



The Fort Worth Aviator

V. 2, 3rd Ed.

Meacham Airport Welcomes Leading Edge!

Leading Edge has landed – thankfully at Meacham. Over the last year, Leading Edge has been searching nationwide for a hangar to paint the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, among other airframes. There was stiff competition from other airports and cities, but in the end they chose Meacham. For those of you who are already doing business at Meacham, there’s no question why they selected this airport. The airport facilities are second to none in a first rate city that focuses on public / private partnerships such as this one.

Over the next 6 – 12 months the world’s largest aircraft painting company will bring between 150 and 200 highly skilled jobs to Meacham and the City of Fort Worth. Leading Edge services all areas of the commercial airline industry, including cargo, international, national and regional air carriers as well as various branches of the United States military. The services offered by Leading Edge go far beyond painting, to include fuel system servicing, mod-center support, line-turn maintenance, composite and sheet metal, fleet assessments and interior clean-

ing. They’re going to need all 69,490 square feet of their new hangar to finish the forecasted two aircraft per month.

I’d like to ask all of you to stop by the Leading Edge hangar to welcome this Santa Ana, California based company to the neighborhood – give them a warm Texas welcome.



Mark Your Calendars!!!! Public Review Period

September 19, 2011 - October 14, 2011

Leasing Policy

Aviation Minimum Standards

Aviation Lessee Application

Aviation Operator Permit

Schedule of Rates and Charges

Aviation Self-Fueling Application/Permit

Municipal Code Chapter 3, Section 1 Definitions

Please review and provide any comments/feedback that you would like us to consider

BEFORE the final drafts are completed!

Copies of documents will be available via our website: www.fortworthgov.org/aviation and in our Administrative Offices

www.fortworthgov.org/aviation



Kent Penney, Airport Systems Director

Hangar Discounts

The City of Fort Worth Aviation Department has instituted a new discount program with a purpose in mind. The discount will be 10% off a persons' T-hangar or community hangar rent if they can show, in the prior 12 months, a purchase of an average of 50 gallons of fuel per month from FBO's located at the city's airports. The purpose of this program is to encourage activity at our airports.

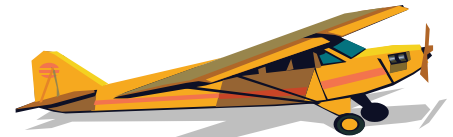
As I have seen recently from around the country, there is a preponderance of air-

craft just being stored and not being flown. We know this is the wrong direction to be going in. There is a medical term, 'atrophy' which means for a part of the body to waste away and become unusable. In the case of atrophy in the medical field, the solution is often times removal of the body part. The limited amount of flying occurring is like atrophy in our bodies and this trend must be reversed.

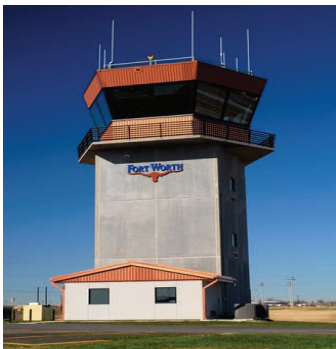
We know we cannot solve this problem nationwide, but would like to help here in Fort Worth to again strengthen and encourage personal flying. While in recent times the personal flyer has done more storing of

their aircraft than flying, we believe the hangar discount is a step we can take to encourage a change. Remember, the more that aircraft are put into active use, the more they bring us the happiness and benefits we intended when we purchased them.

We want our City of Fort Worth airports to be flyer's airports where pilots enjoy being active. Our hope is this discount will take us in that direction. Happy flying and I know we will all be enjoying this cooler weather soon.



Aaron Barth, Spinks Airport Manager



As some already know, Spinks' Air Traffic Control Tower Manager has retired this summer. Bill Miller played a pivotal role during the early stages when Spinks was in the process of becoming a towered airfield.

In 2000, Bill was working as the Air Traffic Control Tower Manager at Grand Prairie. He was contacted about Fort Worth Spinks' new control tower controller opportunity. Bill was up for a new adventure and committed his services to Fort Worth Spinks in 2001. Not knowing what he was

Farwell to Bill Miller

getting himself into, Bill started this new page of his career. A trailer unit was purchased by the City of Fort Worth to serve as a temporary tower facility until the permanent Air Traffic Control Tower was established in 2006. Having known that it would take so long to establish, Bill may have reconsidered. I, for one, am glad he didn't!

Bill started his illustrious air traffic control career in the Air Force in 1960. Working for eight years as an Air Force Air Traffic Controller, he spent significant time controlling Air Bases in Hahn, Germany and Senbach, Germany. The remainder of the time was in Dover, Delaware.

