Rock Solid Love for Flight and a Passion for Our Community

David enjoys being a part of the KTRK aviation community. Photo: Tom Lippert

David on stage with Berlin. Photo: Chuck Coverly

By Laurel Lippert

I sat down with David Diamond at Red Truck cafe for even a few minutes, you would be smiling, too, and laughing, listening to an entertaining story about his life as a musician, businessman and aviator.

Raised in Southern California, Diamond graduated from high school at age 16, went to junior college and joined the rock 'n' roll band Berlin at 17. The gold and platinum record recipient says, “When I was eight years old, my dad and I would go out to the airport and watch airplanes. One day at LAX, I saw a big airplane painted red, white, and blue, and yelled, 'Oh my gosh, there’s Led Zeppelin's airplane!'"

“I wanted to be an airline pilot, but I got sidetracked by becoming a musician,” says Diamond. In 1983, while playing with Berlin in East Lansing, Michigan, Diamond chatted with a bartender who mentioned that he was a flight instructor. “I told him I always wanted to learn to fly, and he said, ‘Come on over, and we’ll go up,’” which they did the next day.

Seventeen years later Diamond took his first lesson. He earned his private pilot certificate in 2000 and says a valuable thing he’s learned from flying that’s applicable to his life is humility. “I can think of myself as a reasonable musician or writer, but I never think of myself as a good enough pilot. Music can be exactly the opposite, where you get too much praise and admiration for not doing much work or for just being in the right place at the right time.”

Diamond enjoys meeting other pilots. “Aviation brings together people who might have different ethnic, racial and political backgrounds—but we all understand stall speed and density altitude. We’ve got this peculiar connection that supersedes everything else.” He also flies missions for Pilots N Paws, which he describes as the best use he can think of for his airplane. Everything else is secondary. He used his airplane to fly for two months around the world during the 1992-93 Gulf War. Diamond describes flying there as the most exciting flight of his life. Aviation is everything to him. “I’m not a rich person. I’m 55 years old and my airplane’s only 10 years younger than me. Back when I was a kid, watching airplanes with my dad, my airplane was already flying. This is the reality of most of the aviators at the Truckee airport. We’re there because we made life choices that enabled us to buy modest, single-engine airplanes versus boats, RVs or additions to the house. It’s about community members who choose to do this as opposed to doing something else.”

His genuine enthusiasm and love for the Truckee community and airport is infectious. David Diamond still tours with Berlin, and a new album will be coming out soon. When you see him, say hi and thank him for his songs and his service.

Mark Your Calendars: 2019 Air Show & Family Festival

Each year, along with dedicated TTAD Staff, volunteers from three nonprofit organizations produce the Air Show & Family Festival spending hundreds of hours preparing nonprofits are the local EAA Chapter 1073, Truckee Optimist Club and KidZone Museum. The 2019 Air Show & Family Festival is scheduled for Saturday, July 13 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, visit TruckeeTahoeAirShow.com.

In December 2018, the show’s Emergency Response Team (ERT) was awarded the Gold-Level International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) “Pinnacle Award for Excellence in Emergency Response” for a small civilian air show. In front of thousands of industry experts at the ICAS Conference in Las Vegas, our Air Show’s ERT made its mark on the industry. Air Show Executive Director Tim LaDolce notes, “This team perfected Emergency Response because we made it THE MAIN priority when preparing for the show. The preparation is year-long, and the goal has always been making Emergency Response seamless.”

The Air Show’s Emergency Response Team is made up of Victor Hernandez, who oversees the ERT volunteers, REMSA/Care Flight, North Tahoe Fire Protection District, Truckee Fire, Squaw Valley Fire, Northstar Fire, CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service, Nevada County Search & Rescue, Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue, California Highway Patrol, Truckee Police, Nevada County Sheriff, and Placer County Sheriff.

2018 KTRK Flight Operations Summary

The following chart shows KTRK’s 2018 total flight operations by aircraft type and calendar quarter.

