



12-31-25

Volume 12, Issue 4

Redlands Airport Association

Chapter of California Pilots Association

Newsletter

The Mission of the RAA

- To advocate for all users of REI.
- To promote, support, and encourage the continued use of REI.
- To communicate the airport's importance to the community.
- To educate airport users of relevant regulatory and legislative airport/aviation matters.
- To provide a forum whereby those concerned about REI issues can voice their concerns.
- To advise the appropriate authorities regarding safety, security, and other concerns at the airport.
- To support government authorities in carrying out their duties regarding aviation and the utilization of REI in disasters, and public service events.

Highlights:

Airport Updates	2
Pour Vida Coffee Bar	6
REI Event Recap	7
REI Compass Rose	14
Safety - AOPA's	
McSpadden Report	18
Congratulations	20
RAA Membership	21
Classifieds	22

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!



Wishing You a Happy & Healthy New Year Too!

With Warm Wishes, The RAA Board

Ted, Tony, Bob, Cindy, Larry, Wayne & Phil

Airport Updates

Hawthorne Airport (KTHR) Sold?

Archer is a eVTOL (electric vertical takeoff and landing) aircraft developer. They announced in a press release they are purchasing Hawthorne Airport for \$126 million and building operational and testing facilities at the site. Well, that's not exactly correct. Archer bought the master lease from the only fixed base operator at KTHR, Jet Center Los Angeles. The City of Hawthorne will still remain the airport sponsor.



Archer is one of the front-runners in the race to be the first in the air-taxi market with its four-passenger, 100-mile (160km) range Midnight eVTOL. The Midnight eVTOL is designed to provide short hops across traffic-congested cities using infrastructure and routes it will develop and operate itself. Archer committed to launch vertiports and routes for its Midnight aircraft before the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. Archer has become the LA28 Olympics' [official air taxi partner](#), and claims to offer a safer, faster and sustainable alternative travel option." Archer is partnered with United Airlines, which has been an investor in the eVTOL company since 2021. United and Archer also announced plans for an air taxi network in the New York City area [earlier this year](#).

Hawthorne Airport, which is also known as Jack Northrop Field, is located on an 80-acre site less than three miles from LAX. It is the closest airport to several destinations in LA, such as the SoFi Stadium, The Forum, Intuit Dome, and Downtown LA. The airport includes around 190,000 square feet of terminal, office and hangar facilities.

REI Airport Capital Improvement Plan Update in Progress

If you didn't know, the Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) is a comprehensive, regularly updated plan for airport infrastructure projects. The plan is used as a guide to identify needed airport projects, estimated costs, and funding sources including state and federal grants. The plan identifies projects that are identified in the airport master plan and/or the FAA approved airport layout plan. The plan is developed cooperatively between the airport sponsor (City of Redlands), FAA, Cal Trans and other stakeholders. The ACIP plan for Redlands Airport is a rolling 5-year plan.

An ACIP is important as it ensures that all airport development is planned and funded according to the highest priorities and needs. It also helps the airport sponsor obtain federal and state grants funding by documenting eligible projects. The ACIP also provides transparency for use of public money and structure for long-term airport growth and operational safety.

REI Airport Supervisor Ted Richardson has been busy working with the FAA, Cal Trans, his management and various vendors on updates to the REI airport capital improvement plan. The draft ACIP has been developed with the cooperation of the FAA and Ted's management. That said, the draft ACIP is still subject to approval. I reviewed a draft of the plan with Ted and here are the infrastructure projects he has identified for the next 5 years:

2026 - Pavement Rehabilitation (seal, slurry coat and restripe) of Taxiway "A" and the remaining east portion of the west ramp.

2027 - Install FAA approved AWOS III and perform engineering for a West Ramp wash rack

2028 – Construct West Ramp wash rack

2029 – Perform planning for airport perimeter wildlife fence

2030 - Construct airport perimeter wildlife fence

There are additional details in the draft ACIP on project estimates and funding sources. Ted has spent considerable time developing the draft ACIP. His hard work is appreciated as all of the proposed projects will improve REI. Ted will be sharing updates of the REI draft ACIP plan at future AAB and RAA meetings. We will keep all advised.

Redlands Enlists the help of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to Clear Brush @ REI



Airport Supervisor Ted Richardson reached out to the CCC to help clear brush around the FAA's Remote Communications Air/Ground (RCAG) site on the N/E corner of REI. The FAA was concerned about potential for fire damage to their facility from a brush fire.

While they were here, the CCC also cleared a swath of brush around the majority of the airport fence line. This was done to assess the condition of the airport fence and to also reduce the risk of damage to the airport from a brushfire. In some areas the CCC cleared all the way from the ramp to the fence line. They did this on the west airport boundary along the ramp and Rwy 8 approach area. They also did this along Jacinto's avocado grove adjacent to the approach end of Rwy 26. This work was completed in November.

The CCC typically does not charge municipalities for brush clearing projects of this nature. The city did have to pay to haul the removed vegetation away. Herbicide is supposed to be applied in cleared areas.

The brush clearing has exposed the perimeter fence and all of its shortcomings. Ted R did get an estimate to replace the entire perimeter fence. The estimate is \$3.7 million. It is a grant eligible project. As mentioned in the previous update, Ted's preliminary FAA ACIP plan does include a fence replacement project.

Coyote Aviation Update

The Coyote Aviation legal dispute with the city is still very active. Since our last newsletter, a court hearing to adjudicate the city's request to dismiss the case was originally scheduled for Monday, October 27th at the San Bernardino Superior court. Unfortunately, the judge called sick and the hearing was rescheduled to November 10th at 9am. The November 10th hearing did take place. The city was not successful in their attempt to dismiss the case.



