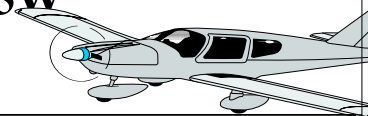


February NEWSLETTER 2009

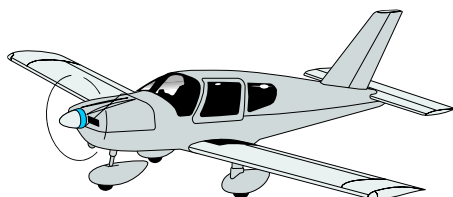
FROM THE PRES..... CHEROKEE N7655W



Hello SOPA Family,

I'm sure most of you remember that SOPA was on KSBW during the Christmas holidays and we donated \$500 to the Salvation Army. SOPA just received a very nice thank you letter from the Salvation Army. It has been about four years since the last time they were here, but beginning next week the Salinas airport will once again be the host airport for the Collegiate Aviation competition. Colleges with aviation departments will be descending on the Salinas airport for various aviation competitions. It is always nice to watch our future members of aviation. Light Sport West has closed their showroom and moved their operation to the office in the lobby of the terminal. They will keep their aircraft on the ramp. Apparently the airplanes they are selling are to individuals who already know what they want and the showroom is not the method in which people purchased their planes. The Monterey County Sheriff's Department has canceled their lease with Air Trails for the Sheriff's helicopter one year into a two year lease. I'm sure this is going to have a huge impact on Air Trails and the astronomical crime rate in Salinas. I strongly feel that this helicopter was a very important tool to help combat the already out of control gang problems in Salinas. Stay tuned for some SOPA fly-outs and other activities beginning around March. Make sure you purchase fuel in SNS, but if you are out and about check out these prices. Los Banos \$3.50, Gustine \$3.55, Hollister, \$3.58, Marina \$3.69 and South County \$3.70.

Fly Safe
Jeff Soares
SOPA Prez...



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Meets 2nd Tuesday each month 7:00 p.m.

in The 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 Tuesday January 13, 2009

Start Meeting 7:10 pm by Pres. Jeff Soares, at the Landing Zone Restaurant

Approve December 2008 newsletter

Treasurer's Report

Old Business: Jeff Thanked all the members that came out for KSBW TV's Share the Holidays. SOPA donated \$500.00 to the Salvation Army, all funds will stay local.

New Business: Jeff discussed aviation news and incidents.

Jeff led discussion regarding sponsoring a youth for Young Eagles Camp this year.

Jeff talked about his new PCATAs (Collision Air Traffic Avoidance System). It monitors transponder and altitude, and links to his Garmin. Jeff is very happy!

The program this evening was a DVD of the Drive out to Trinity Almay Ranch in October 2008, due to bad weather it was not a fly out.

Meeting Adjourned 8:10pm

Submitted by: Lori Atkinson, Secretary

REDBULL RACES BEGIN IN APRIL (AOPA e-pilot)

Fifteen pilots, including three from the United States, are ready to begin the Red Bull Air Race World Championships starting April 17 in Abu Dhabi. The three American pilots are Kirby Chambliss, Mike Mangold, and Mike Goulian. Chambliss won the series in 2006. The race series, conducted over a tight, low-altitude racing course marked by inflatable 60-foot-tall pylons, consists of six races at locations worldwide. The pylons are designed to come apart when an aircraft hits them. The race comes to San Diego on May 9 and 10. The 2009 series will conclude Oct. 3 and 4 in Barcelona. The Races generally draw hundreds of thousands of spectators, and in 2006 the Barcelona race drew 1 million fans. The race will be shown on the Fox Sports Network in the United States, and also shown on television in 40 countries

WATSONVILLE AIRPORT - LAWSUIT APPEALS UPDATE

City Files Appeal of Lower Court Ruling: (California Pilots Jan./Feb. 2009)

The City Of Watsonville has submitted their Appeals Brief to the Appeals Court in San Jose. The Watsonville Pilots Association and others are currently preparing their response brief. It is estimated that the court's review of briefs will e in June 2009 and appeals court decision in early 2010

In review, on March 21, 2008 the Santa Cruz County Superior Court ruled that Watsonville City Resolution 74-05 and the new General Plan update violated the State Aeronautics Law. The purpose of the law is "to prevent the creation of new noise and safety problems" around airports. The City of Watsonville's Resolution 74-05 was a prerequisite for the City's general plan update, specifically building plans just west of the airport. This resolution removed two sections of the Zone 3 runway protection zone, changed density criteria and removed all restrictions on building high-occupancy buildings in the Zone 6 airport influence area - illegally.

