



# Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron Newsletter

SERVING THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF SINCE 1941

JUNE MEETING

## SSAS and COVID-19:

### Sheriff's Air Squadron on stand-down until June 17th

Sacramento County has extended COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place order through May 22<sup>nd</sup>. As a result, our Squadron remains on a stand-down until our June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The current County order "bans all non-essential gatherings of any number of individuals."

Your Squadron Commander attempted to hold a May webinar, however our target presenters were not available due to health and safety issues.

Some of our more senior members are particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus and would have difficulty attending any group functions until the shelter-in-place order has been lifted.

**Here's where we stand now on projected meetings.**

We plan a June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at our Executive Airport Squadron Headquarters.

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, we are scheduled to hold our annual Sheriff's Review of Aircraft at Mather Airport. This date is not our usual third-Wednesday – rather, we are accommodating

available dates for Sheriff Jones to attend our meeting along with other Sheriff's Air Operations staff.

August's plans are to reschedule our visit to Sacramento County Coroners Office and tour the site with Coroner Kimberly Gin. This meeting location had previously been canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In September we are planning a fly-out to Castle Air Museum, Castle Airport, Atwater, CA. The museum, located next to the airport, has both an indoor and outdoor collection of historic aircraft and war-time memorabilia.

October's meeting takes us to Bob Lessman's hangar for our annual BBQ.

Change of Command Banquet takes place in November when new Squadron officers are sworn by Sheriff Jones.

I look forward to seeing everyone in June and our upcoming Squadron events.

**Dale Terry, Commander**



**Jill Brigham, Executive Director, SmartFarm, University of California, Davis will be our June speaker.**

How does SmartFarm relate to aviation? Jill teaches "Introduction to Unmanned Aircraft Systems for Agriculture and Environmental Science" at UC Davis.

Prior to teaching, Jill worked at NASA's Johnson Space Center where, as a project engineer, led the Aircraft Engineering Branch for 10 years.

Jill retired from NASA in 2013 at the end of the Space Shuttle Program and joined UC Davis. She is a private pilot and drone pilot.

AROUND THE SQUADRON



By Ron Richey

**What have our Air Squad members been doing during the Covid-19 shutdown other than looking at old logbooks ...**

**Chuck Asbury** said he has pretty much completed all the items on his wife **Reggie's** 'honey-do' list and is now spending time reading historical novels; currently reading a 1000+ page autobiography of General George S. Patton. Chuck said he and Reggie try to get out for an afternoon drive as often as they can, exploring Sacramento and surrounding areas. Chuck said he really misses seeing family members and friends, especially his Air Squad buddies and the Saturday hangar flying sessions out at Exec.



At age 12, an uncle gave Chuck his first airplane ride in a Cub flying off a dirt farm field strip. His initial thoughts

where, this looks pretty easy, move the stick, the airplane turns, pull back on the stick and it goes up. During his stint in the Army as a paratrooper, Chuck was always amazed how a huge airplane like a C-119 could actually fly and more amazing was how a first lieutenant not much older than him, was the pilot.....how hard can flying be?

Over the ensuing years, Chuck obtained his ATP, Instrument, Multi, SEL, SES, Helicopter certificates and ratings. He has had the good fortune to own and fly what a lot of us would consider 'fantasy' airplanes like the Boeing PT-17 Stearman and a P-51 Mustang. Chuck's

favorite traveling airplane was his Cessna 340 that he flew coast to coast on many occasions with family and friends.



**Doyle Carroll** said when he is not chasing his wife **Margaret** around the house, he has

been doing research on the new Microsoft Flight Simulator which is due to be released this year. Doyle said the 2020 Flight Simulator will be the new benchmark for the computer sim industry because of all the new high tech enhancements in graphics and motion simulation.

**Stan Stewart** said he has been able to maintain his sanity by meeting up with his formation group, called the Beech Boys (wonder what type of airplanes they fly?) every other Saturday for formation practice.



They not only practice social distancing while maintaining proper formation spacing while in the air, they

also use emails for briefing the flight and Zoom video for the de-briefing post flight.

Stan said he spotted Kurt Siggard at the Tracy Airport (KTCY) taking advantage of the \$2.99 a gallon gas for his Cessna 205.