After the hearing, Gil Brown sent an email update to supporters that included a quote from the judge. She provided an assertive opinion as to why the case should not be dismissed. She wrote “ultimately, however, the Defendants here are accused of abusing their power to take millions of dollars from lifelong residents causing them serious medical issues and dragging out the process in order to take the property to generate significant income for the City while hiding this from the Plaintiffs. Such conduct, as alleged, appears outrageous and despicable such that it would not be tolerated by civilized society. Here, the allegations are sufficient to support the cause of action for Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress.”

At the November 10th hearing, the city asked the court to push the March trial date to a later time. This was seen by those in the courtroom as a delay tactic. Judge Winter ordered a “meet and confer” for the parties to discuss the possible date change. We are not sure if the meet and confer ever happened, but Gil did share that on Friday December 8th, the judge ruled against the city's Ex Parte application, reaffirming the scheduled readiness conference date of March 26, and the beginning of trial for March 30, 2026.

We will keep all advised as information becomes available regarding the dispute.

Changes Coming to Redlands Airport Advisory Board (AAB)

We haven't provided any updates on the AAB in quite a while. Primarily because board members requested a reduction in meeting schedules this year and poor board member attendance. They just have not met very often. They also have not made any formal recommendations to city council or staff in quite a while.

The AAB did meet on 10-23. It was a special meeting called after they determined they couldn't get a quorum on the scheduled meeting date of 10-16. They had 4 in attendance, which constitutes a quorum. This was the first AAB meeting since April. The meeting was informational in nature; no business was conducted. The next AAB meeting scheduled for November 20th was canceled due to lack of a quorum. One or more of the 4 board members could not attend.

On 12-2 the Redlands City Council considered a resolution regarding some of the city boards and commissions. One of the ordinances proposed modifications to the municipal code to reduce the number of board members on boards and commissions and establish quarterly meetings. The council considered Resolution No. 8742 establishing a quarterly meeting schedule for the commissions. One of the boards involved was the Airport Advisory Board.

After some public comment that was not in favor of the resolution, the council members and staff stated reasons for reducing the number of board members and schedules. These included lack of agenda items to warrant monthly meetings, and many times only one or two members of the public were in attendance. It was also stated that special meetings could still be scheduled if the need arises. After this discussion, the council voted 5-0 to adopt the resolution being considered. A council vote on ordinance 2995 codifying the resolution occurred on 12-17-25. As a result of the council's decision, the AAB will adopt the new meeting schedule and reduction of board members effective in January 2026

The AAB will be reduced from 7 members to 5 and will now meet quarterly in January, April, July & October. Meetings will still be held on the third Thursday of the month at 6pm in the Redlands City Council Chambers. The next AAB meeting will be held on January 15, 2026. The AAB currently has 4 members. A vacancy will be posted at a future date by the city to fill the 5th member vacancy.

20-Year-Old Woman Sets Record and Flies to 32,059

Partial Reprint from AVweb

Sling Aircraft announced on Nov. 6 that 20-year-old Shannon Samantha Russell has broken the world altitude record for women in her class of aircraft. The flight originated and terminated at the Sling Pilot Academy, located at the Torrance Municipal Airport (AKA Zamperini Field) in Torrance.

Russell is a South African commercial pilot and sport pilot instructor. She flew to 32,059 ft in her Sling TSi light sport aircraft just one day after she earned her Sport Pilot Instructor certificate. Sling Aircraft stated that she is one of the few qualified instructors ready to teach next-generation MOSAIC aircraft. She also has an FAA Private Pilot License, FAA Instrument Rating and FAA Commercial Pilot License.



“This flight was about expanding the performance envelope of the airplane and showing what’s possible for women in aviation,” said Russel. “I hope young girls see this and realize that the sky isn’t the limit, it’s just the beginning.”

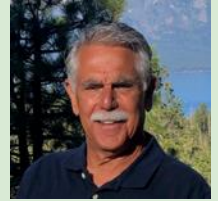
Flying unpressurized aircraft at high altitudes can be dangerous, so oxygen specialists and doctors were consulted before the flight and high-altitude oxygen masks, and health monitoring systems were used. Another pilot, Jean D’Assonville, monitored everything on board.

Russell is the daughter of the late Sling Aircraft South Africa Chief Test Pilot Sean Russell. She brought some of her father’s ashes on the record-breaking flight.



Pour Vida Coffee Bar Brings New Energy to REI

By RAA President Ted Gablin



Nicole Haboud has brought new energy to the REI lobby with the opening of Pour Vida Coffee Bar. As a true barista, Nicole offers a variety of espresso and tea drinks, including matcha, along with packaged snacks for guests to enjoy. The coffee bar is more than just a place to grab a drink, it's a welcoming space where people can connect, relax, and take in the vibrant atmosphere of the airport.



Pour Vida, which loosely translates to “pouring life,” reflects Nicole’s goal to create a space where guests can share conversations and get to know one another while enjoying a cup of coffee. The inviting setup encourages people to linger, read, do homework, or simply watch the activity of the airport.

The coffee bar opened for business on Saturday, November 15th, and was met with enthusiasm. The lobby and patio have been busy with guests enjoying their drinks, and weekends continue to draw a lively crowd. Many guests have remarked on the beautiful view from the lobby, and families have brought their children to watch aircraft operate at REI. Pour Vida is quickly becoming a favorite spot in the local community, helping to bring more people to the airport.

Recently, we spent time with a couple who were enjoying their coffee while watching planes. We invited them to our hangar and discussed what's involved in getting a pilot's license and owning an aircraft. Pour Vida is opening doors for new aviation enthusiasts, and I'm sure other REI tenants will have opportunities to share their passion for aviation with guests. A friendly GA airport visit can often spark a lifelong interest in flying.



