

NEWSLETTER

April - May 2025

San Francisco Squadron slated for fly-over

On April 5th, a diamond aircraft formation of San Francisco Sheriff's Air Squadron members will perform a fly-over of the San Francisco National Cemetery. The fly-over is to commemorate the April 9, 1942 date when 76,000 Filipino and American POWs endured a brutal 66-mile march. They faced starvation, exhaustion and deadly violence. Thousands perished, but their legacy is celebrated each year.

The fly-over is scheduled at 11:46 am following the Tolling of the Bells ceremony. After the fly-over, a laying of wreath will be placed by both U.S. and foreign dignitaries. The flyover will include a Beech Barron, two Beech Bonanzas and a Piper Turbo Saratoga.

The SF Squadron includes 43 members with main meeting activities based at San Carlos Airport. Besides regular meetings, once each month the Squadron has a fly-out and meal. Here are their upcoming destinations. If you are interested in joining a fly-out, contact Chris Lea, 408-483-8872.

April – Columbia Airport

May – Lampson Field

June – Woodland-Watts Airport

July – Monterey Airport

August – Auburn Airport

September – Boonville Airport



In this issue:

San Francisco Unit Fly-over – Page 1

Sacramento Unit at MHR Airshow – Page 2

Soon to Be Hotter N Hell – Page 2

Castle Airport – Page 3

Hotter N Hell Forms – Pages 4-6

Sacramento Squadron at Mather Airshow

Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron exhibited at the California Capital Airshow in March. Attended by over 125,000 people, the event featured the Navy Blue Angels.



The Squadron's booth highlighted a 2025 scholarship program set to award two \$5,000 grants for aviation training. Award winners will be announced at the Squadron's annual fleet review when Sacramento County Sheriff Cooper inspects member aircraft.

In the photo above, Dale

Terry, Commander (r) and Hunter Jefferson, Air Boss are shown next to the Squadron's show banner.

The Squadron's booth was shared with Flights to Freedom, a human trafficking rescue group.

Sacramento's squadron uses these types of events to show Sacramento residents the group's commitment to public safety, fellowship and education.



"Soon to Be" Hotter N Hell Event

The Annual Hotter N Hell fly-in is now the "Soon to Be" Hotter N Hell. Based upon feedback from other units, we have moved this even earlier in the year to take advantage of mid-May temperatures.

We are looking forward to holding Hotter N Hell at Sierra Sky Park (E79), a privately owned, public-use airport seven miles northwest of Fresno's central business district. Created in 1946, Sierra Sky Park is the first-ever aviation community. NO AVIATION FUEL at this field.

Looking for a nice meal upon arrival in the Fresno area – try Flight Line Café at Fresno Chandler Airport (KFCH). If you pay your registration fee by April 25th, you will receive a \$10 value food coupon – just ask for it at the café. It's our way of saying thanks for registering early.

Here are some important dates to remember:

April 25 – Special rate at Hotel Piccadilly expires.

May 9 – Registration deadline.

May 16 – Soon to Be Hotter N Hell begins.

We are looking for news articles

Is your squadron involved in an upcoming event? Is your group holding a meeting with a great speaker? Are members flying to interesting locations? These and other news stories are needed to make your Western States Association of Sheriff's Air Squadrons Newsletter an effective communication tool.



Pass on comments and suggestions for articles to: Dale Terry, Newsletter Editor, DaleaTerry@sacairsquadron.com.



Castle Airport:

Busier than you think

Many air squadron members throughout California fly over Merced's Castle Airport – it looks gigantic from the air – and empty. But is it?

The answer is “yes” and “no.” On a continuous basis, the previous Castle Air Force Base, retired by the Pentagon in 1995 hosts a number of non-

aviation related businesses and organizations. Castle Air Museum is located here along with UC Merced research facilities, and the U.S. Federal Penitentiary Atwater, along with portions of the flightline leased to Google for self-driving car technology (known as Waymo). Merced County Fire Castle Training Facility is located here which includes classrooms, simulators, live fire building, and search & rescue maze.

On the aviation front, the one-time Air Force installation, which was home to U.S. Strategic Air Command B-52 and KC-135 aircraft, has acres of concrete flightline and open space surrounding the almost 12,000 ft. long runway. Now, other aircraft make use of the facility, including noise testing of B777 aircraft. The most recent testing was part of a certification process taking a previously configured passenger jet to new use as a large freighter aircraft. Owned by Kalitta Air, the FAA-required noise testing concluded on March 15th. Other aircraft will conduct noise testing in the future.



Largely used as a general aviation airport, over 70 GA aircraft are based here. Two flight schools operate the airport. Advanced International Aviation Academy, which focuses training for students looking to work in India and Asia airlines. Sierra Academy of Aeronautics also conducts training at Castle in an Ab-Initio training curriculum. So, radio communications are at times a challenge for ATC controllers given the number of foreign students.



This year, the airport will be the site of Luke Bryan – Farm Tour 2025. The sold-out May 15th event highlights the popular country-western singer, with proceeds benefiting Los Angeles fire victims.

