Happy New Year! Amid commemorating our remarkable past 100 years of service at Long Beach Airport, we have high hopes for all the possibilities that 2024 holds! – Cynthia Guidry

Business Partner Spotlight: Don E. Thompson, EAA

We’re pleased to shine this month’s Business Partner Spotlight on Don E. Thompson, President of Chapter Seven of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) based at Long Beach Airport. Don is also the chapter’s scholarship coordinator and Young Eagles program co-coordinator.
Q: Can you please share a bit about EAA and the local chapter’s activities?
A: EAA National was started in the early 1950s to coordinate and organize citizens interested in developing, building and flying aircraft of their own designs. Their efforts led to the FAA coordinating new rules and regulations that have allowed today’s aviation enthusiasts to design, build, operate and market the fastest growing segment of the aviation industry in the USA. EAA National, along with its chapter program, has continued to expand and develop programs to build up general aviation, with an emphasis on inspiring youth through our Young Eagles and Aero Educate programs.

Chapter Seven, established in the late 1950s, enjoys monthly meetings to share current aviation news and discuss affairs pertaining to the Airport. We host six Young Eagles events per year (weather permitting) and have taken 5,300 young people between the ages of eight and 17 on discovery flights. We also mentor, through advice and scholarships, some of those young people towards aviation careers. And we engage the community through social networking and our website at EAA.org, where more can be learned about the value aviation offers our world and its future.

Q: Can you tell us about your personal and professional background in aviation?
A: Looking back, I’ve had aviation in my life since childhood. There are pictures of me playing with toy planes, building static models, flying model airplanes and taking my first discovery ride in my early teens. I became a private pilot in my 20s with aspirations to fly then continued my training to become a commercial pilot, getting various jobs flying, building and buying airplanes. Decades later, I still enjoy seeing the world from above as much as ever! I stay current and am always learning new things. It’s a privilege to fly, and I enjoy mentoring others interested in aviation. I currently share in the management of three aviation organizations, Chapter Seven of EAA being one of them I can’t say enough about the aviation community and the positive effect it has had on my life.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Long Beach Airport?
A: Since becoming a pilot here at KLGB in 1976, I have seen many, many changes to the Airport. The businesses, personnel and services are all in constant fluctuation based on the needs and demands of our society. The best part about Long Beach Airport, for me, is how it allows me to connect to the world from here. Choosing to fly myself or ride with the commercial carriers is a nice convenience to have so close to home. We live in a populated area. To be able to enjoy wide open space from my flight line or atop Signal Hill is the grandest of feelings.

Q: Is there anything else you’d like to share, especially in relation to LGB celebrating 100 years?
A: I have been a supporter of Long Beach Airport for 47 of its 100 years! It’s incredible to look back on the history and the variety of businesses that have come and gone, our City now host to some of the newest, most cutting-edge companies reaching into space. May Long Beach forever share in it all. Never has there been a better time to embrace the value our Airport gives to the visibility of our seaside City. We, as humans, demand services of all kinds, and the Airport supplies one of the most vital: Travel—the expansion of our world and contact with our world in ways other than virtual.
Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) is now available at Long Beach Airport for use by general aviation jets. This eco-friendlier alternative is being offered through Atlantic Aviation. The emissions reduction benefits of SAF are realized when the fuel is created via renewable feedstocks instead of crude oil, not when it is combusted. Neat—or unblended—SAF provides up to an 80 percent reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional jet fuel. Large general aviation and commercial aircraft use Jet A, which does not contain lead. We’re so excited that this greener alternative fuel is available at LGB, where sustainability initiatives are a shared journey with our business partners and ensure we all reach new heights!

Terminal Roadway Improvements Start January 8

The new year will ring in infrastructure improvements as the Terminal Roadway Improvement Project begins the evening of January 8, 2024. The finished project will result in improved vehicular and passenger flow and additional enhancements for those with mobility challenges.

The scope of work includes the realignment and repaving of the Donald Douglas Drive loop to prolong the life of the roadway and better accommodate pedestrians and various ground transportation vehicles, as well as supplement existing ADA features. The total cost of the project is $16.6 million, with $10.6 million funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the remainder funded by Airport revenue.

