



SERVING THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF SINCE 1941

# Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron Newsletter

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

## Navy Sea Cadets:

### Take to the sky with our Squadron's help

Last month, over 20 U.S. Navy Sea Cadets from the Yuba County Division received flight orientation from both Sacramento and Sutter Sheriff's Air Squadron members.

Organized by Prospective Squadron Member, **Shawn Britton**, the group of 10-18 year olds received ground school orientation before their in-the-air adventure.



Never heard of Sea Cadets? You're not alone. I needed to look up background information, too. Here's what I learned.

Sea Cadets is a congressionally-chartered, and U.S. Navy sponsored organization that teaches young boys and girls about sea-going military services, naval operations, community service, citizenship and an understanding of discipline and teamwork.

**Sherry Herkal**, Commanding Officer for the Yuba Division, said of the event: "Thanks so much for everything you did for us. The kids were absolutely over-the-moon with enthusiasm. Anytime you need anything, there are a whole bunch of crew kids that are willing to help."

Besides Shawn and myself, several Sutter/Yuba pilots and local Air Squadron members assisted. Aircraft included an antique tail dragger, Beach Bonanza, C182, and a Piper.

For some kids it was their very first time in an airplane. So there was excitement and also some nervousness to be found among the group.

There are 396 divisions located throughout the U.S. Each unit drills during the school year and during summer Cadets participate in advanced training at a wide variety of government and military installations.

It was a great experience flying with these kids – they weren't shy – and asked great questions about aviation and piloting.

**Dale Terry, Newsletter Editor**

### Speaker: James Brown III

President

National Test Pilot School

*"A Test Pilot's Story"*



Squadron Headquarters

Sacramento Executive Airport

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm

Jim Brown served has served as F-22 Lead Test Pilot, with over 1,000 flight hours. Later he became Chief of Flight Operations at Lockheed Martin's "Skunk Works."

He now maintains his currency (and sanity) in a vintage Cessna 195. He has logged over 8,800 flight hours in 134 different models of aircraft and is the world's highest time Stealth Fighter pilot.

## AROUND THE SQUADRON



By Ron Richey

What do some Air Squad members do before the big football game on **Super Bowl Sunday**? Why they go to the airport and hangout.....what could be a better pre-game activity?

**Chuck Asbury, Mike Traud, Ulli Luenemann** and former member **Matt Evans** (currently working on a move to Texas) hung out with a group of folks watching some warbirds being put through their paces. There is nothing like the sounds of Merlins flying overhead.



And speaking of Ulli, he will be sharing some pictures from both his and Chuck's trip to Ecuador described in a January Newsletter – Chuck's column "From the Left Seat."

As Paul Harvey famously said, "Now for the rest of the story."



**Stan Stewart**, a member of the west coast formation flyers group known as the **Beech Boys**, has extended an invitation to anyone who might have an interest in formation flying to join their beginners/refresher **March 25-27 fly-out at McClellan**. (KMCC)

The course starts Friday night with a 90 minute PowerPoint presentation via Zoom on the basics - think formation flying 101. The group will be flying both Saturday and Sunday starting at 0800. All makes and models are welcome with the minimum aircraft performance being able to cruise at no less than 115 knots and still have extra power to be able to maintain position in the formation.

To register, pilots need to click on [www.b2osh.org](http://www.b2osh.org) which is a free site for Bonanzas to Oshkosh in order to get into the data base to register your name and aircraft. As mentioned your aircraft does not have to be a Beechcraft.

There will be an advanced clinic at McClellan Jet Services on April 28-May 1.



**Jim Phillips** passed along some interesting news from Pine Mountain Lake.

Jim told me "an excellent speaker from Pine Mountain Lake is putting on a program at the airport association's monthly dinner meeting Saturday evening, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM."

"The speaker is Ken Orloff, a pilot with every rating a pilot can have plus builds his own planes at PML. Ken is hired to investigate aircraft accidents and testify as to his determination of their cause. He frequently puts on a program about an interesting case and is an excellent and interesting speaker."

"I won't miss one of his programs. I was thinking some Squadron members might be interested in flying to Pine Mountain Lake Airport where I can meet them at transient parking and drive to the hanger where dinner and meeting is held. "If folks are interested in going, please let me know."

