

AFTW Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2014

AFTW Meeting – Wed., May 14, 2014 – 9:30 am @ SDL FSDO

Attending: Terry Brandt (DPEAG); Ryan Brown(TPAA); Brad Hagen (FFZ-City of Mesa); Ed Chauza (FFZ); Josh Klein (ATP/ASU); Miguel Velez

Airspace

GOLDWATER Range – Please observe this restricted area as it is extensively used by the military. This year to date, there have been 5 incursions with one coming close to being fired upon. The control agency will aggressively bring civil action against pilots violating the airspace. Always contact the controlling agency for clearance to use the airspace.

LUK Aux1 ILS – Luke RAPCON reports the LUK Aux1 ILS is rarely being used by civilian aircraft. General Aviation (GA) advocates have worked very hard to have this military facility shared with GA. If it isn't utilized, GA could be denied use. RAPCON reports they are essentially open 24/7 whereas before it was only when Luke had training going on. The FAA has assured GA that the approach can be legally logged but won't be used on an FAA flight examination. The Approach Plate is available at <http://www.luke.af.mil/library/midaircollisionavoidance.asp>.

Sunny MOA – This MOA is North of FLG and INW and is being used for F-35 training. Again, contact the controlling agency to determine activity in the area if you wish to transit the airspace.

Northern AZ Airspace procedure – Phoenix TRACON reports this new procedure is receiving very positive feedback from the GA community. This procedure was turned on Feb 6, 2014. It provides flight guidance much like the California SOCAL flight procedure. It starts in Northern Arizona (GCN to FLG area) and extends to the greater PHX area. (See AFTW website for FAA Letter details of operation.)

Superbowl 2015 – Phoenix airspace is being reviewed for the upcoming Superbowl 2015. NFL airspace representatives will be visiting the local towers. Also, SIDS and STARS will be updated in the Fall to include airspace efficiencies to better handle air traffic flows expected at Superbowl time. Training schools may adopt a safety stand down during Superbowl high traffic periods as was done during Superbowl 2008.

Airports

Coolidge, AZ (P08) - Non-tower Coolidge (P08) is a very busy training airport during the week for flight schools. It is common for students to be practicing engine out procedures (gliding) mixed in with normal touch-and-go's. Be alert for many possible training activities.

A question arose, is the Coolidge area grayed out on the AFTW map?

Casa Grande (CGZ) – Although a popular location for lower priced 100LL fuel, this uncontrolled airport is very popular with flight schools to practice ILS approaches. The CGZ ILS RW5 approach starts with a “hold” at the Stanfield (TFD) VOR and then exits at 3,500’ on the ILS to the airport. Please beware of the following when flying near this area.

- With the popularity of this ILS approach, a stack of multiple aircraft in the holding pattern can develop.
- Flight schools are exiting the “hold” at 4,500’ onto the ILS.
- Students are practicing “holds” at several thousand feet above any established stack which may cause some confusion for an arriving aircraft.

Marana, AZ (AVQ) - This uncontrolled airport has considerable training traffic. Be very cautious as student pilots are landing from both directions, while calling in the blind.

Falcon Field (FFZ) – Beginning May 18, Runway 4L/22R will be closed approximately 60 calendar days. At that point, Runway 4L/22R will reopen and Runway 4R/22L will close for approximately 70 calendar days. The construction is for Runway Guard Lights, Runway End Identifier Lights (REIL), and replacing Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) visual aids. The PAPI glide slope will be raised from 3 degrees to 4 degrees. FFZ also has a vigorous noise abatement plan and pilots are urged to review it on the Mesa FFZ website.

“Class B” Transit – Phoenix TRACON has established an email address to which pilots can document a denial of entry or any other conflicts using the Bravo airspace. Always include the date, time, location and details of the event to aid TRACON in locating the recorded flight tracks to review. The email address is phx.pauwg@gmail.com. (POST COMMENT- TRACON is also working on setting up a website where pilots can easily submit these comments.)

Process/ Procedures

FAA Examinations – The FAA is noticing that Part 61 preparation on logging instruction in Pilot logbooks is being missing when students are being reviewed by an FAA Examiner . This could be grounds for failing an examination.

Other

Arizona Pilots Association – APA has placed a large emphasis on “backcountry flying.” Perhaps flight schools may look at the information available and perhaps include into the training curriculum.

TransPac has moved some of their operations to CHD which will increase the airport activity.

Parachute jumping is going on at the Estrella sailport and pilots should be aware when in this area.

Next meeting is July 9, 2014 at Scottsdale FSDO starting at 9:30am