Construction of the Terminal Roadway Improvement Project will take place overnight from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. to minimize impacts. Anticipated completion is fall of 2024. For more information about the roadway improvements, visit www.lgbroadimprovements.com.
Southwest Airlines Sponsors Local Students

The Mayor’s Fund for Long Beach and Mayor Rex Richardson are raising funds to send Jordan High School’s band, music and orchestra students to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City in 2024. A benefit concert was held last month, for which LGB was also a sponsor, and Southwest Airlines has generously agreed to donate flight vouchers for more than 75 students who will be making the trip, with an estimated value of $32,000. This is a tremendous demonstration of Southwest Airlines’ support for our community!

STC Reimbursement for Unleaded Avgas Now Available

Long Beach Airport now offers a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) reimbursement incentive for general aviation users of piston-powered aircraft to encourage and minimize the costs associated with the transition to unleaded aviation fuel. Signature Aviation has been selling unleaded 94-grade fuel (UL94) produced by Swift Fuels since August. To utilize UL94, LGB-based qualifying aircraft must procure an STC from Swift to confirm that the aircraft has received FAA approval for the use of that fuel instead of typical Avgas. Currently, an estimated 200 aircraft based at the Airport may qualify to use UL94. Long Beach-based aircraft may receive up to $300 in reimbursements. The program will run through the end of 2024. For more information or to download the reimbursement form, visit www.lgb.org/stc.
Phase II Construction Update

Construction of the new concessions space and baggage service offices continues to progress. Concrete pavement has been placed in the Plaza area adjacent to the new structure, and storefront glass installation is complete. Meanwhile, structural enhancement of the Historic Terminal remains ongoing. Demolition of the sidewalk north of the Terminal is expected to take place this month. A temporary pathway for pedestrian access will be available.

Wrapped Up FAA Inspection

Just in time for the holidays, our Airside Operations team completed one of the most critical functions for any commercial airport: our annual Part 139 inspection with the FAA. LGB has a strong reputation for excellence in this regard, and I am so proud of our rotating Airside Operations Managers on Duty, Ricardo Curiel, Brandon Kraus and Clint Vallee, for leading us through this transition period with the Airside Operations Manager vacancy. Our Operations, Maintenance, Security and Engineering divisions, as well as LBFD Station 16, also deserve kudos for their efforts. This is a critical learning experience, and we are committed to improving our safety operations every single day.

Airfield Improvement Projects Kick Off This Month

Our Taxilane K and U projects will improve safety and enhance airfield operations. Work will occur in phases to maintain sufficient access for all Airport passengers and operators, including commercial airlines and general aviation tenants.
The Taxilane K Reconstruction project includes the reconstruction of approximately 71,500 sq. ft. of pavement and the rehabilitation of approximately 67,650 sq. ft. of pavement. Taxilane K provides airfield access to tenants in the northeast quadrant of the airfield along the Lakewood Boulevard corridor, including multiple hangars at the south end of Taxilane K. A significant portion of the Taxilane K pavement is in poor condition and has reached the end of its useful life. The project includes improvements to the pavement, pavement markings, striping and drainage systems. Work in this area is expected to begin in March.

The Construct Taxilane U Project repurposes an area that includes portions of decommissioned Runway 16R-34L, south of Taxiway F, to provide improved access to the airfield. Approximately 42,900 sq. ft. of pavement will be constructed, including pavement markings, lighting, signage and drainage systems. Taxilane U will provide access to Taxiway F for general aviation tenants adjacent to the Spring Street vehicle gate. Work in this area begins in January.

The Long Beach City Council awarded a construction contract to Griffith Company in July 2023 and mobilization for both projects began in October. Project completion is anticipated at the end of summer.
Historic Report and January 25 Talk

A recently released report titled “Long Beach Airport and Southern California: A Brief New Aviation and Aeronautics History (1900s-1980s)” highlights significant milestones in Long Beach’s rich aviation history, including the establishment of our municipal airport, and reveals some of the lesser-known stories about women and about Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous and other persons of color who contributed greatly to the field of aviation in Southern California.

The report was commissioned by the Airport through the nonprofit Historical Society of Long Beach and was written by authors Dr. Alison Rose Jefferson and Dr. Philip S. Hart. The full report is available at lgb.org/100th. Both authors will take part in a free presentation on the report at 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, at the Billie Jean King Library, 200 W. Broadway, Long Beach. Attendees are invited to a light reception at 5:30 p.m. I hope you can join us!

