



SERVING THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF SINCE 1941

Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron Newsletter

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

SR-72 Dark Star:

Top Gun Maverick aircraft now at PSP Museum

Palm Springs Aviation Museum has put the "Darkstar" aircraft from Top Gun Maverick on display.

In 2017 Hollywood producers asked Lockheed Martin for a conceptual design aircraft that could reach Mach 10. The Skunk Works designers came up with a cross between SR-71 Blackbird and the F-35 fighter jet.

The display is no scale model.

It measures 40-feet wide by 70-feet long. The dagger shaped aircraft has a tremendous amount of detail – on the landing gear, serial numbers are even stamped on the tires. The cockpit has an articulating canopy and Skunk Works control stick.

Darkstar belongs to Lockheed Martin with the aircraft trucked to Palm Springs and reassembled. There are no plans to

take Darkstar on the road for a tour – so a trip to PSP is the only way to have the Darkstar experience.

Secrecy was a big deal for the SR-72 – even for movie airplanes. Even the Darkstar designers are only identified by their first names.



The Skunk Works logo came into play in the 1930's when Lockheed Martin's SoCal factory was located next to a plastics plant that gave off a terrible stench.

The name Skunk Works is now associated with a place where super-secret technology is developed.

Dale Terry, Newsletter Editor

Paul Koscheka

FAA Flight Standards District Office
(FSDO) FAAST Program Manager

KSAC Squadron Headquarters

April 17th, 5:30 pm



"Pilots never stop learning, says Paul Koscheka, "and those who participate in regular proficiency training are competent, confident and safe."

As FAAS-Team leader in Sacramento Paul is well versed in aviation safety issues, having worked for the FAA since 1982. He started his career as an Air Traffic Control Specialist in Tucson, AZ.

Commander's Column:



Up, up and away

As we transition into the warmer and clearer days ahead, the Squadron's event season takes off on April 20, 2024, with a Fun-Fly to the picturesque **Shelter Cove Airport** (0Q5), located about 70 minutes northwest of Sacramento (weather permitting).



This destination offers breathtaking views and an incredible approach that will delight any aviator.

We will convene at 11:00 AM at Gyppo Ale, located on the south end of the runway, for a social gathering and lunch before exploring the small town including taking a stroll to the ocean for sea lion watching. Those interested in coordinating a ride to this stunning location should reach out to Hunter for arrangements and a pilot safety briefing as this can be a challenging destination.

Shortly thereafter, on May 17 and 18, 2024, we shift our focus to the **Hayward Air Rally**, an exceptional event that not only allows us to showcase our piloting skills but also offers a chance to socialize with fellow professional pilots from the local area.



We currently have two teams signed up and we are looking for more participants to join them in this competitive yet friendly event.

Looking further ahead, on May 24, 2024, we are planning a Squadron **Flyout to Palm Springs**. This weekend getaway is designed to offer both relaxation and enrichment, with a visit to the Air Museum (see story on page 1 of this Newsletter) being a highlight. Details are still being finalized and expect Hunter Jefferson to reach out to pilots over the next week.



The culmination of our spring events is the **Alameda County Sheriff's Air Squadron Fly-In**, taking place from May 31 to June 2, 2024. This gathering, a part of our ongoing Western States Association of Sheriff's Air Squadrons training and fellowship, will include a variety of activities such as flying exercises, a shooting competition, an awards dinner, and ample time for fun and fellowship. This event is structured to begin with arrivals on Friday afternoon, followed by competitions and social activities on Saturday, and concluding with departures on Sunday morning.

We urge everyone to consider participating in these upcoming events. They are a fantastic way to engage with the squadron, improve your flying skills, and enjoy the beauty of aviation in the company of friends and colleagues. For more information or to express an interest in any of the events, please do not hesitate to reach out to **Hunter Jefferson**, our new Air Boss.

Shawn Britton, Commander



Jerry Blalock retires from SSO

By Lt. Kevin Phillips,
Treasurer

On Thursday, March 20th, the Sacramento Sheriff's Office said goodbye with a "huge" thank you to Jerry Blalock for his 9+ years of service to the CCW Unit and nearly 20 years as a Level 3 Reserve Deputy Sheriff.

A member of our Air Squadron since 2001 and a former United Airlines Captain for 26 years, Jerry is a constant source of stories from his USAF days when flying C130 aircraft. During his United stint, he flew B737, B757 and B767 birds.

Back at the SSO, Jerry volunteered at multiple events including Pig Bowl games, Elk Grove's Western Festival Parade, Salmon Festival, Star 6 Softball Tournament, memorial services – just to name a few of his service involvements.

On Jerry's last day with the Sheriff's Office, he was met with a good-bye potluck. His daughter **Noelle Reis** attended as well as many fellow CCW Volunteers and CCW deputies. The event was standing room only! A full menu of pizza, lasagna, honey-baked ham, chicken wings and much, much, more.

In the picture above right, Jerry is joined (clockwise) by Stacey Miyazaki (volunteer coordinator), Wayne Ikeuchi (reserve SSO deputy, retired SSO Captain) and Jerry's daughter Noelle.

Sheriff's Records Officer 2 and Volunteer Coordinator **Stacey Miyazaki** presented Jerry with a very nice plaque in recognition of his two decades service. CCW Sergeant **Zach Hatch** presented Jerry with a small-scale replica of a Sheriff's helicopter.



CCW reserve Deputy **Wayne Ikeuchi** recounted his connection with Jerry as a neighbor and CCW volunteer.

Jerry's work at CCW Unit (Concealed Carry Weapon) has been an important step in Sacramento County citizens obtaining this permit. And it is not a slam-dunk process.

