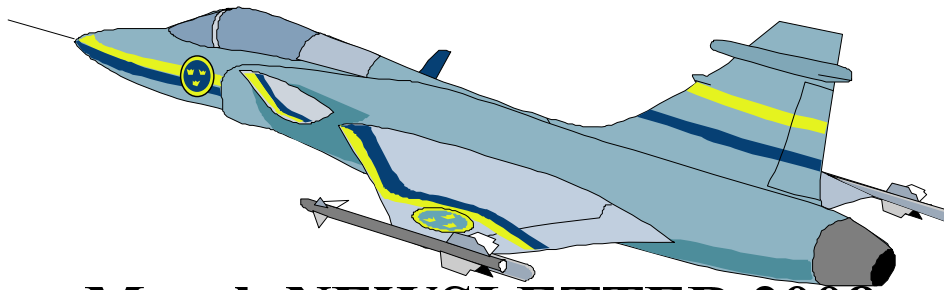
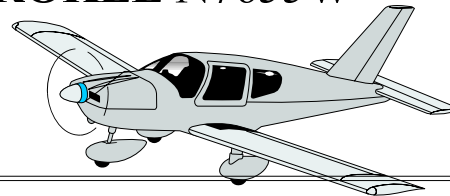


SALINAS OWNERS & PILOTS ASSOCIATION



March NEWSLETTER 2008

FROM THE PRES..... CHEROKEE N7655W



Hello SOPA family,

Boy-o-boy, I am feeling better every day and should be up and running very soon. On March 20, 2008, I am scheduled to meet with the Salinas Airport Manager (Garry Peterson), Harry Wardwell and Joe Gunter representing the California International Airshow, Jack Jella and Bob McGregor representing the Salinas Airport Commission and Lori Atkinson representing the Salinas Airport Business Association (SABA). This meeting is to iron out issues with the airshow folks and hopefully we can all get on the same sheet of music and not feel like outsiders at our airport during the airshow. Gary Peterson is drafting an agenda for the meeting. I will keep you posted. I was sitting on the bluff at Rio Del Mar beach and a T-34 from the Navy Flying Club came flying over the beach at about 50 feet. I watched the reaction of the people on the beach as it flew over their heads. Most appeared to enjoy it as other appeared to run from being under it. The ranger on the beach in his truck did not appear to enjoy it as he jumped out and tried to copy the N number. I doubt he got it because it was the tiny number on the tail that is near impossible to see. as beautiful as it was to see fly over, it is not appreciated by all and does not help general aviation. As a beach-side resident, I hear the complaints from my neighbors. As much as I love to see the planes fly by level with my deck, not all of the neighbors do. Lets promote general aviation and be considerate. Bring up the altitude a little.

Fly Safe.

Jeff Soares

SOPA Prez...



SOPA OFFICERS 2008

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Vice Pres. --Ray Jackson

Secretary --Lori Atkinson

Treasurer -- Kay Harmon

DIRECTORS

Ron Harmon -- Dennis King

John Gianelli

WEBMASTER

Russ Wilcox -- www.salinaspilots.com

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

Minutes of SOPA Meeting February 12, 2008

Start Meeting: 7:05 pm by Vice Pres, Ray Jackson, at The Landing Zone Restaurant

Approve minutes of January 2008 meeting

Receive Treasurers report

Communications: Ray gave an update on Jeff's recent foot surgery. Everyone at SOPA sends Jeff & Linda our best wishes.

Old Business: None to report

New Business:

Ray discussed aviation issues including the Special Medical Issuance for pilots. Approximately 25,000 people are having their medical condition re-evaluated. See AOPA for more information.

AOPA is fighting a White House attempt for GA User Fees and a slash to the Airport Improvement Plan in 2009.

Ray reports a 2nd Congressman has joined the fight against appointing Bobby Sturgell as head of the FAA.

Red Bull is planning two events in the U.S. this year, with one in San Diego May 3-4, 2008, and one stop in the mid west.

Jim Shumaker reports the first Young Eagles event at Salinas for 2008 is set for Saturday April 12. Please mark your calendar to volunteer your plane for the event. It is a great opportunity to support the community. Other dates are posted on the EAA Chapter 204 website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. Some members remained to watch a King video on Flying in Icing Conditions

Submitted by: Lori Atkinson

Around the Airport

SOPA Member Passes On

Conrad Classmeyer, long time member of SOPA, passed away in the second week of February this year. He and his wife, Ronnie, moved to San Antonio, Texas approximately two years ago after being Salinas residents for many years. Conrad and his wife were always staunch supporters of SOPA and G. A. He was in his 80's and died of natural causes. He will surely be missed. Our condolences to his wife, Ronnie, and their family.

