



TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS STAFF REPORT

AGENDA TITLE: 2025 Fly Safe Program Recap

MEETING DATE: January 28, 2026

PREPARED BY: David Van Quest, Outreach Coordinator

REPRESENTED BY: Jeff Menasco, Director of Aviation

RECOMMENDED ACTION None, information purposes only.

DISCUSSION: The Truckee Tahoe Airport District's Fly Safe program concluded its 2025 seasonal operations with a continued focus on safety, community awareness, and pilot education. The program remains a key component of the District's efforts to reduce operational risk, promote responsible aircraft operations, and maintain positive relationships with our local aviation community. Overall, the 2025 Fly Safe season met its core objectives through proactive outreach, consistent monitoring, and strong coordination between airport staff, pilots, and community stakeholders.

A central component of the 2025 Fly Safe program was a comprehensive pilot seminar series aimed at enhancing safety awareness and operational proficiency. The District hosted a total of ten seminars during the season, with an **average attendance of 54 per event** and saw over **250 individual attendees** with many attending three or more events. The greatest attended seminar featured airline pilot and highly respected YouTube personality Juan Browne presenting on backcountry flying which drew **104 attendees**. All seminars were offered in a hybrid format, allowing participation both in person and via Zoom to accommodate local and transient pilots. Additionally, each seminar was a **certified FAA WINGS event** where pilots could earn credit towards a Flight Review. Leveraging the **WINGS network** allowed the District to advertise our Fly Safe program to pilots from Truckee to the Bay Area where most of our transient pilots originate. All seminars were recorded and uploaded to the District's YouTube channel, creating an ongoing educational resource and extending the program's reach beyond the live events.

The Fly Safe program also sponsored **two flying clinics**. The first, presented by **Mountain Lion Aviation**, was a Cirrus-aircraft specific event that saw 28 pilots over the course of three days. The clinic featured a morning ground training session followed by an afternoon mountain flying course where pilots were

deliberately guided outside their comfort zones to get a better sense of the challenges of flying into and out of Truckee.

In late summer **Truckee Tahoe Soaring Association** hosted the second flight clinic, this time for glider pilots who fly in Truckee. This event, which saw four pilots over the course of two weekends taught pertinent information about soaring in Truckee including where to find lift, reporting points (hot rocks, lone pine, etc.) and emergency landing zones.

Additionally, a weekend-long mountain flying course hosted by **The Finer Points** and based out of the Columbia Airport in Tuolumne County partnered with KTRK by planning a stop in Truckee on their course of mountainous airports. The fly-in to Truckee ultimately had to be **cancelled due to hazardous weather** but was scheduled to see a presentation of survival skills by local CFI Howard Donner and a meet & greet with members of Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue.

Truckee's Fly Safe program rewards a strong commitment to aviation safety by offering a hangar rent discount of \$75 per month to tenants who complete a continuing education program. In 2025, more than **50 tenants earned the discount** by either completing a FAA WINGS Phase, earning a new flight rating, passing an Instrument Proficiency Check, completing recurrent training, or attending a flying clinic—demonstrating the airport community's ongoing dedication to proficiency, learning, and safe operations.

WHAT'S NEXT: The Fly Safe program continues to be an effective, low-cost tool for enhancing safety and community relations at Truckee Tahoe Airport. In December of 2025 a survey was sent to Fly Safe participants to gather feedback. The response was overwhelmingly positive and user-requests from the survey will be implemented into the 2026 programming. Potential areas for improvement include upgrading the user experience for Zoom participants and an increased offering of flight clinics.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total cost for Fly Safe seminars and clinics in 2025 was approximately \$20,000. The bulk of this was spent on flying clinics to pay for CFI's while each seminar cost a few hundred dollars for food, drinks and Red Truck gift cards as a 'Thank You' to the presenters. All seminar presenters volunteered their time, however the District paid for some presenters' travel expenses and hotel rooms.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None

SAMPLE MOTION(S): None. Information only.

ATTACHMENTS: None.