



Gilbert Field Flyer

at the Winter Haven Municipal Airport

July 2010 →→ Volume Two; Third Edition

NEW ART AT THE AIRPORT

The Second Annual Aviation Art Exhibition is underway. New artwork has been hung and can be viewed during normal Airport terminal hours, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily.

Stop by the terminal to take a look at the aviation-related artwork on display by artists from throughout Central Florida. While you're there, consider visiting Richard's Fine Coffees, Café and Deli.

The show was judged by Tamara Rejimal-Siems, a studio artist, freelance graphic artist and art teacher in Volusia County.

The "Best of Show" award went to Don Southern, of Winter Haven, for his "Patriotic Parachute" (bottom left) photo-



"Flight," by Al Kriston, of Winter Haven, received the "Judge's Choice" award.

graph. Lakeland's Penny Cosentino, took second place with her acrylic painting "Another Perspective" (bottom right). Third place went to Jack Phelan, of Lakeland, for his "T-Bird" photograph. The "Judge's Choice" award went to Winter Haven's Al Kriston for his "Flight" sculpture (top left).

Awards of Excellence went to Ed Nievas, of Winter Haven, for "May Day, May Day" photography; Heather Duncan, of Lake Alfred, for "The Next Generation I" photography; and Jose Ramos' "Hawking the Duck" and Carlos de Leon Campos' "Float Plane," both of Lakeland.

Honorable Mention awards were presented to Winter Haven's Bill Melvin for "Esprit de Corps" pencil art, and Candi Holden for "Future Aviator," photography; Judy Giles, of Haines City, for "Air Show" acrylic; and Paul Stephan, of Lakeland, for "Plane on Floats" photography.

Art will be displayed through May 3, 2011, as part of the annual Airport art exhibition, sponsored by the Ridge Art Association and the City of Winter Haven. This year's event is also sponsored by Fantasy of Flight, SEMCO and Richard's Fine Coffees, Café and Deli.



"Patriotic Parachute," by Don Southern, of Winter Haven, took "Best of Show."



"Another Perspective" by Penny Cosentino, Lakeland

AIRPORT HOURS AND CONTACT

Hours of operation for the terminal at Winter Haven Municipal Airport at Gilbert Field are 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily.

The terminal is at 2073 U.S. Highway 92 W, Winter Haven, 33881. Richard Parish is the Fixed Base Operator and can be reached at 863-956-3300.

AIRPORT BY THE NUMBERS

Winter Haven Municipal Airport sales of 100LL fuel totaled 19,333 gallons in April, compared to 14,463 gallons in 2009; May sales totaled 11,166, compared to 8,903 last year; and 10,965 gallons were sold in June, compared to 9,299 gallons sold last year.

Jet A fuel sales totaled 5,278 gallons in April, compared to 4,578 last year; 3,031 gallons in May, compared to

5,192 gallons sold in 2009; and 3,569 gallons were sold in June, compared to 4,134 gallons sold in June 2009.

On a monthly basis, the Airport sees about 6,000 take offs and landings; that includes 16 corporate aircraft operations in April; 12 in May and 12 in June.

Winter Haven Airport is home to more than 260 aircraft, housed in executive hangars, T-hangars and tie-down spaces.

Tailwheels Etc. and the City will co-sponsor Aviation Day, July 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Airport. Planned activities include: airplane rides, bingo with prizes; kids activities; cars, motorcycles and boats on display and lots of food. Join us for a great time!

WINTER HAVEN
The Chain of Lakes City

GILBERT FIELD'S FAR FLUNG SISTER?

By **Jamie Beckett**
City Commissioner

In 1956 President Eisenhower proposed a People-to-People diplomatic initiative to the National League of Cities. The program essentially encourages cities to adopt each other as siblings, without regard for national borders, in order to promote understanding and a sense of commonality between disparate people.



To the best of my knowledge there is no such program for airports, but maybe there should be. As anyone who earns their living, or spends a fair amount of recreational time at any airport can attest, the aviation community is often under attack – either actively or passively, intentionally or unintentionally. We could all use a friend now and then. A compassionate sibling wouldn't hurt, either.

While pondering this idea and doing a bit of research, I was surprised to find that Gilbert Field is not singular. There is another Gilbert Field, far to the north of the airport we call home. 94C is the identifier for Gilbert Field in Rio, Wisconsin. A single grass strip that stretches just short of 1,100 feet constitutes the entirety of this private airport's development. But like Winter Haven's Gilbert Field it would appear that Gilbert Field north is a friendly, happy home for lovers of general aviation. The field is privately owned by the Rio Aero Club. A fact that makes me wonder if there is a doppelganger for Bernice Williams living somewhere near the field, rallying their club members to their next outing and making lightning quick reports about cash and stamp reserves.

Added to the curious coincidence that both our airports share a common name, I was struck by the fact that Gilbert Field in Rio is hardly a hop-skip-and-a-jump from Wittman Regional Airport, in Oshkosh. Now you have to admit that it is a bit peculiar that Gilbert Field north lies within striking distance of the largest annual aviation gathering in North America, while Gilbert Field south enjoys close proximity to the second place contender for that crown.

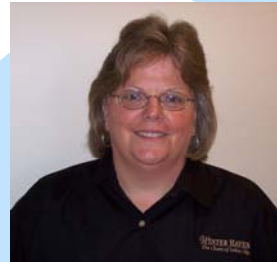
I cannot say whether we should have an official sister airport or not. But there certainly seems to be enough of a basis to explore the idea. It might not make much of a difference one way or another. But then it probably wouldn't cause any harm, either. And you never can tell who will fly into GIF one day just to see Rio's sister airport to the south.

PREPARING FOR FLIGHT



The captain of this 2002 Cessna Citation 5 prepares the jet for flight. Corporate aircraft like this one are frequent visitors to the Winter Haven Municipal Airport.

Administration Message



Greetings from the Municipal Airport Administration Office. My name is Debbie Murphy and I currently serve as Interim Airport Director. My background is varied, yet relevant. I have degrees in Business and Finance. My work history includes business management, engineering, surveying, construction, finance, grants, rental property management and customer service.

The 'Spirit of Winter Haven' represented us well in the recent Air Race Classic. JoAnne Alcorn and Michelle Bostick piloted one of the 55 aircraft in the race. They left Ft. Myers, FL, June 22 and arrived in Frederick, MD, June 25. They finished fifth in the overall standings, completing the 2,157.7 nautical-mile race in the top 10 percent of the race field.

We extend a welcome to the Civil Air Patrol. The Polk County Composite Squadron is now present on the airfield and is seeking opportunities to serve. They are housed in Building No. 60 and would love to meet you. Drop by on Tuesday evenings to witness the Cadets' aviation-related pride and enthusiasm.

We have worked on many projects here at the airport, drop in to chat about what has been completed and share any concerns you have for other matters that may need to be addressed.

VIRTUAL AIRPORT

Visit the Winter Haven Municipal Airport online today at any of these websites:

www.whma.mywinterhaven.com

www.kgif.mywinterhaven.com

www.airport.mywinterhaven.com

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The Gilbert Field Flyer is a City of Winter Haven publication intended to inform airport users and the public about airport projects and events. If you have any questions or comments, please call 863-291-5600, ext. 232, or write Joy Townsend, editor, at 451 Third St. NW, Winter Haven, FL 33883. Aviation-related information and events, which pertain to the Winter Haven Municipal Airport, will also be considered for publication.