E.A.A. 204 TO HOST YOUNG EAGLES FLY-OUT

For those of you that are not aware Experimental Aircraft Association, Monterey Bay EAA 204 is now housed in hangar Tango-14 at the Salinas Airport. Pat Smith, President, announced the first fly-out for the Young Eagles will be Saturday, April 12, 2008. Starting at 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Those lucky kids flying, with our pilots, will receive a free hot-dog, chips and a soft drink during their indoctrination to General Aviation. That means we are going to need pilots to donate their time and planes to fly the youngsters around the valley. If you are a EAA member and wish to donate your services please contact Pat at (408) 439-3479.

We will be hosting the children out of the Terminal building lobby. Volunteers to work the ground crew are also welcome. Come out and show the kids a good time. Thank You!

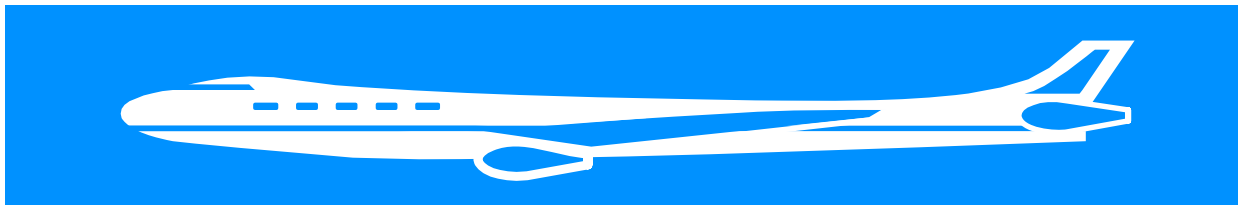
YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

You may have recalled California Sen. Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-Chino) recently 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. **NOW** here is where you come in. We need everyone to call or e-mail their state representative in support of the McLeod Bill.

The reason is Watsonville Airport, Santa Cruz County, does not have a Land-use commission and is under attack by building contractors and the City. They are trying to close runway 26 and build public housing in the area. SOPA has sent a letter to their State Senate representative, Senator Maldonado requesting support of the bill. Please do the same with your state Representative. Support the airports.

DRAFT ON NEW RULES AND REGS. AT SNS

Starting March 3, the first draft on new rules and regulations will be available on the web, (ci.salinas.ca.us) for your review. "Click" on the Airport and follow the prompts. 1995 was the last year rules and regs. were updated. This draft contains rules governing the "FED. CLEAN WATER ACT" and the use of hazardous chemicals on the airport. So being this is a draft you, as a tenant, can make suggestions and opinions to its development. On March 27, at the Airport Commission meeting you can display your suggestions after first notifying the Airport office of your intent. In fact you can e-mail garyp@ci.salinas.ca.us, with your suggestions or questions.



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AOPA SAYS 25,000 PILOTS ARE FLYING ON SPECIAL MEDICAL PERMITS

Reading from e-Pilot news letter I noticed where more pilots are being allowed to fly on special medical. Having knowledge that some of our pilots have lost their medicals I decided to inquire from them their experience in trying to obtain a special medical permit. Salinas Airport Commissioner, Jack Jella, said he has been trying for years to get a his medical back but the red tape he has had to go through and the expense with tests he has just given up. Jack was an FAA examiner for many years when he developed an electrical problem where his heart wasn't beating properly. He talked to a doctor who specialized in shocking the heart back into rhythm but he told Jack he has had only a 20 % success with other cases . Jack didn't think it was worth a chance. He also said the price of Av-gas and the cost of flying has now jumped to such an extreme he wouldn't be able to afford it.

Former Airport Manager, Jim Chappell, lost his medical because of heart problems. He said he had to go through a lot of effort to get a temporary permit. The FAA sometimes would issue a permit for 90 days or 6 months but then you would have to wait for them to send the medical to you. By the time it finally arrived most of the time allowed to fly expired. Then you would have to go back to the doctor for more testing with more expense. He just gave up and sold his Cessna 182.

So, it doesn't appear to be that easy to obtain a special medical to fly. I can only say these men can catch a ride with me any day. With the experience they have accumulated over the years they can probably give me some good pointers on being a better pilot. We are going to keep them around for some time.

GENTLE THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at a tempting moment.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is buy a replacement.



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