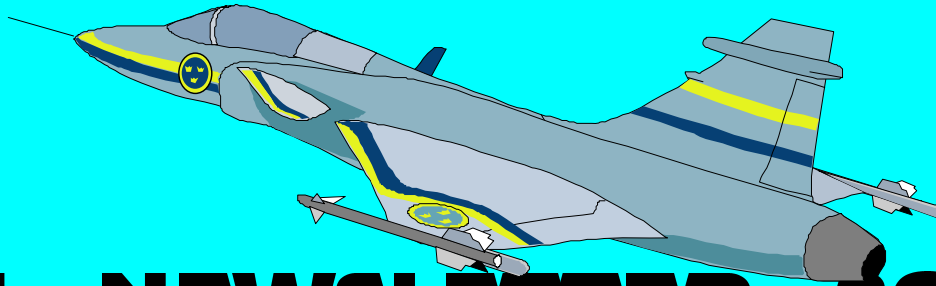
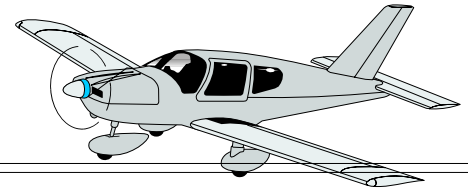


SALINAS OWNERS & PILOTS ASSOCIATION



Feb. NEWSLETTER 2007

FROM THE PRES..... CHEROKEE N7655W



Hello SOPA family,

A couple of items of interest were presented at the last airport commission meeting held on January 25, 2007. Our very own Juan Solorio from T&P Aero Refinishers located at the Salinas Airport was named one of the top twenty paint shops in the United States. Congratulations to Juan and his family. Another issue is the increase to the hangar rates. The hangar rental fee is being increased. Gary Peterson, Airport Manger, informed me that the first increase will be about ten percent of your current hangar rate and then will increase after that according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). A price comparison of the hangar fees at various airports was handed out and will be available at the next SOPA meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2007. Further discussion of the hangar rental fee increase will also be discussed at the next SOPA meeting.

Fly Safe.

Jeff Soares

SOPA Prez...



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Salinas Owners & Pilots Assn.

Meets 2nd Tuesday Each Month 7:00 pm

Landing Zone Restaurant, Salinas Airport

Family Membership

Only \$15.00 Annually

(SOPA is a Non-Profit California Corporation)

To Contribute to the Newsletter,

contact Ray Jackson

758-8518 -- C150Blue@sbcglobal.net

Minutes of SOPA Meeting January 9, 2007

Start Meeting: 7:15 pm at The Landing Zone Restaurant, by President Jeff Soares Approve minutes of November 2006 Meeting

Receive Treasurers report

Old Business: Jeff reports the SOPA Christmas Party was a great success with about 70 people attending.

The Tower Radar is still pending final hook up. There are some issues with the land line.

The Hartnell / Airport Memorandum of Understanding was accepted by the Salinas City Council earlier today.

Discussion was held on upcoming hangar rent increases.

New Business:

Jeff reports that he would like to hold an Operations Day to help build the lowering tower counts. He also discussed the possibility of having an air race.

The 99's are holding a "Flying Companions" seminar February 24, 2007. For more Information contact Kay Harmon or see the bulletin board in the Salinas Airport Terminal building.

Monterey Chapter 204 has set the following dates for their Young Eagles events this year: March 24, May 19, August 18, and October 13.

Ray Jackson talked about aircraft insurance issues & Jeff reports on the new plastic pilot's certificates coming out.

Jeff reports Tracy Municipal Airport is spending \$500,000.00 on upgrades to attract business.

Jeff discusses current aviation news including the UFO reported over O'hare airport, the tornado that hit Embry Riddle in Florida severely damaging their aircraft fleet, and that aviation crashes have decreased by 11% since the 1960's.

Guest speaker was Phyliss Cleveland , speaking about her service with the FAA, and as an United Airlines pilot.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm

Submitted by: Lori Atkinson



SOPA GUEST SPEAKER FOR JAN. 9 th.

Our guest speaker, for our Tuesday meeting, was Phyllis Cleveland. Phyllis is a former United Airlines 747 Captain, now retired. She spoke of her experience on 911 when all airports were closed down for traffic. She was flying from Japan back to the states when they received the message to protect the cockpit at any cost. The plane was finally authorized to land in Canada. Her plane was the first to arrive back in the states after the incident. The sides of the runway were lined up with maintenance personnel trucks waving American flags. Phyllis said it was really a touching demonstration she will never forget. Ms Cleveland also spoke of a wind shear problem, on takeoff, that nearly caused an accident in the 747.



LIGHT TURN OUT AT SOPA MEETING

SOPA was embarrassed by only a 10 member turn out for their Jan 9 th. meeting. Even though the newsletter was posted on their www.salinaspilots.com website two week in advance, of the meeting, members are not responding. This indicates members are not reading the upcoming events in the newsletter. This is your organization! Mark the meeting dates on your calander to remind you of the event we need your support. You really missed a good presentation at the last SOPA meeting. We hope to see you at our next meeting.

