# The Diablo Aviator

A Publication of Contra Costa County Airports

#### **Board of Supervisors**

John Gioia, District 1
Gayle B. Uilkema, District 2
Mary Piepho, District 3
Karen Mitchoff, District 4
Federal D. Glover, District 5

**County Administrator** 

David Twa

**Director of Airports** 

Keith Freitas

Editor

Natalie Olesen

Buchanan Field and Byron Airports - www.buchananfield-byronairports.org

# **New Airfield Enhanced Markings**

Last August the FAA determined that even though Buchanan Field Airport has not had commercial airline service for more than 18 years the Airport

would be required to comply with the new enhanced airfield marking standards. The new airfield marking standards call for enhanced centerline markings for taxiways which intersect a runway. Additionally, large surface painted runway designation markings must be placed on



the pavement just adjacent to the runway Hold Bars, in some instances on

both sides of the centerline. The enhanced centerline markings have the standard yellow six inch wide centerline marking, but also include two six inch dashed stripes, one on each side of the centerline (see picture). The large Surface Painted Signs are a copy of the existing hold signs, which includes a red rectangular box with white runway markings (see picture). Airport and Public Works Department crews teamed up to get the project completed within the mandated deadline of December 31, 2010. These staff members did an outstanding job completing the project within a very compressed time frame. This project could not have been completed without the help and coordination by the Concord ATCT staff and our pilots, which were both very patient. The average number of intersections that commercial airports in the United States had to makes these changes was only fifteen (15). However, due to the complex airfield layout at Buchanan Field, with parallel crossing runways, it required markings be installed at forty-two (42) locations.

### Santa Makes a Guest Appearance

On December 4, 2010 Contra Costa County Airports held its annual Santa Skydive to benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. Although, weather did not permit Santa to skydive into

Buchanan Field Airport, the children were thrilled to see him arrive in the Airport's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicle. Later that day, Santa was able to make his guest appearance by skydiving into the Byron Airport, with the help of his elves from Bay Area Skydiving.

Combined more than 100 children visited Buchanan Field and Byron Airports, to sit upon Santa's knee and share their holiday wish lists.

Over \$200.00 and 1 barrel of food was graciously donated. This event would not be possible without the unending support of Bay Area Skydiving and the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Page 2 The Diablo Aviator

# Security Update — Gate Access Key Cards

Airport security has been at the forefront of everyone's mind as TSA has implemented more stringent processes like the full body scans. At Buchanan Field Airport, staff has been working with our consultants to enhance security which includes a new security gate access system. The new system, which is anticipated to be in place by the end of 2011, will require issuing of new access cards to tenants.

In the next few months, Airport staff will post the new Agreement to our website. This online Agreement will be setup so that the information can be filled in on the computer and then printed out for signature. Appointments will be scheduled for the issuance of the new key cards. More information regarding the process will follow.

Airport staff is working to make this transition as seamless as possible. As with any new system there may be some unforeseen glitches that will need to be worked through. Your patience and cooperation through this process is greatly appreciated.

# **Buchanan Field Public Viewing Plaza Update**

If you have not been to the Buchanan Field Public Viewing Plaza lately then you have missed

out on the plazas newest addition. Spearheaded by Rich Spatz, Buchanan For Kids, a community based organization, secured a \$9964 grant from the First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission for an aviation themed play center designed for children under age five. Rich and Lynn Spatz made an additional personal donation to improve the aviation oriented theme. The play center includes a control tower/ticket booth type playhouse and a separate



small benched airplane. The play center is designed to further engage a young child's imagination into the world of aviation. This is a great addition to our plaza that will be enjoyed by families and playgroups for years to come. Thank you to First 5 Contra Costa and Rich and Lynn Spatz for your generous funding that made this play center possible.