

## **Cameron Park Airport District (CPAD)**

When the members of the 2018 CPAD Board of Directors were sworn in they were acutely aware of the long-running financial challenges facing our Special District. With fresh eyes on the budget, the Board quickly confirmed the financial needs to operate the Cameron Park Airport District (the District) to the standard of its published mission, below, far outstripped our available funding:

*“The Cameron Park Airport District will provide a safe, well-maintained, first-class airport serving the local community, Airpark residents, pilots, and their aircraft, within the national airspace system as a long-term sustainable airport, financially, operationally, and environmentally.”*

There are several ways to raise the funds need for a viable operating budget and the Board continues to explore and evaluate them all. A recent example is the assessment and adjustment of hangar and tiedown lease rates conducted by a Board committee. This article focuses on the newly announced **Cameron Park Airport Foundation** (the Foundation) which was recently established by several O61 enthusiasts as a means of providing additional support for the airport’s longevity, support for the airport that up to now did not exist. The Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization that is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions solely for the airport.

## **Cameron Park Airport Foundation (CPAF)**

The idea to create a nonprofit organization as a way for airport enthusiasts to help support the Cameron Park Airport’s upkeep and operational needs is not new. Most long-time O61 regulars can recall recurring hangar chatter about the desire for an entity that enables tax-deductible donations to the District of cash or in-kind assets. Those conversations were usually in tandem with frustrated exchanges over the District’s budget! What was missing from those discussions was a motivated person to make the formation of such a foundation happen. Enter our champion, airpark resident and airport supporter, Knud Kirkegaard!

Knud began the journey of forming the 501(c)3 by looking for similar charitable entities. With the goal of “not reinventing the wheel,” Knud found both the [Lincoln Airport Foundation](#) (Montana) and the well-known [Recreational Aviation Foundation](#) (RAF). The two successful entities have the same founder and, to Knud’s good fortune, that individual was willing to provide friendly guidance on forming a 501(c)3 in a manner that gave O61’s fledgling foundation a flying start. Further support for building the new organization came from several Airpark residents with personal experience creating and managing charitable organizations. Their gracious input helped avoid formation mistakes and was very appreciated.

Knud leveraged other resources such as courses offered by the California Association of Nonprofits and the IRS. The course guidance helped with navigating the numerous federal and state agencies and their respective plethora of forms and filings. With a running start, Knud then gathered help from fellow O61 enthusiasts and created the Foundation’s first board, calling on airpark resident *Mike Bell* to serve as Treasurer, friend-of-the-airport *Kevin Cooksy* as Secretary, and, serving humbly as the Foundation’s founding President, *Knud*, himself.

The Cameron Park Airport Foundation is now operating as an established California 501(c)3 non-profit. A few remaining tasks are underway including launching an inexpensive website, establishing an

appropriate NPO bank account, enabling modern ways to accept donations dedicated to supporting the public airport assets, and, of course, designing an awesome CPAF logo!

CPAF can accept donations that are deductible but only by check or cash at this point. Deposits will have to wait until we have setup the appropriate bank account.