



# The Great Mojave Airlift

On October 15, 2015, Kern County was hit by a major storm which triggered a mudslide on State Route 58, as well as on many backroads throughout the Mojave area. The mudslides left many motorists stranded for hours and resulted in a week-long closure of the highway. Many airport employees were left stuck in Mojave with no way to get to their homes in Tehachapi or Bakersfield, while others were near Tehachapi with no way to get back to Mojave. That Friday morning, local pilots from Tehachapi and Mojave Air & Space Port came up with a plan to rescue those needing to get around the mudslides and quickly dubbed it “The Great Mojave Airlift.”

The idea began with Ken

Hetge, of Recover Your Cub, as a way to get some of the Scaled Composites employees to their homes in Tehachapi. As he and the other pilots realized how many people, not associated with the airport, were stranded and desperate to get to their homes, the effort became an open invitation to anybody seriously impacted by the mudslide. Word quickly got out about the sign up sheet in the Mojave Airport Pilot’s Lounge and many the pilots were busy flying people home for the majority of that Friday and Saturday. Not only were the pilots

gracious enough to offer their time and services, but they also refused to accept any compensation for fuel. Pilots from Scaled Composites, Virgin Galactic, The SpaceShip Company, Orbital ATK, and many other private pilots from Mojave and Tehachapi participated

Photo Credit: Scaled Composites



## Scaled Composites Names New President

On October 22, 2015 Scaled Composites formally announced the departure of President Kevin Mickey and named the new President and Executive Vice President/Chief Technology Officer. Kevin Mickey has taken on a new role for Scaled’s mother company, Northrop Grumman. He will be succeeded by Ben Diachun who has been with

Scaled Composites for 12 years. Diachun has held many roles for Scaled Composites including Project Engineer, Flight Test Engineer, Chase Pilot, Business Development Manager, Director of Engineering, and most recently, Vice President of Engineering. Cory Bird, who has been with Scaled Composites for over 30 years,

has been named Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer. Kevin Mickey said regarding the transition, “This is a very exciting time for aerospace, and Ben and Cory are just the team to keep Scaled at the forefront of innovation.

Diachun and Bird took over their new roles effective October 31, 2015.

### Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting	11/3
Senator Fuller’s Mobile Office Hours	11/5
Veteran’s Day Ceremony @ Legacy Park	11/11
Board Meeting	11/17
Plane Crazy Saturday	11/21
Thanksgiving Day—CLOSED	11/26
Admin Office CLOSED	11/27

### This month in airport history:

Before officially becoming Mojave Air & Space Port, the airport was known as East Kern Airport District, or EKAD for short. Though the airport was becoming more and more well known throughout the world, the EKAD name was not as well known, nor often referred to. Instead, it was already being referred to as Mojave Airport or Mojave Spaceport. On November 20, 2012, the Board of Directors voted to officially change the name to Mojave Air & Space Port. The official name change took effect January 1, 2013.

### Photo Of The Month:

#### MOJAVE AIR AND SPACE PORT

1434 Flightline  
Building 58  
Mojave, CA 93501

Phone: 661-824-2433  
Email: [info@mojaveairport.com](mailto:info@mojaveairport.com)  
Website: [www.mojaveairport.com](http://www.mojaveairport.com)

*Imagination Flies Here!*



*Wasabi*

*Photo Credit: Jane Jarvis*

To see your picture featured in the MASP Newsletter, e-mail [info@mojaveairport.com](mailto:info@mojaveairport.com)



[www.facebook.com/mojaveairport](http://www.facebook.com/mojaveairport)



[@mojaveairport](https://www.instagram.com/mojaveairport)



### Canned Food Drive

A local non-profit organization, Inspiring Adolscence, Inc., has a box in our reception office in Building 58 to collect canned goods. They will be using these goods to make Thanksgiving food baskets for local families in need. If you are interested in donating any non-perishable goods, please bring them to the main administration office.

*Pilots take no special joy in walking. Pilots like flying.  
—Neil Armstrong*

### Memorial Plaques added at Legacy Park

During the month of October, three memorial plaques were unveiled at Legacy Park in honor of those we have lost here at Mojave Air & Space Port. On Friday, October 23, National Test Pilot School unveiled two of the plaques in an intimate ceremony performed by NTPS Director Dr. Al Peterson. The first is in honor of Ron Bradley and Major Kim Cheongon lost in a flight test training accident on December 4, 2003. Mr. Bradley was an NTPS Test Pilot Instructor, and Major Cheongon was a test pilot student from the Republic of Korea Air Force. The second is in honor of a more recent loss. On October 24, 2014 the airport lost Mike Hill, NTPS Test Pilot Instructor and NTPS Flight Test Summer Camp Director, and Ilam Zigante, Flight Test Engineer Student, in a flight test training accident. Both plaques were dedicated by the National Test Pilot School, and are now

on display at Legacy Park.

Scaled Composites unveiled a third plaque on October 30. This was dedicated to Michael Alsbury, Test Pilot, lost on October 31, 2014 in the devastating SpaceShip Two accident.

The sacrifice these men have made for the advancement of humankind will never be forgotten.

