced staff and fleet of vehicles ready to handle winter storm events at the Airport.

For the latest up-to-date information on the status of snow removal operations and email contact, pilots and interested parties are directed to the following sources of information:

- Airfield live 360-degree webcam: [truckeetahoeairport.com/webcam](http://truckeetahoeairport.com/webcam)
- Airport's Snow Day Page: [truckeetahoeairport.com/aviation/snow-day](http://truckeetahoeairport.com/aviation/snow-day)
- Questions, flight activity notices and/or requests can be emailed to: [snowday@truckeetahoeairport.com](mailto:snowday@truckeetahoeairport.com).
- Check "TRK" NOTAMS at: [notams.aim.faa.gov/notamSearch](http://notams.aim.faa.gov/notamSearch).
- Check weather forecasts: [aviationweather.gov/gfa](http://aviationweather.gov/gfa).

### Airport Radio Frequencies

Pilots flying in and out of Truckee Tahoe Airport need to be familiar with several radio frequencies to operate safely. Preflight planning is required so that the pilot knows the frequencies at any airport as well as other important airport specifics like hours of tower operations.

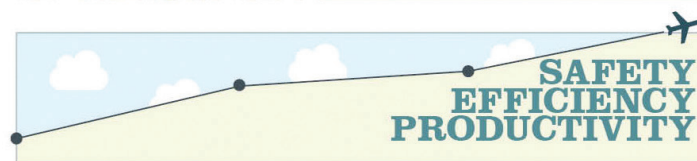
120.575 - Tower and CTAF	118.300 - Ground
118.000 - AWOS	127.950 - Oakland Center
122.950 - UNICOM/FBO	

Tower frequency is used while in the Airport's Class D airspace and/or when taking off or landing on runways at the airfield. CTAF or Common Traffic Advisory Frequency is used when the tower is closed for air-to-air communication broadcasting location and intent. During nighttime hours at KTRK, pilots can key their mics (3-5x) on 120.575 to turn on the runway lights.

For additional information, please contact Mark Covey, Pilot & Passenger Outreach Coordinator, at [mark.covey@truckeetahoeairport.com](mailto:mark.covey@truckeetahoeairport.com).



## THE BUSINESS OF THE AIRPORT IS YOUR BUSINESS



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

### Emergency Landing Guide

The Airport Community Advisory Team (ACAT) and KTRK Staff partnered in summer 2020 to create an emergency landing map (and videos) that depicts flat, fairly unobstructed areas to land if a forced landing was required. The map's intention is to bring awareness of these areas nearest to the Airport. This guide shall not be used as official aeronautical information and is designed only as a reference for exploring and understanding local open spaces that may support an emergency landing. (Refer to your Pilot's Operating Handbook for specific performance applicability.) This guide does not indicate a preference or recommendation by Truckee Tahoe Airport for any particular emergency procedures. For more information and videos of the sites, please visit [truckeetahoeairport.com/aviation/emergency-landing-guide](http://truckeetahoeairport.com/aviation/emergency-landing-guide).



Evaluating the weather is critical to flight safety.

### Unsafe Flying Weather? Don't Make a Poor Decision! KTRK has a Pilot's "Safe Haven" Initiative!

The KTRK Safe Haven Initiative is designed as a means of assistance for transient private pilots during times of unsafe flying weather and unforeseen hardship. The program is designed to help pilots and their passengers attain impromptu, one-off, overnight housing with an established network of local pilots willing to

help a fellow pilot out. Pilots facing duress due to operations being foiled by weather and the challenge or financial hardship of accommodations should visit the Operations Center upstairs in the terminal building, or contact Mark Covey, Pilot & Passenger Outreach Coordinator, at (530) 587-4119 x 122, or email [mark.covey@truckeetahoeairport.com](mailto:mark.covey@truckeetahoeairport.com). Staff or Mark Covey will provide assistance with weather planning and local knowledge. As needed, operations staff or Mark will contact individuals on the Safe Haven participant list to help orchestrate accommodations.

### ADS-B Update

The Truckee Tahoe Airport District (TTAD), which manages the Truckee Tahoe Airport (KTRK), is pleased to announce the successful deployment of its Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) system at KTRK and KTVL (Lake Tahoe Airport). The system was designed and implemented through a private-public partnership with L3Harris Technologies (NYSE: LHX) and has begun providing highly accurate, real-time surveillance data for aircraft in the Truckee Tahoe region. ADS-B signals from both the Lake Tahoe Basin and Truckee (Martis Valley) are now visible on glass screens at Oakland Center from ground levels to Flight Level 600. To read more, visit [truckeetahoeairport.com/news/395-ads-b-deployed-at-ktrk-ktvl](http://truckeetahoeairport.com/news/395-ads-b-deployed-at-ktrk-ktvl).

