

The Diablo Aviator

A Publication of Contra Costa County Airports

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

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Buchanan Field's Tour Program

Buchanan Field's Airport Tour Program is still running strong. Since the tour program was established in 1992, Airport staff has toured over 4,500 participants. Since 2009 the tour program has been used to help support the Contra Costa and Solano Counties' Food Bank. The tour program generated over 280 pounds of food so far in 2010.

Tour participants get to climb inside the cockpit of an airplane, explore the inside of a Vietnam War era UH1 helicopter, see the Airport's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting vehicle up close and visit with CalStar's, one of two air ambulance companies at the Airport, staff. CalStar's staff invites participants to look at their emergency helicopter while they explain what they do.

Tours are available Tuesday through Thursday by appointment. If you have a group of at least five (5) and are interested in scheduling a tour, please contact Natalie Olesen at (925) 646-5722 or fill out a tour request on the Airport's

SAVE THE DATE



Santa will be skydiving into Buchanan Field and Byron Airports on Saturday, December 4, 2010.

2010 Aviation Advisory Committee Tenant Recognition Award



Congratulations to Pacific States Aviation for being the 2010 Aviation Advisory Committee Tenant Recognition Award Recipient.

ALERT!

Apparently Travis AFB has report to FAA Headquarters that pilots from CCR and other local airports have been flying around the windmills with their transponders OFF. Aircraft that they (Travis) are controlling have reported seeing low traffic down among the windmills. Travis has ground clutter filtered out and since the aircraft are not squawking they can't issue traffic calls. We don't have any information on who is actually doing this, but Travis suspects the aircraft are from CCR and other local airports. Travis is asking local flight schools/rental/FBO's to educate their pilots regarding this safety concern.

Annual Possessory Interest and Aircraft Tax

Each year the Airport is required to submit to the County Assessor's Office an inventory of the aircraft that are stored in County maintained tiedowns and hangars at both Buchanan Field and Byron Airports. This information aids the Assessor in determining the fair market value of the aircraft for the current year, and also the annual Possessory Interest Tax.

The Assessor is required to use retail market data in determining assessable values for aircraft. The Aircraft Bluebook provides retail values for aircraft in average condition with mid-time engine hours. These values are most often used as the starting point in the appraisal process.

- Aircraft of historical significance can be exempt. "Aircraft of historical significance" means any aircraft which is original, restored, or a replica of a heavier-than-air-powered aircraft which is 35 years or older, or any aircraft of a type or model of which fewer than five are known to exist worldwide. Such aircraft are eligible for the "Historical Exemption" under Revenue and Taxation Code Section 220.5. Call the Aircraft Division of the Assessor's Office at (925) 313-7520 for more information and application forms.

The following are some answers to frequently asked questions;

Questions & Answers

What if my aircraft is out of state for repairs?

It is still taxable by Contra Costa County if this is where the aircraft is normally based or operated. An aircraft being repaired is not exempt from taxation.

Is an aircraft which is out of Contra Costa County on January 1 still taxable?

Yes, if home based in Contra Costa County.

What if my aircraft is incomplete?

If it is under construction and has never been flown, it will not be taxed. If it is under reconstruction, it will be taxed accordingly.

Should I notify the Assessor's Office if I sell or permanently move my aircraft?

Yes. This information will help prevent you from receiving a tax bill on property you no longer own or which is no longer located in Contra Costa County. You will need to supply the Assessor's Office with a copy of the bill of sale or verification of the new site.

What should I do if I disagree with the assessed value?

If you disagree with the value, call the Assessor's Office-Aircraft Division at (925) 313-7520 and speak with the appraiser, who will be glad to answer any question you may have and review the appraisal.

If you still disagree with the value after the review, you may file an application for a hearing before the Board of Appeals. The application forms are available from the Clerk of the Assessment Appeals Board, 651 Pine Street, Room 106, Martinez, CA 94553 (phone (925) 335-1901). The filing period for assessment appeals is from July 2 to September 15.

If you have any questions regarding your aircraft assessment tax bill, call the Assessor's Office-Aircraft Division at (925) 313-7520. If you have questions regarding your Possessory Interest Tax bill, call the Tax Collector at (925) 646-4122.

Revenue from these taxes is not deposited into the Airport Enterprise Fund. The Director of Airport's Office is not involved in the billing or collection of these fees. If you have any questions regarding your tax bills, call the appropriate office listed above.
