

New Manager at Marin County Airport

Marin County Airport (Novato) has a new manager, Dan Jensen. For the past 12 years Dan was running airport services in Leadville Colorado, an airport best known for its 9927' altitude, highest in North America. The contrast to Marin County could not be sharper, as Gness Field sits only 2 feet above water.



Dan Jensen, Manager Marin County Airport

Mr Jensen's new job comes with more pressure - air pressure that is. Atmospherically speaking, a person living at ten thousand feet feels approximately one third less weight than those of us who live at sea level. So, Dan could say he has the highest pressure job in Marin County and it would be literally true.

Managing our Airport is not so different from Leadville but with an average of 268 flight operations per day there is more to do. A recent day found him manning phones, monitoring flight frequency, renewing tenant leases ...and weed-wacking. Our thicker air may give him go-power but can't add time to his day or hands to his work load.

Mr Jensen received his Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Administration from Metropolitan State College of Denver. He is a commercial pilot, certified flight instructor, a FAA Safety FAASTeam Representative and now manager of Marin's Gness Field for the Marin County Department of Public Works.

Wright field flight line 1948



Years in Colorado prepared Dan to be the hands-on manager expected of a modern municipal air facility. “I know how each department works from experience,” says Dan. “An airport the size of MCA needs a go-to manager on the grounds at least 40 hours per week. Novato has many more flying days than Leadville so the day-to-day operations are both more complex and more rewarding. I love it here.”

William Wright built Marin County’s first airport in 1939, a graded dirt strip adjacent to the current site in north Novato. The first flight school was opened in 1946 by Woody Binford. But it was not until 1959 with the advocacy of Supervisor William Gness that the County purchased the land and set the new runway, ramp, and hangar locations as they are today. Our airport is currently home to nearly 200 private, corporate, and public service aircraft which generate about \$600,000 per year in county tax revenue.

Dan is not expected to “host” airport users & visitors but as the only full time denizen he is the link between the people, the grounds, and the businesses. MCA is an FAA airdrome, federally chartered and regulated, but its use, privilege, and enjoyment belong to all Marin residents and visitors alike. If you have any interest in flying or questions about the airport you can call Dan’s office at 415/897-1754 or write to him at djensen@co.marin.ca.us.