

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

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Kenneth Hetsel	None	None
Stacey Cochran		
Rob Gould		
Mary Ann Lebold		
Jim Graham	Staff Present	
Patrick Hall	Tom Franklin	
Cindy Ford		
Major Mark Ulvin		

Tom Franklin, Airport Operations Manager, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no corrections or additions to the summary of the April 1, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Franklin reported that there were thirty noise complaints during April, all from three households. Twenty-one were in response to noise from helicopters and nine were related to noise from fixed wing aircraft. There were no bird strikes. Wild life services found no bird nests on the airport but deer, coyotes and fox continue to roam the airport from time to time. Numerous construction projects are scheduled for the summer months and will require extra vigilance from air traffic control and pilots due to the hazards the construction projects present.

Jim Graham asked if there is further information about the time of day relative to the noise complaints. Mr. Franklin replied that some of the complaints were due to increased helicopter training operations at the Salem Hospital which are being done during evening hours so that pilots are experienced in both day and night operations. Patrick Hall noted that there should be less noxious noise since the new landing pad is at 200 feet. Cindy Ford commented that the frequent overcast has required that aircraft are operated at lower altitudes contributing to noise.

Jim Graham commented that he has observed aircraft flying the left downwind VFR approach to runway 34 well west of the usual pattern. Work group members agreed to ask that Alan Alexander talk with the flying clubs on the field and ask, on behalf of the work group, that their instructors have student pilots fly a pattern closer to the airport citing both safety and noise considerations. Ms. Ford will also mention this in a scheduled presentation to local flying club.

Ms. Ford commented that air traffic has increased during that last month probably because of the improvement in the weather. In response to Stacey Cochran's question

at the last meeting about why the tower would allow aircraft to make low circles over a neighborhood, Ms. Ford described several different operations that might be described as "low circles" but explained that all of the operations are within regulations.

Patrick Hall said that Leading Edge has been retained to provide some special services on Mother's day (May 10) but, since all of these operations will be away from the airport, there is no reason to expect any unusual helicopter operations on that day in the vicinity of the field.

Leading Edge is planning to be doing short distance tours at the August 1 event, Hot August Flights. Ms. Ford said that the Bi-Plane will be operating at the event again this year.

Rob Gould commented that on days when the weather is good, there is more air traffic departing to the North of the field.

Ms. Ford reported that she expects to be short staffed for a period of time during the summer months following the retirement of one of the controllers. This may require that aircraft extend the downwind portion of their approach to the airport so that a single controller can safely sequence traffic to the field.

Mr. Hetsel, Ms. Lebold and Ms. Cochran have received no questions or comments from their neighbors to be aired at the workgroup meeting. Ms. Cochran did say that her neighbors have appreciated the responses to her earlier comments at work group meetings.

Major Mark Ulvin said that the National Guard will have their monthly drills June 13 and 14 and July 11 and 12. From July 11 through 26 pilots will be training to maintain currency with night vision goggles with all operations done by 11:00 PM. Local National Guard personnel continue to perform search and rescue missions statewide. F-15 fly-overs will be done only on holiday weekends.

Mr. Franklin will ask Alan Alexander whether he will be able to arrange for a speaker from a helicopter company serving the Salem Hospital.

The next meeting will be June 3 at 6:00 PM.