Pour Vida is currently open Thursday to Sunday from 8am to 2pm. If things go well, Nicole may expand the days she is open. She is eager to work with the airport community and participate in any events we may have. We warmly welcome Nicole and Pour Vida Coffee Bar to REI and wish them every success. Stop by and enjoy a cup. You may meet some new friends too.

Redlands Airport Event Recap

By RAA Secretary Cindy Gablin



REI Plane or Treat - October 26, 2025

The City of Redlands has once again sponsored the Plane or Treat Halloween event at KREI. This is the fourth year this event was held at the airport. The airport has shown itself to be a popular venue for kids and parents attending this Halloween celebration. This event is a safer alternative to kids going door to door to collect Halloween candy. The other attraction is trick or treating while seeing cool airplanes and speaking with pilots.

The event is beneficial to the airport too as all of this promotes the airport, aviation, and airport businesses. With all the residences near the airport it is great to build good relations with our neighbors. Good relations with the neighbors will also build support for the airport.



We think this year's event was the best one yet as far as attendance. There were an estimated 7,800 attendees this year. This is based upon information provided by the city from traffic sensors that allowed them to analyze vehicle and foot traffic. When you look at the photos of the event (link at the end of this article) you can see their estimate may be very accurate! We believe the large attendance this year was primarily due to the some really entertaining social posts created by RAA Director Wayne Reid and shared by both the RAA and the city.

The city furnished approximately \$8600 worth of candy that was handed out at the event. This was in addition to some candy furnished by pilots displaying their aircraft. Cadets from Redlands CAP Cadet Squadron 411 did a fabulous job escorting guests on the ramp and restocking volunteer pilots' candy supplies. There were food vendors and a bounce house for families and kids to enjoy. The large

attendance at this year's event was noticed by the city. We are hearing that next year's event may be bigger and may be held on the west ramp. We will keep all advised on this.

Thank you to the City of Redlands and all the volunteers that made this event a success. You can view pictures on the RAA website at this link: [Plane or Treat 2025](#)

Stuff a Plane Charity Toy Drive - December 6 thru December 19, 2025

By now you have read plenty about this year's toy drive thru our emails & website. We had a great year! With the help of our 19 toy collection locations and those of the local community coming to the event on Saturday 12/6, we collected over 1700 toys. We had some pretty amazing donors again this year. Just to name a few were Best Choice Products (BCP), Redlands Elks Lodge #583, Elite Hair Studio in Yucaipa, and the Rialto Rotary & Fontana-Rialto Elks Lodge. We also collected almost \$2000, mostly from a friend of RAA members Dave & Michelle Guthmiller in Havasu and the Redlands Police Officers Association. Thank you to all that have contributed! You can view pictures of the event at this link:

[12-6-25 Stuff a Plane Charity Toy Drive Event](#)



Redlands Police Officers Association with Salvation Army Major Christine Morales and Mike Delgado.

I wanted to share a little history of the Redlands Airport Associations toy drives. The RAA has been holding toy drives since 2015. This is actually only our 9th year. In 2020 we were shut down due to Covid-19. The first five years, the RAA partnered with the US Marines and their Toys for Tots drive. We held those events in mid-November each year on the west ramp. It was a lot of fun. We had aircraft, cars, and motorcycles on display. We held Wheels & Wings contest and gave out plaques for the best aircraft and best car. We had multiple organizations and vendors join us; LifeStream, Redlands Police & Fire, San Bernardino County Sheriffs, the Marines, and many more! The best part was for the pilots. On the first Saturday of December, we would load up our planes and fly all the toys to Twentynine Palms Airport with Denny Brown in the lead (dressed as Santa). We would meet the Marines at the airport and personally deliver the toys to them.

By the fifth year, the last year of our collection for Toys for Tots, it all got a bit too crazy. We had more city permit requirements imposed on us for using the west ramp at KREI, we had 35 aircraft of all makes, models, and speeds, flying to Twentynine Palms. The potential for an accident was a concern. The final straw was that San Bernardino County, the sponsor of Twentynine Palms Airport also wanted to impose permit requirements. They considered dropping toys off to the USMC as an event! The county didn't want us and the Marines on the ramp! But the biggest drawback was that all the toys collected stayed out in the Coachella Valley area. That is when we decided to team up with The Salvation Army San Bernardino Corps. We wanted the toys to stay in our own backyard, Redlands, and the surrounding communities.

I thought I'd share a picture of our first toy drive in 2015 vs 2025 – Quite a difference!



2015



2025 Picture by Walt Ferar

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program, running since 1979, is a holiday initiative where individuals or groups sponsor a child by donating new toys, clothes, shoes, or gift cards for children ages 0-12. Donors select an "Angel" tag from a Christmas Tree display, purchase the requested items and deliver unwrapped gifts to a Salvation Army collection box or center for donation to the families. The program helps connect those who want to give with local children and seniors in need. Most of the Angel Trees are located in Walmart stores around the area. To participate in the Angel Tree program, families must meet specific eligibility criteria, provide necessary documentation, and apply through their local Salvation Army or affiliated organization. The program is a significant part of The Salvation Army's Christmas efforts and serves millions of children each year. It takes a lot of effort to support the families.

I rarely get to share where our donated toys end up, but on Friday, December 19th, Ted and I saw The Salvation Army's process firsthand. Clothes and toys from the Angel Tree Program are sorted and bagged by family, and donations from groups like the RAA help fill gaps. This year, 540 families signed up for assistance: Yaamava adopted 140 families, supplying all their needs, while the other 400 families received support from Angel Trees at Walmart, and our toys were added to complete each gift bag.



Angel bags labeled & ready for distribution to the families.



Some of the BCP toys being distributed.