Beyond an initial application, a background check is completed, and interviews are conducted. Jerry has been one of the volunteers guiding applicants through the approval process. He was also involved in renewal applications.

Jerry served in the CCW Unit along with **Joe Williams**, another Air Squadron member.

Will Jerry be missed? You bet – and not just at the CCW office, but also in the Sheriff's Office. And his exit points to a continued

need for replacements. Not only for Reserve Deputies, but also for qualified volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming a Reserve Deputy or volunteer, please contact me and I will guide you through the on-boarding process. My email is: Kevin.Phillips@sacairsquadron.com.



Safety Brief: Allergy season



By Hunter Jefferson, CFII

It's that time of the year again when the sun is out, and everything is blooming. The trees and flowers have grown new growth, and the pollen is terrible! My eyes are beginning to water and my nose is running. Headaches and sinus pressure are just a few symptoms of allergy season. What can I take or do to relieve the symptoms?

And today, when I am scheduled to go flying -- how do I know which medications are safe for me?

The use of nasal non-steroid sprays is allowed by the FAA. **Cromolyn** is an FAA approved non-steroid medication used to control allergy symptoms. Another approved medication is **Atrovent**, which is a nasal spray that decreases nasal secretions. It is approved, after you show that you have no side effects.

Nasal Decongestant sprays, however, are not. This includes sprays such as



Afrin and **Dristan** which cannot be used for more than several days.

Over the counter (OTC) antihistamines block the body's allergy response and very few are allowed by the FAA due to them causing drowsiness and fatigue. **Claritin** and **Allegra** are allowed by the FAA. According to the Aviation Medicine Advisory Service and the FAA, they recommend waiting at least five times as long as the dosing recommendation after the last dose to fly.



For example, if the directions read, "take every six hours," the pilot should wait at least 30 hours after the last dose before considering flying." The common medicine, **Benadryl**, should not be taken to subdue allergy symptoms and is not allowed by the FAA. Benadryl has been shown to impair driving performance significantly more than a blood alcohol concentration of more than 0.1%.

As for an itchy nose, **Astelin**, is also an approved nasal spray by the FAA. There is also an eye drop form of this medicine that is allowed, if there are no side effects. If your allergies are severe enough to require the use of oral steroids such as **Prednisone** or Medrol, or steroid injections, you should

wait until the symptoms resolve to fly again.

Immunotherapy is a way to desensitize yourself to some allergies. The FAA requires a 4 hour wait after immunotherapy injections before going flying.

So here are a few popular medicines:

- **Zyrtec** is allowed with a 48 hour wait before flying, max twice a week, status report, and no side effects
- **Sudafed** is allowed with no side effects
- **Nasacort** is allowed with a doctor's status report and no side effects
- **Claritin** is allowed with no side effects
- **Actifed** is allowed with a 12 hour wait before flying

If your allergies are especially intense during this time, remember to check the wait times before grabbing allergy medicine. Try to find non-drowsy antihistamines such as **Allegra**.

Around the Squadron:



Teel celebrates 94th birthday

Long time Squadron member and Reserve Command Pilot **Jim Teel** turned 94 years old in March 2024.

Earlier this year the **Joyce Raley and Jim Teel Foundation**, created to honor Raley's founder Thomas Raley, provided a large gift to Sutter Health. The gift, which is the largest gift ever received by Sutter Health, will be used to enhance mental health services in Sacramento.

Jim's mother-in-law, **Claire E. Raley**, was also a pilot – and received her license the same year as Jim – 1958.

ID cards are now available

Commander Shawn has received the first set of SSO ID cards for members needing replacements. ID cards will be available at our next Squadron meeting. Remember that you must surrender your old card.

Brandon Luke joins SAL board



Retired captain **Brandon Luke** has joined the Sacramento Sheriff's Activities League (SAL) Board. As a non-profit organization – 501(c)(3), the group's mission is to build character and positive values with Sacramento area youth. The youth diversion program gives minor youth offenders a second chance after making a mistake.

In April, a fundraiser at TopGolf is on deck. Check out the SAL website for upcoming events: ssdsal.org.



Local legend works for votes

Former Sheriff John McGuinness (honorary Squadron member) has been working lately toward a new ballot measure to repeal the highly contentious Prop 47. This proposition, passed in 2014, lessened the charges associated with non-violent property crimes and drug possession.

McGuinness can usually be found attending the Squadron's bi-annual Change-of-Command Banquet. He oversaw the Department during the search for the Golden State Killer and was on scene during the 1991 Good Guys hostage crisis.

During John's 31 years with the SSO, he managed to work in every one of the Department's service areas – even doing a stint as a kidney-rattling motorcycle officer.

These days he is known as a regional radio personality and crisis management consultant.



One busy dude

Our Squadron Commander, **Shawn Britton**, has been extra busy lately. As Strategist Artificial Intelligence Technical Program Manager for Hewlett

Packard (HP), Shawn is on the forefront of AI related concepts for the company's work in advanced AI and robotic techniques.

A pilot since December 2020, Shawn also volunteers with Boy Scouts of America, and the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps program.

Nice going, Commander!

Sheriff's posse adds events



Looking to see another Sheriff's Office affiliate group in action? Then you'll want to

look at the upcoming events scheduled with the Sacramento Sheriff's Posse. Their web site has a full list of upcoming shows and exhibitions.

The group has a history like our Air Squadron – they were organized in 1937 to augment the Sheriff's Department in case of emergency.

In addition to emergency assistance, they also are proud of the Posse's precision mounted drill team.



Newsletter editor recovers

Dale Terry underwent left hip replacement surgery last month at Kaiser Folsom Ambulatory Surgery Center. The same-day surgery is followed by several weeks adhering to a strict physical therapy regimen. No flying for Dale for about 6-8 weeks.