



## **Page Field Association** January 9, 2008 meeting

### Attending

Glenn Frith, Coleen Baker, Bob Bowser, Brian Solis, Larry Kirchner, Gary Duncan, Eric Graham, Charlie Carroll, Rick Arnold, Scott Sheets, Everett Walter, Kaye Tucker, Patty Berg, Larry Courtage, Dennis Howard, Bob Schultz, Doug Reiter, Richard Fabbro, Len DeNardo, Bob McDonagh, John Richardson

### Presiding

**Glenn Frith** - PFA

### Meeting notes

**Glenn Frith** - PFA

Thanked the Reserve Cigar & Wine Bar for providing space for tonight's meeting.

The Open Hangar Day and picnic on Jan. 5th was a great success with 9 aircraft on display. A good turnout by Fort Myers High School students, Port Authority staff and Page Field tenants. Attendance was estimated at 60.

Local pilot and Page Field tenant, Wayne Johanning died as the result of a scuba-diving accident on December 19, 2007 in the British Virgin Islands. See the full story [www.pagefieldassociation.org/archive/pfa\\_12-19-07.pdf](http://www.pagefieldassociation.org/archive/pfa_12-19-07.pdf)

**Don Abbott** - PFA

*Don wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting. Glenn Frith read an excerpt from Don's memo to Glenn.*

Our "Open Hangar Day" was a hit, thanks to all who participated. Special thanks go to Mark Twombly for organizing the event with the young people from the Aviation Club. I'd like to acknowledge Al Lane and Bill Traum for helping with the dogs and burgers, Rick Arnold for his continued support, The EAA, Cub Club, 99's, Sundowners, the Port Authority and all the pilots who donated their time and knowledge. I am sure Bob will share how much revenue was raised for the scholarship program. All in all the day was a great way to start the New Year. I was especially pleased that all the new officers were in attendance.

Now we must keep the momentum going, not only for the Aviation Club but for everyone based at Page.

As most are aware, The Page Field Association would like to see an area designated for a viewing departing and arriving aircraft at Page Field. Until now there have been a couple of roadblocks in the way of such a project. First, funding... and the second, uncertainty regarding a permanent location.

I had an informal meeting with Coleen Baker, Scott Sheets and Gary Duncan last Friday to promote a starter, viewing area. We suggested a lighted sign along the fence toward the end of runway 5 with 2 FM radio transmitters inside. The sign would direct those parking in the area to tune to one of two frequencies on their FM radio to hear ground control and tower transmissions and/or a professionally produced audio recording of the Page Field Story. The sign would be constructed in such a manner that relocation could be easily accomplished.



The Page Field observation area is now a possibility

It was further suggested that, if approved, our club would pursue participation by local sponsors to fund the cost of design and construction, maintaining the aesthetic characteristics of other Port Authority signage. The basic idea was well received by all and it was suggested that further steps be taken to determine feasibility of the project.

During our "Open Hangar Day" Gary told me that after our meeting he reviewed the proposal back at the RSW offices, which generated a lot of new excitement. I have asked Gary to bring you up to date tonight.



Some of the high school students at the picnic

**Gary Duncan** - L.C.P.A.

Port Authority leader are interested in the idea of an observation area at Page Field.

While a permanent location for the area has not been determined, a temporary location near the approach end of runway 5 may be possible.

Port Authority staff are researching permitting requirements and improvements that will be needed for the observation area.

**Doug Reiter** - Civil Air Patrol SER-FL-040  
1Lt. Reiter is the Commander of the Lee County Composite Squadron.

The Lee County CAP will be increasing their presence in state and local emergency operations. To facilitate more activities Lee County CAP is looking for a new location to meet. If you have a suggestion for meeting space or questions about CAP, contact Doug at [dougreiter@comcast.net](mailto:dougreiter@comcast.net)

**Bob Bowser** - PFA

The PFA treasury has a balance of \$280.00 after Bob's efforts with picture CD sales and donation at the Jan. 5th picnic.

**Brian Solis** - L.C.P.A.

RSW airport served an estimated 7.6 million passengers in 2006 and expects 2007 totals to top 8 million.

