



*Reno-Tahoe Aviation Group
Board of Directors Meeting
4/2/24*

I. Call to Order

RTAG's President, Karen Inda, called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Reno-Tahoe Aviation Group at 5:30pm on April 2nd, 2024, at Atlantic Aviation - Reno, 655 S. Rock Blvd., Reno, NV, 89502.

II. Roll Call

A roll call was not conducted. The following officers, directors, and special guests were present:

Karen Inda - President
Mark Stiving - Vice-President
Jack Woods - Secretary
Tom Dyer - Treasurer
Karla Werning - Director
Michael Cleveland - Director
Joe Rajacic - Director
Trygve Inda - Director
Dr. Bob Larkin
Jim Dudzinski
Jim Rundle
Tom Hall
Collin Justis
Bryan Herter

III. Conversations with Non-Directors - Tom Hall

- Tom Hall would like to coordinate awarding scholarships through RTAG from a fund he is managing.
 - RTAG would still do the work of advertising the scholarships and choosing recipients, but we would not have to raise the funds ourselves.
 - We could ensure continuity by asking students to apply for one global scholarship. Various scholarship committees can work together to award scholarships and prevent "doubling up" in the same year.
 - We should try to make it easy for students to apply.
 - Possible partnership with Pathways to Aviation
- April 17th 2025 - There will be another Pathways to Aviation event at UNR

- Disclosure: Dr. Bob Larkin and Joe Rajacic are both on the board of Pathways to Aviation
- Discussion:
 - Proposal: Modify scholarship requirements by no longer requiring applicants to be post-solo (possibly have a 10-hour minimum)
 - Our 2024 scholarships were retroactive - they could be applied to expenses incurred in the calendar year in which they were awarded.

Nevada Aviation Day Update

- Friday-Saturday event, September 19-20, 2025
 - Friday would be a STEM day with programs for school children.
 - Saturday would be a fly-in / drive -in event for aviation enthusiasts.
 - Saturday, September 20th, 2025, is also Girls in Aviation Day. The plan is to coordinate these events.
 - Dr. Bob said insurance costs are considerably less for an airshow than an air race, so the event could include an airshow. RTAA might be able to underwrite the airshow.
 - Potentially a fly-in with camping, but KRTS doesn't have much grass nor camping infrastructure
- Karen presented the board with a list of AOPA's requirements for their involvement in Nevada Aviation Day
- If Tom Hall is going to fund RTAG scholarships, he will expect RTAG to participate in planning Nevada Aviation Day.

IV. Conversations with Non-Directors - Jim Rundle & Jim Dudzinski

- RTAG should not be in the middle of discussions between tenants and airport ops personnel. Either hangar tenant advocates on the RTIA CEO Users Working Group should communicate with hangar tenants, or the RTAA should contact hangar tenants directly.
- Flyers will be posted on bulletin boards and Karen will email RTAG members.
- Discussion:
 - RTAG was established to advocate for GA, but RTAG is not the representative for GA users to the RTIA CEO Users Working Group.
 - Airport users can email Daren Griffin directly and he is typically very responsive.
 - Daren prefers direct contact with airport users.
 - RTAG does not want to be responsible for ensuring specific decisions or outcomes
 - Everyone can attend these meetings
 - It is hard to disseminate meeting times because meeting times/locations and agendas are typically determined with very short notice
 - Jim will ask the board to publish agendas ahead of time
 - Closing RWY 8-26 was due to Taxiway B reconstruction.

- The RTAA is reconstructing Taxiway B at the intersection of RWY 8-26.
- The National Guard ramp is also being repaved. The Guard requested to park their aircraft in the airport's de-icing zones.
- Since these two paving projects are occurring simultaneously, RTAA decided to park the Guard's aircraft on RWY 8-26 while the runway was scheduled to be closed because of the Taxiway B work.
- As soon as the intersection work is done, the runway will be opened.
- The Board believes conflict between tenants and RTAA resulted from a lack of communication on the part of the RTAA. Tenants did not understand why the decision was made.
 - To prevent future problems, Dr. Bob will ask the RTIA CEO to notify airport users when taxiways and/or runways will be closed.

V. Conversations with Non-Directors - Jim Rundle (Fund the Tower Fly-In Event)

- RNO is a training tower
 - Controllers gain experience dealing with wind shear, weather, and traffic at RNO
 - Once they gain experience, they go to a different tower to earn more money
 - Problem: We lose qualified controllers
 - Solution: Increase airport operations at RNO to raise salaries for tower controllers
 - Result: Our efforts could convince some controllers to stay here.
- There are multiple levels within Class B, C, D classifications
 - Years ago, RNO fell to the lowest Class C level
 - RTAG responded by coordinating with the tower to put a bunch of planes in the air, practicing pattern work, and invited the RNO tower controllers to a BBQ
 - Tower workers took shifts and came to eat and chat with pilots
 - Great practice for the tower controllers and made them feel appreciated
 - This one-off RTAG event did not significantly increase airport operations in the long term, but it represented a show of solidarity/partnership with tower controllers
 - Proposal: RTAG organize a "Tower Appreciation Day"
 - RTAG would like to have 25-ish airplanes participate in the event
 - Pilots would perform 3 touch and goes before a full-stop landing
 - Food: Francisco's friend's taco truck. Francisco does not have to treat everyone to tacos again. Everyone would pay for themselves.
 - Jim Rundle will coordinate this with the tower
 - Some Donner Springs residents are unhappy with increased ops.
 - RTAG should coordinate with Bryan so he is prepared to handle angry neighbors
 - Aircraft could extend downwinds beyond Rattlesnake Mtn. as a noise abatement procedure

