

AZ Flyer News

Spring 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ▶ 2016 aircraft registration fees were due February 29.
- ▶ On or after March 1, the late penalty is \$25 for the first month and \$5 each succeeding month of delinquency.
- ▶ Avoid postage fees; pay online 24 hours a day by check, credit or debit card. It's easy, fast and secure: azdot.gov/AircraftRegistration.
- ▶ Did you know non-airworthy, salvage and stored aircraft must be registered with ADOT/MVD if the FAA registration number is active?
- ▶ During the 2016 registration period over 7100 aircraft have been registered. This includes balloons, gliders, experimental, homebuilt, antique and non-resident aircraft.
- ▶ For changes contact the Aircraft Registration Unit 602.712.6995 or email acreg@azdot.gov
- ▶ Do you have an aviation-related story to share or suggestions for future articles? Please submit your stories or ideas to acreg@azdot.gov.



FROM AIRPLANE GRAVEYARD TO ADOT'S AIRPORT OF THE YEAR

By: Caroline Carpenter, ADOT Communications

Pinal Airpark was once known as an airport graveyard that stored old jets, along with conducting military training and government operations. Today, the Marana airport has been resurrected thanks to a new lease and grant funding. Because of its progress, ADOT recently honored Pinal Airpark as 2016 Airport of the Year.

The airport has overcome many challenges. It's working to become more accessible to public aviation and become compliant with FAA requirements. Improvements include runway rehabilitation and adopting a master plan. A \$2.4 million investment in pavement upgrades was funded by Pinal County and the State Aviation Fund.

The Airport of the Year award recognizes Pinal Airpark for dramatically improving its runway and taxiway pavement. The pavement's poor condition had affected the airport's eligibility for federal and state grant funds for capital improvements. Better pavement also means a safer environment for planes to take off and land.

Pinal Airpark Director Jim Petty said, "All the elements needed

for this effort fell into place after many years of not being able to address and cure the issues. It took county leadership, new ownership of the tenant company that held the lease, many hours of negotiation, and the guidance of the FAA and ADOT Aeronautics."

Because of an exclusive lease, the airpark was known to be unwelcoming to general aviators. Now, pilots as well as tourists are encouraged to visit.

Petty wants everyone to appreciate Pinal Airpark's history. It was once a training ground for pilots in World War II and the Korean conflict. Old planes are still retired to the airpark, and it's still home to a commercial aircraft storage facility that provides maintenance and repair.

ADOT's Aeronautics Group within the Multimodal Planning Division accepts applications and nominations for the Airport of the Year. The Aeronautics Group looks at accomplishments in community relations, management, maintenance, programs and innovation.

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