An army of Salvation Army volunteers worked together for about three weeks to complete the distribution project. Volunteers came from The Salvation Army, their Adult Rehabilitation Center, Sober Living Facility, and other groups. Each family received an "Angel" bag of toys & clothes, along with a ham and a box of food. Thanks to Best Choice Products (BCP), almost every family was given one of their donated items—such as a wooden play kitchen set, a wooden play doctor office, or a foosball table.



Volunteers loading food boxes & trees to be distributed.

Walmart contributed 1,000 artificial, lighted Christmas trees, ensuring every family got one. Any leftover donated trees will be sold at The Salvation Army's Thrift Store, with proceeds supporting their Adult Rehab Program. At the end of the day, any remaining toys are saved for next year or donated to another Salvation Army Corps in a neighboring community.



Christmas trees from Walmart & BCP toys stacked for distribution.



Bikes and toys ready in the other room for distribution.

Steven Pinckney, Salvation Army Director of Operations - San Bernardino Citadel, shared with me that the RAA is the largest single donator of toys to The Salvation Army San Bernardino Corps. That makes me very happy, and we should all be very proud!

On the next page is a question-and-answer document that explains who The Salvation Army is and how they help those in need. It also explains all the areas that The Salvation Army San Bernardino Corps serves and how long they have been in the area. I have witnessed some of the people they have helped, and it is nothing short of amazing. If you would like to help, you can donate money, food, or volunteer!

Thank you once again to all the contributed by volunteering, donating, and participating!





**DOING
THE MOST
GOOD**

San Bernardino Corps

Serving: San Bernardino, Redlands, Highlands, Rialto, Loma Linda, Colton, Yucaipa, Calimesa, Bloomington, Mentone, Grand Terrace, Muscoy, and the mountain communities

The Salvation Army Questions and Answers

Who Is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the Universal Christian Church. The Salvation Army is one of the largest charitable & service organizations in the world.

What Areas Do We Serve?

The Salvation Army of San Bernardino serves the cities of: San Bernardino, Redlands, Highlands, Rialto, Loma Linda, Colton, Yucaipa, Calimesa, Bloomington, Mentone, Grand Terrace, Muscoy, and the mountain communities.

How Many People Do You Serve?

In 2025 The Salvation Army served **30,184** People, **28,101** households, Meals served- **116,450**, Groceries for **11,478** households, Utility assistance for **523** households, and **2,063** individuals had access to daily shower program. The Hospitality House provided **36,017** nights of shelter to families and children experiencing homelessness. **3,718** children participated in educational and recreational programs. **247** individuals were rapidly rehoused through various deposit and rental assistance programs.

How Long Has The Salvation Army Been in The San Bernardino Area?

The Salvation Army has been in existence for more than **159 years**, since 1865 and has been

meeting human needs in San Bernardino since 1888.

How Do I Donate?

Checks should be made to The Salvation Army and mailed to P. O. Box 26, Redlands, CA 92373. Make donations by using the QR Code or call **1-(800)-SAL-ARMY**.

Please select the San Bernardino Corps as the fund's recipient.



Where Do My Clothes and Appliances Donations Go?

These donations go to the Salvation Army ARC or Adult Rehabilitation Center where they are repaired by participants, then sold in The Salvation Army Family Stores. These funds go to help men and women recover from drug and alcohol addiction. **Take your donations to a Salvation Army Family store.**

How Does The Salvation Army Help People?

The Salvation Army supports those in need without discrimination. The Salvation Army provides emergency services including daily meals, food boxes; shelter for homeless or displaced families; educational programs for youth, summer camping programs, clothing, showers, and furniture; assistance with rent and transportation; and rehabilitation for chronically homeless families.

The Salvation Army also assists families that struggle with difficult challenges, such as poverty, substance abuse, unemployment, mental illness, and children special needs.

The Salvation Army assists rescue workers and evacuees in such disasters such as fires.

Future Plans

The Salvation Army is looking for a two to five acre site to build a new Campus to house all our services in one location. We currently have three locations in San Bernadino, and Redlands.

What Is the Immediate Need?

We need food, clothes, toys, volunteers, and money to help more than 500 families this Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Season.

How Can You Help?

- Donate money
- Donate food
- Donate goods and/or services
- Volunteer
- Include us in your annual donations and/or your estate plans.
- Volunteer to ring the bells at a local location this Christmas season.

2025 RAA Holiday Party



On December 12th, RAA members gathered at Mill Creek Cattle Company in Mentone to enjoy camaraderie and holiday cheer. There were 29 in attendance including spouses and guests. A nice sized group!

The room was decorated beautifully for the holiday, tables set, and our servers were ready to accommodate us with drink orders the minute we arrived. We were offered five choices for dinner, and I heard all were delicious and plentiful. Unfortunately, Mill Creek was extremely busy with three different large parties going on at the same time so a few of us had a delay in receiving our meal. Mill Creek always treats us well and I believe everyone had a great time!

After we ate, twenty-one of us participated in the White Elephant Gift Exchange. I believe a few more wished they had as well because it was a blast. Some of the gifts were hilarious, some fun, and some really nice. There seemed to be a little more alcohol as gifts this year which all of them were stolen, some a couple times, which added to the excitement. I think Bob O'Connor got the prize for most gifts stolen this year.



Check out this link for some more photos from the event: [2025 RAA Holiday Party](#)

An Airport Improvement Project -The KREI Compass Rose

By RAA President Ted Gablin

One of the tenets of the RAA mission statement is *“To promote, support, and encourage the continued use of REI”*. One of the ways we can do that is to sponsor small airport improvement projects when appropriate.

