

July 2013

Volume 3, Issue 3

KBPG

AWOS: 118.025

UNICOM: 122.8



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## McMahon-Wrinkle Airport & Industrial Park



### Recent Airport Activity



**A Solemn Tribute**—the Fourth of July—the annual celebration of our Nation's independence has just passed, and I wanted to take a moment to recap an event that our community recently had the privilege to enjoy. As the 2013 Chairman of our 16th Annual Pops in the Park festivities, I had a front row seat to all that Pops entails. From the Pre-Show to the Flag Ceremony and the Symphony music and fireworks show, it takes a small village of people to make the event happen. Out of all the things that go into the event, my favorite part, by far is the Flyover that is performed by the CAF High Sky Wing out of Midland. The flyover takes place just after the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner. The group of four SNJ's does one pass in formation and then comes back around for a second pass and the Missing Man formation. The moment the crowd sees smoke, I hear a young lady scream—obviously afraid that something has gone wrong with one of the aircraft. It is at that exact moment that the tears begin to fill my eyes and the

lump catches in my throat. I know that there is nothing wrong with the aircraft, and I know that this young girl has no idea what the maneuver signifies. I know that I am a witness to the coming of a new generation that does not know the meaning of this poignant, symbolic gesture. My heart breaks now not only for those who served, those who did not return from their missions, whose families and friends may never know their fate—but also for the generation that does not know that this flyover is a gesture of deep love and gratitude for those who have passed on, a reminder that they are never forgotten by those who acknowledge their sacrifice. The ultimate sacrifice. A mission that caused them to never return. An American Flag given to their loved ones. An empty seat at the POW/MIA dinner table appointed with all of the things that mean so much to those who served. I know the meaning of the Missing Man. Even though I never knew them, they are always on my mind. Never forgotten. Thank you for your service. *- Kelly Seales*

### Recent Landings & Aircraft Photos



## Pilot's Briefing

**Get Another Rating** ~ By Wayne Dawson

If you've been away from flying for a while and want to get started again, or you are stuck in a rut flying the same hour over and over, my suggestion is that you get another rating. In my case I got my Private Pilot license while living in Alaska and had a great time flying in the bush. Of course it was all Class G airspace and ATC was Bethel Flight Service. Then a move to Washington DC, a young family and business responsibilities ended my flying for several years. When I caught the flying bug again I did what most people do. I found an instructor and took a flight review. When he signed me off he made a remark that really stung. He said, "Well you're safe". Implying my rusty skills were just good enough to get me by. And he was right. I could make it around the pattern but in my absence airspace designations and

the rules had changed. I was flying on a different planet. A friend suggested I get another rating. I took his advice and found the additional training created challenges that required study and instilled in me an appreciation for disciplined flying. A Commercial license will teach you advanced flight maneuvers. An instrument rating will enable you utilize the ATC system. A Glider license will teach you energy management. The list goes on, but no matter what your skill set or flying experience there is always more to learn about aviation. Get another rating, the study and training will make you a better pilot.

*Wayne Dawson holds a Commercial Pilot license with Single and Multiengine Land; Instrument Airplane; Glider ratings as well as a Ground Instructor, Advanced Instrument license. He currently flies an RV7A which he completed building in 2007 and hangers here at Big Spring Mc Mahon-Wrinkle Airport.*

## Did you know?

November of 2012 was "Aviation Appreciation Month" in Texas, as proclaimed by Texas Governor Rick Perry. His official proclamation stated that because of the nearly 400 General Aviation Airports, over 31,000 registered General Aviation Aircraft, and the \$14.6 billion dollars in economic activity in Texas generated by the General Aviation industry—the entire month of November would be set aside as a time to reflect on the importance of General Aviation in our great state.

Courtesy of: [http://www.txaa.org/main\\_articles/PerryProclaimsNov2012AviationAppreciation0001.pdf](http://www.txaa.org/main_articles/PerryProclaimsNov2012AviationAppreciation0001.pdf)

## Pilot's Safety Meeting!

**Mark your calendar, and plan to attend!!**

The Next Pilot Safety Meeting is at 7:00 pm, immediately following the 5:30 pm Airport Board Meeting on Thursday, **July 18th**.

**We will be discussing the US National Hang Gliding Competitions that are coming up on August 4-10th at the Big Spring Airport and related airspace changes and concerns—and we will have our 2nd Annual Pilot Meeting Burger Cook-Out! Don't miss it!**

Please RSVP by calling Kelly at 432-264-2362 or email: [kgrant@mybigspring.com](mailto:kgrant@mybigspring.com)

## WORDS OF WISDOM

"More than anything else the sensation is one of perfect peace mingled with an excitement that strains every nerve to the utmost, if you can conceive of such a combination."

