

BUSINESS PARTNER BRIEF

SEPTEMBER 2024



Director's Message

Welcome aboard the September edition of Long Beach Airport's Business Partner Brief! As we taxi into the final quarter of the year, we're cleared for takeoff with exciting updates about all things LGB. – Cynthia Guidry



Business Partner Spotlight: Kevin Noertker, Co-Founder and CEO of Ampaire

We're pleased to shine this month's Business Partner Spotlight on Kevin Noertker, Co-Founder and CEO of Ampaire. His cutting-edge startup recently relocated its headquarters to the LGB campus, hosted a public open house, and serves as a global leader in hybrid electric aircraft systems.



Q: Please tell us about your professional background and how Ampaire came to be.

A: I moved to the Los Angeles area in 2005 to pursue my undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering at Cal Tech. After graduation, I decided to stay in the area to work in aerospace—this region has a deep history in that field that many seem to have forgotten. I spent several years at Northrup Grumman, working on such projects as stealth technology in military aircraft, as well as satellite technology that provides critical, life-saving weather data. In 2016, Cory Combs and I co-founded Ampaire with a vision to show how electric technologies could change the industry for the better, alleviating the burdens that have historically come with the aviation industry, such as noise, emissions, expense and a lack of accessibility. We pride ourselves on our practical and pragmatic approach to innovation.

Q: Can you talk about the Ampaire operation at LGB?

A: We moved our headquarters from Hawthorne to Long Beach Airport in April 2024. Moving here has allowed us to expand our footprint so that we're matching the scale of our activities and what we see for the road ahead. We have about 20 full-time employees based here, and it's our center of mass and primary location for all our engineering and research and development work, including our contracts with NASA, the Air Force and the Department of Energy. We're currently in the prototype development stage right now and eventually will go into the production stage on those contracts. Separately, we are also busy upgrading and re-engineering existing commercial aircraft with electric technologies and so the location of where we do that re-engineering work and the future production of existing prototypes will likely vary.

Q: What do you enjoy most about working at LGB?

A: So far, it's really been about the community. There are pockets of innovation everywhere you look, even though you wouldn't guess it just by looking at the outside of the buildings. We feel very anchored here by the City's initiative to attract aviation and aerospace businesses—the mayor's office has been relatively high-touch to help us land on both feet and with momentum. As a side benefit, I love traveling out of LGB and recently made it from the seat at my desk to the seat at my gate in under 10 minutes!

Q: Do you have any hobbies or other parts about your personal life you'd like to share?

A: I'm a new homeowner in Long Beach and now have a yard for the first time since I was a kid, so I've been growing strawberries and looking to try my hand at watermelons. I also play in an adult baseball league in the South Bay. And my wife and I are very excited to welcome our first child, a daughter, in December!



Best Airport Needs Votes

Nominated by industry experts and editors at USA TODAY, Long Beach Airport needs public votes to be selected for the 10Best Readers' Choice Awards under the category of Best Small Airport. Every vote counts! Please take a moment once each day to vote for LGB. No login required. Voting is open now through Monday, September 23rd, at 11:59 a.m. EDT. The USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards highlight top-notch attractions and businesses across the country, providing readers with trusted recommendations. We were honored to win in this same category in 2020, and we know we can do it again!



Welcome New Noise Officer

Justin Cook, a distinguished figure in the field of aviation noise management, was recently appointed LGB's Noise Officer. Justin joins us with nearly 25 years of expertise in aviation noise management, renowned for his technical acumen, regulatory expertise and commitment to fostering collaborative solutions that benefit both airports and communities. Justin's professional journey has been closely intertwined with the Federal Aviation Administration. His portfolio includes the oversight of numerous environmental impact reports, environmental assessments and noise and land use compatibility studies. He has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of California, Irvine, with additional certifications from the Institute of Noise Control Engineering, the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure and the U.S. Green Building Council. He's also an active member of the SAE International A-21 Steering Committee on Aircraft Noise Measurement and Emission Modeling, the Institute of Noise Control Engineering and the Acoustical Society of America. His career continues to shape the future of aviation noise management, setting benchmarks for excellence and innovation in the industry. As a Long Beach resident, Justin is very familiar with our airport. We're delighted to welcome him to our team!



