

Arizona Flight Training Workgroup Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2006

Meeting Participants:

Bill Tobey, Sabena ATC

Brad Bartleson, Oxford ATC

Donn Zimmerman, Oxford ATC

Jackie Whitford, independent flight instructor

James Davies, City of Phoenix Aviation Planning & Environmental

Jeff Karch, independent flight instructor

Jim Pitman, Westwind School of Aeronautics

Juergen Tank, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Miguel Velez, independent flight instructor

Mike Halloran, FAA, SDL FSDO

Missy Palrang, Quantum Helicopters

Rick Amundsen, Civil Air Patrol

Rick Dumas, ATCA

Shea Linehan, Oxford ATC

Discussion:

1. Introductions all around
2. Mike Halloran gave the history of AFTW for new attendees.
3. Juergen Tank from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University said that the third antenna for their ADS-B system has been installed on the mountains above Prescott and is in operation. He described the system and answered many questions about it.
4. Jim Pitman of Westwind School of Aeronautics said that problems with students who use English as a second language were addressed with Deer Valley Tower. Glendale Tower has traffic report mid-field downwind and does not want that report missed. Noise complaints continue from a resident near 128th St. and Shea. It's about half way between Scottsdale and Falcon Field.
5. Mike Halloran said that an Aviation Safety "FAASTeam" representative would be selected later and that program would be begun at a later date. The Safety Counselor Program is official gone, but ASCs should continue what they are doing until further notice.
6. Brad Bartleson from Oxford Flight Training Academy said that the common frequency of 122.85 MHz is overcrowded, especially in the vicinity of Silver Bell, but is congested generally. Jim Pitman pointed out that, according to the FCC, 122.75 is actually the only officially sanctioned frequency for use and that 122.85 is also used by

Gateway Ops. Rick Dumas offered, on behalf of ATCA, for all flight schools in the area to share frequency 128.92 in the Southwest Practice Area. Jim Pitman pointed out that many schools transition through the gap between the western end of South Mountain and the eastern end of the Sierra Estrellas (Gila Crossing), and that remaining on 122.85 would be best in that area. A vote on this change was called for by Rick Dumas. It was unanimously approved. The area in which 128.92 will be used in the Southwest Practice Area is from a line running southward from the eastern end of the Estrellas to Interstate 8 and westward to include Rainbow Valley.

7. Jackie Whitford, an independent flight instructor also mentioned that she routinely uses Luke RAPCON for flight following on 120.5 MHz.

8. Missy Palrang of Quantum Helicopters and a Designated Pilot Examiner discussed initial assignment for examinees is handled by Janice at the Scottsdale FSDO. The present system for assignment works okay for fixed-wing examiner/examinee assignments, but not so well for helicopter assignments. Mike Halloran mentioned that, whereas initial CFI checkrides have traditionally been assigned to an FAA ASI, some are now being released to a select group of DPE's. Jim Pitman is concerned that the current scheduling system takes too long to schedule applicants.

9. James Davies of City of Phoenix Planning and Environmental mentioned a noise complaint about a helicopter operating at 100 agl near Litchfield Rd and I-10. If anyone has any information on that, please contact him.

10. Bill Tobey of Sabena said that they were moving to Falcon Field in January and are retaining the KLM and Sabena contracts. They are looking at the Diamond Twin Star trainer. It uses half the fuel of a Seneca and is quieter. He said that there is a question right now whether it is certified by the FAA or not.

11. Brad Bartleson urged caution at Casa Grande for aircraft on the GPS 23 approach mixing with pattern traffic and approaches to runway 5.

12. Jim Pitman and Westwind are developing a PowerPoint presentation for the PHX TRACON, outlining training areas and other issues.

13. James Davies asked anyone experiencing any problems with the recent air show held at Goodyear Airport to contact him by email. The new tower opening at Sky Harbor has been pushed back. Email him for further information on when it will happen.

14. After agreeing on a time and place for the next AFTW meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting of AFTW will be held on December 6, 2006 at the Sky Harbor Conference Room. Directions will be posted on this web site at a later date.