

THE LUSCOMBE COURANT

NEWSLETTER OF THE CONTINENTAL LUSCOMBE ASSOCIATION

GATHERING OF LUSCOMBES 2006

Columbia Airport Rules, Regulations, and Noise Abatement Procedures

Event Location: The event will be on the north side of runway 11/29.

Unicom – Both Columbia and Pine Mountain Lake use 123.05. Columbia AWOS is on 124.65

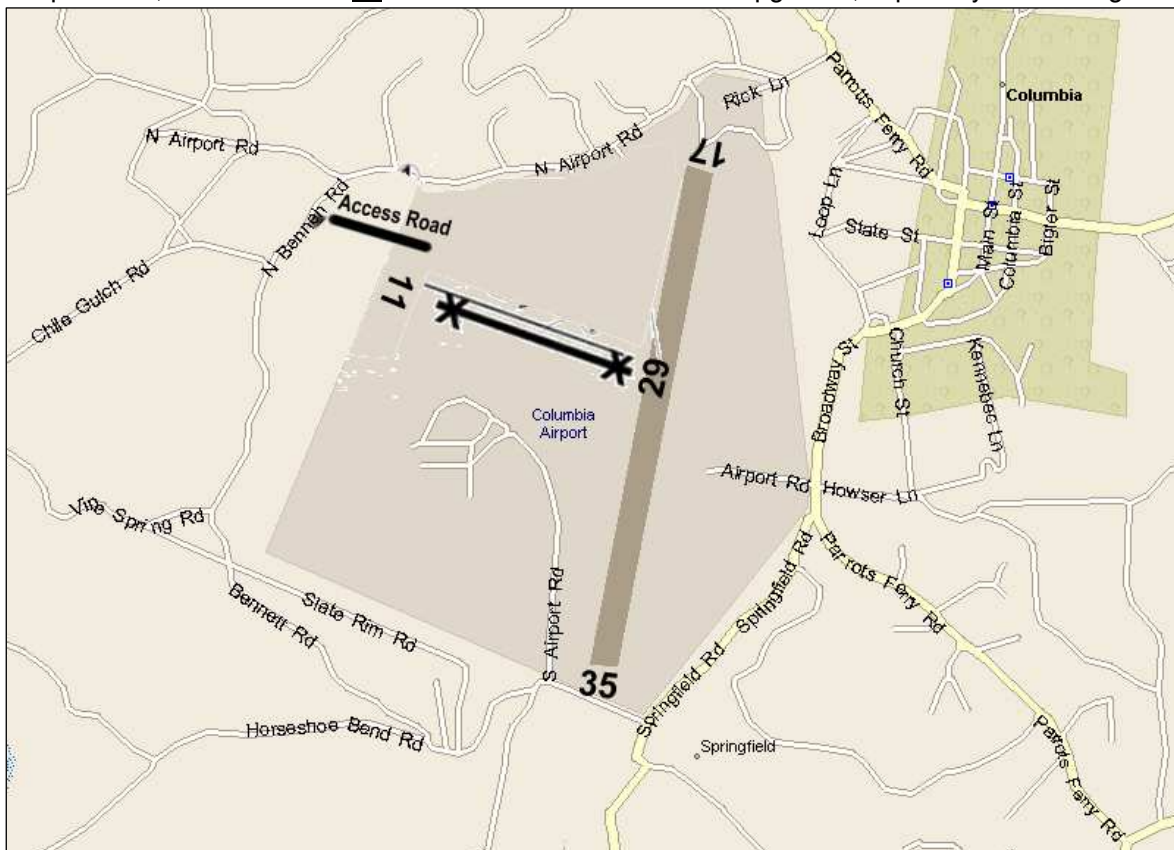
Grass Runway -- Grass runway (11/29) will be closed beginning on at noon on Friday, May 19^t through Sunday, May 21. **Overflying closed runway 11/29 is prohibited** – During past years, a few participating aircraft have overflowed the closed area. Any over flight of Runway 11/29 that is not part of a normal traffic pattern for Runway 17/35 is **prohibited**, regardless of altitude, when Runway 11/29 is closed. Airport personnel regard overflight as a serious compromise of safety. Please **don't let this be an issue** – *refrain from overflying the grass runway.*

Turns After Takeoff – County ordinance 18.16.030 prohibits turns after takeoff until the airport boundary has been reached. Airport personnel **will report infractions** of this law.

