PRESCOTT ERNEST A. LOVE FIELD

Airport Managers

Pickens E. “Tex” Woodson [1]	JUL 1926 – NOV 1927 >
Stephen A. "Steve" Spear [2]	< DEC 1930 – DEC 1933 > [AYB [2]]
Elbert McWilliams	1935 (“Operations Manager”; "Attendant")
W. D. Bumpus	1936-37 (“Caretaker”)
Ray Purves	< 1940 >
M. W. Maxwell [3]	JUN 1942 – AUG 1942
Marcus E. Rawlins [4]	Acting Manager: AUG 1942 – OCT 1942
Ray Purves [5]	OCT 1942 – JUL 1945
Grant W. MacCurdy [6]	JUL 1945 – AUG 1948
John H. Bucher	AUG 1948 – JUN 1953
Grant W. MacCurdy [6]	JUL 1953 – JUL 1959
William M. “Bill” Hightower	SEP 1959 – 1961 (served in de facto capacity since MacCurdy left; appointed manager in September)
[Position Not Filled] [7]	1961 – AUG 1969
Dr. Roy Y. Evans	AUG 1969 – DEC 1969
Richard A. "Dick" Williams	FEB 1970 – JUL 1970 (was also assistant city manager and city clerk)
Ed Mollring [8]	JAN 1971 – JUL 1971 (city planning director; involved in airport matters at least as early as Sep. 1970)
Paul O. Munger	JUL 1971 – FEB 1973
Rudy J. Clarke	APR 1973 – MAR 1975
Paul O. Munger	Acting Manager: MAR 1975 – NOV 1975 Manager: NOV 1975 – JUN 1978
Mark Alver	Acting Manager: JUN 1978 – FEB 1979 Manager: FEB 1979 – APR 1981
James M. “Jim” Morrison	Manager: APR 1981 – APR 1985 Acting Manager: APR 1985 – 1986
Michael “Mike” Klein	JUN 1987 – OCT 1991

Bob Mezzetti [9]	Acting Manager: NOV 1991 – JUL 1992 Manager: JUL 1992 – JUN 1996
Chuck Fulton	Interim Manager: JUL 1996 – JAN 1997
Richard W. “Rick” Severson [10]	JAN 1997 – OCT 2007
Benjamin D. “Ben” Vardiman	OCT 2007 – JUL 2012
Jeffrey S. “Jeff” Tripp	DEC 2012 – MAY 2014
John Cox	JUL 2014 – AUG 2017
Jessie Baker	AUG 2017 – FEB 2018 (Ass't. Manager; Acting Manager)
Dr. Robin Sobotta [11]	FEB 2018 – OCT 2023 (title became Airport Director)
Kelly Fredericks	Interim Director: NOV 2023 – MAY 2024
Richard "Rick" Crider	MAY 2024 –

NOTES:

From 1926 until the City of Prescott formally purchased the airport property in 1938, the overall management of the airport was handled by members of the Aviation Committee of the Yavapai County Chamber of Commerce. In those early days, "management" mostly involved freshening the rudimentary surface markings and conducting a relentless battle with prairie dogs. Sometimes operational duties were assigned to specific individuals, as noted above. However, between about 1929 and 1934, these responsibilities were usually shared informally by the members of the Committee, several of them pilots.

The information for this list was gleaned from a variety of sources, including newspaper reports, city council meeting minutes and interviews.

1. As a young man, Pickens E. “Tex” Woodson served with Theodore Roosevelt’s “Rough Riders.”

2. As listed in the 1932, 1933 and 1934 editions of the Aircraft Year Book published by the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America. Steve Spear was Speaker of the House in Arizona's 11th Legislature during the period that he was listed as Prescott's airport manager.

3. M. W. Maxwell came to Prescott from San Bernardino, Calif., in connection with the Civilian Pilot Training Program / War Training Service.

4. Marcus E. Rawlins was an aviation pioneer in Yavapai County. He is best remembered for his contributions to the development of aviation in the Verde Valley, and in particular, at Clemenceau Airport (now Cottonwood Municipal Airport).

5. In 1943, Gilbert Rees was serving as Assistant Manager under Ray Purves.

6. Grant W. MacCurdy had been Assistant Airport Manager since March 1943. He resigned as Airport Manager in August 1948 to manage Bisbee-Douglas Airport (formerly Douglas AAF). In July 1953, MacCurdy returned to Ernest A. Love Field as Airport Manager. He had a major impact on the development of PRC, and an entry road to the airport is named in his honor.

7. The position of airport manager remained vacant for several years prior to the appointment of Roy Evans in August 1969. There may have been an airport manager following Bill Hightower's tenure, but from at least 1967, the airport was reportedly managed directly by the City Manager.

8. Ed Mollring also served as Prescott's Planning and Zoning Director.

9. Bob Mezzetti had served 13 years as Assistant Manager of Hanscom Field in Bedford, Mass. He became Operations Manager at PRC under Mike Klein. Klein resigned in October 1991, and Mezzetti was named Acting Manager in November, then Manager in July 1992.

10. A veteran airport executive, Richard "Rick" Severson served as the Manager of Ernest A. Love Field longer than anyone before or since (as of 2026). Following his October 2007 resignation, he continued to work part-time in an administrative / consulting capacity. He passed away on February 22, 2009 at the age of 60.

11. Robin Sobotta had been a professor at the Prescott campus of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Prior to that, Sobotta worked for the City of Phoenix Aviation Department at Sky Harbor International Airport.

Biographical files are maintained on some of the individuals listed above.