

Meet Two of Your Care Flight Crew On Call at Truckee Tahoe Airport

By Laurel Lippert; Photo Tom Lippert

In this beautiful place where many of us hike, climb and ski in the mountains and swim in the lakes, we also have accidents. And, in remote settings, being stranded without help could be deadly were it not for helicopter first responders like Care Flight.

Two accomplished local women are part of Care Flight's experienced crew based in Truckee. Established in 1981, Care Flight is a regional air ambulance service with four bases in northern Nevada and California. Truckee Tahoe Airport service began operation in 2003 and receives an average of 30 calls a month.

Kristi Grant, a 5,000-hr. helicopter ATP and CFII, joined Care Flight in 2009 after teaching helicopter flying in Arizona and acting as an FAA-Designated Pilot Examiner for helicopters. She began flying in 1999 and had the required 2,500 hours to fly for Care Flight when she moved to Truckee with her husband Marshall. Raised in the Bay Area, Kristi, an avid skier and snowboarder, is the mother of twin 3-year-old boys.

Juli Anderson, RN, born and raised in Seattle, has lived in Tahoe since 1994. She obtained her nursing degree at Truckee Meadows Community College and worked in the Emergency Department at Renown hospital in Reno for several years before applying her training, knowledge and skills to the air ambulance. Juli's experience as a skier and ultra-marathon runner were natural preparation for the rigorous demands of the job.

Coordinating with on-call ground responders who learn of accidents in the mountains, at ski areas, in lakes and rivers, or on roadways in our region, a Care Flight crew (pilot, RN and paramedic) can be the first responder at the scene of the accident. No matter when or where they are, the crew is making decisions from takeoff at Truckee Tahoe Airport to the accident scene about landing options, care requirements, loading the aircraft, and choosing the right hospital destination.

"You don't always know the best choice until you get there," says Kristi. In a critical situation, she stands back and stays with the aircraft, rotors turning, while the medical team works on a patient and with other first responders. Changeable weather and the urgency of getting out



Juli Anderson and Kristi Grant alongside Care Flight's AStar 350.

of the mountains before flying options diminish, while considering the patient's condition, are constant safety concerns.

The crew and their AStar 350 B3 helicopter may even be dispatched to destinations as far away as San Francisco and Salt Lake City, providing medical transit from one hospital to another, an additional Care Flight service. Confident of the performance capability of the aircraft, Kristi explains that it has the high-altitude world record for single-engine turbine helicopter, including landing on Mt. Everest.

Flying is one thing; getting airborne is another. "Truckee Tahoe Airport staff has made it their priority to ensure that we are able to do our job, giving us the attention we need, such as snow removal 24/7," says Kristi, noting the extreme test this winter. "First thing in the morning, what do they do? They take care of us first. It's fabulous."

Kristi and Juli believe that, while their training and experience are essential to their job, they were also selected for their problem-solving skills and appreciation of teamwork, as well as keeping a sense of humor and healthy fitness level that gives them the energy to be on-call, day and night, in unimaginable situations.

"Flying never gets old," says Juli. "Even on a mission, we see how beautiful it is here, you can't bottle it. We are so fortunate."

Truckee Tahoe Airport

PILOT NEWS

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Temporary Air Traffic Control Tower Coming June 1, 2017 Important Information for Pilots

A temporary seasonal air traffic control tower is coming to the KTRK airfield this June to help improve safety, efficiency, and reduce community noise and annoyance.

The tower, a temporary glass and steel structure under 36 feet high, would give the Airport control of its airspace during the busy summer season. Tower influence will extend from the surface to 2,500 feet Above Ground Level within a 4.2-mile radius of the Airport. For pilots, the tower should make flying in and out of KTRK on busy summer days easier and safer.