What does “when appropriate” mean for airport improvement projects? As airport users, we pay for use of the airport through various fees: property taxes on hangars and aircraft, lease fees, flowage fees, gate card fees, and, for some, business license fees. These payments help cover ongoing maintenance at the airport. In addition, our federal and state taxes occasionally return to the airport as funding for major capital improvements, such as new LED runway lighting or pavement rehabilitation.

The RAA did two airport improvement projects this year. RAA Treasurer Bob O’Connor built some wheel chocks and a mounting board earlier this year for use by transient traffic at REI. Bob and RAA VP Tony Digati entirely funded the project. The compass rose project on the west ramp is the second airport improvement we have completed. Improvements like these just don’t become a priority for city funding. While these projects can significantly benefit our airport community, they may not meet the criteria for city expenditure unless there is strong advocacy or demonstrated need.

Airport improvement projects are sometimes not easy. They cost money and the RAA is not rolling in cash. Then there are the approvals required. The airport does belong to the city, and they have a big say. We also need to make sure RAA members are on board with what we are doing. Many of these projects require volunteers and that can be a challenge too. All of this takes time and is an exercise in patience. But with persistence, the end result can be rewarding.



In December 2024, I spotted a freshly painted compass rose at Flabob. It was attractive and functional and painted by volunteers. It also made a huge statement on the Flabob ramp because it was 80’ in diameter at the largest compass points.

REI had a compass rose at one time. John Krueger painted it many years ago. It had faded and needed refreshing, but it still served a purpose. It was even the location for an airport wedding. RAA Director Phil Ensley and his wife Emily had their wedding service on our old compass rose. Unfortunately, it was slurried over during a pavement rehab project in 2024. After that occurred, I asked our former airport supervisor, AJ Lawson about replacing it. He did not appear to be thrilled about my request, but he said he would look into it. AJ left his position at REI for another job before he provided an answer to my inquiry.

My friends at Flabob shared that a 99’s group painted their compass rose. Unfortunately, they did not have a contact. If you didn’t know, the 99’s, are an all-female pilots’ group. One of the things they are known for is performing airmarking projects. Airmarking includes painting airport names on runways and painting compass roses. The 99’s have been airmarking for 90 years. RAA member Racquel Stephens was a member of the 99’s and I reached out to her for some help. Maybe we could get the 99’s to paint a new compass rose at REI? The adventure begins....

Racquel belonged to the Orange County 99’s and their chapter had not yet completed a compass rose project. She made some calls and learned the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) Chapter of the 99’s was responsible for painting the compass rose at Flabob. A Zoom call was scheduled with SGV 99’s and they offered their assistance with technical support and volunteers on a REI compass rose project. They said the painting project would require 3-4 days and would require a

city approval letter to the chapter. The RAA would also need to arrange a survey for the magnetic declination at the proposed compass rose location, furnish paint, and some of the painting supplies. The SGV 99's also said it would be nice if we could feed their volunteers. The 99's also shared they would be painting another compass rose at Riverside Municipal (KRAL) and invited the RAA to volunteer to help them with layout and painting.

A compass rose project at REI was discussed at our January RAA board meeting, and all the board members were excited. They approved proceeding with getting a budget for this project developed. Once we had a budget estimate and it was not something that would bankrupt the RAA, we would share the information with RAA members. If members approved the project, we would then work on getting city approval.

We then reached out to REI tenant Steve Leja. He is a surveyor and a great guy. He volunteered to help us by performing the survey and at no cost to the RAA. He shared he had helped John Krueger when he painted our original compass rose. Steve was also open to visiting the compass rose project at KRAL. If we could visit when the KRAL survey was carried out he could understand what our friends at the SGV 99's required for the survey. In March, Steve and I went to KRAL to observe and help. The KRAL project was sponsored by the City of Riverside. Their compass rose was 100' in diameter and located directly in front of the city lobby. A city surveyor performed the magnetic survey, and Steve was there to witness the process. He was onboard with survey requirements.



About that time, Loreen Wynja, a Riverside pilot and SGV 99 shared the 99's Airmarking Manual with me. It had very useful information including a sample city approval letter. Loreen was the chapter airmarking chairperson and all-around compass rose guru. She became my primary contact on the project. She is a great person and a pleasure to work with. She gave me a list of painting supplies we would need to furnish. She also stipulated the paint would need to be white and handicap blue striping paint. The 99's did not buy the paint for their projects, and they could not give me an estimate of how many gallons we would need. I spoke with Beth LaRock, former airport manager at Flabob. She was involved with the Flabob compass rose project. She suggested purchasing 10 gallons of white and 10 gallons of blue striping paint as we planned on painting the same 80' diameter compass rose as the one at Flabob.

With the list of materials and paint required we developed an estimate. All the painting supplies were available on Amazon and Home Depot. Home Depot even had Rust-oleum striping paint. It was a special-order item and under \$40 a gallon. The estimate came in at \$1600.00 for the project with 15% contingencies. The estimate wasn't going to break the RAA, so we spoke with the City of Redlands FC&S Manager Don Crow about the project. He was conceptually okay with proceeding and asked me to make a presentation at the April AAB meeting. The AAB's approval appeared to be a requirement to get city approval for our project.

At the March RAA meeting we briefed members on our progress and estimate for the compass rose project. All members present at the meeting voted to proceed with the project.

At the April AAB meeting I made a presentation about our compass rose project. A package for board members was prepared with pictures of the completed compass roses at Flabob and Riverside and a photo of our west ramp showing the proposed compass rose location. The location we proposed was depicted on the new FAA approved airport layout

plan. It was the same location as our old compass rose. City staff was also given a template for the required city approval letter to the 99's. The AAB unanimously recommended the city should approve the project. On May 5th City of Redlands FC&S Director Tabatha Crocker issued the approval letter for the project.