**Rich Moorhouse** said what shutdown? Rich says he has been working pretty much full time since the pandemic started,

mostly handling emergency cases. He said he is seeing a lot of patients who have not been to a dentist in many, many years, let alone an oral surgeon and they seem to subscribe to the same

mindset of the folks who are hording all the paper towels and toilet paper.

When Rich asks a patient how long their tooth has been hurting, some will say....."well maybe for the last year or two"....and when was the last time you saw a dentist... "it's been over five years" ..and why are you now wanting to get it fixed? Seven out of ten say... "it's because of Covid-19 and because all the dentists have closed their practices... we needed to get in while someone is still open for business." Rich said it's getting a bit weird out there.



While **Steve Cassinelli** has been spending hours sitting in his Duke parked in his hangar, hooked up to an

external power supply, slaving over phone book size manuals on how to run his new glass cockpit suite of Garmin boxes, wife **Linda** has discovered a game called golf! Talk about taking social distancing to the next level!

**Mike Hooper** said he and wife **Holly** have been re-discovering how much they actually enjoy spending time together working on various projects with their church and spending time down on their boat moored in Emeryville. Mike said they have a great view looking west towards the Golden Gate as the sun is setting.



In the first week of May, Mike is scheduled for his fifth surgery down at Stanford Medical, in an effort to repair a damaged optical

nerve as the result of a very serious rear-ended auto accident over a year ago.



**Bob Lessman** and **Nancy** have been commuting between their homes in Fuller Town and out in Lincoln, along with celebrating

Bob's recent 82<sup>nd</sup> Birthday. Bob said they have cancelled their planned trip down to Florida due the virus situation with no one out traveling and all the hotels being closed.

On the bright side of things, Bob has a serious fellow out from Gulf Port, Mississippi doing a prepurchase on his big beautiful blue T-6. Needless to say, he hopes his airplane goes to a good home. Speaking of homes....Bob has confirmed that the Air Squads' annual BBQ will once again be held in October at his 'toy box'. Thank You Bob!

**Jim Shea** lives on three and half acres, giving him plenty of opportunities to sharpen his weed pulling and landscaping skills. Jim said he's not sure which is worse, dealing with the landscaping issues, or dealing with tenants who can longer pay the rent on his residential properties. Jim said he has to be super cautious during this coronavirus outbreak because of his liver transplant two and half years ago. He said he currently takes a daily handful of meds to protect him from infections and over all, his health is holding up pretty well.



Jim got the flying bug at age 10 while visiting relatives out on a farm in Iowa when an uncle put him in the front seat

of a J-3 Cub and they departed from a grass strip. Jim thought flying was big fun, right up until the uncle in the back seat asked if he wanted to do a loop? What's a loop Jim replied? After that flight, Jim was forever hooked on flying.

While in college down in the Fresno area, Jim found a flight instructor who guaranteed that for a \$100 bucks, he would solo. After about five hours of dual, Jim did in fact soloed in a Cessna 150. Some of us are old enough to remember instructors that charged \$5.00 per hour and you could rent a Cessna 150 for \$10.00 per hour.....wet!

Some years ago, Jim and former Air Squad member Terry Johnson set a speed record in their turbo V-35 Bonanza; San Francisco to Denver in 3 hours and 28 minutes. They flew the trip at FL250 with an OAT of -40 degrees, giving the old muffler style heater a real workout. Jim and Terry finished out their flying days and partnership owning a Beech Baron.

**Ulli Luenemann** has been spending time commuting between his home in Sacramento and his mountain house up in the Sierra's near Truckee, trying to stay on top of the ongoing maintenance issues. While pursuing through old logbooks, Ulli is reminded of a couple of flying adventures he and Chuck Asbury experienced back in the 70's & 80's.



On one occasion, they borrowed a Piper 250 Comanche that belong to the late Air Squadron Safety Officer Captain Jack Birch and spent six weeks flying it

around the Caribbean. At that time, the airplane had tip tanks, plus the four wing tanks, giving them a total of 120 gallons of fuel, range was not a problem. Jack's 'ole Comanche is still flying out of Exec after all these years, having passed through several subsequent owners.

On another trip, Ulli and Chuck convinced a friend who lived in Germany that they needed to take a trip in his Bonanza. The trio spent a couple of weeks flying from Germany to Italy, Greece, Cyprus, through Egypt via Cairo and Luxor and back to Germany with stops in Rhodes and Malta. Ulli said with all the world changes, he doubts such trips in GA airplanes can be easily put together these days.