Control of the airspace will accomplish three primary goals:

- Improve the safety of the Airport as the volume and mix of aircraft diversifies and becomes more complex
- Reduce aircraft noise annoyance by directing aircraft to routes over less-populated areas
- Reduce aircraft emissions by directing operators to fly more efficient routes coming and going

That means taking off more quickly, landing more quickly, saving fuel and staying safer when the Airport is busy.

The tower will operate seven days a week starting June 1 through mid-September from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. It will be staffed by Mid-West Air Traffic Control who will employ six FAA-certified staff members.

Frequencies:

- Tower frequency/CTAF: 120.575 Mhz
- Ground Control Frequency: 118.3 Mhz
- UNICOM: 122.8 Mhz (for typical FBO/Ramp Services)
- AWOS: 118.0 Mhz



A view of the tower location on KTRK's field.

Details:

Estimated costs are approximately \$500,000 for 2017. If the program is continued past 2017, the Airport will have FAA Class D designated airspace by summer 2018.

To learn more, go to truckeetahoeairport.com.

TEMP TOWER Q & A SESSIONS

Do you have questions about how the temp tower will work? You are cordially invited to join us at a "Temp Tower Questions and Answers Session." The airport will be holding an informal walk-up session every Friday afternoon in May and June, from 4 – 5 p.m. in the main terminal lounge area. Stop by to learn more about the tower and share your thoughts with us.

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 annoyance for local residents. Following is an overview of initiatives the Airport is currently working on to further these goals.

Emergency Helicopter Pad Planned for Tahoe City

The Airport is finishing the permit process for an emergency helipad in Tahoe City to begin construction this summer – providing emergency services to the North Shore. The helipad, to be located adjacent to the Tahoe City Public Utility District and the Tahoe City Golf Course, is scheduled to be operational by fall 2017, serving Care Flight, Calstar, Placer County Sheriff, California Highway Patrol, the Coast Guard and firefighting services, as needed. The project cost is about \$300,000.

Playground Expansion

Visit the Airport on a sunny summer day and see children and families enjoying Katie's Playground and open grass area. In late summer/early fall 2017 this popular community attraction will undergo an expansion with the addition of features geared toward kids ages 7 – 10.

Summer Construction Projects

Three FAA-sponsored Airport Improvement Projects (AIPs) will take place at KTRK this summer. The largest of these will include base and pavement work in hangar taxilanes CD and DE (East). Tenants in these rows will have limited access to their hangars during the construction phase. Once dates have been confirmed, we will communicate this information to all hangar tenants.

Executive Hangars

The Airport Board of Directors and Airport management are currently considering whether to build six, possibly 12, new executive box hangars on the west side of the field. Proposed new hangars would be similar in size to the 16 executive hangars currently on field in Hotel and Lima rows. The hangars would be ~4,000 sf, with 65' door widths, 62' in depth, have 18'-high door openings and be stubbed with full utilities including electricity, water, sewer, gas, and internet connections.

Hangar 2

As most of you know, our beloved Hangar 2, which was built circa 1964, collapsed under record snow loads this past winter. The damaged structure has been removed, and the Board is considering replacement plans. KTRK management is currently reviewing airport and aeronautical needs, as well as potential building designs. We invite any input and ideas from airport users. Please e-mail comments or suggestions to General Manager Kevin Smith at kevin.smith@truckeetahoeairport.com.

Rental Car Center

KTRK welcomes both Hertz and Enterprise rental car agencies in the airport's new WOB (Warehouse Office Building), located at 10266 Truckee Airport Road. The rental car center is a great community asset and will serve our local Truckee-Tahoe communities as well as our aviation customers. Enterprise: (530) 550-1550; Mon.–Fri. 8 – 5/Sat.–Sun. 9 – 2. Hertz: (530) 550-9191; Mon.–Fri. 8 – 5/Sat. 8 – 4/Sun CLOSED.

