



# Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron Newsletter

SERVING THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF SINCE 1941

JULY MEETING

## Sheriff's verdict:

### Squadron aircraft are in great shape

June's Annual Fleet Review was conducted by Sheriff Jones with Squadron aircraft passing with flying colors.

Over 15 aircraft were on display at Air Operations ramp for inspection. Ranging from a visiting vintage Yak 52 to several Cessna 182s to an Agusta Westland AW 109 helicopter – our inspection included both interior and exterior views.

"I love to be here for our Fleet Review," said Jones. "Squadron aircraft are well maintained with owners committed to flying missions when asked."



The meeting at Mather Airport marked a return to in-person events following over a year and a half of COVID lockdown.

Extreme temperatures did not hamper Squadron members from cruising Mather's ramp. Static SSD helicopter displays gave an intriguing look at current department assets.



One canine visitor, receiving guide dog training, arrived on Amador Stage Lines beautiful Cessna Citation jet. Jones added this four-legged guest to his inspection tour.

Sheriff Jones administered the Squadron Oath to new members **Don Fulton and Steve Throne.**

Dale Terry, Newsletter Editor

### July Meeting



July 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:00 pm

Placer Sporting Club

2001 Opportunity Dr., Roseville

Speaker: James Drioff, U2 Pilot

Our July speaker is a well-seasoned Lockheed U-2 pilot stationed at Beale AFB. Jim is also a reserve Sheriff deputy.

Known as "Dragon Lady," U2 aircraft have flown missions for CIA and USAF worldwide.

Hard to believe that the 65-year old aircraft is still at the top of its game – but flying at 70,000 feet and above, Dragon Lady is still flying missions in a stratosphere environment using new artificial intelligence technology.

## AROUND THE SQUADRON



### Ron's photo captions:

**Below:** "How many Air Squad members does it take to start this thing?"

**Page 3:** Cassinelli asks "Are we at the correct airport ... Don't look now, but I think there is a Russian airplane behind us."

Joe Williams to Stan: "The Commander asked us to do what?"

Ron Lamb discusses C182's with Cox: And some of what he says is actually true!

At the lectern: The old guard checking out the new guard ... the future looks bright!



# Safety Brief:

## Why do aircraft gain weight?



By Bill Cox, CFII

Why do aircraft gain weight? New avionics. Modifications. Dirt. Grease. Repairs. Patches. New/repainting. There are a load of reasons.

Every so often after adding/changing/removing avionics, etc. I pay the bill to my A&P to pull out the scales and do an ACTUAL weight and balance with all the stuff I usually have in the aircraft.

Years and decades of "plus this and minus that" can cascade into a myriad of errors. My rule-of-thumb is to perform this periodic service as part of an annual inspection every 5-10 years.



I recently reviewed an article about weight gain resulting from aircraft re-painting. Actually, in reading accident reports, one takeaway is that weight changes accompanying painting can impact useful load. Those unknown "negligible changes" can add up!

Some weight and balance issues are raised by long-ago math errors. And another problem is that "negligible additions" may not be balanced by "negligible subtractions."

A good weight and balance management program should be part of aircraft ownership and professional flying,





## Commander's Column:

### Boy, did I miss in-person meetings!

Hello Air Squadron!

What a fun and informative June 30<sup>th</sup> gathering at KMHR's Sheriff's Air Ops hangar. Thanks to Sheriff Jones and his Air Ops team for hosting this event.



Our "Fleet Review" included a wide variety of aircraft. **Sheriff Jones** enjoyed speaking with pilot members to better understand aircraft we operate.

A special thanks to **Tom Jones** and the Sacramento Division of U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Color Guard who provided a great patriotic color guard

demonstration during our pledge of allegiance. These Cadets are sponsored by Sacramento Council of the Navy League.

Our guest speaker, NASA Astronaut and UC Davis professor, **Dr. Stephen Robinson**, presented a refreshing view of his four Space Shuttle missions and future of space flights.



During our meal, SSD's UAS team gave an impressive demonstration of unmanned aerial vehicles capabilities. Watching their precision flying confirms the value these tools offer law enforcement. Well done!

Vice Commander, **Doug Hunting**, updated our group on a revised Squadron website which is now active. Check it out at [www.sacairsquadron.com](http://www.sacairsquadron.com).

Photos in this month's Newsletter were taken by "markeloper aviation photography" ([www.markeloper.com](http://www.markeloper.com)) and Alexandra from SSD's Field Support Division/Support Services. Thank you for nice work.

**Air Boss, Ron Richey**, was all geared up for ramp action and guided arriving aircraft to parking. Ron does an outstanding job each year in scheduling Squadron aircraft.

Also at Mather's meeting we used the services of Mike Martin, a professional photographer to take head shots for use in our internal Squadron directory and (new this year) our own Squadron ID cards.

I can tell you that the photos look great and will definitely enhance our roster. If you did not attend Mather's event, you can make an appointment with Mike at (916) 223-8361. His discounted in-studio charge is \$59.00. You must wear a current Squadron uniform for any ID pictures.

Although all Squadron members are eligible to obtain an official SSD ID card, one drawback is that cards are only valid for one-year. So, many members have decided not to take advantage of this benefit. Our own ID card, while not an official SSD document, will be valid for three-years.

If you need a Squadron uniform, they are available at Gall's Uniform, 2333 Arden Way. See Theresa, store manager, who knows our Squadron logo wear line.

If you would like to receive an official SSD ID card, you are scheduled during your birthday month for a photo shoot at the Sheriff's main office, 4500 Orange Grove Avenue. Contact me if you wish to be scheduled.



*Let's Fly!*

**Ken Lux, Commander**

## Our members in Action

Tim Pinkney is always busy each July 4<sup>th</sup> as he works with a team of 8 pyrotechnics personnel to shoot displays at Rivercat Stadium. It is hard work – helping to wire over 2,500 devices over an eight hour period (12 – 8:00 pm for a show at 9:30.

