

# Why Is Delta Heritage Airpark Special?

by George Gregory

I've always had a love of what could be termed "the Golden Age" of aviation. Things were simpler then. Turf airstrips were common, radios in airplanes weren't, and the tails of most airplanes sat on the ground when not in the air. You often had to hand prop your plane. If you wanted something bad enough, and were willing to work hard enough, you could realize your dreams.

Delta harks back to those days. I often picture it in my mind's eye, the grass of the runway fresh and vivid on a still summer afternoon. The quiet talk of those who love to fly, the tinkling sound of an engine cooling in the breeze after a joyous flight. Airplanes with more than one set of wings, and most of them covered with fabric.

It is a gathering place. People come here mostly because they love to fly, and in that sense it is purer than most airports. When you come here, people don't roll their eyes if you start to ramble on about how you plan to cover a wing, or a great flight you had last week. You are among your own kind.

Delta is not my nest, as it were. I learned to fly in Langley, and that airport will always be special for that reason. I had already been flying for six years before I was drawn to this place. Before then, it was little talked about in the flying crowd I hung around with; and it remains my conviction that there are a lot of people out there who have yet to discover this gentle place. More people should know about us.

The other airports are busy with their commuter lines, their flying schools, and other such activities. They have their VASI's, their ILS's, and there is almost always someone you have to talk to go anywhere. You need radios, transponders (sometimes mode C). Not Delta. It is more than anything the love of simple flight and its culture that makes it the place it is.

All that happens here is done by volunteers; people who for these reasons, and others put their shoulders to the wheel and help out. I marvel at the effort some folks put in to Delta and its associated clubs. Volunteerism has been at the root of the sport flying world since the beginning, and it is what continues to make all this possible: the company of such people is surely one of life's great priviledges.

What makes Delta Heritage Airpark special? Two things: the place, and the people. I am grateful for both.

## **DELTA HERITAGE AIRPARK COMMITTEE.**

Chair .....	Terry Wilshire
Secretary .....	Bruce Prior
Treas .....	Dirk Post
Grounds and RAA representative .....	Pat O'Donnell
Buildings .....	Ron Greenough
Fuel .....	David Smith
Briefing Room .....	Margaret Smith
Rentals .....	Tony Swain
BBFC .....	Kurt Fischbacher
Heli Rep .....	Sherri Friesen
Printer/Editor .....	George Gregory
Reporters .....	Margaret Smith
.....	David Smith

### **DHAP Fuel System**

Delta Heritage Airpark operates a self-serve, 24 hour card-lock fuel system which accepts Visa, Mastercard and American Express. Both 100LL and 80/87 Avgas are available. A small supply of oil is available in the Pilots Lounge when it is open.

As of the date of publication, our prices are:

100LL\$0.825/ltr.

80/87\$0.913/ltr.

Please note that our fuel facility, like all DHAP facilities, is operated by volunteers. If difficulties occur it may not be possible to correct them immediately.

### **DHAP Aircraft Parking Rates**

Currently all hangars at DHAP are full but some tiedowns are available. As of the date of publication our rates are:

T-Hangars\$159.00/mo.

Tiedowns (grass)\$25.00/mo.

### **DHAP Pilots Lounge**

The Delta Heritage Airpark Pilots Lounge is operated on a volunteer basis and is open whenever volunteers are available to staff it, primarily on weekends. When open, the Pilots Lounge offers coffee, tea, hot chocolate, soft drinks, cookies, muffins and (occasionally) pie and ice-cream. The Pilots Lounge also offers a very friendly atmosphere.

The first Sunday of each month, the RAA sponsor a Pancake Breakfast in the Pilots Lounge offering pancakes, egg, sausage and hash-browns for \$3.00, along with lots of Friendly Atmosphere.

Any volunteers interesting in helping out with the operation of the Pilots Lounge please contact Margaret Smith at 513-0353.

## **Welcome** (continued from page 1)

busy outdoors too, putting into effect new safety measures in the form of safety chains, to protect both the public and our tenants alike, by defining pedestrian from aircraft areas, & preserving the taxiways from would be Jackie Stewarts.

