

SNAP! El Dorado Airport Puts Out The Welcome Mat

June 18, 2014



Cessna Citation fill-up at EQA

Most community members know that El Dorado has an airport, but don't know much about it. Do you know that it's a very positive asset for our community?

The El Dorado Airport (airport identification EQA) was first built in the late 1940s. Over the last 60 years it has seen many changes. A long way from the early grass runway days, it now consists of two intersecting paved runways, each 4200 feet long, over 30 hangar spaces, a maintenance shop, several private businesses and room for more. Thirty-nine airplanes are based on the field.

Under Airport Manager Caleb Marsh's direction, the airport is well maintained, provides great service to customers, and has made many improvements.

As recently as January 2014 a new 10-unit T-hangar was completed, and is already 100% occupied. The most recent improvement is the completion of taxiway C, linking runway 22 to the service apron which should open before July 1. This new feature will improve safety and traffic flow conditions on the runway.

EQA is classified as a general aviation airport, and was AWOS 3P (Automated Weather Observing System) commissioned in 2012. These systems consist of various sensors and a transmitter to broadcast local, minute-by-minute weather data directly to the pilot.

The airport serves many types of customers and purposes. It is an important asset for businesses whose customers and officials fly into El Dorado with ease. College coaches from across the nation use the airport when recruiting athletes at Butler Community College. Air ambulances use the airport to transport critical patients. Many small plane pilots come to EQA to practice landings in the wind on the intersecting runways which allow opportunities for diminished crosswinds.

It is home to several companies including pipeline patrol, crop dusters, flight instruction and aircraft engine service and maintenance. There are two vacant lots on the airport property available for additional businesses. For more information see the Prospective Business Brochure at http://forms.360eldorado.com/16390/Airport_Brochure_pdf.pdf.

“Even if you don’t personally use the El Dorado Airport, El Doradoans should realize that it has a very positive impact on the community in many ways,” said Marsh. You’ll love Caleb’s video tour of the airport at <http://www.360eldorado.com/Government/EIDoradoMunicipalAirport.html>.

On August 16 the airport will host a **Customer Appreciation Fly-In**. The Boy Scouts will be serving breakfast as a fundraiser, and the Experimental Aircraft Association will be offering free Young Eagles flights to kids ages 8 to 17 to give them a first introduction to flying. The event is open to the public, and a parent should accompany children wishing to take the free ride.

Who knew all this was going on out at EQA? Now you do. Snap!