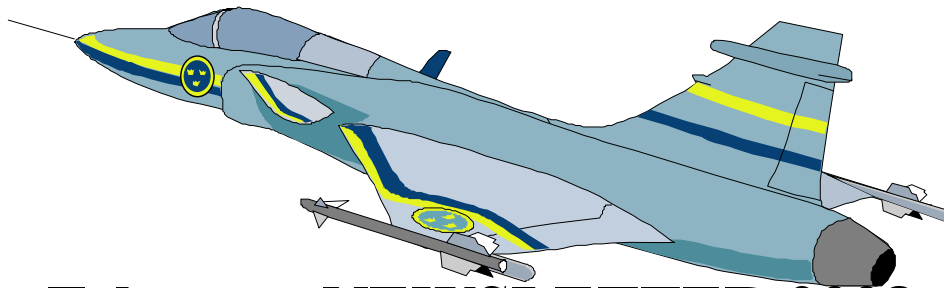
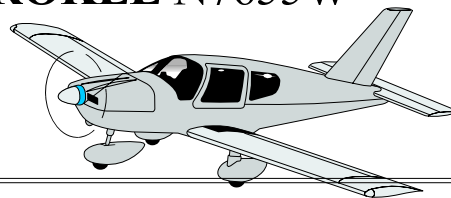


# SALINAS OWNERS & PILOTS ASSOCIATION



## February NEWSLETTER 2008

### FROM THE PRES..... CHEROKEE N7655W



Hello SOPA family,

The last couple of weeks have not been good for flying. The trees around my house have been fighting to bust out of the ground due to the high winds and water soaked ground. Lucky for me, the large pines surrounding my house have not been set free to destroy the house. A little nerve racking though. I have been ill this past month and I still have about another couple of months to go before I am up and about and back to business as usual. My plane is a little ill also. I would like to thank the SOPA members, my best friends for taking care of 55W. This just shows what SOPA is all about. This shows what friendship is all about.

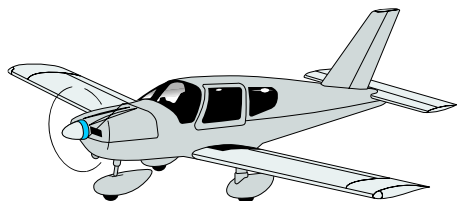
While I am stuck at home, they are taking care of my plane for me. 55W was in a few pieces and they got her back together. It is hard to be stuck at home trying to just take care of myself but the thought of the state of my plane added grief too.

Thank you Dennis, John and Wayne for taking the worries about my plane and just letting me worry about getting myself better. Thank you for getting the recliner out of my hangar and brining it all the way to Aptos, so I could be comfortable. I would also like to thank Ray for being there for me. You are all true friends and I am indebted to you. As I sit in my house I watch all of the planes flying low over the coast probably landing in Watsonville, Monterey and Salinas, I realize how I miss sitting in 55W flying someplace with my friends for that \$200 hamburger. It really gives me something to look forward to.

Please get a weather briefing before you fly and stay safe.

Jeff Soares

SOPA Prez...



### SOPA OFFICERS 2008

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Vice Pres. --Ray Jackson

Secretary --Lori Atkinson

Treasurer -- Kay Harmon

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Ron Harmon -- Dennis King

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Salinas Owners & Pilots Association

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@gmail.com](mailto:C150Blue@gmail.com)

## ***Minutes of the SOPA Meeting January 8, 2008***

**Start Meeting at 7:15pm by President Jeff Soares, at the Landing Zone Restaurant**

**Approve minutes of the November 2007 meeting**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Communications: Jeff Thanks everyone who helped to make the SOPA Christmas Party a success.**

**Old Business:**

**SOPA welcomes new Airport Assistant Liz Soto. Liz takes over for Debbie Beale.**

**Airport Manager Gary Petersen will be meeting with Airport Business owners this month to review the Airport Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. All tenants need to take appropriate steps to keep the storm water run off clean.**

**New Business:**

**Jeff reports on aviation news and incidents of interest.**

**Congratulations to Sean D. Tucker for his induction to the Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton Oh.**

**Dennis King gave an update of information from the monthly Airport Safety meeting, including the Airport Blvd overpass improvements.**

**Earl and Tom are fixing hangar leaks, so if you have one please contact the Airport Office.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm**

**Submitted by: Lori Atkinson**

## AROUND THE AIRPORT

There was a major meeting of FBO's and the Airport Manager, on Jan. 14th, regarding the "Clean Water Act", which is a Federal Law. Many of you may not know but during the rainy season samples of the drainage water, coming from the airport property, are submitted for analyzation of materials and hazardous chemicals. Those samples are tested by Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency. The Agency, at times, sends employees onto Airport property watching for violators that may be spray painting something in their hangar or committing other violations. How critical are they? Take note of this: Employee of Airmotive Specialties was polishing a plane on their ramp using a buffing wheel. They sent a letter to Owner, Dave Teeters, indicating he should have had a tarp under the plane to catch the cotton fibers coming off of the buffing wheel. So, this is the situation...they only want clean water going into the drains. Spray paint leaves residues, floats through the air etc. Airport maintenance personnel, Earl and Tom, have been trained in spotting hazardous materials and will be watching for violators. Make sure your drip pan is under your engine and be conscious of what you are using in your hangar. We don't want any bad marks or citations being issued.

