

# NEWSLETTER

February - March 2025

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## Imperial County Fly-in

By John Krikorian, WSASAS Commander

Brawley, California was the site for our February Fly-in hosted by the **Imperial County Sheriff's Aero Squadron**. Pilots and crews from four counties – **Imperial, Fresno, San Francisco and Alameda** – joined together for a series of exciting flying exercises, skill-building activities and camaraderie.

Our event featured a variety of aviation exercises designed to test pilot's precision, coordination, and emergency response skills. Among the highlights were:

- Balloon pop – pilots demonstrated their agility by attempting to burst helium balloons strategically released over the runway – then pilots attempted popping the balloon with their propellers.

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**MORE BRAWLEY PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK  
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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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**GOING TO WASHINGTON, DC?**

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# Sacramento Squadron's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Andrew Bates, SAS Vice Commander

Over 150 people attended the Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with proceeds benefiting Flights to Freedom. The December 2024 event was held at Aerospace Museum of California with special guest speaker Michimasa Fujino, founder and designer of Hondajet.

At the western themed event, Sheriff Jim Cooper welcomed Squadron members and presented a shadowbox award.



L to R: Sheriff Jim Cooper, Dale Terry, Squadron Commander and Ken Lux, Executive Director Flights to Freedom.



## Newsletter Editor

By Dale Terry



Welcome to this first issue of the WSASAS Newsletter!

Our newsletter goal is to highlight activities, events and mission success stories. And at the same time draw our western squadrons closer together through regular communication.

By way of introduction, I am a member of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron and have been a Cessna 182 pilot for over 50 years. Currently I hold SEL, instrument and Commercial ratings.

Of course, a newsletter is dependent upon news from the field and so I want to encourage each of you who are now reading this to forward any news items and squadron activities.

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## Save the date - "Hotter than Hell"

By Kevin McDonnell, WSASAS, Treasurer

Here's an important "heads-up" for your calendar. The 2025 "Hotter Than Hell" Fresno Fly-In will be held on May 16-18 at Sierra Sky Park (E79). For those needing a longer runway, plan to land at Chandler Executive and a shuttle van will bring you to the event. Lots of flying activities, shooting competitions and great food will be some things you will not want to miss.

Watch the WSASAS website for more info, or contact me at: [Kevin572mcd@alink.net](mailto:Kevin572mcd@alink.net)

# National Air and Space Museum now 50% Open

## Planning a trip to Washington, DC?

If so, you will find that the Air and Space Museum is now half-way completed with a massive renovation.

Eight new or reimagined exhibitions, the planetarium, the museum store and the in-house café are open.

One gallery in the now open west end is “We All Fly.” Greeting exhibit visitors is an inverted Oracle Challenger III aircraft made famous by airshow pilot Sean D. Tucker. Designed to allow Tucker to roll and tumble like no other flyer, the aircraft has eight ailerons and curved wing tips which enhanced maneuverability.



Museum admission is free, but timed admission passes are required. Go to the museum’s website to schedule your visit.

Here’s an idea – ask a fellow air squadron member to travel with you and enjoy the visit together!

Inside the gallery, the “We All Fly” theme is reflected in many aspects of general aviation – from an up-to-date Cirrus to helicopters to business and sport flying.

The museum’s east end is currently being prepared for exhibit installation with artifacts slated to begin moving into the new galleries later this year.

Replacement of the building’s facia stones was completed in December 2023.





## Imperial fly-in continued



- Search & Rescue – teams simulated real-world emergency response scenarios, showcasing their ability to search and locate and assist in distress situations.
- Spot Landing – precision was key as pilots competed to land their aircraft in a designated area as accurately as possible.
- Shooting Exercise – a unique challenge that incorporated marksmanship skills into the weekend's events.



Following a full day of aviation exercises, our group enjoyed a spectacular Saturday night dinner party. Imperial County Sheriff Fred Miramontes joined our celebration. And Dan Gryder of the YouTube Channel: Probable Cause captivated us with insights into the latest advancements and best practices in aviation safety and technology.

