

## AIRPORT HISTORY TIMELINE

- 1910: The first airplane flight in Arizona. Charles Hamilton pilots a Curtiss Pusher over Tucson.
- Pre-1920: The target range at Fort Whipple serves as an airplane landing field.
- 1926: July 4, Yavapai County Chamber of Commerce celebrates opening of airstrip built by volunteers and pilots at site of Prescott Municipal Airport. The Perkins Cattle Co. leases the land to the Chamber. The airstrip consists of two runways with a 100-foot circle at the intersections. Ropes and Ford axles are used for tiedowns. Volunteers also build two outhouses.
- 1927: The approved City budget contains no contribution for the airport but does include \$250 for a City bandmaster and \$1,125 for the Chamber of Commerce.
- 1928: Prescott Mayor E. C. Seale appoints a committee to pursue providing telephone service at the airport. Council agrees to set aside \$375 to pay for the telephone installation. Mountain States Telephone Co. installs a telephone line at no cost to the City. The City uses the \$375 to build the first City-owned hangar. The Chamber of Commerce requests financial assistance for an airport dedication. City Council donates \$200 for this purpose.
- On August 28, dedication of Ernest A. Love Field at the site of the current Prescott Airport terminal. Governor George W. P. Hunt and Arizona Senator Henry F. Ashurst attend. A monument of stones and cement is unveiled during the ceremony. (Unfortunately, this monument is now gone, probably due to vandalism.)
- 1932: The airport boasts three hangars but falls into disuse and disrepair during the Great Depression. The phone is removed and the outhouses are demolished.
- 1934: Aviation enthusiasts form Prescott Flying Club. An old boxcar is placed at the airport and used for a terminal. Two new outhouses are constructed. A new phone and floor are installed in the telephone booth. A bull snake makes its home in the booth. The City budget for the airport is \$48.
- 1937: Airport was included in annual budget for first time under heading of Civic Betterment. Funds are included to pay for the telephone service.

- 1938: The City Council contracts with R. E. Perkins Cattle Co. to purchase 320 acres for the airport for \$1,500. Prescott boasts one of seven airports in Arizona. The others are in Kingman, Winslow, Yuma, Phoenix, Tucson and Douglas.
- Airport users ask the City Council for money to grade and lengthen the airport runway for airmail service. The Council agrees to spend no more than \$500 on the improvements in Fiscal Year 1939.
- 1939: The runway is graded at a cost of \$100.50. The airport's portion of City budget is increased from \$50 to \$550.
- 1940: No airport revenue. WPA program changes lumpy grass runway to smooth pavement.
- 1941: Budget increased to \$2,000.
- City of Prescott doubles the size of the airport acreage to one square mile, paving the way for Federal funding to develop the airport complex.
- 1942: Lights added to the airport. Stinson Flying School opens. City adds second hangar. City assumes management of the airport. Ernest A. Love Field is constructed for \$300,000 by remodeling a cow pasture and excavating ½ million yards of earth and 3 months constant work.
- 1943: First restaurant opens. Airport gets its largest budget increase yet from \$3,600 to \$90,508. Expected revenue for 1944 is \$83,900. Three flying companies are operating on the field: Stinson Flying Corporation, Monrovia Flying Service and Colbach Flying Service.
- 1944: Control tower is constructed. FAA Flight Service Station is established and first Coca-Cola machine installed at the airport. U.S. Navy leases some hangars and buildings for the purpose of training cadets. The U.S. Weather Bureau and CAA are on the field and operating.
- 1946: Air service from Prescott to Phoenix established. Arizona Airways offers two daily roundtrips.
- 1947: TWA provides airline service. Arizona Aero makes application to the CAB to carry mail. Heaviest holiday travel season in history with 3,000 gallons of gas sold daily. Café serves 400 airline dinners daily. U. S. Forest Service locates on Ernest A. Love Field.
- 1950: In June, Frontier Airlines begins serving Prescott.
- 1951: \$80,000 in improvements to landing strips are completed. Runway 3/21 is lengthened from 6,000 feet to its present length of 7,616 feet.