VI. Old Business

- Banquet Feedback
 - Hold the banquet at a different time of year.
 - We need to improve accounting for bingo cards - there were challenges tracking bingo cards and prices
 - We should have fewer speakers - presentations took too long, mainly due to technical issues with Zoom
 - Should we even have a banquet?
 - Substitute the banquet with BBQs, Pancake Breakfasts, etc.?
 - What is the purpose of the banquet?
 - Recognize RTAG members for certifications and awards
 - Education/Presentations
 - Celebrating Scholarship Awardees
 - Fundraising
 - Social interactions between members
 - Could be accomplished with other events
 - Banquet challenges
 - Price increases
 - Venue increased prices by \$1,000 - will be more next year.
 - Idea: Cater an event inside a hangar at the airport to save money and keep the event more centralized in Reno.
 - Procuring silent auction items from local merchants
 - Board decision: continue having a banquet, but host the banquet in a hangar to save money. Schedule the banquet in May.
- Business Directory Update (Jack) - No update
 - Automate business directory in the short term
 - Automate a verification email to confirm whether the poster is a member
 - Once we have traffic, we can monetize sponsorships
 - Add a disclaimer - RTAG should not endorse any merchant
 - Businesses should be listed by category
- RTAG Storefront Update (Jack)
 - Storefront is up and running!
 - Merch currently loses money due to additional Wix charges to set up payments
 - Mark Stiving will look at prices and reach out to Jack to discuss increases
 - We do not charge shipping + handling, but we can to increase revenue
- Updates on RTAG Fly-Out to NorCal TRACON and Fallon NAS
 - Karen - NorCal TRACON will contact Karen when a date is available.
 - Michael - no update on the fly-out to Fallon NAS
- Bryan has an in with the Las Vegas TRACON - Too far for an RTAG fly-out.
- Tom Dyer presented the Treasurer's Report

VII. New Business

- First Annual RTAG Campout, April 26-28 at Columbia O22
 - This was the only weekend that was not already booked.
 - Cost for the pavilion and BBQ pits is \$350 for a weekend, plus a \$350 deposit (which we get back if we leave the place clean and return the gate key)
 - Cost is \$10 per aircraft campsite
 - If the weather is bad, they will not charge us anything.
 - Goal: Charge participants enough to make up the cost from it and provide dinner
 - We could split pavilion costs and shared meals semi-equally
 - Maybe ask folks to contribute to a potluck
 - 20 campsites available, and you can also camp next to your airplane
 - Proposed Agenda:
 - Arrive Friday Night:
 - Get reservations for a restaurant in town
 - Walk to the restaurant (10 minute walk) and have dinner
 - Saturday:
 - Pancake Breakfast
 - On your own for lunch Saturday
 - You can walk into town - no cars allowed in the historic downtown
 - Afternoon speaker & coffee
 - Dinner provided
 - Sunday:
 - Organized breakfast at Mandy's (breakfast place next to the airport)
 - Fly home
 - There is a group doing search and rescue training during the daytime.
 - Tom Dyer will bring bean bag lawn darts, there is a volleyball court, a horseshoe court, etc.
 - The closest hotels are in Sonora if folks would prefer to stay in a hotel.
- Spring Cleaning Day for Adopt-a-Spot
 - We should do this before the weeds grow too big!
 - Saturday, May 4th. Bonus points for wearing Star Wars gear.
 - Meet at 8:00 AM
- RTAG Aviation Seminar
 - Wednesday, May 1st at the new "Love to Fly Sim Center" off of Longley
 - Address: 5440 Louie Lane #104, Reno, NV
 - 5:30 PM refreshments - Costco snack packs
 - Karen will send the address to RTAG members with the event notification
 - Speaker flew Navy missions to Antarctica
 - FAA WINGS credit presentation also.
- Proposal: July BBQ and Movie Night instead of a general meeting
 - Aviation-themed movie

- Ideas: Airplane, Zero Hour
 - Could be the same day as the Tower event
 - Proposal: August Pancake Breakfast with a speaker
 - Jared Yoshiki as a speaker?
 - If the campout happens, then we've already had one pancake breakfast this year. Invite Jared to speak at the campout instead.
 - 2024 Poker Run
 - September/October?
 - September 14th is the only Saturday in September that does not have conflicts with other local aviation events
 - Proposal: Schedule the 14th for the Poker Run.
 - RTAG Board decides to schedule for the 14th.
 - Next Board of Directors Meeting
 - Currently scheduled for Wednesday, June 5th.
 - Directors' Comments
 - Tom: No
 - Jack: No
 - Dr. Bob: Karen is doing great as RTAG president. Thanks current board members. RTAG is approaching its 20th anniversary if you count the unofficial formation in 2005.
 - Mark: Get RTAG board members to subscribe with auto-renew. Jack will follow up with Mark.
 - Joe: We should consider raising dues commensurate with the value our organization is bringing. We are scheduling lots of events. Auto-payers can get a cheaper rate. \$30 per year if you resubscribe each year, but \$25 if you use autopay.
 - Jack, Trygve, Mark to discuss a membership database.
 - Trygve: No
 - Michael: No

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Minutes submitted by Jack Woods.