

Auburn Aviation Association

PROPWASH



December 2014

President's Letter

MEETINGS

Wednesday November 5

6:00 p.m. General Membership

A vocal duet will entertain us.

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for Auburn Christmas Basket

Vic Macy (520) 888-3750

Potluck menu, last page.

Wednesday, January 8

The first Wednesday of the month falls on New Year's Day 2015. It is probable that our January meeting will be held on the 8th of the month.

There will be no Dec. Board meeting.

NOTICE

Pay your annual dues now to support our aviation community. \$20 per family. Bring a check to the meeting, or mail it to:

PO Box 6454, Auburn, CA, 95602

Or pay online at our website.

www.auburnaviationassociation.org

And click on the membership tab.

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NEW MEMBERS

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This is my last Propwash president's message, the 24th of 24. When I started as president two years ago I was terrified of having to write 350 words a month for the newsletter. I am still apprehensive but I have to admit that the writing assignments have been beneficial to me and I thank you. The old adage "if it doesn't kill you, it will make

you stronger" applies here. I would like to use

the rest of my last message to suggest some directions for the future.

First of all we need to periodically review our association goals. Are they being met? Are they changing? How do you meet these changes in the future?

My second suggestion is to fix our front door. The Auburn Airport has a very underwhelming front entry. If we call the north end of New Airport Road the front door it is totally inadequate in my opinion. Our front door is important and deserves special treatment. It is where we meet the public. We need a plan for the future to create a beautiful entrance and a time table to make it a real.

Finally, the information flow between the City of Auburn, AAA and 5AC needs improvement. Over the years I have watched the management of various projects and I witnessed a fragmented process. A typical example is the airport entry sign, obviously it has not been a simple process as it has consumed the better part of two years and at its outset seemed to be a simple replacement project.

My problem is during the process it was too difficult for our members to keep track of what was happening and who was responsible. A few people knew but the status was mostly a mystery. I believe we need an information page that would post the current status of all the airport projects being discussed at 5AC. Each project could then be detailed with data about who was responsible and the estimated completion dates for the various activities. I believe our communication among members would be greatly improved. If we had such a report for all our projects the speculation and rumors would be eliminated. I will certainly volunteer to help with this idea.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve the Association.

Bob Snyder

Sunshine Flyers Photos



Photos from Sunshine Flyers students: Top left, Brandon Kane is happy after his solo. Top right, Private pilot Scott Woodland made a solo flight in Mike Duncan's Citabria this month. Bottom left, instructor Greg Pellerin with newly soloed Jon Mitchell. Bottom right, Brandon Kane poses with his parents.

AAA 2014 Board Members

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Send us your news, events, and photos!

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Well, by this time we are all preparing for Thanksgiving dinner and enjoying the company of our families and friends. We will sit back and give thanks for all of the good things that have happened to us this past year and look forward to the future. Christmas is only a few more shopping days away and it is time to get ready for that. So I'd better get started soon.

Several people received their Christmas presents early this year in that they have completed their solo flights. Jon Mitchell, Brandon Kane and Chris Gray have completed their first solos with Greg Pellerin as their instructor. All students used a Cessna 172 from Sunshine flyers.

Jim Yoakum also soloed but his solo was in his own recently-acquired Cessna 182. Jim soloed in a C-172 earlier this year and is on his way to getting his certificate soon.

With a little luck and good weather

he should be done in the next few weeks. Sue Bell is ahead of all of them in that she has just earned her Private Pilots certificate in a Cessna 172, with Mike Duncan as her instructor. Congratulations to all on a job well done and enjoy your new adventure in flying.

The dinner last month at the Ridge to raise money for the statue of Col. "Bud" Anderson and the many veterans of the Auburn area was a great success. Our original goal of twenty thousand dollars was overwhelmingly smashed. We raised more than thirty thousand dollars thanks to the generosity of the many sponsors and guests participating in the event. While the working committee that put this all together was made up of many people, the success of the event was mainly due to Tracy Van Wicklin, Kelly Kreeger and Jennifer Henry. A big THANK YOU goes to Rich Anderson for bringing us all together and leading the committee. THANK YOU to all of those who spent many sleepless nights over the last few months putting all of this together. The base of the statue is now being constructed by the city on the lawn east of Wings restaurant. Hopefully the statue and all of its many parts will be complete before the end of the year or into the first part of next year. An official dedication will be done in the spring and all will be welcome to join in. I will keep everyone posted on the exact dates for that event.

Is anyone as tired as I am of listening to the announcement on the AWOS about our VASI lights being turned

off? Well our Christmas present from the city is that the new lights are in place and we do not have to listen to the message anymore. Earlier this past month the lights



were installed and the FAA did their obligatory checking of the lights with a half dozen passes down the runway to be sure they adjusted correctly. It was well worth the wait to see an

FAA Lear jet legally beat up the airport. How do I get that job??