- 1952: Airport revenue is \$47,900. Terminal Building is built with Federal aid. Services include Cochise Airlines, Skyway Restaurant and three 10,000-gallon underground fuel tanks for the fueling operation.
- 1959: Thirteen airplanes are now based at the airport.
- 1962: U. S. Forest fire-fighting plant opens at the airport in the \$7,000 Butler building. TWA discontinues service but Bonanza Airlines adds Love Field to their route.
- 1963: Sale of airport land to Emerson Electric.
- 1964: Frontier Airlines pulls out leaving Bonanza to fill the gap.
- 1969: Airport revenue is \$132,808 and total expenditures are \$135,345 for a loss of \$2,537. The Airport Manager works ½ time at the airport and ½ time at the golf course. The airport has 3 employees and the café has 3.
- 1970: New Flight Service Station building constructed in June for \$100,498.
- 1971: One hundred airplanes are now based at the airport. Standard Oil is contracted to supply fuel.
- 1972: Terminal constructed - 6,400 square feet.
- 1973: Hangar A & Old Shade constructed.
- 1974: Lighting system is rebuilt with City funds of \$42,000 and \$24,000 in State funds. T-hangars are completed and occupied generating revenue of \$830/month.
- 1975: Airport acquires its first fire truck designed to fight aircraft and airport fires. The truck is valued at \$67,000 and was given free to the airport.
- 1977: ERAU opens a branch of their flight school at the airport and Hangar B constructed.
- 1978: ERAU opens a western campus in Prescott.
- 1979: Hangars C & D are constructed.
- 1983: Portable Hangars constructed.
- 1984: FAA Automated Flight Service Station locates at airport consolidating all Flight Service operations in state.
- 1988: U. S. Forest Service facility completed on Melville Road.
- 1989: Hangars E1 and E2 are completed.

- 1991: Airport gets improvements totaling nearly \$3.3 million.
- 1992: Hangars F, G and New Shade constructed in Bottleneck Area and occupied in 1993.
- 1993: Runway 3L/21R constructed to relieve traffic on Runway 21L.
- 1994: Based aircraft now totals 265. Passenger enplanements for America West Express reach an annual high of 14,493.
- 1995: Runways are resurfaced and taxiway is extended.
- 1996: The first Airport Visioning Conference involving community leaders and airport users sets the goals for developing the airport to meet the needs of the region. A new Airport Master Plan study is initiated. Hangars H and I are completed and occupied in August.
- 1997: Taxiway Charlie is resurfaced. The Airport Master Plan is accepted by FAA and adopted by Council.
- 1998: New aviation fuel storage facility is constructed. Air Fair celebrates 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1928 airport dedication. The City Council adopts the policy to match federal and state aviation grants with funds from the Capital Improvement Fund. Hangars J, K & L are constructed and occupied.
- 1999: Safety Area Improvements to Runway 3L/21R eliminates drainage ditches near runway. Parking lot lights installed in terminal area and ramp lighting installed on both North and South aircraft ramps.
- 2000: Airfield operations during Calendar Year 2000 totaled 320,037.
- 2001: New crash/fire/rescue truck is purchased with an FAA grant for \$425,000. Airport Specific Area Plan adopted by City Council on June 26, 2001.
- 2002: North Ramp pavement rehabilitation and Taxiway Echo Area pavement reconstruction projects completed. Terminal auto parking lot is resurfaced. Aircraft fueling now exceeds one million gallons of Jet and Aviation grade gasoline annually. Calendar year airfield operations increases to 338,208.
- 2003: Hangars M, N, O & P constructed in Bottleneck Area. Construction of Taxiway Kilo and future hangar site near Taxiway Delta and Melville Road. The rehabilitated South Ramp will serve as the new transient ramp. Chevron furnishes a tug and GPU for airport use. Based aircraft totals 334.