A huge success at Castle Airport was last year's October 19th, first-ever AirFest & Family Fun Day. The event showcased aircraft for the US Coast Guard (C-27), a classic P-51 Mustang demo and fly-by passes by the

Commemorative Air Force with vintage WWII reconnaissance aircraft.

Looking toward the future, Merced County sees the airport evolving into an “inland port” allowing rail connection with cargo aircraft. The first phase of the project was funded with a \$49.6 million grant awarded by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). The rail-aviation connection is focused on intermodal cross-docking of Central Valley agricultural producers.

FRESNO COUNTY SHERIFF'S AIR SQUADRON

SOON TO BE... HOTTER THAN HELL

**SIERRA SKY PARK - FRESNO, CA.
MAY 16 - 18, 2025**



**Spot Landing - Message Drop -
Search & Locate -Shooting Competition**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
HOWARD RATZLAFF - 559-917-7616
HOWARDW@RATZLAFF.ORG**



FRESNO COUNTY SHERIFF AIR SQUADRON

2025 Soon to be Hotter N Hell

Friday May 16 – Sunday May 18

SIGN UP DEADLINE Friday May 9th 2025

Come join your fellow **WSASAS** members at the Fresno County Sheriff Air Squadron in the mild mid-May weather during our 2025 Biennial "Soon to be Hotter n Hell". The event is at Sierra Sky Park (E79) EAA hangar AKA "Bill Tjerrild Aviation Center & Bill Smilie Museum" 4344 W. Spaatz Ave, Fresno, CA 93722.

Please feel free to arrive Friday May 16 afternoon. **PLEASE NOTE:** there is no aviation fuel available at Sky Park, so plan accordingly. Shuttles to/from Hotel Piccadilly, airport, and event will be provided. If required, alternatively use Fresno Chandler Airport (FCH) and a shuttle will be available on request.

Activities:

Friday May 16th	Saturday May 17th	Sunday May 18th
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•1600 Arrive at Sky Park no later than 1600 and check-in•1700 Welcome and General Briefing•1800 EAA provided Dinner at hangar•1900 EAA Hangar Movie night following dinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•0800 Breakfast - Culinary delights of John Decicco•0900 Activity Briefing•0945 Activity begins (Search and Locate, Message drop at 0Q4, Spot Landing at E79)•1100 – 1400 Hotter Shooting•1230 <i>Grab n Go</i> Lunch at EAA hangar•1330 Activity (cont.)•1900 Catered Dinner and Awards at EAA Hangar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Hotel Piccadilly included hotel guest breakfast•Farewells, pack up and departure.

Hotel: Make your own reservation directly with the hotel - ASK for FRESNO COUNTY SHERIFF AIR SQUADRON (FCSAS) SPECIAL RATE (**RATE Expires April 25, 2025 – Reserve EARLY**)

Hotel Piccadilly • 2305 W, Shaw Ave. • Fresno, Ca 93711

Hotel-Piccadilly.com • d. 559.348.5527

<https://hotel-piccadilly.com/rooms/> (click to view photos from hotel website)

Rates/Room Types: (Government Rate)

Executive King Bed \$90.00 + 14.195% Taxes (\$102.78 Inclusive) per night	Executive 2 Queen Beds \$90.00 + 14.195% Taxes (\$102.78 Inclusive) per night
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FRESNO COUNTY SHERIFF AIR SQUADRON

2025 Soon to be Hotter N Hell SIGN UP

Friday May 16 – Sunday May 18

SIGN UP DEADLINE Friday May 9th 2025

Guest #1

Aircraft Make/Model _____ Aircraft N# _____

No fuel at E78 Sierra Sky Park!! Runway is 2473 x 50 ft. Alternatively use FCH and a shuttle will be available on request.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Flight Squadron _____

Participating as: ☐ PIC ☐ Flight Crew ☐ Other Specify _____

Activity Participation: ☐ Message Drop ☐ Spot Landing ☐ Search and Locate ☐ Shooting

Saturday Dinner Options: ☐ Chicken *or* ☐ Beef *or* ☐ Not attending

Guest #2

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Flight Squadron _____

Participating as: ☐ PIC ☐ Flight Crew ☐ Other Specify _____

Activity Participation: ☐ Message Drop ☐ Spot Landing ☐ Search and Locate ☐ Shooting

Saturday Dinner Options: ☐ Chicken *or* ☐ Beef *or* ☐ Not attending

Guest #3

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Flight Squadron _____

Participating as: ☐ PIC ☐ Flight Crew ☐ Other Specify _____

Activity Participation: ☐ Message Drop ☐ Spot Landing ☐ Search and Locate ☐ Shooting

Saturday Dinner Options: ☐ Chicken *or* ☐ Beef *or* ☐ Not attending

Cost Per Person: \$150	X Number of Persons _____	Total Enclosed \$ _____
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Make Checks Payable to: Fresno County Sheriff Air Squadron

Mail to: FCSAS, %Howard Ratzlaff • 17185 E Trimmer Springs Rd • Sanger, Ca 93657

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