POLB Supports Upcoming Festival of Flight

Our biggest event of the year, the [Festival of Flight](#), comes in for a landing on October 19, 2024, and we're delighted to announce that the Port of Long Beach (POLB) is supporting the event again this year with a generous \$10,000 sponsorship. More sponsorship opportunities are available, and we need our business partners' help to make this the best Festival of Flight yet! Find out more in the [sponsorship guide](#). What better way to celebrate the end of our yearlong 100th anniversary celebration than by inviting 15,000 community members onto our airfield to celebrate all things aviation!



Wings of Fame History Project

At the behest of the Long Beach City Council, we recently commissioned the Historical Society of Long Beach to conduct a feasibility study to identify different ways for LGB to highlight key individuals and milestones from its past 100 years of service. The Historical Society collected feedback from key stakeholders, including the Airport Advisory Commission, and developed several recommendations in a multi-pronged approach that includes establishing and maintaining a "Wings of Fame" exhibit on the Airport campus in a landscaped area near Parking Structure B and modernizing exhibits in the Historic Terminal. There will be online elements as well. Funding for the "Wings of Fame" is still being identified, and a request for proposals to evaluate potential designs will be solicited next year. The Historical Society's findings are the first step in establishing a fair process for honoring and exhibiting more of Long Beach Airport's history, and more work is needed to further explore this exciting future project.

Summer Externship Wraps

Now in its second year, LGB's Careers Taking Flight 2024 Summer Externship concluded last month with an inspiring graduation ceremony where we heard testimonials from the students. We were also fortunate to have Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Jill Baker join us. Two cohorts of 12 participants from Cabrillo and Jordan high schools took part in the program over the summer, learning about a wide variety of aviation careers and how to make themselves competitive for future positions. I want to thank all of our business partners and staff who took time out of their day to meet with them or support this program: Aeroplex/Aerolease Group, Atlantic Aviation, CLEAR, Delta Air Lines, Chapter Seven of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program, the Federal Aviation Administration, FlightSafety International, Fly Compton Foundation, Hawaiian Airlines, JetZero, Long Beach Aero, SoCal Jet Services, Southwest Airlines and the Transportation Security Administration. I'm grateful to you for helping students reach for the stars.



Plane Pull Success

The ultimate man-versus-machine Plane Pull for Special Olympics Southern California (SOSC) raised money last month to support and empower athletes with intellectual disabilities. Teams tested their strength, stamina and endurance to pull a 124,000-pound plane in the quickest time and raised nearly \$198,000! Since SOSC started holding its annual Plane Pull fundraiser at Long Beach Airport in 2006, the heartwarming event has raised more than \$2 million in charitable donations. This was the final year for the event to take place on our campus due to the anticipated future development of the Wardlow Parcel, and I'm so proud of LGB's longtime role in supporting this great event.



Seen at the Scene

Long Beach Airport was proud to host 35 students participating in the Space Beach Youth Summer Camp, hosted by Pacific Gateway as part of the Mayor's STRONG Beach and Summer of Opportunity initiatives. We're honored that LGB could serve as one of the many aviation-related community partners offering experiences for the young adults, aged 16 to 24. Participants enjoyed an airfield perimeter tour, walking tour and opportunities to learn about careers at Long Beach Airport.



The City of Long Beach's Bring Your Child to Work Day was held at the Terrace Theater Plaza, and it was nice to introduce young people between the ages of 7 and 17 to the work being done City employees, especially at Long Beach Airport! About 500 children visited our booth to play Plinko or enjoy our coloring and button-making stations.



In August, LGB participated in 11 community events, including the Uptown Jazz Festival, Back to School Jam at Veteran's Stadium, community concerts and the Health Department's Back to School Vaccination & Resource Fair.



Aeroplex hosted an event for Kidz First Academy preschoolers, with about 20 children enjoying coloring stations, temporary tattoos and opportunities to tour a fire truck and helicopter on the Airport campus.



