

To Protect, Preserve, Improve and Promote...

Friends Of New Smyrna Beach Airport Inc.

The New Smyrna Beach Municipal Airport began as a humble 2,500 foot grass strip surrounded by orange groves. In 1942 the United States Navy converted the site into a training airport for Navy aviators by constructing four 5,000 foot paved runways. A large number of U.S. Navy aviators trained at our airport, and contributed greatly to the U.S. effort during World War II.

On April 10, 1947 the U.S. federal government gave the airport to the City of New Smyrna Beach, on the condition that the land continue to be used as a public access airport in perpetuity. The gift included 772 acres of land, all runways and taxiways, and the buildings on the airport. Today our airport is named Jack Bolt Field in honor of long-time New Smyrna Beach resident Jack Bolt, the only Marine pilot to become an Ace during both World War II (flying with the legendary Black Sheep Squadron commanded by Maj. Gregory "Pappy" Boyington) and the Korean War.

Since 1947 the size of our airport has decreased to 718 acres, one runway was shortened to 4,200 feet, another to 4,000 feet, and one runway was closed completely. Houses have replaced the orange groves which once encircled the WWII Navy training field, and developers now call for further shortening the 4,000 foot runway to allow for more construction.

To defend our historic airport from these threats, in 2007 Friends Of New Smyrna Beach Airport Inc. (FONSBA) was founded as a Florida non-profit corporation. Our mission is to protect, preserve, improve, and promote our airport.

FONSBA strives to encourage airport-compatible growth in the immediate surroundings of the airport. When the City Commission approved residential construction south of the field, the Commission also imposed conditions such as FAA approval prior to construction in the runway protection zone, and at FONSBA's request directed the Airport Manager to expedite seeking funding to resurface all 4,000 feet of the threatened runway.

FONSBA researches and communicates information about the airport to the City Commission, city management, and the Airport Advisory Board. For example, when questions arose over the location of our



airport's runway protection zones, FONSBA engaged Dr. Seth Young, co-author of the two leading airport design text books in this country, to research the question and render a written opinion for the City. FONSBA has produced several publications, including *The Truth About Our Airport* (2008) and *Preserve Our Airport: Do Not Close or Shorten Runway 2/20* (2008/2009). And on a continuing basis, FONSBA maintains an Airport Economic Survey which shows in black-and-white the tremendous economic and employment contributions which our airport makes to the families of our community every year.

As a Seaside Balloon Fest founding co-sponsor, FONSBA works with the City and the all-volunteer organization which plans and produces this event. This year's event Chairman is FONSBA Vice-President Dr. Arlen Stauffer, whose past experience organizing and producing air shows at our airport has proven invaluable for this year's Seaside Balloon Fest.

The membership of FONSBA is dedicated to volunteerism and using our aircraft for humanitarian purposes. Collectively, FONSBA members have flown for Angel Flight, Brother's Keeper, Pilots And Paws, Volunteers Without Boundaries; transported medical supplies to the Caribbean, Central America, and Uganda; and organized medical relief missions to Peru.

FONSBA President Paul S. Rooy is a long-time airport tenant and local patent attorney. Vice-President Dr. Arlen Stauffer is past Chairman of the Airport Advisory Board, member of the Noise Abatement Committee, and respected resident of New Smyrna Beach, as are Secretary Robert Towe and Treasurer Mike Holoman. Towe is President and CEO of a state-wide Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) energy management company, while Holoman is an HVAC professor at Daytona State College.

Our FONSBA officers, together with the FONSBA Executive Board and hangar captains, stand sentinel, committed to protect, preserve, improve, and promote our airport so that it will flourish into the future to serve our grandchildren as well as it served our grandparents.