The FAA considers a landing as one flight op, and the departure of that same aircraft as a second flight op. Over 50% of KTRK’s annual flight operations occur in the three months between mid-June and September.

Flight operations were up in 2018 approximately 4% from 2017, which includes an increase in helicopter operations based out of KTRK during local firefighting efforts.

To see historical flight operations data, visit our web page at truckee tahoe airport.com/administration/publications.

Data compiled by AVCOM Manager Mike Cooke

2018 KTRK Flight Operations Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aircraft Type</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piston Single</td>
<td>2,660</td>
<td>3,727</td>
<td>6,125</td>
<td>3,425</td>
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<tr>
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<td>181</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>896</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Total Powered Aircraft</td>
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<td>Gilders</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7,678</td>
<td>15,639</td>
<td>5,738</td>
<td>34,847*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Touch and Go activity not leaving local pattern airspace estimated at an additional 2,420 piston engine flight operations.

For more information, visit TruckeeTahoeAirShow.com.
Tailgating is prohibited. Do NOT allow other vehicles to access the gates under your access card number. After entering or exiting through a gate, stop 5-10 feet past the gate and wait for it to close behind you. If you run into a situation, call (530) 587-4119 x125. Leave a message with the time and date of the event.

Airfield Access Gate Tailgating

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KTRK’s aircraft wash rack located on the south end of the EAA building was shut down during the spring of 2018 for water quality drainage issues. Airport staff and the District’s Engineer are planning on relocating the aircraft wash rack to the southeast corner of the GA ramp near the 100LL self-service island. Construction will begin once approved FAA Airport Improvement Project (AIP) funding has been received. The anticipated start for this project is summer 2019.

Hangar 1 Upgrades

The Airport District’s Board is currently reviewing the merits of ADS-B installation at KTRK. The potential impacts to our community are being studied, as well as the potential benefits of increased safety, enhanced situational awareness, better aircraft control and operational data, and an airport ready to meet the transportation needs of our community. The cost is estimated at approximately $1.7 million. TTAD’s Board of Directors is expected to make a final decision at their June 26, 2019 board meeting. For more in-depth information on ADS-B or to provide your feedback, visit the ADS-B page on our website at truckeetahoairport.com/aviation/ads-b. To see a short two minute video on ADS-B, please visit vimeo.com/300875793.

Tower Operating Hours Updates

As our days get longer, so do the Tower operational hours. Pilots, please take note of expanded summer hours:

04/01/2019 – 05/31/2019, 07:00 – 19:00 local
06/01/2019 – 09/30/2019, 07:00 – 20:00 local

The KTRK Tower, operated under contract with MidWest ATC, now has direct line communication with Oakland Center.

KTRK RADIO FREQUENCIES

TOWER/CTAF: 120.575
GROUND: 118.3 (during tower operations)
AWOS: 118.0
UNICOM/FBO SERVICES: 122.95
OAKLAND CTR: 127.95

Two minute ADS-B video link at vimeo.com/300875793.

Potential ADS-B Installation Update

Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) is a long term and a technical subject. The airspace over KTRK is NOT covered by radar, due to the surrounding mountainous terrain. ADS-B is the FAA’s “Next Generation” solution designed to act as a data network of satellite and ground station coverage painting a full traffic picture for pilots with (ADS-B equipped) aircraft and air traffic controllers.

KTRK has been working to gain permission to add ADS-B ground station coverage at KTRK for the past two years. In August 2018 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.

KTRK Airpark Improvement Project (AIP) – Taxiway Romeo

Aerial view of Taxiway Romeo in yellow highlighted in yellow. Taxiway Romeo is the taxiway south of hangars A-H. The paving portion of the project is required to be done in the warmest weather possible. All tenants in hangar rows A-H will have restricted access to their hangars during this project. Airport staff will convert the winter “Snow Day” page to a “Construction Status” page to enable tenants to check daily to see construction impacts.

Potential ADS-B Installation Update

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