### TTAD Seeking Tower Services RFI

The current three-year air traffic control tower service agreement with Midwest ATC expires on May 31, 2021. Truckee Tahoe Airport District is seeking Requests for Information (RFI) from qualified air traffic control contractors.

The significant objectives of the RFI include: 1) Enhancing safety in a multi-disciplinary aeronautical environment. 2) Reducing community noise and annoyance. 3) Enhancing use of calm wind runways. 4) Working productively with airport staff to adapt and respond to aeronautical demands during peak periods while communicating with staff, aviators, and the FAA. Contact Hardy Bullock for additional information, email [hardy.bullock@truckeetahoeairport.com](mailto:hardy.bullock@truckeetahoeairport.com), or call (530) 587-7940. Applications are due by 3:00 p.m. Saturday, January 30, 2021. For the application link, visit [truckeetahoeairport.com/documents/573-request-for-information-tower-final-pdf](http://truckeetahoeairport.com/documents/573-request-for-information-tower-final-pdf).

### Rental Car Concession Opportunity

The Truckee Tahoe Airport District (TTAD) is soliciting proposals for one (1) Non-Exclusive Rental Car Lease and Concession Agreement for the purpose of providing for the operation of a first-class, non-exclusive rental car concession in the Warehouse Office Building (WOB) at the Truckee Tahoe Airport. Concession shall provide the traveling public and Airport users passenger-type rental vehicles. Contact General Manager Kevin Smith for additional information, email [kevin.smith@truckeetahoeairport.com](mailto:kevin.smith@truckeetahoeairport.com), or call (530) 587-4119 x 105. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 29, 2021. For the application link, visit [truckeetahoeairport.com/documents/572-rentalcarrfp-final-pdf](http://truckeetahoeairport.com/documents/572-rentalcarrfp-final-pdf).

## Covey's News from the Flight Deck

### RATE INCREASE ON N5901G

Effective January 1, 2021, rental rates for the District owned Cessna JT-A diesel airplane N5901G will be adjusted to \$170/hour for renters living within the Airport District and \$200/hour for those residing outside of the District. The rate increase is to help offset the increasing costs of maintenance on the aircraft. Unlike conventional 100 low lead-burning engines, the diesel engine must be replaced, not overhauled. This takes place every 3,000 hours.

### SIMULATOR USAGE AND ETIQUETTE

When using the District's new PFC G1000 Advanced Aviation Training Device (AATD), please be sure to follow the startup and shutdown checklists diligently. Turn off all master switches, set mixture to idle cutoff, pull throttle out to low RPM, and turn off ignition. It is also important to shut down the computers in the proper sequence. This ensures smooth operations for the next user. Never spray anything on the display or control surfaces. Hand sanitizer is provided in the training room for use before and after simulator usage. Finally, do not unplug anything on the back of the simulator. If you are experiencing difficulties, please contact staff at Sierra Aero/Mountain Lion Aviation at the front of the building. If they are unavailable, please contact Mark Covey at (530) 587-4119 x 122.

For the protection of our very expensive (\$40,000) AATD training device, video cameras have been installed.



The simulator can be used for a variety of training scenarios.

### FLY QUIET INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Level 1: 11 p.m. – 6 a.m.  
(\$0.02/sq ft/month hangar discount)  
Level 2: 10:30 p.m. – 6:30 a.m.  
(\$0.02/sq ft/month hangar discount)  
Voluntary Curfew: 10 p.m. – 7 a.m.

## Taxiway Alpha Update

The \$3,992,400 joint KTRK and FAA Airport Improvement Project to reconstruct parallel Taxiway Alpha has been funded but is now rescheduled for spring/summer 2021. The project entails reconstructing the western half of Taxiway Alpha from Taxiway Echo (in front of the terminal building) to Taxiway Bravo at the Runway 11 runup. Runway 11-29 will remain open during construction with some minor operational changes such as back taxiing when needed. For the latest up-to-date information on construction projects at KTRK, please visit [truckeetahoeairport.com/aviation/construction](http://truckeetahoeairport.com/aviation/construction).



Bird's-eye view of Taxiway Alpha.

## Greenhouse Gas Reduction Efforts

Let's work together to reduce our CO2 footprint! Your Truckee Tahoe Airport District has been developing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction program. The developing initiatives include not only the many ways the District is attempting to reduce its own carbon footprint, but also our efforts at disseminating information to flight crews and their passengers on ways they can lessen their impact on the environment. Some of the efforts the District has already implemented include: the use of new electric vehicles and bikes around the airfield, installing over 450 solar taxiway lights, using automated LED lighting in hangar rows and on the ramp, designing more efficient flight path procedures, installing passive solar water heating panels for the terminal building, managing the District's approximately 2,600 acres of forested land for wildfire prevention, and we have more initiatives to come!



Sugar Pine Cones in Waddle Ranch.