I contacted Loreen when I learned about the city issuing the approval letter. After some discussion, we decided to postpone painting the project to the fall. It was already early May and it was starting to get warm. We still needed to schedule volunteers and the survey. Realistically we would be painting in June and that would be too warm for the volunteers and the paint. Stripping paint is quick drying, and temperature would just accelerate drying. We calendared October 16-19 to do the project, and October 23 -26 as an alternate date in case of rain or Santa Ana wind.

As October approached, we ordered the painting supplies. We also tried to order the Rust-oleum paint for the project from Home Depot. During that process we learned the Rust-oleum paint was considered a homeowner grade product. If we wanted a commercial grade the paint price almost doubled. It was time to go shopping. Sherwin Williams was over \$70 per gallon. I reached out to Dunn Edwards. They had commercial grade striping paint. It retailed too for over \$70 per gallon. We ended up purchasing the paint at Dunn Edwards through a contractor friend's account at a wholesale price of a little over \$40 a gallon. That was more like it!

While we were wrestling with the high cost of paint, RAA board member Wayne Reid shared that his family wanted to do something meaningful at the airport to honor his father, Wayne Reid Sr., knowing how much aviation—and the people at REI —meant to him. When the RAA began discussing the idea of having the 99s paint a compass rose on the west ramp, Wayne thought it would be the perfect tribute. He proposed to the RAA board and members that the Reid family would cover all expenses if they could dedicate the compass rose to his father. The RAA agreed unanimously. Wayne Sr., ran a flight school out of San Bernardino in the late 1990s, taught many Redlands locals to fly before going on to work as a pilot for FedEx and eventually flying a Challenger jet for a family from Van Nuys. Wayne Jr. took his first flight with his dad at age seven and soloed at fifteen—though he didn't continue flying until years later. Fortunately, he earned his pilot's license before his father passed away from cancer.



Steve Leja performed the survey on October 1st. He had some help from myself and Brian Duffield, a Riverside pilot that helped the SGV 99's. Nails were driven at the proper dimensions at magnetic north and the rest of the 12 compass points. The nails would then be used later for laying out the paint design. Steve brought his survey equipment and within a couple of hours survey was completed.

The 99's asked us to power wash the surface just prior to painting. RAA VP Tony Digati had a gas-powered power washer which we connected to a Coyote hose faucet with 150' of garden hose. Tony and I spent a couple of hours washing the area.

On Thursday, 10-16, the SGV 99's arrived bright and early. We worked until lunch to lay out the compass rose with chalk lines. Lunch was served in RAA member Bill Cheesman and Tom Dobertin's hangar. They made their hangar available along with the grill, tables and chairs. The RAA bought drinks, burgers, and salads for all the volunteers. RAA member Allen O'Neil cooked. RAA members Bill Cheesman, Lynn O'Connor and Cindy Gablin assisted him. It was a nice venue for a group lunch. The food was great and no one left hungry. After lunch we started applying white paint. Most of the first coat of white paint was applied on Thursday 10-16.

We finished painting two coats of white early on Friday and moved on to the blue paint. Two coats of blue paint were also applied. Any painting errors were corrected with some black paint. After lunch came the final push. We finished painting and cleaning up by 4 pm.

We were blessed with plenty of help during those two days. We had 6-8 volunteers from REI helping. The SGV 99's were there in mass with 10-12 volunteers on Thursday and Friday. A social media post by one of the 99's resulted in a student pilot volunteering. She was taking lessons at Worldwide Wings at San Bernardino airport. It was the kind of project that lent itself well to having many volunteers. Even REI Airport Supervisor Ted Richardson manned the paint roller to help. Thanks Ted!



It was a lot of work, but everyone had fun. Many of us made some new friends. The finished compass rose is impressive! It is attractive and functional and will serve our airport community for many years. You can view photos of our volunteers in action creating our compass rose at this link: [Compass Rose Project October 2025](#).

Thank you to the SGV 99's and all the volunteers!

The final cost of the REI compass rose was \$1602.25. Not bad! \$2.25 over the initial estimate!!! And yes, the Reid family picked up the entire tab for the project and then some. At the October 22nd RAA meeting Wayne and his family collected more than enough funds to pay for the project. He presented the RAA with a \$2000.00 check that covered the project cost and the balance was donated to the RAA . Wayne also shared plans for his family to gather annually each March at the compass rose to celebrate his father's birthday and refresh the paint as needed.

The Reid family's generosity is greatly appreciated!



AOPA's Richard G McSpadden Report

By RAA Safety Officer Larry Rice



Have you ever had one of those times or days when you are swamped with work and under significant pressure to get the project finished? Well, I sure have many times over both my personal life and business/aviation career. In every instance of pressure, I can remember things going wrong, not working out, causing other issues in my life. I have been extremely fortunate and never had any serious injuries, accidents or caused any deaths, but it sure could have!

Now to aviation! Have you ever been pressured to “hurry up,” skip the preflight or take some other short cut and simply hope for the best. Well, it appears that more of us pilots are behaving and not taking shortcuts. As of 2023 and the latest McSpadden report the general aviation accident trend is downward. Hurray!

So, what is the Richard G McSpadden Report? It is a report prepared by and published by the AOPA Air Safety Institute that offers users a near real-time analysis of general aviation accidents. The report uses 2023 data as NTSB accident reports take approximately 2 years to process. The data for the report is updated on a rolling 30-day cycle, with access to analysis going back as far as 2008 and data trends projected well into 2024.



The report was formerly called the Joseph T Nall Report and was renamed to honor Richard G McSpadden. Richard was the [Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association](#) (AOPA) Air Safety Institute (ASI) senior vice-president in 2020, having previously been its executive director from 2017. He was tragically killed in an aircraft accident in 2023.

