



SERVING THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF SINCE 1941

# Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron Newsletter

FUTURE MEETINGS TBA

## Floatplanes:

**Flying to some beautiful and inspiring places**

Aaron Zeff's beautiful de Havilland floatplane – built in 1954 for the U.S. Army as a trail dragger was reconfigured in BC, Canada to its current float status.

Aaron is one of several Squadron members qualified as seaplane pilots who are able to realize the joys of using a float plane to access otherwise remote areas.

Actually, Northern California is a seaplane pilots dream. Mountain scenery, back country and high terrain lakes mean we can enjoy adventures right in our backyard.

My own floatplane experience includes flying in Southeastern Alaska. While working with the local Ketchikan Hospital, I chartered a de Havilland DC-2 Beaver for a Fjord flight seeing experience. My seasoned pilot allowed me to take control after some careful coaching. What a great thrill!

Superb scenery with stops at remote lakes was unforgettable. Glaciers seen from the air descend from valleys where near-vertical cavities hold surface blue ice meltwater.

After shutting down our engine following a landing on a pristine mountain lake, the silence broken only by a distant waterfall.



Thanks to Aaron Zeff for reminding us of the joy of float plane flying.

Dale Terry, Commander



### Squadron Meetings Cancelled Until Further Notice

Sacramento County COVID-19 restrictions coupled with Squadron leadership concern for member safety have resulted in cancellation of Squadron meetings until further notice.

Your Executive Committee will reinstitute meetings as soon as possible. Until then, your monthly Squadron Newsletter will continue to keep everyone updated.

## AROUND THE SQUADRON – BY RON RICHEY



Congrats to **Allen Farris**, who last month informed us that he was putting his S-35 Bonanza up for sale. Allen is now in the pre-purchase phase with a prospective buyer. Good airplanes do not sit on the market for long.

**Kelly and Jana Couch** are headed to SoCal, near Perris Valley, where Kelly will make one more balloon flight with an instructor before being signed off to take his check ride for a commercial Hot Air Balloon rating. Good luck on the check ride Kelly.



**Steve and Linda Cassinelli** decided to try out Steve's newly installed Garmin glass panel in their Beech Duke and fly up to their beach front condo in Tillamook, Oregon. Steve also has a custom built hangar on KTMK which houses his Aviat Husky A-1B

taildragger. Steve said they needed to get out of the valley heat.

**Aaron Ziff** made a grand entrance on national television during the Edgewood Celebrity Golf Tournament on Lake Tahoe by taxiing up to the beach in his gorgeous deHavilland Beaver while maneuvering around all those nonflying watercraft. The announcer on the Golf Channel stopped what he was talking about to comment on the seaplane's arrival. It could not be confirmed whether Aaron was actually signing autographs after beaching the Beaver.



**Mike Traud** just completed the necessary work to renew his **Master Instructor Designation** for the ninth term (18 years total) which places him in a group of only 11 flight instructors to hold the designation for that period of time. Mike said it takes time and effort to maintain the Master Instructor Designation, but it keeps him on top of aviation education and the latest training techniques. Mike is still wearing his **DPE** hat and regularly fly's his restored Cessna 150 between KSAC and KRDD to give commercial check rides for the airline industry. Mike's wife **Renee'** has been enjoying getting stick time in the '150 on the way over to their Sea Ranch home. Wonder who her CFI is?



It was a bittersweet time for **Bob Lessman** standing on the taxiway leading to his hangar, while watching and listening to his big blue North American T-6 depart RWY 20, making a climbing left turn heading for its new

home over in Dayton, Nevada. Bob had spent countless hours building that airplane from a basket (a very big basket) of parts into a show winning airplane that participated and flew in dozens and dozens of airshows, missing man formations and patriotic fly-overs. Bob stood tall and gave 'Ole Blue a final salute as she departed the area for the last time.



**Bob and Nancy** are looking into the possibility of moving to Florida and enjoying their retirement years on the beach watching the ocean waves roll by. You would have to admit.....Bob does look like the surfer type!

Usually during this time of year **Howard Stagg** can be found at his lake front house in the north state of Maine. However, during the current virus pandemic, Howard was not too keen on what it takes to travel to Maine via the airlines; standing in line at several airports due to the necessary plane changes, the crowds, wearing a mask for many hours etc.

Howard actually gave some thought to taking a four or five day road trip out to Maine by car, until he realized that there may not be many hotels and restaurants open along his planned travel route. The deciding factor in cancelling his travel plans had to do with the fact Howard could not decide which car in his fleet of hot rods to drive: the brand new, bright orange 755hp ZR-1 Corvette convertible (one of the last to be manufactured), the 650hp Zo6 Corvette, the 400+hp SVT Mustang Cobra, the restored 1936 Ford flathead V-8 convertible or his Jeep Grand Cherokee. The pressure must have been overwhelming.



## Commander's Column:

### Holding safe meetings again

Squadron meetings in a world affected by COVID-19 will require major adjusting in order to restart. Your Executive Committee is looking at steps to be taken in order to host in-person functions again.

First, we realize that our Hut (once roof repairs are completed) is a rather confined space when our attendance numbers are high.

In order to hold Hut meetings we will need to implement distancing practices and use of face masks. But, we can probably move forward with small short meetings that would not further spread virus. Use of theater setup seating with ample aisle spacing could work.

Self-service buffets won't be an option for some time. Rather, we can consider pre-packaged meals that are already placed on seats or stacked in the refrigerator for distribution.

Whenever possible, we will look for outdoor event locations. This open-air environment will allow airflow.

The Sheriff's office has reminded us, that as an affiliate of the Department, we need to fully comply with Sacramento County public health directives. And of course, we will take this precaution seriously.

Obviously, the impact on aviation events has been dramatic. Air show promoters have been forced to reinvent nearly every aspect of their jobs.

For our Squadron, the COVID-19 restrictions have required a huge learning curve. Could we use a virtual meeting as an option? When do we think that in-person attendance limits will be lifted? How can we offer skittish meeting attendees an option?

Our Squadron will need to understand the events ecosystem to plan for events later this summer, this fall and even into 2021.

The challenge is large.

**Dale Terry, Commander**

**(Hut status: our roofing contractor has found an additional cracked roof joist. Each of the joist cracks have occurred at knotholes which apparently have dried out to the point where structural strength is diminished. As a result, in order to effect a repair we will need to remove the old original ceiling and a portion of suspended ceiling. We hope to have repairs completed by September 1.)**



Your Commander's C182 Skylane aircraft is now in the shop for addition of a new Garmin 500 autopilot coupled to earlier installed G5's. I hope to be able to give everyone a pilot report next month.