

2016 GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Back in the 90's when our airport manager of the year applied for the position of Street Department Superintendent at the city associated with the airport, he was not only very qualified for the position with a strong background in highway construction, but was also a commercial rated pilot. As the street department mowed and maintained the airport, it was clear he was the man for the job.

Our airport manager of the year provided vital support for the airport, going above and beyond – using heavy equipment leased under the RAMP program to prepare a site for T-Hangar development, providing support and preparation for air shows, and anything else the airport needed.

When the position of airport manager became open, it was again clear that he was the man for the job. As a long time city resident with years of experience both using and maintaining the airport, our airport manager of the year was able to contribute a high level of expertise to airport projects and needs, including expert background and support for a new comprehensive airport master plan.

Other projects included the construction of a terminal building that reflects its Hill County location, a comprehensive drainage/taxiway project that alleviated long term drainage issues across the airfield, increasing the safety of operations during heavy rain events.

The recently completed T-Hangar project that utilized TxDOT's design/build process really showcases our airport manager of the year's abilities. He coordinated the use of city and county maintenance crews and equipment with the design/build contractor to keep site development and improvement costs

down and keep the project moving. With his support, the hangar project was completed and occupied in less than a year.

All airport projects have to be coordinated with a joint city-county airport board representing both City Council and Commissioners Court. Our airport manager of the year's long term relationship with the community at large and airport users, along with strong communication skills, allowed him to navigate through this challenging process with ease.

Our airport manager of the year is a busy man, but always has time to greet and assist aircraft operators with their various needs or field questions and provide assistance for visitors at the terminal. He maintains a close relationship with airport tenants, including the recently re-opened aircraft manufacturing operation on the west side of the airfield.

Our airport manager of the year once stated in our Wingtips Newsletter "This airport is the gateway to our community - we have tourists, hunters, a 737 that flies kids in for a huge summer camp, as well as other industries that fly-in and use our facility. Our recent improvements give our airport the opportunity to flourish."

Please join me in congratulating BRUCE MCKENZIE, AIRPORT MANAGER at the KERRVILLE-KERR COUNTY AIRPORT, as the 2016 General Aviation Airport Manager of the Year.