Soar Truckee starts their winter maintenance on the first of December so they will not be as active as they have been these last two months. They will be back up and running around the first of March, so don't be bash-



ful about inquiring about rides or even buying rides for Christmas gifts. They won't be gone—just hibernating.

While Soar Truckee hibernates, a new

helicopter business is starting up at Auburn. I just know Tom Brady is thrilled with this news. More Helicopters!! Bryce Mitchell's new business is Odyssey Aeronautics. He is located in the building just recently vacated by Greg Foss of Classic Aviation fame and fortune. For now Bryce is only offering flight instruction but will be getting permission for scenic flights and perhaps even charter flights soon. Stop by and see him if you are in the neighborhood.

That is about everything for this month. I hope everyone (This means you, too, Miss Daisy.) has a Happy Thanksgiving and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mike Duncan

Prop Turner

Photos: Top left, Brandon Kane with instructor Greg Pellerin. Top right, Chris Gray after his solo. Bottom right, Jon Mitchell after his solo.

Happenings at the Mach5 “Club House”



The Mach 5 flight school is busy no matter what the season or weather. Colby Hamm successfully passed his private pilot check ride on November 6th under the guidance of CFI Andrew Moon. Auburn Aviation Association scholarship winner James Jacobsen celebrated his 17th birthday by passing his private pilot check ride thanks to CFI's John Klunker and Andrew Moon. Another very special student and special scholarship winner, Natalia Dyzndra, has completed her cross country flights and is prepping for her upcoming check ride. Alaska resident Jennifer Romo will return to Auburn this winter to continue training for her private pilot certificate. The hangar and the ramp are filled with planes for repairs and upgrades

and rumor has it Santa's sleigh is in line for its annual inspection, too!!!

Regardless of how hectic our bustling building seems to be, at this thankful time of year Dennis and I are particularly aware of why this business began in the first place. Mach 5 was born from a genuine passion for aviation and a desire to serve and support our airport community while educating the next generation of aviators. We are grateful for the type of patrons we attract and the fact that these remarkable people become friends and rarely leave 'The Clubhouse' once their mission has been accomplished. We appreciate that our maintenance facility's reputation draws beautiful planes from near and far all year round. We are proud of our airport family and charmed by the variety of colorful personalities that stand out so boldly and



surround us every day to provide encouragement or healthy debate.



We realize that the culture of service we intended to create years ago has blossomed into something more valuable than dollars or words. But this reflective time of year cements for us that it's the Mach 5 crew; the staff and their families that make all the external challenges of operating a business in a tough economy worthwhile. The daily smiles, kindness and personal touch, the deep commitment to excellence and the endless atmosphere of fun and fellowship are what make this organization so very

special. I hope you all get the chance to know the team as we do – they are worth the time.

So with Thanksgiving right around the corner, we want share our gratitude for the Mach 5 Aviation staff for giving their all, the airport for being our home, our customers for their endless support and the aviators of history for bringing us all together and keeping us here at the Auburn Airport. We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Dennis and Darcy



**Dennis Pearson and Darcy Brewer
Mach 5 Aviation**

Photos: Top Right, Coby Hamm after his solo flight. Top left, AAA Scholarship winner James Jacobsen with instructor Dennis Pearson. Bottom right, Mach 5 Club House.

At the November Meeting



DEC POTLUCK

AAA will provide turkey and ham. Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name, below, to serve approximately 8 people .

A-H—Dessert

K-P— Mashed/Sweet Potatoes

R-Z—Stuffing/Salad



Artist and pilot Doug Van Howd gave us a talk and a tour of his New Airport Road studio at the monthly General Membership meeting in November. Doug is pictured with his statue of Col. "Bud" Anderson in his studio. Doug talked about his life as an artist, his relationship with Ronald Reagan both as governor and president, and his photographic and casting work. He related many great stories about his photography trips to Africa, especially Botswana. "The tour was OUTSTANDING!" says AAA member and Richard Pearl. The Van Howd studio is open to the public Monday-Friday 10am-4pm. At the top right is a long-lost airport plaque recently uncovered by Airfield Manager Walt Wilson, who found it in a store room.

The slate of 2015 AAA officers were voted in. Pictured above are incoming President Wayne Mooneyham (at left), Treasurer Carol Uhouse, and outgoing President Bob Snyder. Terms will now be one year instead of two years long. Here are the 2015 officers: Wayne Mooneyham—President, Tim Pinkney—Vice President, Joanie Mooneyham—Secretary, Carol Uhouse—Treasurer, Chris Haven and Mike Duncan—Newsletter, Greg "Gap" Gappert with Duane Rueb—Publicity, Peggy Dwelle with Darcy Bewer—Membership, Wayne Mooneyham with Dave Fulton—5 AC, Walt Wilson—Scholarship Committee, Dick Kiger—Board Member Emeritus, Bob Snyder—Past President.

Photo credits: Richard Pearl.