~ Wilbur Wright, on flying



## Airport Director's Update

Flyers! Be ready! Be alert! Anticipate! Change is coming! No, change is here!!

More traffic-- different traffic-- more activity at the airport!! Impact of the Cline Shale Play is here now—as seen in the numerous aircraft bringing in corporate representatives, surveyors, engineers, and speculators in real estate, new businesses, expanding businesses and others just wanting to get in on the early part of the “boom”. Several fast moving helicopters are now based and staging out of the Big Spring airport to help construct and install power lines to transport energy generated by the numerous Wind Turbines in this West Texas Area. Aerial spray planes have been operating off the airport. And, we've been unable to satisfy demand for new hangar space for new helicopters, corporate and private owned aircraft wanting to locate or stage out of here.

To add to the changing environment, our planning and programming is about to pay off, resulting in an upgraded Terminal Apron, joint sealing of Rwy 17/35, and a new fuel tank farm hopefully with self service capability. Bids are out, and construction is anticipated within

the next few weeks; this construction is to be followed by construction of a new approved and funded 12-airplane T-Hangar on the West side of the airport. Runway closures are not anticipated for these projects and the Airport Terminal will be accessible at all times during construction.

To cap it off, National Hang Gliding Competition is scheduled again this year during the period August 4 thru August 10. This very popular and exciting event places unique demands on the airport and dictates added vigilance on the part of all flyers. We will not close the airport, but we will change the traffic patterns on Rwy 17 (to a left turn) and Rwy 35 (to a right turn pattern} during the competition. Our Pilot Safety Meeting on July 18 (7:00pm) will address these and other precautions, as well as interesting facts and information about hang gliding at Big Spring. (If that is not enough incentive, food will be served as well...) Hope to see you there!

Be alert and be safe!

Jim Little, Airport Director

## Hang Gliding Time!

The US National s are coming up soon, and this is a great time to brush up on your hang gliding history here in Big Spring! The first National completion to be held in Big Spring has been running for eleven years now! In 2007, Big Spring hosted the World Championship Competitions bringing in glider pilots from all over the world—27 different Countries to be exact! The 2007 was only the second time that the World Championships had been held in the United States. The glider pilots tell us that Big Spring has some of the best flying conditions in the world, second only to Australia. The warm temperatures, and the scattered cloud cover produce some big thermals— and the relatively good weather allows for more flyable days than many other places. Come out and see the action first-hand—August 4th through the 10th!



## ...Memory Tickler

**Q:** Identify four conditions which can adversely affect the accuracy of your altimeter.

**A:** Altimeter accuracy can be affected by nonstandard atmospheric temperature, nonstandard atmospheric pressure, aircraft static pressure systems (position errors) and instrument errors.

## **McMahon-Wrinkle Airport & Industrial Park**

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Big Spring, TX 79720  
432-264-2362  
432-264-2367 Fax

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We're on the web!

[www.mybigspring.com/pages/airport](http://www.mybigspring.com/pages/airport)

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### **Pilot Safety Meeting: Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> — 7:00 pm**

**We will have a special presentation relating to the upcoming US National Hang Gliding Competitions and the related safety issues, including changes in the flight patterns for our airport during the week of the glider competitions . Also, we will have our 2nd Annual Pilot Safety Cook-Out!**

#### **Terminal Hours of Operation**

Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### ***Fixed Base Operator:***

*Lone Star Aviation*  
Phone: (432) 264-7124  
Fax: (432) 264-7406  
Call Out: (432) 935-1238  
-or- (432) 270-2729

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The Big Spring McMahon-Wrinkle Airport, owned and operated by the City of Big Spring, is a general aviation airport. The airport, which occupies approximately 2,200 acres of land, operates two runways: Runway 17/35, which measures 8,802 feet in length and 100 feet in width; and Runway 06/24, measuring 4,601 feet in length and 75 feet in width. Aviation activities that occur at the airport on a regular basis include agricultural spraying, corporate use, flight instruction, and recreational flying. The airport has hosted annual fly-ins and air shows, and maintains the Hangar 25 Air Museum. In 2007, the airport hosted the Hang Gliding World Championships. The Big Spring Air Terminal is over 4,000 sq. ft. with a conference room, passenger waiting area, courtesy car and airpark office. The Pilot's Lounge includes weather monitoring and flight planning capability, wireless internet connection and concessions.