

CLOSE-UP

# Dry Creek Airport

## Pilots find a home at airplane community

By Michael Baxter

**D**ry Creek Airport is a community of about 30 homes on Skinner Road where hangars have replaced traditional garages, and the neighbors share a common mindset: a passion for flying.

Built in 1970 by two World War II veterans as a residential getaway for their airplanes, the privately owned airport soon developed into a well-manicured, grassed runway lined with upscale homes and outfitted with the latest technology.

“The reason that I bought here was so that I didn’t have to go to the airport . . . I was already at the airport,” said Keith Newman, resident of Dry Creek.

Newman and his wife Renate said they enjoy the lifestyle of owning a home on the airstrip.

“Recently, my wife and I wanted to go to Galveston, so we

simply pulled the airplane out and flew to the island, walked to Moody Gardens for lunch and a walkabout, then came back,” Newman said. “Forty minutes

there and forty minutes back ... less than half the time to make the drive.”

The Dry Creek Airport is managed and operated by its residents throughout the year with no public support.

“If you are an

avid boater you build your home on a lake. If you are into golfing you build on the fairway,” said Bill Hicks, resident of Dry Creek. “Our passion just happens to be aviation, and there’s not a nicer place to live than Dry Creek.”

*“Our passion just happens to be aviation, and there’s not a nicer place to live than Dry Creek.”*

*—Bill Hicks, Dry Creek resident*

**Dry Creek Airport**  
www.ts07.org



Photos by Michael Baxter

About 30 Dry Creek residents use this grass landing strip to take off and land their planes. ▲

Bill Hick’s home in Dry Creek has a control tower-style room over the garage. ►



Flight instructor and Dry Creek resident Mike Meadows (left) teaches a student.



Residents have garages for their cars and hangars for their planes.



Keith Newman, a resident of Dry Creek, flies a Grumman Lynx plane.