



SERVING THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF SINCE 1941

Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron Newsletter

JANUARY MEETING

New Year begins:

Bill Cox gains new engine and SAS kicks off 2020

Why is Bill Cox smiling? After a frustrating trial-and-error troubleshooting experience, Bill's trusty C182 has a new engine.

Bill begins 2020 ready to take to the air!

Our Squadron is ready for 2020 as well. Many Squadron meetings and activities are already moving forward.

January: This month we will participate in an Air Squadron Roundtable with nearby visiting Sheriff's Air Squadron representatives.

February: The Department's RCCC facility has been in the news recently. We will receive a brief from SSD leadership.

March: The Sacramento County Coroner's Office will brief our Squadron on the latest forensic techniques used to determine the manner of death for the 20% of Sacramento deaths that require an autopsy.

April: UC Davis Aeronautics Department will present a timely discussion on the evolving role of aircraft flight controls – do we really need an aileron? Find out at our meeting.

May: Sheriff's annual aircraft review at Mather Airport.

June: What's it like to be a deputy working at the Sacramento Court House? This month's meeting will give us a behind the scenes perspective.

July: We will visit Sacramento's Amazon Fulfillment Center. Learn how PrimeAir interfaces with the land side of Prime.

August: Castle Air Museum Open Cockpit Day.

September: What's the weather like for today's flight? NOAA provides the answers. This month we will learn how computer models assist weather analysts.

October: We receive a visit from the U.S. Secret Service as we hold our annual BBQ meal.

November: Change of Command Banquet.

Get ready for an exciting 2020.

We can all be smiling!



Air Squadron Roundtable
January 15th, 5:30 pm
Squadron Headquarters
Executive Airport

Sheriff's Air Squadron representatives from nearby groups will attend our meeting for a networking opportunity.

We will learn what other Squadrons are doing – learning – flying.

Join us for a tasty meal from Aviator's Restaurant.

AROUND THE SQUADRON



By Ron Richey

Kelly Couch decided he would surprise his wife **Jana** with trip over to the Napa Valley area for her birthday, which included not only the swanky spa hotel stay, but an early morning hot air balloon ride over the vineyards. Kelly, whose mantra is....'you have to always stretch your brain'....was so enamored with the experience, has decided he needs to get a hot air balloon rating. Apparently there is someone over on the north coast who gives dual instruction on how to become a hot air balloon pilot. Kelly said there is only one DPE in California who gives balloon check rides and she lives in Southern California. Wonder if Kelly will show up at our next Sheriff's Review of the Fleet, flying a balloon? Stay tuned.

Ron Lamb started off the New Year with a double celebration, first being the 49th wedding anniversary to the love of his life, **Beverly**, and the second was handing in his resignation to his law partners, saying he really needed to go sailing more often in BVI. (Ron plans to practice law on a part time basis) He has a trip planned with his brothers in two 45 foot catamarans sailing around the Virgin Islands in April. Ron is also very involved in organizing the annual River Rat Reunion. Sounds like our Squad member will not be very bored during his retirement years. Congratulations.

Ron had a brief hospitalization just before Thanksgiving. While trying out TopGolf with friends, he suffered a "rib slip" – a muscular skeletal condition that

is very painful – glad to know it mended well.

Mike Traud and his **93 year old dad Bert**, spent some quality cockpit time together (meaning Mike was NOT giving his dad a check ride) flying around Northern California checking out the sights.....**it was dad's birthday**. Because they were in a Pilatus PC-12, they were able to cover Sacramento, the coast range and around the Bay Area in a reasonable amount of time. Mike said it was one of the best flights he has had in a long time, both he and dad will always cherish the flight.

On a different front, **Mike Traud** has purchased another flying machine. What does a former airline pilot with ratings in King Airs, PC-12s, various corporate jets, T-38, T-33, along with DC-3 and B-25 time, buy for his personal transportation after giving hundreds of check rides annually? Wait for it.....a 1970 Cessna 150L.....would you expect anything else? Mike's new ride has only 4600 TT on it and is currently in an avionics shop getting outfitted with the latest Garmin magic boxes. Mike says he and his wife **Renee** will no longer have to fight the insane traffic while driving to their ocean hideaway over at Sea Ranch. They can putt along in their little 'one-fifty' above the stalled traffic and cut their time to the coast by hours.

Ken Lux and Tim Pinkney returned from an exciting trip to Japan. Turns out Ken has been receiving Ninja training from his Ninja Master for over 32 consecutive years – and today Ken is a 15th degree Black Belt – the highest rating possible. Don't mess with Ken!

Tim accompanied Ken on the trip where he promptly dislocated his right hip for the 3rd time while having dinner sitting on the floor in a traditional Japanese home. Our "Gentleman Warrior" paid the price for this medical incident with some major at-home rest. But before this rest, Tim did some hiking in Japan. What's the matter with this guy?

Commander's Column: Best view of Hollywood sign

Since it was dedicated in 1923, the Hollywood Sign has become a Los Angeles icon. In the 1970's the sign was nearly lost to vandalism and neglect. But in 1978, the late Hugh Hefner hosted a fundraiser at the Playboy Mansion and auctioned off individual letters to famous guests – using the money for much needed repairs.

Alice Cooper sponsored the "O" (in honor of Groucho Marx), the "singing cowboy" Gene Autry sponsored an "L," and Andy Williams the "W."

Today the 45-foot-tall, 350-foot-long sign is in its best condition ever, thanks to the ongoing preservation efforts of the Hollywood Sign Trust.

What's the best way to view the sign? From the air!

That's just what I did on a recent flight from San Diego to Van Nuys. Sliding between the sign and Griffith Observatory is a great sight. SoCal ATC is easy to work with in the area – and actually air traffic is fairly light.

Located at an elevation of 1,700 feet on Mt. Lee, flying by a few hundred feet away gives plenty of clearance room.

We've seen the sign behind celebrities like Meryl Streep and Ellen Degeneres – but there is something special about viewing the legendary sign from the air.

What could be more Hollywood than that?

Dale Terry, Commander

