

## EAGLE LANDING AIRPORT HISTORY AND UPDATE

In the early days of Eagle Landing, about 1985, the airfield was an essential part of what then was a fly-in fishing destination. The airfield was an original part of the planning of our HOA community. Every resident who purchases property here sees the airfield the first time they drive into Eagle Landing. For the enlightenment of those who may not have any information about the airfield, this is a summary of purposes, changes, and improvements.

About twelve years ago, the HOA in coordination with the Avinger Volunteer Fire Department erected a substation on the airfield. This allowed for a faster response if a fire broke out at Eagle Landing because of the proximity of a fire truck as well as having trained volunteer fire fighters who were residents at Eagle Landing. Having a substation improved our fire rating, and also served to lower homeowners' insurance premiums. Additionally, the airstrip serves as a firebreak for the community if a wildfire should break out on Highway 155.

A maximum effort was made several years ago by active pilots and the HOA Board who took steps to control Bahia grass which had been planted on the runway. Because of the existence of this troublesome grass, mowing frequency in the spring and summer months was necessary but costly for our HOA. The Bahia made landing on our airstrip dangerous due to the height and rapid growth of the grass. The association originally hired outside contractors to spray the Bahia. After a couple of years, the HOA purchased a spray rig so the work could be done by volunteers, Board members, and pilots, using their own equipment and time at a fraction of the cost. Today the Bahia is well under control, and our turf grass has improved significantly over the years.

In 2023, Eagle Landing resident Steve Biles became the official airport manager of record with the FFA (Federal Aviation Administration). Steve is a hangar owner on the airfield. He is also an Air Force veteran who was involved in airport management during his service. With Steve's guidance we obtained an official CTAF frequency, 122.9, through the FAA. This frequency enables pilots to communicate their location and intentions around the airfield to each other. It increases safety by decreasing the chance of aircraft collisions. It is particularly important when Care Flight is operating on the field. When someone in Eagle Landing or our general area needs emergency hospitalization, our airfield is where Care Flight lands. In addition to the CTAF frequency, we erected signs at both ends of the runway, giving pilots valuable information on field elevation, runway lengths, and headings, along with radio frequencies used for navigation. Our windsock midfield on the south side was upgraded several years ago. In addition, we added a new windsock at the east end of the field near the Care Flight landing zone. In other words, absent a snack bar and lounge, Eagle Landing is an actual airport. Our official FFA identifier is 61TA. When you Google that, you will see our airport on line.

Regarding residents' use of the airport area, all residents are encouraged to make use of the airfield perimeter on both sides of the airfield for jogging, dog walking, strolling, and enjoying the gorgeous sunsets. The airfield proper is for aircraft use only. Activities such as flying drones, hitting golf balls, or operating any vehicles on the airfield landing area are strictly forbidden. If anyone has questions regarding the airfield, you may contact:

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