

Auburn Aviation Association

PROP WASH



July 2014

President's Letter

MEETINGS

Wednesday July 2

6:00 p.m. General Membership
LCDR Israel Young of the US Coast Guard is our July speaker. He will present a brief overview of CG Air Station Sacramento's mission, capabilities, and challenges. See Potluck menu, below.

Wednesday July 16

5:30 p.m. Board Meeting
The board meeting is subject to change dates, but is generally held on the third Wednesday.

EVENTS

Wednesday July 23

6:00 p.m. 5 AC Meeting

Monday, July 28

6:00 p.m. Auburn Air Fair Mtg
New volunteers welcome.

Future meetings:

8/11, 8/25, 9/8, 9/22.

POTLUCK

Please bring a pot-luck dish (to serve 8) as listed below by the first letter of your last name.

A-H—Main Dish

K-P—Salad

R-Z—Dessert



This month, I want to share a thank you card we received from Natalia Dzyndra, one of our recent scholarship recipients. If you have met Natalia, you know that she exudes enthusiasm for flying and is very grateful to AAA for being instrumental in making it happen in her life. You will find her note at the end of this story.

Natalia's love of flying was kindled at the age of four when she boarded a plane bound for the United States from western Ukraine. She was served a tray of fresh fruit, which excited her because it was rare and expensive to find fresh fruit in Ukraine during the middle of winter. Ever since that first trip, she had always been looking up and wishing she could fly. By the age of 12, she began entertaining thoughts of becoming a pilot. By the time she was 14, her thoughts had evolved into a dream of becoming a fighter pilot, a dream that needed to be balanced in her young mind with her deeply held Christian beliefs.

During Natalia's college years, she traveled to Honduras as a missionary for six months, and ended up doing most of the graphic design and photography for a non-profit organization. She graduated with a double major in graphic design and photography from CSUS, and attended a four-month Bible training school to further her missionary interests. But, her educational achievement was not at the expense of her childhood dream to fly. This past January, four months prior to college graduation, she decided to take some of her hard-earned savings and invest it in flight lessons!

She began her training with Jennifer Meiners at Mach 5, and has been amazed and ecstatic about the experience of flying ever since. She won the AAA scholarship in February and, as a result, was able to solo in March. She now has just over 40 hours under her belt and is studying for her knowledge exam so that she can finish her cross countries and prepare for the check ride. Her goal is to become a mission pilot and use her training to help others. But the idea of being a fighter pilot still lingers in her mind, so she would like to get aerobatic training as well as her instrument rating and commercial license. When she's not flying, she's washing planes or doing side jobs such as transferring VHS tapes to DVD, landscaping, painting, and more *so that she can keep flying* when the scholarship funds run out! Natalia is truly a worthy recipient of our scholarship assistance, and in her own words...

"Thank you! Words cannot express how grateful I am for your help. Thanks to your support, I have been able to achieve solo flight. My love for flying is constantly increasing and I cannot wait for the day when I am asked, 'What do you do for a living?' I will delightfully reply, 'I fly airplanes.' Natalia Dzyndra"

Bob Snyder

Auburn Aviation Association Newsletter



Don Gwinn comes home from the Grand Canyon into the western slopes of the Sierras in his Husky this spring.

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Send us your news, events, and photos!

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Another great month for flying has come and gone. The weather is warm-ok, hot- and the sun does not set until almost 9:00pm. Plenty of time to fly after dinner. Tammy Meridith soloed this past month in a C-172 with Mike Poteet, of Sunshine flyers, as her instructor.

It was one of those calm days and not too much traffic to contend with and she was airborne by herself. There was the peace and quiet of no instructor and the added performance of no extra dead weight.

Additionally, Bob Sullivan earned his tail-wheel endorsement and is now wandering the skies in Sunshine Flyers Citabria. Congratulations to all on a job well done.