**Aviators Restaurant** is a very nice dining location. Every time I visit Chic's eatery, I feel well taken care of. Even if I'm not flying that day, the airport view keeps me "pumped" about general aviation.

Aviators serves breakfast and lunch seven days a week and dinner on Friday and Saturday.

It can also be the site of a banquet or special event.

Hours are:

Monday - Sunday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday & Saturday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Let's support our Executive Airport businesses!

## Safety Brief:

### We are getting older!



By Bill Cox, CFII

Like the nation as a whole, the Squadron pilot population is growing older.

We are seeing a reflection of broad demographic trends and a logical question is how we as pilots can best be prepared for aging and cockpit performance.

Here are some practical recommendations from medical and industry experts to help us fly safely – longer.

**VISION:** For many pilots, changes in visual acuity are among the earliest and most noticeable issues associated with growing older. Peripheral vision narrows, near vision becomes less acute, eyes no longer focus as quickly, and night vision degrades.

Recommendations: » Get a full eye exam on a yearly basis. » Purchase an oxygen system, and/or start using it at lower altitudes. » Allow your eyes more time to adjust at night, and consider switching to low-level white cockpit lighting, which is better than red for focusing. » Get bifocals, or progressive lenses. Many pilots do fine with off-the-shelf “readers,” but prescription glasses are generally better. » Wear haze-cutting prescription sunglasses. » Consider purchasing traffic alert equipment.

**HEARING:** Particularly in the high-frequency range, hearing diminishes with age. Pilots tend to be worse off than the general population in this respect.

Recommendations: » Consider purchasing active noise cancelling headsets; many pilots are surprised at the reduction in ambient noise. » Be prepared to ask controllers to “say again” if necessary. » Consider purchasing hearing aids.

#### **STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE:**

Many pilots report decreased flexibility and loss of strength as they get older. Most notice that cockpit fatigue sets in earlier than it once did, and some find it more difficult to perform fine motor tasks, like pressing small buttons.

Recommendations: » Get a yearly physical, starting no later than age 50. » Maintain an exercise regimen: 30 minutes of physical activity a day, even simple things like walking, can have a tremendous impact on overall well-being. » Try to schedule flights for the morning, or late afternoon, when it tends to be smoother and cooler.

Avoid early mornings and late nights, however. After-lunch flights can also lead to fatigue problems. » If cockpit fatigue is a problem, allow more time, and plan more frequent stops. Noise-cancelling headsets can be helpful here as well. » Stay well-hydrated, but avoid coffee and other caffeinated drinks. If in-flight discomfort is an issue, plan shorter legs or carry on-board relief products. » Stay well-fed. Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) can take a real toll. » Proper rest is even more important as an older pilot. Most of us can’t just “power through” as we did in college or our early 30s.

**MEMORY:** Working memory is used often in flying, and seems to be the type most affected by normal aging. Many older pilots find it more difficult to remember things like altitude

assignments, transponder codes, and radio frequencies.

Recommendations: » Take notes. Have a pen and paper handy anytime you’re dealing with ATC. » Consider purchasing an altitude reminder device, or adapt something else to the purpose. » Try to fly when you’re “fresh.” Older pilots often perform better on memory tests in the morning. » Enlist the aid of cockpit companions to “back you up” on the numbers and help with things like radio tuning and GPS programming.

**DECISION MAKING:** Although experience can have a real impact, aging can also make it more challenging to handle decision-making tasks.

Recommendations: » Spend more time doing preflight and contingency planning. Any “pre-thinking” you do will make things easier later. » Fly when well-rested, and make it a point to stay particularly alert to changes in the cockpit (e.g., mechanical issues, weather, etc.). » Always have a solid “Plan B” ready to go ahead of time. Make sure it’s realistic.

**PROFICIENCY:** In addition to expertise, recency of experience can have a dramatic effect on overall airmanship, regardless of age.

Recommendations: » Take an organized approach to recurrent training. Set a schedule—an instrument proficiency check every six months, for example—and stick to it. » Look for a good instructor who works well with you and isn’t afraid to throw challenges your way. » Get involved in new activities, start work on a new rating, read books, take Air Safety Institute online courses and quizzes—anything to keep your mind active. » If the cost of flying is a concern, mass-market PC flight simulators (like Microsoft Flight Simulator and X-Plane) are surprisingly inexpensive and realistic ways to stay sharp—particularly for instrument flying.