This is a continuing battle by the Watsonville Pilots Association and others to save the airport. SOPA wishes them luck in their quest. "Send contributions to WPA P.O. Box 2074, Freedom, CA 95019-2074

Please specify "legal fund" in the memo section of your check. Your contribution could help save a runway, avoid more restrictions at Watsonville and help other airports, possibly yours, battling encroachment"

EMERGENCY LOCATOR TRANSMITTER (AvFlash Jan 26)

Canada and Mexico: Canada has not yet required that aircraft flying in its airspace be equipped with 406 MHz ELTs. The country is planning a two-year conversion period and has yet to set rules for the transition, according to AOPA. Flying to the Bahamas will not require 406 MHz equipment, but that may change after January of 2011. Mexico will allow U.S. aircraft using 121.5 MHz ELTs to fly within the country until the end of June 2009, unless they reach a mandatory ELT battery replacement date first. The Cospas-Sarsat System has been and will continue monitoring signals transmitted on 406 MHz.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that passed in the House last week "would pump an additional \$3 billion toward airport improvements," according to AOPA President Craig Fuller. Of course, the wording of the package is expected to see changes on its course through the Senate. And, the Senate is considering economic stimulus legislation that proposes "a smaller amount of additional AIP funding," according to AOPA. Still, the organization is hopeful that projects that would immediately create jobs are backed by the argument of improving the country's transportation infrastructure and apparent benefits for the long term, and may yet see favor. Under the plan as it is -- before seeing the Senate -- projects that could go to contract within three months of FAA approval would be the targets of additional funding. AOPA will be lobbying the House and Senate to include "bigger investment for airports" as they "resolve the differences in a conference committee..

Economic Stimulus Grants

There has been a shift of the AIP economic stimulus grants from financial institutions to the infrastructure. That means that money is available, from FAA grants, to complete the 5 years of projects that will benefit the Airport. There is a sense of urgency to get the projects in motion. Special meetings of the Airport Commission and the City Council have been scheduled to expedite this procedure. This is good news.

The money available now is from the first Economic Stimulus Act from the Bush Administration.

AIRLINE ALTERNATIVE FUEL TRIALS, GENERAL DYNAMICS' GREEN JET ENGINE

Japan Airlines set out Friday to become the fourth airline in about one year to flight test a biofuel -- this one mixes jatropha oil, algae and camelina (flax) and follows recent flights by Continental (last week), Air New Zealand (December '08) and Virgin Atlantic (February '08). The latest test was scheduled for one hour flown aboard a Boeing 747-300 powered by both jet fuel and the biofuel blend. Continental's flight was similar, flying one engine of a 737-800 on jet fuel and the other on a 50/50 blend of traditional fuel and a jatropha/algae blend. Proponents encouraged by the promise of algae fuels are anxious to convert ponds (enough to cover Belgium) into algae farms, claiming that would provide enough fuel to feed all commercial airlines worldwide. The biofuels are seen as an attractive option for their negligible carbon footprint and sustainability. Meanwhile, the U.S. Air Force has awarded \$18.5 million to a division of General Dynamics to develop an engine built with parts that do not corrode, that will not use or release hazardous materials and generally offer a low emissions and noise signature

"MICKEY" MUZINICH PASSES AWAY (Harold Oberg)

Mickey was 96 when he passed away at his home in Navado on January 15, 2009. He started flying (soloed) at Mills Field, which is now SFO Intl, in a 3 cylinder Zekely, way back when. On his second flight, at Alameda, a lady pilot landed on top of his airplane so he had a mid-air in less than 3 hours flying time.

He began civilian pilot training in 1938 at the Palo Alto Airport. When King City Airport was developed he gave flying lessons there as well as Dos Palos Army Air Field where he became flight commander for the two school operation. He was hired by Ralph E. Myers, owner of Remco Farming and packingfirm. There formed the Aviation portion of Remco for flying produce to the Eastern Markets out of Salinas, California.



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