Bill then was hired by the FAA as a Controller in 1968. He worked as an employee of the FAA for 26 years. What is even more remarkable is that he served all of his 26 years controlling airports inside the state of Texas.

After some time spent in retirement he was asked to come back to work, where he worked at various airports including Spinks.

Bill said that he's looking to stay retired this time; he has a very long "honey-do" list that he needs to work on around the house. He also plans to spend time in his garage, tinkering on his sports car. The thing he looks forward to the most is pressing a television remote control button instead of a control tower mic button!

We are grateful for the years that he served at Spinks, we wish him the best.



Flight for the Human Spirit - World Record

It's not often you have the fortune to take part in a National Aeronautic Association/ Federation Aeronautique Internationale (NAA/FAI) sanctioned world record venture, more specifically the Flight for the Human Spirit world record. Michael Combs has done just that by flying his unmodified Light Sport Aircraft known as 'Hope One' on a flight that was over 30,000 miles, which included Meacham Airport as the 169th airport on its list. By selecting Meacham as an official stop, Michael has placed Meacham in two of the NAA/FAI sanctioned world records. In addition to being included in the "most stops ever flown on a trip" record,

Meacham was Michael's starting point for the single longest flight by an unmodified Light Sport Aircraft.

July 9, 2011 was the day he arrived at Meacham in that impeccable REMOS aircraft. Texas Jet stepped forward and offered free fuel and a hangar for which Michael was very appreciative.

Although Hope One's speed wasn't quite the 567 miles per hour that the last world record aircraft set flying into Meacham, it was fast enough to bring him back to his home state of Texas and after flying through 49 states and over 27,300 miles we were glad to see him make it back safely.

As they departed Meacham enroute to Branson, Missouri, destined for airport 170, I couldn't help to think of the personal drive of that pilot and the support it takes to plan and



carry out such a mission. The Aviation Department and the City of Fort Worth tip our hats to a very dedicated aviation enthusiast and wish him luck in fulfilling his entire team's record setting dream.



North Texas Aviation Centennial

Join us September 24th for a special presentation on the Canadian Air Force Training Bases in North Texas during World War I.



In 1917 the Canadian Royal Flying Corps occupied three airfields around Fort Worth in Everman, Benbrook and Saginaw, known as Taliaferro Fields #1, 2 and 3. They conducted flight training for Canadian, British and Americans here from 1917 to 1918.

In 1918 the fields were transferred to the U.S. Army and renamed Carruthers, Baron and Hicks Fields and made part of Camp Bowie. Training was conducted all over North Texas in the Canadian version of the JN-4 "Jenny" known as the "Canuck." Come hear local historians, Ben Guttery and Bill Morris tell the story of

this special time in aviation history in North Texas. Seating is limited so plan to arrive early. The presentations will begin at 11 AM in our Bronco Ready Room, 3300 Ross Avenue, Fort Worth, with a showing of the movie *Dawn Patrol* immediately afterward. The museum will be open, free admission to all from 10:00am to 2:00pm. For more information please call 800-575-0535.

Join us for TCU's Thursday Night Movies

9/15 Dawn Patrol (1938)

9/29 The Great Waldo Pepper (1975),

10/13 Air Force(1943)



This series is open to the public, and admission to all films is free. Screenings begin at 7 PM in the Moudy Building South, Room 164, located at 2805 S. University Drive.

New Face at Spinks



William Hickman

Spinks Airport welcomes William “Will” Hickman as an Airport Operations Officer. Will has been with the Airport since the beginning of August 2011.

Will is a graduate of Jacksonville University, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management and Flight Operations. While there, he completed an internship with Jacksonville International Airport in the area of Operations Will is a native Floridian, raised in Auburndale, FL, a little town just west of Orlando. While still in

high school, he received his private pilot’s license and seaplane rating. Prior to joining Spinks Airport Operations, Will worked in line operations, flight training, and Charter 135 flying. *Welcome aboard Will!*

New City Web Domain Name

Coming October 1



The City will have a new web domain name starting October 1.

The new web address will be www.FortWorthTexas.gov which allows the City to improve its web presence and will be easier for you to remember. The old web address, www.FortWorthGov.org will still work, and we do not anticipate a major challenge with you accessing the website.

If you have questions, contact the Office of Media and Public Affairs at 817-392-6188.