Plans are underway to clean up the exterior of the Pilots Briefing Room and many hangars will be attended to in the form of repairs. So, you can see Phil has a long list of "to do" items, most of which will be volunteer time on his part.

### **IS THIS DEDICATION OR WHAT?**

Phil & Manon will be on hand most days, you can reach them via the office phone, 543-8894, or around the park area. **HOWEVER**, their home is private, and other than emergency situations on the field, business matters should be kept to "office hours", in the briefing room.

Together, Phil & Manon have transformed the old trailer

home into a little paradise.

We wish them well and thank them sincerely for their efforts.

### **VOLUNTEERS AT DELTA AIRPARK**

The survival of Delta Heritage Airpark has been as the result of many hours, over 2- 3 years by dedicated volunteers. From the chairman to the individual who washes dishes and all the chores in between those 2 categories, we the tenants of Delta Heritage Airpark, owe an enormous debt of gratitude.

To that end we are planning a Volunteer Appreciation Event, probably in spring 98, in the form of a simple BBQ, and, maybe even a plane ride, if any of you pilot types would be kind enough to donate your skill & aeroplane passenger seat. No speeches, certificates or trophies, just a gathering of hard working people, whose goal is to preserve our airfield as a legacy for future generations.

We'll keep you posted, watch this space next bulletin.

## **Touch and Go**

D H A P m i s c e l l a n y ,  
n e w s a n d u p c o m i n g  
e v e n t s

**Welcome** to the first edition of the Delta Heritage Airpark Newsletter. The main purpose of this newsletter is to keep our tenants and users informed about what is happening at DHAP with information about any issues concerning the policies, operation and future of the airpark. We also hope to share some interesting information about the history of DHAP and about the people that use the airpark. The intention is to publish the newsletter on a quarterly basis.

**DHAP** is owned by the Provincial Government, acquired as part of the Boundary Bay Linear Park. The park is operated for the government by GVRD which has signed an agreement with RAA Chapter 85 to operate the Delta Heritage Airpark on behalf of GVRD.

**The Delta Airpark Committee**, DAPCOM, is responsible for the day to day operation of the airpark including maintenance and repairs, setting rental rates and management of the fuel system. DAPCOM includes representatives of the major tenants of DHAP, RAA, BBFC, Aerobatics and the unaffiliated tenants. The Chairman of DAPCOM is appointed by the RAA.

**The Management Committee** is responsible for the overseeing of the airpark operations and is answerable to the GVRD Parks Committee. The GVRD Parks Committee reports to the GVRD Parks Board. The Management Committee consists of elected members of the Delta Municipality, appointees from the GVRD Parks Committee,

members of the GVRD staff, RAA, neighbours and a representative of the Ministry of the Environment.

**The Flight Monitoring Committee** is made up of representatives of DAPCOM, GVRD, Delta Municipality and the local residents, and is presently chaired by Cllr. George Hawksworth from Delta Municipality. The job of this committee is to ensure that the airpark operates in harmony with the local area, formulates and monitors airpark operating procedures in accordance with Transport Canada regulations, and reviews individual complaints made against the airpark.

**Open information meeting:** The DAPCOM meeting on Thursday, January 29, 1998 at 7:30 pm will be an open information session for the operating committee to bring tenants and local residents up to date on the current status of the airpark and plans for the coming year. Come and find out what is happening at your airpark!

We wish to remind everyone that DAPCOM, the Management Committee and Flight Monitoring Committee meetings are held on a regular basis and that all meetings are open. If you wish to attend please contact GVRD for dates and times.

**Newsletter Submissions:** Contributions are welcome and understandably the limits of time and space are important. For the April '98 issue, articles must be submitted, preferably on floppy disk (and in TXT format if done on a PC! - your humble editor) by March 6. Photographs may also be submitted; they should be identified re: content and also for return to owner. Submissions should be given to David or Margaret Smith or sent by fax to 513-0373.

**Happy flying!**

**Your article could be  
right here!**