

SUMMARY
AIRPORT NOISE WORK GROUP
Wednesday, March 4, 2009
3030 25TH Street SE, Salem, OR
6:00 PM

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Kenneth Hetsel	Pamela Schmedling	Randy Lawrence
Cindy Ford	Major Mark Ulvin	Rachel Hall
Jan Munsey		
Mary Ann Lebold		
Jim Graham	Staff Present	
Patrick Hall	Alan Alexander	
Stacey Cochran		

1. INTRODUCTION OF WORK GROUP MEMBERS

Alan Alexander, Salem/McNary Field Airport Administrator, welcomed everyone and suggested that everyone introduce themselves.

Introduction of the following attendees:

- Alan Alexander – Airport Administrator
- Jim Graham – Graham Aviation Services
- Kenneth Hetsel – SCAN
- Patrick Hall – Leading Edge Aviation
- Cindy Ford – Air Traffic Control Tower Manager
- Jan Munsey – SESNA (alternate for Rob Gould)
- Mary Ann Lebold – SEMCA
- Stacey Cochran – Morningside NA
- Randy Lawrence, Guest
- Rachel Hall, Guest

2. WORK GROUP BUISNESS

Alan Alexander explained that this is a work group called together to freely discuss airport issues, particularly issues dealing with airport noise. He hopes that the work group's activities will strengthen the value of the neighborhood associations and asked work group members to share information with their neighborhood associations. The work group will meet at the beginning of each month so that work group members can report at that month's neighborhood association meetings.

Mr. Alexander handed out a summary of the work group's January 28, 2009 meeting, a graph of Noise Complaints at Salem Airport from January 2008 through February 2009, and a chart of the Salem FCT Traffic Count from January 2007 through February 2009. Work group members accepted the summary as written. Mr. Alexander discussed the information in the other two handouts.

Jim Graham will explain instrument approaches to the airport at a future meeting. Since Salem Hospital helicopter traffic will be transitioning from their temporary landing site to a landing site at the hospital, the work group would like to have a speaker explain life flight operations, an off airport aviation operation that impacts neighborhoods near the hospital.

Jim Graham, flight instructor with Graham Aviation, explained traffic patterns and airport approaches under Visual Flight Rules (VFR), Air Traffic Control (ATC) procedures associated with VFR operations and the characteristics of the Salem Airport relative to being a Class D Airspace.

There was discussion about how to disseminate information from the work group to the neighborhood associations.

Mr. Alexander reported that one aircraft recently generated three noise complaints. He has talked with the pilot who will fly a higher pattern, if available, to lessen the impact of the noise his aircraft produces. In discussing noise complaints, complainants are not identified to encourage citizens to feel free to bring their concerns forward. In fairness, pilots whose actions precipitated the complaint are not identified.

On February 14, 2009, Valentines Day, Leading Edge Aviation was giving helicopter rides intended to promote aviation and be available as a romantic Valentine's Day event. The rides yielded three marriage proposals resulting in three engagements, but the increased helicopter activity also resulted in a noise complaint. Leading Edge Aviation would like to repeat the event next Valentine's Day but will give advance notice to neighborhoods bordering the airport so that neighbors will be aware of why there is increased noise for that one day and that it is not an indication that helicopter activity and noise levels are on the increase on a permanent basis.

Cindy Ford announced that Hot August Flights, a Fly-In and community event to promote the airport, will be held August 1, 2009. There will be static aircraft displays, a car show, a pilot breakfast and increased helicopter activity.

Jan Munsey commented that most people who live in the neighborhoods around the airport are not fans of the airport. Mary Ann Lebold hopes that families who live around the airport will attend the August event and get a better understanding of the airport and aviation and develop a more positive feeling about the airport.

Stacy Cochran brought questions posed by residents of her neighborhood. Are guests allowed at work group meetings? Mr. Alexander replied that the public is welcome but

this is a work group meeting. Will the money that recently came available for airport improvements be used to install radar? Mr. Alexander replied that this is not an allowable use of the funds and the FAA is moving away from radar and toward new, less expensive systems for tracking aircraft. How often do pilots of aircraft contact the tower when their aircraft is in the Salem airspace? Cindy Ford explained that pilots establish two-way radio communication with the tower before entering the airspace. The number and frequency of contacts depends on the number of aircraft in the airspace at the time.

Ms. Cochran also commented that some people in her neighborhood have given up complaining about aircraft noise. Ms. Ford responded that all complaints and comments are taken seriously. The more aircraft traffic there is, the more likely it is that there will be complaints. Patrick Hall added that public complaints and comments are needed so that pilots can make changes to their activities to lessen the impact of their flights. Ms. Cochran asked what one needs to do to register a complaint or comment. Mr. Alexander said that the airport office can be contacted 24 hours a day. Callers should leave a message when there is no one available to answer the telephone.

The next meeting will be, Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the same location.