## Commander's Column:

### A pilot with the "Right Stuff"

Hello Air Squadron!

I look forward to returning to the Hut for our March 16th Air Squadron meeting. Please join us as we have a really great meeting planned!

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a test pilot?

When I hear the term "test pilot" it reminds me of hearing Bob Hoover tell me about testing the North American F-86 Sabre and other aircraft. And remember the X-15, "fastest rocket plane," from back in the "Space Race" days? Neil Armstrong's X-15 Test Flight bounced off the atmosphere and almost ran out of kinetic and potential energy, before Armstrong was barely able to reach the south end of Rogers Dry Lake at Edwards and land.

If any of these stories get your attention, then you will enjoy our March guest speaker -- James E. Brown III "JB"



President and CFO of the National Test Pilot School located at Mojave Air & Space Port <https://www.ntps.edu>.

"JB" is a Fellow and Past President of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP) <https://www.setp.org>, a Fellow in the Royal Aeronautical Society, and a member of Daedalians.

He has a BS in Civil Engineering from VMI, a MS in Management from Troy State University, and is a graduate of USAF Test Pilot School class 86A.

JB joined NTPS in 2016 after retiring from Lockheed Martin where he served in a numerous flight test positions in the F-117 and F-22 programs including Chief Test Pilot. While at NTPS, he served in a variety of management positions including Vice President, COO, CFO, Head of Training, and Chief FW Test Pilot Instructor.

JB also spent a few thousand hours passing on flight test knowledge to students both in the classroom and in the air.

I also want to highlight the Air Squadron Board and committees who are working hard on a number of projects to continue the Squadron's good work with the Sheriff's Office and Community.

At this month's meeting, Vice Commander, Doug Hunting, will be discussing more about our Endowment

Committee and Membership Committee Chair, Steve Throne, will share updates on our Membership Committee.

Here is a list of Committee Chairmen who are working on Squadron projects:

**Kevin Phillips:** Treasurer

**Doug Hunting:** Vice Commander and Endowment Committee Chair

**Ron Lamb:** Secretary

**Ron Richey:** Member at Large, Air Boss

**Dale Terry:** Communications Officer

**Tim Pinkney:** Investment Advisor for Endowment Committee

**Steve Throne:** Membership Committee Chair

**Bill Cox:** Hut Manager / Safety Officer

**Tom Jones:** Sergeant at Arms

*Let's fly.*

**Ken Lux, Commander**



## FAA HONORS JERRY BLALOCK

### Receives Wilbur and Orville Wright Master Pilot Award

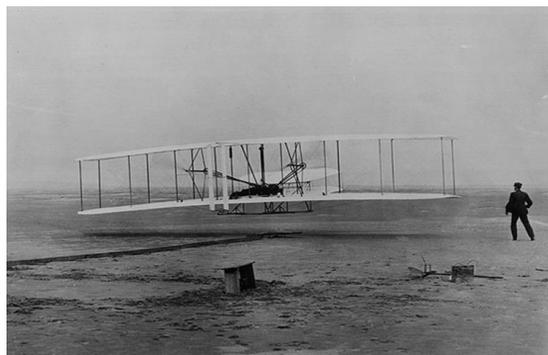
This month, **Jerry Blalock** will be honored by the FAA for 50+ years of continuous accident-free flying. The ceremony will be held at the Squadron "Hut" on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Jerry's friends and family are welcome to attend.

Three sponsors recommended Jerry for this honor: Major General (Ret) Bob Hall, past Commander of the California Air National Guard, our own Squadron member Mike Traud, and Captain Ed Daley, past Chief Pilot of United Airline's San Francisco domicile (who recommended Jerry for an instructor position at United's Denver Training Center).

Jerry's application was processed by Paul Koscheka, of our local FSDO office. Along with a required resume covering one's lifetime flying history, photos were requested. An interview was conducted and a through FAA flight records background check was made. Jerry is happy to report that (somehow) he passed all the checks.

The FAA established this award in 2003.

Jerry will join another Squadron member, Chuck Asbury, who received this honor in 2017. Jerry's award will be similar to Chuck's shown below.



Jerry says that he is humbled by the honor: "The master pilot award is recognition of a contribution to the aviation industry without having an incident, accident or violation. I always wanted to fly."