Tiedown and Campground Fees – The transient parking fee is \$4.00 per night per plane. Individuals remaining overnight in the campground are expected to pay the use fee -- \$8.00 per night per plane, which includes the transient parking fee. These fees go directly to the County to help defray airport operating costs. **Please be sure to pay your fair share** – *these fees are separate from and in addition to registration fees.*

No Campfires! – As the campground is located in an area of **HIGH FIRE DANGER**, campfires are prohibited. (Somehow that sounds like an empty warning this year...)

Campground Access – Vehicles are to use the access road connecting to Chili Gulch Road, where the gate is open from 8:00 AM Friday to 5:00 PM Sunday. This is at the northwest corner of the airport (map below is North-up). Near the campground at the end of the access road is an overnight parking area. Other than those vehicles with permission from the Airport Department, there are to be no vehicles inside the walk-in campground, especially not overnight.



Fuel

100LL is available on the field from Bald Eagle Aviation, the local FBO. Fuel will be available from a truck, which will be making the rounds on Saturday. (Possibly on Friday as well- details to follow.) Note that 80LL is no longer available.

About Columbia, CA

If this is your first trip to the Gathering of Luscombes, you're in for a historic and fun weekend. That is, if you even make it past the long lineup of Luscombes...

The Columbia Airport is within walking distance of the town (approximately one mile, plus the distance across the airport). Columbia is the best-preserved gold rush town in the Mother Lode. The town is a state park, and is full of shops, exhibits, and activities of the 1850s. We expect the town's hotels to sell out, due to several other events that coincide with ours, including the Jumping Frog contest in Calaveras (yes, they still do that!).

Weather

Columbia is usually quite warm in May, although the weather is fully capable of wet and cold. Plan for the nineties during the day, and low forties at night. Unless it rains...

Activities

If you want to seek daytime diversions off the airport, there is an excellent gold mine tour that leaves from the park in town. This tour visits a working mine down a hair-raising road. Best part – natural air conditioning and the tour lasts a good share of Saturday afternoon. Or, for a different kind of "chill," a two-hour Ghost Walk can be arranged with the City Hotel on Saturday afternoon.

Sonora and Jamestown are also nearby and feature antique shopping and steam train rides. Car or taxis are the only way to get there

Rental Cars

Rental cars are available by advance arrangement from Enterprise Car Rentals in Sonora. Enterprise's telephone number is (209) 533-0500. They will come out to the airport, pick you up, and take you into Sonora to pick your vehicle up. You can leave the car at the airport when you depart (details from the rental agency).

Lodging

All of the following are local, and all are unique in some manner. Since some of the buildings are historic, make certain you ask about "features" such as private baths, air conditioning, etc. All of the businesses listed below are walk-able, although some of them are quite a hike. **Note: Columbia's accommodations are mostly sold out this year. Plan ahead!**

Blue Nile Inn (Bed and Breakfast) (209) 532-8041 11250 Pacific St., Columbia, CA www.Blue-Nile-Inn.com

Columbia City & Fallon Hotels (two separate hotels) (800) 532-1479, Main Street, Columbia, CA www.cityhotel.com

The City Hotel also has a highly acclaimed restaurant if you are interested in a special dining experience during your stay. More information can be found on the website under "dining".

Columbia Inn Motel, (209) 533-0446, 22646 Broadway St., Columbia, CA,

Harlan House B&B, (209) 533-4862 Schoolhouse Rd., Columbia, CA,

There is also lodging available in nearby Sonora. Ground transportation will be needed as it's about 4 miles from the Columbia airport to the town of Sonora.

Sonora Days Inn, (209) 532-2400, 160 S. Washington St., Sonora, CA, \$64 to \$73, www.sonoradaysinn.com

Best Western Sonora Oaks, (209) 533-4400, 19551 Hess Avenue, Sonora, CA, \$76.99 to \$76.99,

www.rimhospitality.com/html/bwsonora.html

Additional Information

The local chamber of commerce lists a number of additional hotels at www.tcchamber.com, and even more are listed at www.TheGreatUnfenced.com and www.ColumbiaCalifornia.com. Remember that you'll need transportation for anything outside of Columbia proper, including some of the options that list their address as Columbia.