### HOW YOU CAN IMPROVE GA'S PUBLIC IMAGE (from AOPA e-Pilot)

On the Monday before Super Bowl XLII, AOPA President Phil Boyer found himself in the association's television studio, defending GA security. This was after a Phoenix TV reporter did another one of those "exposés" at five area GA airports. Complicating Boyer's job was the fact that the reporter found three unlocked aircraft. "Beyond the crucial role for general aviation security of Airport Watch's 'lock up, look out' message, public perception is vitally important," said Boyer. "I can't compete with pictures of a reporter walking up to your plane and opening an unlocked door. In the court of public opinion, we lose that argument every time."

### NEW LEMOORE MOA BECOMES ACTIVE (AOPA e-Pilot)

Beginning Feb. 4, Central California will have a new military operations area (MOA). That's when the Lemoore MOA becomes active. AOPA requested numerous modifications to the MOA, which was first proposed in 2004, to mitigate the impact on general aviation. Although many of AOPA's requests were incorporated in the final plan, pilots should be alert to changes in the airspace, many of which have been charted since last August. At AOPA's request, the FAA increased its outreach and notification to pilots, sending notification letters to airmen and contacting local FBOs and GA associations. The MOA will be available for military use beginning Feb. 14

### FRESNO TO PAY \$5.8M IN AIRPORT LAND DISPUTE (Cal Pilots Assn.)

The City of Fresno has agreed to pay millions plus interest to settle a dispute over a controversial sale of airport property to Gap Inc. In a deal started in 1997, the City sold about 200 acres to Gap for \$2. City officials pointed to the economic benefits of the San Francisco based retailer bringing a distribution center to the area. But following an FAA audit, federal authorities contended that the city had a duty to sell the property at market value and reinvest the money into the airport. The settlement agreement accomplishes that purpose, city and federal officials said.

### ~ AOPA Close to Home ~ (AOPA e-Pilot)

### CALIFORNIA BILL MANDATES AIRPORT LAND-USE PLANNING

In a move with strong support from AOPA, California Sen. Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-Chino) has introduced a new bill in the state Senate to strengthen laws governing land use around airports. The bill, intended to manage safety and noise concerns, requires all counties with at least one public-use airport to have an airport land-use commission. It will affect Marin, San Bernardino, and Santa Cruz counties. (SOPA editors note: If this bill passes it will sure help Watsonvilles Pilots Assn)



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**CARS ON RUNWAYS ? UNSAFE AT ANY SPEED** (From AvWeb flash Jan. 31, 2008)

Just a day after five teenagers were killed while speeding down a runway in a BMW at a private Florida airport, a woman was arrested for allegedly driving drunk on a runway at Grand Junction Regional Airport, in Colorado. The 36-year-old woman was found by police just after 3 a.m., when her car got stuck. "The vehicle was high-centered on electrical conduits and the wheels spun as she applied the accelerator," the officer wrote in an arrest affidavit, according to the Vail Daily. Police at the scene contacted air traffic controllers, who said there were no inbound aircraft. The woman reportedly failed field sobriety tests and was charged with driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license, second-degree trespassing and careless driving, according to the Vail Daily. Meanwhile, investigators in Florida said the 18-year-old driver of the BMW had gone online hours before the crash, seeking advice about how to handle the car at high speeds.

**DETAILS ARE DEVILS FOR SOME 60-PLUS PILOTS** (From AvWeb flash. Jan. 31, 2008)

When Congress last year hurriedly passed the Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act, which raised the mandatory retirement age for airline pilots to 65, nobody read the small print, say some age-60-plus pilots who have lost their jobs. About 3,000 pilots who were required to retire between Nov. 23, 2006, and Dec. 13, 2007, were specifically barred from being rehired at their same seniority levels, the Kansas City Star reported on Monday. The law also bars pilots from challenging the law in court. "I just don't see how Congress can do that," said Lew Tetlow, president of the Senior Pilots Coalition. He plans to challenge the law in federal court nonetheless. "

### **WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THIS?**

Castaways Travel organized the "Naked Air" flight from Texas to Cancun, on a Boeing 737. They noted that no hot drinks were served on board, all 90 passengers were required to dress for takeoff and landing, beach towels were distributed to cover the seats, and the crew remained in uniform throughout the flight.



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