This year's report is the 35th year the report has been published. Let's review just a little of the latest report:

- **In 2023, the most recent for which complete accident reports are available, there were a total of 1,097 GA accidents across the United States, of which 186 were fatal.**
- **The overall accident rate per 100,000 flight hours fell markedly, to 3.86 from 4.3 in 2022, and the fatal accident rate declined to 0.65 from 0.68 in the year before. A significant increase in flight hours drove the accident rate lower.**
- **Overall, GA flight activity increased by 6 percent in 2023 to 28.4 million hours, from 26.8 million hours in 2022. This may have been a factor in the lower accident rate.**
- **Noncommercial fixed-wing aircraft were involved in 929 accidents, about 70 percent of which were related to pilot actions (or inaction). Of that total, 156 were fatal.**
- **Loss of control on the ground and loss of control in flight are still the biggest categories of both fatal and nonfatal aviation accidents.**
- **The number of accidents due to fuel management issues rose while descent and approach accidents fell sharply. Weather-related accidents, as well as those that happened during preflight and taxi phases, trended downward as well.**

- In 2023, there were a total of 59 commercial fixed-wing accidents (down from 62 in 2022), 12 of which were fatal, three more than the year before. Noncommercial helicopter operations experienced 70 accidents, of which 10 were fatal—both of those figures are lower than those a year earlier. Commercial helicopter operations were responsible for 39 accidents, a reduction from the year prior, of which eight—two more than in 2022—were fatal.

You can get the full McSpadden Report at the following url:

<https://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/ar-safety-institute/accident-analysis/richard-g-mcspadden-report/mcspadden-report-figure-view/?category=all&year=2023&condition=all&report=true>

After reading and studying the latest McSpadden Report I feel really good about the safety record of pilots at KREI. We have been fortunate. But there are things that have the potential to influence aviation safety at our airport.

Our airport is somewhat a unique animal; we are in close proximity to mountains on our fixed wing traffic pattern side. Our runways 26 and 8 are uphill and downhill respectively. This creates potential for long landings on 26 which can cause anxiety and a loss of control as we get close to the end of the runway. Runway 8 sneaks up on us and gets the credit (ha-ha) for a hard landing, sometimes with aircraft damage. Loss of Control can be either an incident or accident simply determined by the damage and or injuries.

We also have a risk of wingtip vortices from helicopters on the ground and in the air with the “heavies” in and around KSBD, paragliders coming off the mountains transiting our traffic pattern and of course wildlife strikes either on the taxiway or runway. **Please be aware and vigilant!**

***Let's All Fly Safe Out
There!!!***

Awards, Endorsements & Ratings



Austin Crane

Instrument Rating

11/22/2025

CFI Doug Wolfe

Austin is a go-getter! He soloed on 2-11-25, earned his private pilot certificate on 5-22-25 and just earned his instrument rating . **Way to go Austin! You are on your way to a flying career.**

Adam Grossman

First Solo

December 5, 2025

CFI Braden Bass

Learn to Fly LLC

Adam (on the left) with his CFI Braden Bass celebrated his first solo. He is on his way to earning his private pilot certificate. He picked a beautiful day to do it too! Adam is looking to eventually earn a commercial rating so he can seek career flying opportunities.

Congratulations Adam!



RAA Membership and Annual Dues

New RAA Membership - If you are not a member of the RAA and you are serious about supporting our efforts to make REI a better place you can help by joining the RAA. The RAA is an airport advocacy group. You don't have to be a pilot to join, membership is open to all that share the tenets of our mission statement:

- To advocate for all users of Redlands Municipal Airport (KREI).
- To promote, support, and encourage the continued use of KREI.
- To communicate the airport's importance to the community
- To educate airport users of relevant regulatory and legislative airport/aviation matters.
- To provide a forum whereby those concerned about KREI issues can voice their concerns.
- To advise the appropriate authorities regarding safety, security, and other concerns at the airport.
- To support government authorities in carrying out their duties regarding aviation and the utilization of KREI in disasters, and public service events

Membership in the RAA will get you the latest information on what is happening at our airport through our monthly meetings, email blasts and quarterly newsletter. We also try and sponsor a couple of events a year that are fun and provide benefit to the local community. At \$10 a year, RAA membership is a bargain! Please click on the link and complete a membership application if you are interested in joining the RAA: [RAA Membership Application](#) There are instructions in the application on how to pay your membership dues.

You may also join or renew at the monthly RAA meetings. Lastly, please don't forget we are a volunteer organization. We can always use volunteer help at airport events and by supporting RAA efforts to improve our airport. **REI is your airport, please get involved!**

Annual RAA Member Dues –RAA dues are \$10 and are payable when you join or when you renew in June! Member dues are used to promote our airport and general aviation. **Almost all of it** gets used for projects, fun events, and expenses. If you haven't changed any of your contact details, you can renew your membership by simply paying your annual dues. If you have changed your contact information just let us know by email.

You can pay your dues through Zelle by sending your payment to our email: redlands.airport.association@gmail.com Or, as a last resort, mail a check for \$10 payable to Redlands Airport Association. Our address is:

Redlands Airport Association
1745 Sessums Dr. Ste. 1
Redlands, CA 92374-1907

The RAA is a chapter of CalPilots and as such we are a 501(c)3 organization. **Your dues and donations are tax deductible.** Thank you for your continued support!



RAA Classified Ads & Advertising

Life Insurance for Pilots: Clearing the Confusion

For most pilots, aviation isn't just a hobby — it's part of who you are. You plan flights carefully, track weather obsessively, and perform thorough preflight checks before ever leaving the ground. Yet one area many pilots overlook is life insurance, often assuming coverage will be expensive, restricted, or unavailable simply because they fly. The truth is, pilot life insurance has changed dramatically over the past decade, and today many pilots can qualify for affordable coverage with no aviation exclusions at all — including student pilots, private pilots, and commercial aviators alike.

