



SERVING THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF SINCE 1941

Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron Newsletter

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

80th Anniversary Banquet:

Large turnout hears HondaJet designer

Over 150 Squadron members, spouses and friends attended December's 80th Anniversary Banquet held at the Aerospace Museum of California.

HondaJet designer and past Honda Aircraft CEO, **Michimasa Fujino**, was the keynote speaker. His over-the-wing engine mount was a totally new concept in business aviation in the mid-1980s.



Fujino captivated those in attendance with his story of selling the HondaJet concept to the Honda board and listing

famous owners of the aircraft. And yes, Tom Cruise owns one.

Owning a jet aircraft isn't cheap – yet Fujino said that based upon 450 annual flying hours variable costs of \$745,000, fixed costs of \$350,000 yields a cost of \$2,400 per hour. That's much less than Gulfstream IV and Bombardier Challenger 300 hourly expense.

In 2021 Fujino received the AIAA Aerospace Reed Award, the highest honor an individual can receive for notable achievement in aeronautics.

Since his retirement in March 2022, at age 62, Fujino is taking some well-deserve time for family. "I was almost fired when I first proposed this configuration to the Honda board," says Fujino. "This has been a project that has consumed most of my adult life."

Clearly, Fujino's vision will have a lasting impact on GA.

Change of Command Dinner

Aviators Restaurant -- KSAC

January 15th 5:30 pm



The Squadron's Change of Command Dinner closes out 2024 activities and leadership and introduces 2025 slate of officers..

The SSO special achievement plaque presented to our group at the 80th Anniversary Banquet by Sheriff Jim Cooper will be on display.

Also, new members will be sworn in.

Join the event and meet your new officers and hear about our upcoming plans.

Past Cmdr's Column:



Thanks for your support

Thanks to everyone who helped me during my tenure as Squadron Commander. I could not have done the job without your help.

I'm thrilled at the success of our 80th Anniversary Banquet. Sheriff Jim Cooper was very pleased with our event. And his enthusiasm for our group showed.

Our objective beyond celebrating 80 years of history was to generate funds for Flights to Freedom and Ken Lux reports that over \$20,000 was raised through tickets sales and auction.

Everyone enjoyed the "Wings, Badges and BBQ" theme. Cowboy and cowgirl attire sparkled – hats, vests, boots and even a bolo tie showed up.

Thanks to Ken's team, we enjoyed a great dinner, super decorations and a memorable evening.

Sheriff Cooper's table included a large part of his leadership team. Other Sheriff's from surrounding counties



joined us in celebration. El Dorado Sheriff **Jeff Leikauf** kept his table energized and laughing.



It's always great to see the legendary **Clay Lacy** attend our special occasions. Lacy flew up from Southern California especially to be with us.



I really enjoyed hearing Fujino describe his long, long journey in designing the HondaJet, obtaining Honda Board approval and leading a sales, marketing, engineering and production team.

His 1997 concept sketch is simple, yet profound in impact.



Tom Jones, Squadron member and museum Executive Director helped us feel welcome at the Banquet.



Thanks to all –
Shawn Britton, 2024 Commander

Squadron Leadership: 2025-2026



Dale Terry, Commander



Kevin Phillips, Treasurer & Membership Committee Chairman



Steve Throne, Special Events & Western States Association Coordinator



Andrew Bates, Vice Commander & Technology Committee Chairman



Ken Lux, At-large Board Member & Flights to Freedom Liaison



Hunter Jefferson, Safety Officer & Air Boss



Ron Lamb, Secretary & Legal Advisor



Shawn Britton, Past Commander & Scholarship Committee Chairman



Joe Williams, Property & Asset Manager

More 80th Anniversary Photos



Safety Brief: Autopilot Tips



By Hunter Jefferson, CFII

In my last column we reviewed autopilot disconnect precautions. This month, let's finish up on the subject by looking at some autopilot "magic words."

"In Use"

When you pick up an automated weather report and learn which approach is in use, go ahead and load it into your GPS navigator. "In use" is your cue to load.

"Heading"

As you are flying along, most likely you are using the autopilot's Nav mode. Keep doing that until you hear ATC direct you to turn to a particular heading. The word "heading" is your cue – put your autopilot in heading mode and follow your vectors.

"Cleared for the approach"

Now it's time to push the approach or vertical nav button that allows the autopilot to do its final work. Here is the key – don't push the approach button until you hear ATC say "cleared." No clearance – no approach mode.

Sometimes ATC will take you through the final approach course – if you have the approach selected in your autopilot – big

trouble. So, don't select approach mode until you hear the word "cleared."



Once you are told to contact the tower, this is a good time to enter the missed approach altitude in the autopilot altitude window. Now, if you need to exercise a missed approach, you won't be fumbling around for settings at the last minute.



We need to develop autopilot thinking. Just like driving a car, walking on pavement or performing a sport – we are working at a skill-based level. So, practice your autopilot skills and then when needed in real weather, we can follow patterns established from experience.

Finally, here's a final tip used by professional pilots. Constantly sync your heading mode with the course you are flying. If you must make a sudden heading change or begin receiving vectors, having your heading synced ensures you won't begin turning in the wrong direction once you click "HDG Mode."

PC 832 Course Graduates

Congratulations to **Steve Throne** and **John Massey** who both recently passed their PC 832 course work. Now, they are eligible to carry the Squadron "Wings" badge.

All Squadron members are encouraged to take the PC 832 classes. Offered at several sites in Northern California, the PC 832 Arrest and Firearms Course is the minimum standard for California peace officers.

Those who have taken the classes can attest to a much better understanding of the work carried out by Sheriff Office deputies.



The PC 832 course consists of two components, which total a minimum of 64 hours. The Arrest component has a 40-hour requirement, and the Firearms component has a 24-hour requirement.



A final 100 question final exam is multiple choice questions and includes several skill examinations on Arrest and Control Techniques. The Firearms component includes a firearms range qualification. All tests are pass/fail.