



TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT

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TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT “History and Stats”

Truckee Tahoe Airport is an FAA designated public Regional General Aviation Airport. It is situated in Martis Valley approximately two miles southeast of Truckee, California and seven miles north of Lake Tahoe. The airport straddles both Nevada County and Placer County lines and is managed by the Truckee Tahoe Airport District, a bi-county Special District, (1 of 9 Special Airport Districts in California). It attracts aviators, tourists and the general public alike, all looking to enjoy the outdoor Sierra Mountain lifestyle and aviation in general.

In 1933 an airstrip was cleared near the current agricultural inspection station on I-80. It was used by Boeing as an emergency landing runway for the Trans-Sierra airmail route between San Francisco and Salt Lake City.

In the mid-1950s, a small Chamber of Commerce representing Truckee's business owners was eager to have a modern airport that would bring tourists to the area. By 1958, the Truckee Tahoe Airport District (TTAD) was formed by a vote of the people. The first elected TTAD board, a group of local businessmen, spent their own money and lots of time to obtain initial state and federal funding to build a runway, a terminal building and buy property surrounding the airport.

Today the airport is funded by: local airport commercial enterprises such as aviation fuel sales, aircraft services and fees, and building and hangar leases, along with local property taxes (@ ~ \$28/ \$100K of appraised value) and grant funding through both the California State and Federal governments.

The airport's FAA identifier code is “TRK” or “KTRK”. It has two asphalt runways: 11/29 which is 7,000 by 100 ft (2,134 by 30 m) and 2/20 which is 4,650 by 75 ft (1,417 by 23 m). TRK covers 1,200 acres at an elevation of 5,900 ft (1,800 m) above mean sea level. As part of its “open space” campaign, the airport also owns neighboring land consisting of 1,500 acres at Waddle Ranch and 18 acres at Ponderosa Golf course.

In the year ending December 31, 2016 the airport had 32,524 aircraft operations: 43% Piston engine, 4% Piston Twin, 20% Turbo Prop, 11% Jet, 4% Helicopter and 18% Glider operations. That equates to an average of 89 operations per day, (though the heaviest aircraft traffic is typically over holiday weekends and busy periods during the summer and winter peak tourist seasons). There is a voluntary, but strongly requested flying curfew between 10pm and 7am as part of the airport's good neighbor policy.

A new terminal building built in 2012 includes such amenities as a pilot lounge, a pilot kitchen, a flight planning room, public meeting rooms, a customer service/UNICOM desk and the popular Red Truck Café (open Mon-Sat 9-3). Families can come enjoy the children's playground and park adjacent to the terminal building.

Aircraft services include fuel, (100LL and Jet A+) which are available 7am - 7pm, and self-serve 100LL from 7am - 9pm. Ramp services such as GPU, LAV, TUG and Potable Water are also available 7am-5pm. On-field business Sierra Aero can be found in Hangar 1 and offers; flight instruction, aircraft rentals, pre-heating, oxygen services and aircraft maintenance. There are 210 paved tie-downs for transient parking. The Airport has 220 hangars, (198 T-Hangars and 22 Executive or larger box hangars).

Of significance to airman: AWOS is on 118.0, CTAF (UNICOM) is 122.80. At average runway elevations of 5,900 ft (1,800 m), traffic pattern altitude is 7,000 ft (2,100 m), and 7,500 ft. (2,286 m) for faster moving turbo props and jets. Both runways are lighted. Solar cells allow radio runway light activation (3 keys on 122.8) after sunset. Density altitude can exceed 9,000 ft (2,700 m) in summer months. 5 real-time DA reminder signs are located around the field. Downdrafts can occur on final to RWY 20, which has a VASI approach. VASI lights can be activated 24hrs per day (3 keys on 122.8). Glider pilots use left traffic RWY 20. Powered aircraft use right traffic RWY 20. REIL strobes are located on the approach end of 11. Pilots need to radio or call UNICOM to request REIL activation. The UNICOM Customer Service phone number is (530) 587-4119 extension 100.

The airport is attended seven days a week, 7am - 9pm. Snow removal equipment is operated round-the-clock as needed. No de-icing services are currently available at TRK.

Come visit us at Truckee Tahoe Airport! Pilots, please fly safe, follow our Good Neighbor “Noise Abatement” procedures and be aware of our high altitude mountain flying conditions.

By: Marc Lamb, Aviation & Community Services Manager