



Arizona Airman Aviation Safety Review



WP07FS25

Date: May 2002

Note From the SPM: Noise sensitivity is becoming a very big issue in the Phoenix valley. Even though this article is written for a specific area, the way the situation is being handled could be very applicable in your area. With this said, I've invited the Phoenix Aviation Department to provide the following article.

Fly Friendly

By: Randy Payne

Noise Information Management, Phoenix Aviation Department

Learning how to fly may have been one of the most exciting experiences in your aviation career. And learning how to be a good neighbor in the aviation community may be one of the most important. Recently, noise complaints have increased dramatically at Phoenix Deer Valley Airport. Area residents are extremely concerned about quality of life issues, as well as their families' safety. The tragic events of September 11, 2001, also had an effect on the public's perception of flight training. In an effort to educate the public about the aviation industry and its key role, the City of Phoenix Aviation Department, the operator of Phoenix Sky Harbor International, Phoenix Deer Valley and Phoenix Goodyear Airports has started a community dialogue.

"Making connections with our community is always one of our top priorities," said Nancy Faron, Noise Information Manager for the Phoenix Aviation Department. "It's important that our neighbors feel they are being listened to and that their issues are being addressed."

The Pan-Am International Flight Academy, a national aviation training school with a campus at Deer Valley Airport also took a vital interest in helping North Valley residents with their struggle with aircraft noise.

"We are trying to get the word out that you don't have to fly down on the deck over Carefree Highway," said Brad Kathrins, Pan-Am International Flight Academy Training Center Director. "We have shown the community that we care and that it is our intent to help educate the pilots and the community to solve this problem."

Pan-Am has weekly flight instructor meetings reminding their pilots of the importance of flying friendly and avoiding residential areas when possible. They also have a policy requiring their flights to stay above 3000 feet above ground level (AGL) when possible. The flight school strictly enforces this requirement although the Federal Aviation Administration only requires either 500 foot AGL or 1000 feet, as applicable. This self-imposed rule has made a big positive difference to the residents.

"My hat's off to Pan-Am for going forward and setting the standard," said Tony Biggs of Cave Creek. "By just showing respect for our concerns, I think we will be able to live together quietly."

Recently, Pan-Am has taken concerned citizens on educational flights to demonstrate the confines of the training airspace and that pilots are not targeting specific homes. Also, Pan-Am took a group of neighbors to show them how the FAA minimums would visually appear over their homes. They arranged for a resident to be in an aircraft to verify altitudes of the aircraft as it flew near a group of onlookers. The aircraft demonstrated the 500-foot and 1000 foot FAA minimums and then Pan-Am's self restricted 3000 foot AGL minimum. This educational process helped to give the residents a visual reference to the differing altitudes.

FAA Air Traffic Manager for Deer Valley Dean Edmonds is also very involved in noise issues at the airport. "It's important to us that our customers are not only the pilots, but also the neighbors," said Edmonds who has been the manager at Deer Valley for two years. "We want to work with the homeowners associations to educate and listen to their concerns. We try to act as a mediator between the two groups. Our job is to serve but safety will always be our number one priority."

Pan-Am's commitment to working with neighbors on noise issues and voluntary raising of minimum altitudes is becoming contagious. Westwind Aviation, another flight school at Deer Valley Airport has also encouraged their student pilots to follow the 3000-foot requirement. Neighbors of Scottsdale AirPark are also benefiting from this spotlight on aviation training as Sabena Air has also raised their minimums.

Additionally, Pan-Am will continue to volunteer their facility and instructors to teach pilot groups about the voluntary minimums. Also, they are looking for new practice areas that are farther away from growing neighborhoods.

"After our meetings, things are getting better and we are happy to help our neighbors," said Kathrins.

The more than 25,000 Arizona private pilots will be receiving a letter in the near future explaining the new procedures and the importance of remembering to fly friendly from the Phoenix Aviation Department. Pilots with questions about this new initiative should call Nancy Faron at 602-273-3475.

Published by

The Arizona

Flight Standards District Office

17777 N. Perimeter Dr. Suite 101, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Safety Program Manager:

Mike Halloran 520/535-3966

Michael.J.Halloran@faa.gov

Web site:

<http://www.awp.faa.gov/fsdo/arizona/safety.htm>



What's Inside this Issue

“Fly Friendly“

Aviation Safety Seminar Notices

Aviation Safety Seminars

Don't limit yourself to find out when the next seminar is by this flyer, visit us online to find out the *latest and greatest!*
<http://www.awp.faa.gov/fsdo/arizona/safety.htm>

Click on "Aviation Safety Meeting Announcements"

The Arizona area seminar and special event schedule for May 2002 is as follows: These are WINGS qualifying.

Bullhead City “Fiesta On The Colorado” Wings Seminar.

When: May 3, 2002, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Where: General Aviation hangars along S.R. 95, Northwest side of Airport.

Subject: Mountain Flying Presentation.

Presented by: Arizona Pilot's Association.

Contact: Arv Schultz, President: 602-279-0507

Bullhead City Wings Seminar.

When: May 4, 2002, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: General Aviation hangars along S.R. 95, Northwest side of Airport..

Subject: Runway Incursion Prevention.

Presented by: Arizona Pilot's Association.

Contact: Bernard Martin – 520-293-8415

Honeywell Quarterly Safety Seminar.

When: July 11, 2002, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Honeywell Plant, 19th. Ave. entrance south of Deer Valley Rd.
Cafeteria Conference room.

Subject: Various safety related aviation issues.

Sponsored by: The FAA Aviation Safety Program