HANGAR RATES TO INCREASE SOON

At the Dec. 7 th., 2006, Airport Commission meeting, Salinas Municipal Airport Manager, Gary Petersen, indicated there was a need to keep the Airport Enterprise Fund strong for upcoming repairs and building projects . Mr. Petersen, stated there has been a sharp rise in cost for materials and labor which may put the Airport Enterprise Fund in jeopardy in the coming years. The Airport Master plan called for an increase in hangar rents . Mr. Petersen plans to use the "Consumer Price Index", for the San Francisco bay area, to determine a rate increase for our hangars. The index will not include any airports in that area. 1991 was the last time hangar rates were increased at our airport. At the Airport Commission meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2007, Mr. Petersen, advised he surveyed hangar rates at airports as far South as Santa Maria. He found the Salinas Airport hangar rates to be 23 % lower than many of those airports he surveyed. He said if he were to include the Bay area Airports, the rate would be 35 % lower. He had told our organization he was not going to include the Bay area Airports in the survey but is leaning that way because the housing cost, in our area, are similar to those in the Bay area. He mentioned a 10 % increase in hangar rates will be forth coming soon. That would be the initial increase in hangar rents.

There was a \$250,000.00 surplus, in the Airport Enterprise Fund, at the end of this past year. In addition, \$60,000.00, is suppose to be credited to the fund which is Hartnell's contribution for the Kaiser/Marsden Airport study report. The report aided both the Airport and Hartnell's East Campus project. We hope when the \$60,000.00 is reimbursed that it makes it to the Airport Enterprise Fund and not the "General Fund" of the City. Sometimes mistakes can happen.

G.P.S. UPDATE?

I know we all procrastinate when it comes to updating our G.P.S. but you may want to do it before your next big trip. For instance, Dennis King, advised me that Hollister has a new identifier "KCVH" and who else knows what is knew. Don't wait. Up date your G.P.S. today

STRANGE HAPPENINGS

Well, this is something new. The owner of a Cessna 172 reported someone kicked the side of his plane just behind the cargo door causing a dent. His plane is located in the North side T-shelter area. This is very unusual because it was the only plane damaged in the T-shelter parking. We hope this is just an isolated incident . Keep your eye's open .

DEBBIE BEALE'S IN THE HOSPITAL

Airport Secretary, Debbie Beale, had two serious back operations this past week. She is presently in C.H.O.M.P, (Monterey Peninsula Hospital) and will be out for two months. All of us at SOPA wish her a speedy recovery. Hurry back Debbie!



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A VOICE FROM ABOVE-----TOWER ARTICLE

Well, here we are – 2007. There have been a lot of changes at the tower, personnel-wise; in the last year; we saw the departure of Rich Cross, off to play more tennis & remodel his home, yet again. Then Mike Galvan left for the FAA & OAK ARTCC, and then Felix Gonzalez departed the fix to parts unknown. Additions began as Keyon Harden from San Carlos filled in for us for a while, then came Andy Derecola from Pennsylvania, then Joe Mahoney from New York, and finally Tom Tortoso from New York rounding out our roster, joining Nathan and myself (both native Californians). With Tom's certification in January, we are back to fully staffed and certified. Unfortunately for us, Tom has accepted a position with the FAA in Albany, NY and will be leaving before March.

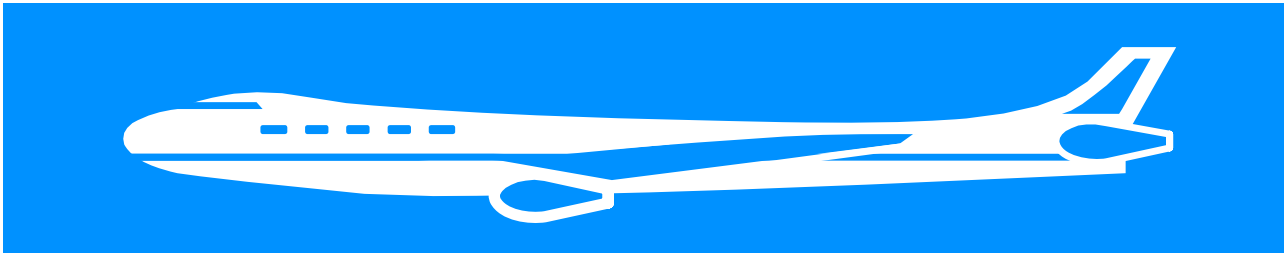
Unfortunately, those changes don't extend to equipment; we are still using the "binocular" instead of the radar. Although installed since April 2006, line problems between our tower and NORCAL have prevented several implementation dates from becoming reality. Keep you fingers crossed for the word "ident" spoken on 119.4 in 2007.

We sincerely appreciate the pilot community here at Salinas. Our job is much more enjoyable, working with pilots who are friendly, flexible, understanding, safe and competent. We will continue our trend of improvement in 2007, with more training, working towards facility upgrades, and as always, being friendly, safe & efficient. Feel free to contact us with questions, comments, issues, or opportunities to be involved with pilot training. And as always, you are welcome to tour the tower with just a phone call in advance.

Best of luck in 2007 to you all!

Talk to you soon,

Allie Metcalf
SNS Tower Chief
831-424-5022



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