You will find us at:

www.FortWorthTexas.gov/Aviation

21ST ANNUAL BIG BAND HANGAR DANCE

Vintage Flying Museum, 505 NW 38th Street, Fort Worth
Celebrating 100 years of Naval Aviation

October 15, 2011 – 8 p.m. until midnight

Tickets are \$30 Advance until October 13, 2011, \$35 At the Door

\$15 BBQ Dinner (Dinner at 6:30 - 8:30 sold in advance only)

FEATURING THE ALAN GLASSCOCK ORCHESTRA

Optional Dress 1940's, military or civilian

Purchase tickets online

www.vintageflyingmuseum.org

For additional information call 817-624-1935 or
e-mail vmf@VintageFlyingMuseum.org



Meeting Announcements



Aviation Advisory Board
3rd Thursday of the Month
October 20, November 17

Meacham Tenant Meeting
1st Thursday of the Month
October 6, November 3

Spinks Tenant Meeting
Every other Month, 1st Thursday
October 6

Airport Operations - 24/7 - 817-994-0653

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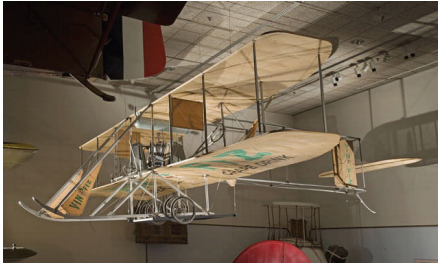
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Like to receive information such as this newsletter electronically from the Fort Worth Airport System? Send us an e-mail at aviationwebmail@fortworthgov.org and we will add you to our email distribution list.

The Vin-Fiz Flyer and Ryan Place Park



The month of October represents a great historic milestone in the world of aviation. On October 17, 1911, Calbraith P. Rodgers landed his 1911 Wright Flyer EX right here in a Fort Worth cow pasture near the renowned Ryan's Place Park. Rodgers, a relatively inexperienced pilot, had only just recently learned to fly the Wright Flyer from none other than Orville Wright himself. On top of that, his total training in the aircraft lasted only 90 minutes!



Calbraith "Cal" Rodgers' flight to Fort Worth was just one of many stops that he made on his three month trek across the U.S. to become the first person to fly cross-country across North America. His journey actually began on September 17, 1911 in Sheepshead, New York, where the young 32 year old daredevil learned of a \$50,000 prize to accomplish the daunting feat in 30 days or less.

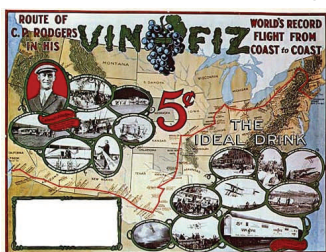
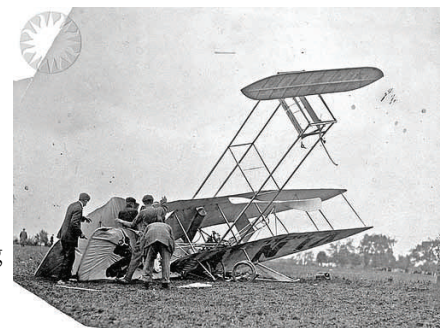
Rodgers jumped at the chance and soon thereafter obtained a sponsorship with J. Ogden Armour, a prominent businessman of the time. Mr. Armour was in the process of marketing his new grape soft drink, Vin-Fiz, and thus the Vin-Fiz Flyer was born.

Back in 1911, pilots were essentially human guinea pigs when it came to flying airplanes. For instance, the Vin-Fiz Flyer did not have any instruments to refer to, the engine put out a whopping 35 horsepower, and the in-flight meal consisted of whatever bugs you could scrape out of your teeth! This was stick and rudder flying at its roots. Forget charts or fancy GPS navigation. Cal Rodgers followed railroads in a meandering pattern that forced him to land about 70 times and crash at least 16 times along his route. In fact, the only original pieces on his airplane at the end of his trip were one of his rudders, a few wing struts, and maybe the oil pan. All in all, Rodgers flew approximately 4,000 miles, following the railroads from New York, through the



Midwest, down to Texas, and eventually reaching Pasadena, California on November 5, 49 days later. Determined in his effort to reach the vast Pacific, Rodgers set out on November 12, but sustained injuries from a few minor crashes on the way. After healing up enough to fly again, the Vin-Fiz finally reached the Pacific on December 10, 1911.

Although Cal Rodgers overshot his 30 day deadline to reap his cash reward, his pioneering legacy and contribution to aviation lives on still to this day. Along with being the first pilot to fly across North America, the flight of the Vin-Fiz was the first commercially sponsored flight ever flown. The Vin-Fiz also carried the first interstate mail from Oklahoma to the great state of Texas.



The flight of the Vin-Fiz brought commercial air travel, air mail, and aeronautics to the public eye of millions of people all over the world. In honor of this momentous occasion, the City of Fort Worth will be hosting the first centennial Vin-Fiz Day on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at Ryan Place Park in Fort Worth. Please join us to commemorate. Festivities will begin at 4:00pm with a chili cook-off, followed by the 5:00 judging, concluding with the Vin-Fiz celebration at 6:00pm.