Jet Blue has added direct flight from Fort Myers to Buffalo and White Plains New York.

**Eric Graham** - Cub Club

As the new president of the Cub Club, Eric plans to continue the good work of past-president Terry Voorhees. See next page

After a survey to determine members interests the club has purchased a 1985 Cessna 182 that was flown in from Ohio this week.

#### Scott Sheets - L.C.P.A.

The transition to the new fuel supplier at Page has been challenging, but everything is under control and running smoothly.

#### Bob Schultz - Page Tower

Reminded everyone not to give the gate code to people you are meeting at the airport. You must escort them on the airport to and from your hangar. Tailgating through the gate is another problem; let the gate close and make the vehicle behind you enter the gate code.

#### Charlie Carroll - Cub Club

Thanked EAA Chapter 66 for letting the Cub Club use their building for Cessna 182 ground school. Approximately 35 attended.

Glenn Frith closed the meeting with a quote "A mile of road will take you a mile, but a mile of runway will take you anywhere."

## Page Field Picnic A Big Hit

Page Field Association held a picnic and open hangar day at Page Field on January 5, 2008.

Students from the Fort Myers High School Aviation Club came out in force to look over the 9 aircraft on display and also looked at many more in the F-hangars that were open.

Several students took advantage of the opportunity to take a short flight.

With students, Port Authority staff members, and Page Field tenants attendance was estimated at 60.

Funds raised at the event will go toward a scholarship fund for the high school aviation club.



A Howard DGA-15P on display at the picnic

## LIGHT POLE PROJECT COULD SHORTEN FORT MYERS RUNWAY

AOPA is objecting to plans to build a light pole that would force Page Field in Fort Myers, Fla., to shorten Runway 13 by an additional 180 feet. Encroachment over the years already has reduced the length of Runway 13/31 by at least 700 feet, making it the shortest runway at the airport. In a Jan. 10 letter to the FAA, AOPA asked that the proposed light pole be lowered by nine feet, bringing its height to 35 feet msl and allowing operations at Page Field to continue unimpeded. AOPA cited the potential safety and economic impacts of continuing to shorten the runway and pointed out that high-density development around the airport makes future runway expansion unlikely.

See the AOPA letter

[www.pagefieldassociation.org/archive/aopa\\_1-10-08.pdf](http://www.pagefieldassociation.org/archive/aopa_1-10-08.pdf)

January 18, 2008



Ready to go flying

## B-17 and B-25 to Visit Page Field Next Week

- Flights and Tours Offered -

FORT MYERS, Fla. (Jan. 22, 2008) – Aviation enthusiasts and history buffs will have the opportunity to tour or take flight in rare, WWII historic aircraft when the Collings Foundation brings its Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress "Nine O Nine" heavy bomber and the North American B-25 Mitchell mid-range bomber to Page Field General Aviation Airport on Wednesday, Jan. 30 through Friday, Feb. 1.

The stop in Fort Myers is part of the Collings Foundation's "Wings of Freedom Tour," an annual 130-city nationwide tour in its 19<sup>th</sup> year showcasing historical aircraft. The B-17 Flying Fortress, one of the most recognizable bomber aircraft of WWII, is one of only nine in the nation in flying condition. The B-25, known best for flying on the Doolittle Raid, is one of



Al Lane and Don Abbott cooking at the picnic

only a handful still flying.

The public is invited to take ground tours or make reservations for 30-minute flights. The planes will be displayed on the ramp at the north end of the field.

Walkthrough tours are available for a donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Ground tour and display hours are 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 30; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31; and 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1.

The 30-minute flight experiences are normally scheduled before and after the ground tour times. Flights costs vary between \$325 and \$425 per person and are a tax-deductible donation. For flight reservations, please call 800-568-8924. For more information, visit [www.collingsfoundation.org](http://www.collingsfoundation.org).



Collings Foundation Boeing B17

### Page Field Association

President - **Glenn Frith**

Vice-President - **Don Abbott**

Secretary - **John Richardson**

Treasurer - **Bob Bowser**

Email  
[info@pagefieldassociation.org](mailto:info@pagefieldassociation.org)