

## July NEWSLETTER 2009

**FROM THE PRES..... CHEROKEE N7655W**

Hello SOPA family,

The Salinas Airport Tenant Appreciation Day held on June 6, 2009, was another successful event. I can't think of another airport that honors its tenants. Dennis King was our special honoree this year. Dennis is a friend of the airport and is a very giving person to his airport friends. I would like to thank Gary Petersen and his staff for recognizing all of the tenants at the Salinas airport by holding this event, providing a free lunch and a wonderful atmosphere. Get ready for the California International Airshow "Summer Time Blues" with the Blue Angels next month, August 7-9, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I will notify you by email when we get our hands on the tickets for the Flight Line Chalet. It is usually two weeks prior to the show. Get ready to purchase the tickets because they are going to go fast as they always do with the Blue Angels headlining the show. Our Chalet is up front in your face action. There is no better place to watch the airshow than in the SOPA Chalet. Lunch, hors d'oeuvres, drinks and an unobstructed view of all the airshow action. No need to fight the crowds when you can sit and relax in our Chalet. I will keep you posted on the status of the Chalet tickets, cost and when and where to pick them up. You can email me at [Luv2fly55w@comcast.net](mailto:Luv2fly55w@comcast.net) to reserve your tickets.

See you at the airshow.

Jeff Soares

SOPA Prez...

**Reply Forward**



### **SOPA OFFICERS 2009**

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**Vice President--Ray Jackson**

**Secretary-- Lori Atkinson**

**Treasurer--Kay Harmon**

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### **SALINAS OWNERS & PILOTS ASSOCIATION**

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

## Minutes of SOPA Meeting Tuesday June 9, 2009

Start Meeting: 7:05 p.m. by Director John Gianelli, at The Landing Zone Restaurant.

Approve minutes of May 2009 meeting.

Receive Treasurers report

**Old Business:** John gave a report on Airport Tenant's Day held on June 6th. Dennis King was honored this year, and the heliport was dedicated to Jim Cheatham. The airport terminal building mural is almost finished. It was displayed during Tenants day.

Jack Jella reports he has not heard back from the Boys Scouts. The Salinas Area Modelers Club is assisting the boys in earning their aviation merit badges.

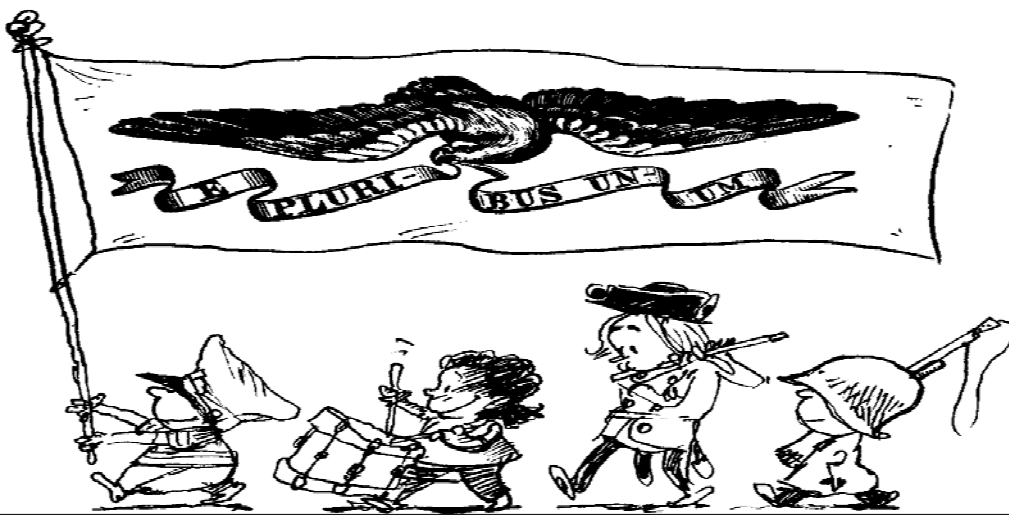
Negotiations on the proposed "Core Area" Jet Center have been granted an extension by the City. The Environmental Impact Review was a factor in delays.

### **New Business:**

The group this evening discussed aviation news and airport issues.