Long Beach Airport and Southern California:
A Brief New Aviation and Aeronautics History
(1900s - 1980s)

Annual Noise Budget Review

As outlined in the Long Beach Airport Noise Compatibility Ordinance, LGB’s noise budgets are evaluated annually for each user category to ensure compliance and determine whether air carrier flights should be added or removed. Based on the findings of the 2023 analysis, LGB plans to maintain its current level of 41 minimum air carrier flight slots and 17 supplemental air carrier flight slots. The evaluation was conducted by Airport staff as well as an independent analysis. Further details are available in this City Manager memo.
Watch LGB Fly Through History

The final piece of the incredible four-part short film series “Flying Through History: 100 Years at Long Beach Airport” is available to watch online! Produced by our friends at LBTV, the films reflect and commemorate a century of aviation at LGB, and the latest one—titled “Lesser-Known Stories in Local Aviation History”—has a special focus on the findings of our recently commissioned centennial historic report. Watch the films on our special 100th anniversary web page.

More 100th Anniversary Art on Display

Long Beach Airport is commemorating its centennial year with the addition of some new public art. In addition to the recent unveiling of the “A Flight to History” mural on Parking Structure A by renowned Southern California-based artist Marconi, the work of five semi-finalists is on temporary display in the North and South Concourses. The works include “She Takes to the Skies” by Christina Covarrubia, “Celebrating the History of Long Beach Aviation” by India Howlett, “Celebrating Connections” by Kenny McBride, “Long Beach Airport 100th Anniversary Poster” by Monika Petroczy and “LGB Aviation Evolution” by Bobby Rodriguez. Each semi-finalist received a $1,500 cash prize for their submission.
New Freeway Sign

A special double-sided sign is posted high above Interstate 405. We are so excited that this “Flying Through History” sign with our 100th anniversary logo could be unveiled last month!

Seen at the Scene

Long Beach Airport was proud to take part in the annual Belmont Shore Christmas Parade and the Daisy Avenue Christmas Tree Lane Parade in December, sharing our colorful float and holiday spirit with the community.

That’s a (w)rap on LGB Live! Local musicians brought good cheer to Long Beach Airport this holiday season with performances from Thanksgiving week through the start of the new year. Visitors especially enjoyed an appearance by the TSA Chorus! Our live entertainment program enhances the passenger experience and benefits local musicians, including local high school groups.
Holiday décor throughout the campus made the season bright for visitors and travelers!
History Highlight

As we mark our 100th anniversary, we’re looking back at Long Beach’s rich aviation history. On December 10, 1911, Cal Rogers completed the first transcontinental flight from Sheepshead Bay, New York, to Long Beach’s shore. Rogers’ flight was sponsored by the Armour Company’s grape-flavored soft drink, Vin Fiz, and his biplane was called the Vin Fiz Flyer.

Administrative Offices Holiday Closure

Long Beach Airport administrative offices will be closed on January 15, 2024, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Airport operations, security and building services will continue uninterrupted.

November Traffic and Record Enplanements Day

On the Sunday following Thanksgiving, Long Beach Airport boasted a record-breaking 7,755 enplanements. We are so honored that LGB continues to be the airport of choice in our community. For November as a whole, LGB served 338,095 travelers, representing a 17.6% increase in airline traffic compared with the same month in 2022. That’s up 9.6% over pre-pandemic levels for the same month in 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passenger Traffic</th>
<th>Nov '23</th>
<th>Nov '22</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Nov '23</th>
<th>Nov '22</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Nov '23</th>
<th>Nov '22</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Nov '23</th>
<th>Nov '22</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Nov '23</th>
<th>Nov '22</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Nov '23</th>
<th>Nov '22</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Nov '23</th>
<th>Nov '22</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enplanements</td>
<td>1,560</td>
<td>1,364</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>2,178</td>
<td>1,962</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>3,569</td>
<td>3,054</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>4,764</td>
<td>4,068</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>6,936</td>
<td>5,765</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>10,521</td>
<td>8,682</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disembarkments</td>
<td>1,560</td>
<td>1,364</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>2,178</td>
<td>1,962</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>3,569</td>
<td>3,054</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>4,764</td>
<td>4,068</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>6,936</td>
<td>5,765</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>10,521</td>
<td>8,682</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Passengers</td>
<td>3,120</td>
<td>2,728</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>4,356</td>
<td>3,924</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>7,138</td>
<td>6,108</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>10,521</td>
<td>8,682</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>13,872</td>
<td>11,530</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>21,042</td>
<td>17,364</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Air Cargo (Ton)</td>
<td>1,255</td>
<td>1,134</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>1,641</td>
<td>1,447</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>3,296</td>
<td>2,894</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>6,101</td>
<td>5,391</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>11,437</td>
<td>9,888</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>17,538</td>
<td>14,809</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cynthia Guidry
Airport Director