In addition to his distinctive certificate and lapel pin that are part of the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, Jerry will also be inducted into a Roll of Honor, where the nominee's name, city and state of residence, plus the month and year of the Master Pilot Award presentation, is available to view online at the FAA website.

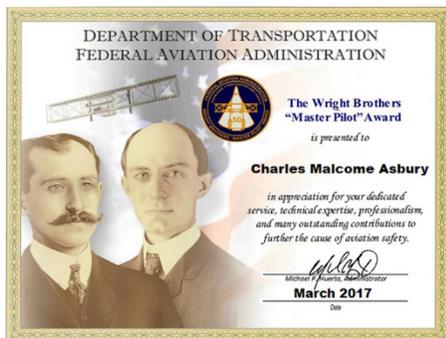
"The FAA award is an award I appreciate being recognized for," Jerry says. "We are all the people that built and supported the aviation industry. I am grateful for the recognition."

Jerry's military career is an impressive list of assignments and aircraft flown. International flying included Europe and war duty during Viet Nam conflict – where he was awarded 7 air medals for flights conducted under fire. He retired as a Lt. Col. from the US Air Force after 23 years of service – having remained in the Ready Reserve force at McClellan AFB for 11 years after 12 years of active duty.

Jerry began his career with United Airlines at age 34. Later, he retired from United as a Captain flying B757 and B767 aircraft.

Jerry joined our Air Squadron in 2001 and served as Commander in 2006.

Congratulations to Jerry Blalock for this well-deserved honor!



## COMMITTEE NEWS

### Membership Committee

Steve Throne, Chairman

I am deeply honored to have been appointed as the Membership Committee Chair for our Squadron. I fully support the Mission of the Squadron, and adding more high-quality members similar to our current membership will help achieve our Mission Goals.

Already several new prospective members are moving through our onboarding process. I hope to have many more this year. Trent "Hunter" Jefferson, also a new member, has been gracious enough to join the committee to help with membership growth and streamlining the membership process.

In order to do this, we need more help. We need to add at least 1 more person to the Membership Committee. I know within our amazing group of current members, there is definitely someone that can help fulfill these duties. If you are interested, please contact me, Steve Throne, at [membership@sacairsquadron.com](mailto:membership@sacairsquadron.com) or call at 408-315-4637. We can really use the help!

Keep in mind, any member who brings a guest is entered in the raffle for the yearly prize at our Annual Banquet. This year the prize is spending time with Sean Tucker at his Tutima Academy for Aviation Safety. (<https://tutimaacademy.com/>) Don't miss out on this amazing experience, so bring those guests in!

=====



Thanks to Ulli for a great flying poster.

### Endowment Committee

Doug Hunting, Chairman

In 2022, we are putting our best foot forward to make a difference in our community. We have established an Endowment Fund through Vanguard which will be managed by the newly formed Endowment Committee. The mission of the Air Squadron's endowment fund is to fund programs and scholarships intended to provide an outlet and a sense of hope for "at-risk" youth.

Our Squadron has teamed up with Aerospace Museum of California (AMC), the Sheriff's Office and other groups in creating programs that introduce these youth to the field of aviation, aerospace and other Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) related careers.

Programs include:

- Taking kids flying with Air Squadron members to expose them to the possibilities and joy of aviation first hand
- One-on-one flight simulator and ground school training with accomplished aviators, airline pilots and Certified Flight Instructors (CFI) at the AMC to teach kids how to fly
- Summer aviation camps at the AMC to expose them to the field of aviation
- Providing STEM career opportunities
- Scholarships to help with tuition and/or school supplies to help them succeed in their academic careers
- Providing guidance on how they can achieve a sustainable and rewarding career in aviation or other STEM related careers



Through these programs, we aim to help kids stay out of trouble, stay in school and provide a path for personal growth that may be lacking in their normal lives or schooling. For many, aviation and a college degree may feel unattainable. Our programs and scholarships put together by the Endowment Committee will give them hope and direction in their lives. We want to help foster the belief that no matter where they come from, they can achieve their dreams and that there is assistance available to help them do that!

We can't do this alone! We need your help to make this endeavor a success. No matter how big or how little the contribution may be, it all goes a long way in making a difference in these kids lives and giving back to our community.

If you'd like to help give these kids a helping hand, consider joining our Endowment Committee! You can contact me at [vicecommander@sacairsquadron.com](mailto:vicecommander@sacairsquadron.com).