Bill Sabo discussed Senate Bill (SB) 737. The new bill changes the wording in who can serve on an Airport Land Use Commission, which may be helpful to Watsonville. Bill asked if someone from the Watsonville Pilot's Assoc. could talk to SOPA next month regarding their stand on the bill.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Submitted by: Lori Atkinson



### **E.A.A. CHAPTER 204 YOUNG EAGLE'S DAY COMING UP**

Salinas Municipal Airport, Saturday, July 11, will kick off this Summers Young Eagle fly-out. Starting out at 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. volunteer pilots will introduce youngsters from the age of 8 to 17 to general aviation and the fun of flying. The kids will be treated to a free hot-dog, chips and a soft drink after completing their trip. In addition, they will receive a certificate of completion certifying they are now "Young Eagles". We will need help so mark the date on your calendar. Come out and join in the fun. Pilots and ground crew are needed. This event is sponsored by the Monterey Bay EAA Chapter 204, Salinas, CA

### **2009 Tenants Appreciation Day**

Bob McGregor, head chair for the Salinas Municipal Airport Commission, presents an award from the Salinas City Council to Dennis King. Dennis was voted in as the most helpful tenant to Airport Business's as well as other tenants. Dennis is an A&P mechanic and a Director for the Salinas Owners & Pilots Assn.

### **Jim Cheatham Memorial Heliport**

Jim Cheatham passed away from a sudden heart attack about two months ago. He owned and operated AirTrails as well as being an airshow attraction flying his helicopter. He was liked by all. He will always be missed. During the 2009 Tenants Appreciation Day, all the participating airport tenants gathered at the heliport; there they

listened to Salinas Municipal Airport Manager, Gary Petersen honor Jim Cheatham. The Memorial plaque, donated by the City of Salinas, was then uncovered, for display, by family members. Jim will surely be missed by all. Our condolences to the Cheatham family. I'm sure God has welcomed Jim to heaven.

### **WHERE IS IT?**

Did someone steal this work of art by Art Siordia? NO! It has been removed for finishing work to be done, on the mural, by the artist. We are uncertain exactly when Art will finish his work but for a brief time we were able to enjoy it on "Tenants Appreciation Day". It is painted on wood sections and attached to the North West corner of the terminal building. If any damage occurs that section can be removed and repaired. Nice work Art.



## WHO DAT!

Lori Atkinson (left) and Liz Soto, man the check in table for Tenants Appreciation Day. Lori wears many hats at the Salinas Airport. She is the top executive representative for the Airport Business Association and responsible for strong-arming the airport businesses in giving prizes for the Tenants Day raffle.

(just kidding) They don't have to be strong-armed. And by-the-way, thank you Airport Businesses for those prizes. In addition, she is the Secretary for the Salinas Owners & Pilots Association plus, one of the main volunteers, on the ground crew, on EAA 204 Young Eagle's fly-outs. Of course, we have businesses that are not on the Airport giving prizes such as Russ Wilcox, State Farm Insurance one of our main pilots for flying the Young Eagles and Webmaster for SOPA's website [WWW.SALINASPILOTS.COM](http://WWW.SALINASPILOTS.COM)

Liz Soto is special for all of us at the Salinas Municipal Airport. She is the Salinas Airport Assistant. All of our complaints go through her and then transferred to the Airport Manager or Earl and Tom in maintenance. She makes sure all planes are properly insured in accordance with City policy and Mgr. Gary Petersen's, secretary. Well, thank you ladies for all of your help. We appreciate you donating your time on Tenants Day.



## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

John Odell & his son, J.P., show off their trophy after winning the flour bomb contest at the 2009 Tenants Appreciation Day celebration at the Salinas Airport. J.P. acted as the bombardier while John flew over the target. Congratulations.



## ONE MORE TIME...

John Gianelli, SOPA Director, hands the First Place Trophy for "SPOT LANDING" to Jim Shumaker. John is on the left. Jim flies a home made "Kit Fox" which acts all most like a helicopter on spot landings. Jim's control of the craft is uncanny . He has won every year, except one, on spot landings.

## SHORT FINAL (AvWebFlash 7-6-09)

**Many years ago, I had just landed at Cairns in Far North Queensland, when an incoming DC-9 called over the radio:**

**DC-9:**

**"Cairns Tower, TN 123. Request a wheelchair to meet the flight on arrival. It's the Captain's last landing." Tower responded appropriately. I thought this was too good to miss, so I stayed on the air. Eventually the DC-9 appeared, touched down, and bounced spectacularly before finally getting under control and rolling through.**

**DC-9 (a different voice this time) :**

**"Tower, can you make that 98 wheelchairs?"**

**Terry Wesley-Smith**



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