One of the biggest misconceptions is that any mention of aviation automatically increases premiums or leads to a declined application. In reality, many insurance carriers now specialize in covering pilots and evaluate aviation experience just like any other aspect of risk. Flight hours, ratings, aircraft type, and mission profile all matter — but they don't necessarily disqualify you. Additionally, many pilots are surprised to learn that occasional cigar smoking or lifestyle factors that once caused problems may not be the barrier they once were. The key is working with an advisor who understands both insurance underwriting and aviation — because when your life insurance broker speaks *"pilot,"* you avoid unnecessary rejections, overpricing, and exclusions.

Whether you fly for recreation, business, or a career, your life insurance should be designed to protect the people on the ground who rely on you the most. A properly structured policy can help replace income, eliminate debt, and provide financial stability for your family if the unexpected occurs. The best time to explore your options is before health, age, or waiting too long limits what you can qualify for. To learn what coverage is available for you as a pilot, contact **Tom Chapman**, owner at **Term Life HQ**. To connect with Tom, call or text **903-251-2801**, email tom@termlifehq.com, or visit www.TermLifeHQ.com.

Tom Chapman is a private pilot and the owner of **Term Life HQ**, a life insurance agency that specializes in helping pilots secure affordable coverage often without aviation exclusions. With over 20 years of experience in the life insurance industry, Tom understands how underwriting really works and how to navigate it specifically for aviators. His mission is to make life insurance simpler, clearer, and more accessible for pilots at every stage of their flying journey.



High Performance Helicopters

Aerial Firefighting ,Heavy Lift, Aerial Crane,
Construction & Transportation Service

1671 Sessums Dr.

888-447-4354

[Website](#)



Learn to Fly LLC, a Nextgen Company

Flight Instruction & Aircraft Rentals

1745 Sessums Dr Unit 160

833-777-3500

[Website](#)



GASPPS

Grove Aero Services, Precise Pitot Static

Full-Service Aviation Maintenance Shop.

Annuals, Inspections, Avionics,

Pitot Static Inspections, Upholstery,

Pre-purchase inspections, Aircraft Sales

Owner Build Assists (EAB)

1795 Sessums Dr.

(951) 212 6893

[Website](#)



Ads require paid RAA membership or donation. For more info email Redlands.airport.association@gmail.com

Redlands Airport Association

1745 Sessums
Suite 1
Redlands, CA 92374
E-mail:

Redlands.Airport.Association@gmail.com

On the web:

WWW.RAACP.Org



Ted Gablin	President
Tony Digati	Vice-President
Bob O'Connor	Treasurer
Cindy Gablin	Secretary
Larry Rice	Safety Officer
Wayne Reid Jr.	Director
Phil Ensley	Director

It's Your Airport Get Involved!!!!



Upcoming Airport Events

Sunday Morning REI Breakfast Club - VFR Sundays at 7:30 am

Important Meetings

The Redlands Airport Association meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 6pm in the public lobby at REI.

Redlands City Council meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 6pm. Agendas are posted 72 hours in advance for City Council meetings. Link for agendas and videos of previous meetings: <http://www.cityofredlands.org/cms/one.aspx?pageId=7087893>

Redlands Airport Advisory Board meets quarterly in January, April, July & October. Meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of these months at 6:00 pm. Meetings are held usually in the Redlands City Council Chambers and occasionally, the airport public lobby.

About Our Organization...

"The purpose of the RAA shall be to deal with current and future issues of interest to the pilot and aviation community at the Redlands Municipal Airport."

REDLANDS MUNI (REI)(KREI) 2 NE UTC-8(-7DT) N34°05.12' W117°08.78'

1574 B TPA—See Remarks NOTAM FILE RAL

RWY 08-26: H4504X75 (ASPH) S-12.5 MIRL 2.3% up E

RWY 08: REIL PAPI(P2L)—GA 3.0° TCH 40'. Fence.

RWY 26: REIL. Trees. Rgt tfc.

SERVICE: S4 FUEL 100LL QX 1, 2 LGT ACTIVATE REIL Rwy 08 and 26; PAPI Rwy 08; MIRL Rwy 08-26—CTAF.

NOISE: Avoid noise sensitive areas S of arpt.

AIRPORT REMARKS: Attended 1600-0100Z. Self serve 100LL fuel avbl 24-7. Coyotes and waterfowl on and invof arpt. TPA — 2503 (929) for fixed wing acft, N side of Rwy 08-26; 2074(500) for helicopter, S side of Rwy 08-26. Rmn vigilant to see and avoid lrg and hvy acft w/ 5 NM of REI and on sbd Rwy 24 apch w/ 1.5 NM east thru north of rwy; ctn wake turb. Actvly mnt REI CTAF and, if poss, sbd on 119.45. Opr transponder and ADS-B out strongly encouraged. Aerobatic act NE of arpt from 3500 ft MSL to 7500 ft MSL; see Special Notice—Aerobatic Operations Northeast of Redlands, CA.

AIRPORT MANAGER: 909-557-8520

COMMUNICATIONS: CTAF/AUNICOM 123.05 (3 clicks for wx and adzy, 4 clicks for radio check.)

Ⓜ SOCIAL APP/DEP CON 127.0 (North-NE)

CLEARANCE DELIVERY PHONE: For CD ctc SoCal Apch at 800-448-3724.

RADIO AIDS TO NAVIGATION: NOTAM FILE RAL.

LOS ANGELES
COPTER
L-4H, 7C, A
IAP



Not for Navigation