See LGB on LBTV

Shout out to our partners at LBTV and narrator/videographer Jesse Lopez for this incredible coverage of our Historic Terminal's grand reopening celebration and history. This special feature, which will remain available permanently on LBTV's YouTube channel, showcases archival footage, photographs, original newspaper articles of the building and artwork by artist Grace Clements—including wall murals that were later painted over. We are so fortunate to have this video to enhance our community's knowledge of Long Beach Airport and the landmark-status architecture of the Historic Terminal.



Unleaded Fuel Subsidy and STC Reimbursement Reminder

In our effort to accelerate the transition from leaded to unleaded aviation fuel at LGB, we'd like to remind general aviation aircraft owners about the Airport's Subsidized Aviation Fuel for the Environment (SAFE) program. SAFE is designed to eliminate the cost differential between leaded avgas and unleaded avgas. The sale price of unleaded 94-grade fuel (UL94)—available since August 2023 through Signature Aviation—can be \$2 to \$4 more per gallon for consumers than leaded 100-grade fuel (100LL) varieties, but SAFE allows providers to sell unleaded varieties at the same price as 100LL. Additionally, Long Beach Airport is offering a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) reimbursement incentive this year for general aviation users of piston-powered aircraft to encourage and minimize the costs associated with the transition to unleaded aviation fuel. The current STC fee is estimated between \$150 and \$300 per aircraft, and the reimbursement covers the full cost, allowing for fluctuations in price. The Federal Aviation Administration has set a target for the elimination of leaded aviation fuel for all piston-powered aircraft by the year 2030.

Work to Prevent Runway Incursions

The FAA’s Runway Safety Headquarters recently convened a Special Focus - Runway Safety Action Team (SF-RSAT) meeting for LGB. As a follow-up to the standard RSAT meeting conducted in April, the purpose of the special meeting was to gain a better understanding of risks and contributory factors that result in runway incursions. Representatives from FAA Runway Safety Headquarters, LGB, AWP Regional Administrators Office, Office of Airports, Flight Standards, Technical Operations and Air Traffic Services attended. The California Department of Transportation, City of Long Beach, pilot groups, tenants, commercial and general aviation representatives and other stakeholders also were invited. The meeting encouraged open discussion of runway safety issues, and a Runway Safety Action Plan (RSAP) is being developed based on the gathered information to supplement the existing LGB FY2024 RSAP.

July Passenger Traffic

It’s been a record-breaking year so far at Long Beach Airport, and July’s commercial passenger traffic bolstered that trend with a total of 189,779 enplanements. July’s enplanements were 729 passengers shy of May’s all-time record. Total passenger activity for July was 11.7% higher than the same month last year. Year-to-date, we’re up 17.5% compared to the same time period in 2023. The impressive growth we’re seeing underscores the trust passengers place in LGB as the gateway of choice in and out of Southern California.

	Jul 2024	Jul 2023	% Change	Jul 2022	% Change	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	% Change	YTD 2022	% Change
Passenger Traffic										
Enplanements	189,779	171,137	10.9%	154,581	22.8%	1,224,130	1,044,467	17.2%	923,015	32.6%
Deplanements	191,207	169,911	12.5%	151,839	25.9%	1,227,121	1,042,337	17.7%	914,169	34.2%
Total Passenger Traffic	380,986	341,048	11.7%	306,420	24.3%	2,451,251	2,086,804	17.5%	1,837,184	33.4%
Total Air Cargo (Tons)	861	849	1.4%	922	-6.6%	6,659	6,954	-4.2%	7,930	-16.0%

History Highlight: Hispanic Heritage Month

For Hispanic Heritage Month, let’s talk about First Lieutenant Francisco D. Mercado, Jr., a Mexican American who served in World War II and received the Distinguished Flying Cross. A member of the exclusive “Caterpillar Club,” he parachuted over Great Britain while returning from a mission in a crippled B-24. Hispanic Heritage Month takes place from September 15 through October 15. Read more about him and other aviation heroes in LGB’s [centennial report](#).



Cynthia Guidry
Airport Director

