

SAFETY UPDATE 2-16-24 THE LANDINGS AIRPARK

Landings Neighbors,

As we continue to grow in size and number of aircraft operations, it's time to highlight a few safety items that need to be reinforced. The Landings had only a handful of aircraft operating out of our non-lighted runway for several years. It was a rare occasion when there was actually more than one aircraft in the pattern or on taxiways, so conflicts were almost nonexistent. Also, since we were a daylight-only airpark, wildlife runway incursions were not considered to be a significant factor. Because of our proximity to the Pecan Plantation runway (OTX1), the only documented rule was that our pattern was left traffic for 17 and right traffic for 35. **The understood, but unwritten rule was that the calm-wind/preferred runway would always be 17.**

Within the next 18 months, there will be well over 200 lots with runway access. Even now, it is not uncommon to have multiple aircraft in the pattern or taxiing to and from homes at the same time. Also, with the addition of pilot-controlled runway lighting, nighttime operations have increased. In an effort to formalize and create a uniform environment of operations, we will be updating the FAA database as well as the Landings website, to help standardize all operations here in the airpark. **These updates will include the following:**

- 1. The calm wind/preferred runway will always be 17:** There are many reasons for this. It is essential that we comply even when it increases taxiing to and from our homes. This standardizes all pattern operations and will help prevent midair or runway collisions. In the event of an engine failure, this could possibly prevent an aircraft from ending up in a home in The Retreat. In contrast, a departure from 17 allows for emergency landing in non-populated terrain and minimizes noise from aircraft departures for our non-aviation neighbors to the north.
- 2. Pilot-controlled runway lighting:** The FAA database will be updated to show that our runway lighting frequency is 121.975 (Unicom is 122.975 and is in the FAA database). It is encouraged to turn on the runway lighting, even in daylight hours, to indicate that you are in the pattern, taking off, or taxiing from your home to the runway.

Additionally, regarding nighttime operations, it is imperative that extreme caution is taken to minimize the chance of a wildlife incursion. As we all know, there is a large population of deer and, occasionally, feral hogs that populate the area around and on the airstrip. It is strongly encouraged to have spotters on the ground to make clearing passes and inform the pilot via radio if and when it is safe to land. Neighbors have formed groups with thermal vision and handheld radios to help each other when operating at night. New Landings Airpark neighbors are encouraged to form groups with similar equipment to help mitigate the possibility of a wildlife incursion. Please note that deer can be active during the daylight as well, especially during dawn and dusk, and caution should always be exercised.

Now that we have an increased number of aircraft that will be taxiing from more remote lots in the airpark, it is encouraged that we announce on the Unicom frequency (122.975) that we will be taxiing out via the designated taxiway name, i.e., Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, etc. A taxiway map will be posted on Landingsairpark.com this week. Look for the link to it on the Runway Info page.

As pilots, safety is our top priority, and your attention to these issues will help ensure that Landings Airpark will be operating at the highest level of safety possible.

Thank you,
Don Rogers
Tom Woodruff
LAOA Board of Directors