New Director of Operations & Maintenance Hired

KTRK welcomes Dave Hoffman who was selected as the new Director of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) at the Truckee Tahoe Airport District. He is replacing Phred Stoner who retired at the end of 2016. The position oversees a staff of approximately 12 employees who manage day-to-day airfield operations and maintenance. Dave was first hired at KTRK in 2002. He has worked for the airport as an O&M Supervisor over the past 14 years. Prior to that, he worked as an A&P (aircraft & power plant mechanic) at Reno-Tahoe International Airport for Reno Air and American Airlines. You can reach Dave at (530) 587-4119 x 110 or e-mail him at dave.hoffman@truckeetahoeairport.com.

More information on all of these topics is also available at truckeetahoeairport.com.

AIRPORT HOURS OF OPERATION

Airport: 7 a.m. – 9 p.m., 7 days a week

Fuel: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Self Serve 100LL: 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

ACAT Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 9:15 a.m.

Board Meetings: 4th Wednesday of the month, 4:30 p.m.

General Info: (530) 587-4119

Red Truck Cafe: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Monday–Saturday

Visit our website at truckeetahoeairport.com.

Want to submit an article to Pilot News? Send it to marc.lamb@truckeetahoeairport.com.

Airport Noise Mitigation Handbook Available Online

Want to know more about how the Airport staff deals with noise and annoyance and how you as a pilot can help? The District has published a new handbook bringing together policies, procedures, federal regulations and airport operations, available to both pilots and the general public.

The goal of the document is to clearly and concisely bring together all pertinent information on noise and annoyance from flight procedures to FAA rules and regulations in one place, so Airport staff, the Board of Directors, the public and pilots are all on the same page in addressing the issue.

The 33-page document details items like Fly Quiet Procedures, noise reporting, existing FAA rules and regulations, pilot and public education, and more. To see the handbook, go to truckeetahoeairport.com, and under Publications, click "Noise & Annoyance Mitigation Handbook."

Our current voluntary curfew is 10 p.m. – 7 a.m. to match FAA and Caltrans definitions. Please note these times are different than our Fly Quiet Level 1 and 2 incentives for hangar tenants.

THE ACAT CORNER

The Airport Community Advisory Team has selected Dan Lutkenhouse as the new Chair, Lisa Krueger as the Vice Chair and Kathryn Rohlf as the new Treasurer for 2017.

Dan, a 17-year resident of Truckee, joined ACAT to give back to the community and balance the impact of operations with the value the Airport brings to the region. Lisa adds more than 24 years of marketing, communications, operations and strategic experience to the team. And Kathryn brings diverse expertise as a board member at the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation and the Excellence in Education Foundation.

This year's priorities for ACAT are to explore incentives for pilots to receive Noise Abatement Procedure training, noise monitoring technology, installing kiosks to learn about Airport user behavior, and continue to assess ways to improve communications with the public.

To learn more about ACAT go to truckeetahoeairport.com and select "Administration."

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

Annual AirShow to Return to KTRK

The Truckee Tahoe AirShow and Family Festival returns in 2017 for the sixth straight year, growing from an Air Fest with simple flybys to a full-blown air show with some of the world's top aerobatic performers.

This year's show will feature renowned aerobatic world champion Kirby Chambliss and the Red Bull Wingsuit Team, which includes a performer who was in the recent "Point Break" movie and two Tahoe locals: Charles Bryan and Mike Swanson.

Keeping with the show's mission to provide interactive, educational and fun-filled family-oriented activities for the Truckee-North Tahoe region, last year's addition of a STEM Expo returns for 2017.

The AirShow and Family Festival is scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission and parking are FREE. For more information, please visit TruckeeTahoeAirShow.com.

Pilot Information:

Temporary Flight Restrictions will be in effect on the following days:

Friday, July 7, from 12 – 2 p.m.

Saturday, July 8, from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Please check for updated FAA NOTAMs and TFRs.

Hangar tenants on the east side of the airfield, rows Alpha – Hotel, should expect restricted hangar access on the day of the AirShow between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please plan accordingly.



The Firecat returns to KTRK for the 2017 AirShow.