Our second annual trip to Truckee and Soar Truckee sailplanes was this month. On June 20, Andy Weinberg, Bob Sullivan and I went to Truckee to experience powerless flight and learn something about emergency landings. Similar to last years trip we all met at Soar Truckee at nine o'clock on Friday morning. Richard Pearl met us along with several others on the staff to help us get airborne. After introductions we are off to ground school for two hours. Richard starts with reviewing basic aerodynamic and aircraft performance as it relates to gliding. Best glide vs. minimum sink speeds, emergency procedures to restart an engine, aeronautical decision-making in reference to emergency landing sites, emergency communications, and the psychology of an emergency, or are you prepared with a game plan. All of this is necessary to surviving an off airport landing. Now it is time to go and actually practice what we have learned. Two flights are scheduled for each of us, one to learn how the sailplane performs and handles and the other to reinforce our landing judgment. I flew with Rick Hammer on both of my flights. The first flight allowed us to fly and really experience soaring. They let us stay up as long as we wanted to. We were towed to 8500 feet (about 2500 agl) and then we cut loose the tow rope. I think Andy managed to gain the most altitude after release and climbed to over



12,000. I only managed to get to 10,500. The lift was great. On the way back to the airport we deployed the spoilers to come down but there were times when we still could not lose altitude except to slip or dive thru the lift. Because of the unusual terrain at the end of runway 20, we were told to come in high because of the down draft at the end. I was amazed how steep you can come in with a glider and how short you can come to a stop once you are down. My second flight was a little shorter time-wise and we were released a little lower but I still managed to get up to 9000 ft. I think I let my confidence get the better of me on this flight and managed to let too much slack accumulate in the rope behind the tow plane. Glider instructor Rick took the controls for a bit and straightened us out. After that I settled down and the rest of the flight went better. It was good that I found some lift because while inbound to the airport to land several powered aircraft came in for landing, and two



took off. I ended up announcing that I would hold and give way to them. It seemed interesting to me that the glider, with no power, was circling while they took off and landed. I will probably never be able to do

that again. I am back on the ground and it is time to go home. Density altitude was over 9000ft when I took off and I used my new found knowledge about lift to circle out of the Truckee basin. A few bumps over the summit and I arrived back in Auburn. What a neat way to spend the day, I can hardly wait until next year.

Also in this newsletter is a report about 2011 AAA scholarship recipient Melody Dowlearn. This is an example of AAA scholarship dollars inspiring young people to flight. It is my goal to report on the progress and whereabouts of previous winners. Thanks to Jennifer Meiners for this month's contribution. Well, goodnight Miss Daisy.

Mike Duncan
Prop Turner

Scholarship Winner UPDATE

You may remember one of our 2011 AAA scholarship winners, Melody Dowlearn. She was the one who, during her solo student cross country ended up having to divert into Sacramento International Airport when her engine starting running a bit rough. She handled it perfectly, went on to get her license with Jen Meiners and continued on to college. Following is an update from Jen and a testament to the influence our airport community has on the world:

“A great big thank you to Tom Brady for introducing and inspiring another young pilot! Tom took Melody for her first flight when she was 15 years old during an EAA Young Eagles event. When Melody had to choose a Senior Project, she chose to solo an airplane for her project. I felt honored and privileged to help Melody with her flight training as I was a brand new flight instructor at the time. We started her flight training on August 30, 2010 & just 3 months later on Nov. 24, 2010, Melody accomplished her first solo (and the purpose of her Senior Project). By now, the flying bug had already bit Melody, so she applied for and won an AAA Scholarship to help her become a Private Pilot, which she obtained at the end of July 2011 on her checkride with Rick Savage.

Melody Dowlearn left Auburn to attend Liberty University in Virginia August 2011. She has continued her flight training at college. Melody was chosen to represent Liberty University in the Air Race Classic departing Concord, CA on June 16, 2014 and arriving New Cumberland, PA by June 19, 2014. She and her copilot, Alicia Isacson, flew a Piper Arrow owned by Liberty University for the race. Melody was very excited about the opportunity to meet and learn from other female pilots. She was also excited about the new challenges and experiences she would gain from flying VFR coast to coast in 3 days, including over moun-

tains. Once the Air Race Classic is over, Melody will go back to Liberty to finish her Commercial Certificate. Also, Melody will be graduating in December 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics with an emphasis on commercial and business aviation. She plans on becoming a Certified Flight Instructor and instructing at Liberty University upon graduation. Again, I am honored to have been Melody's primary flight instructor. She is an amazing young woman and is such a wonderful asset to the aviation community. I am extremely proud of Melody and all her accomplishments!” Jennifer Meiners

New Members

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**Renew your 2014 AAA
membership online**
www.auburnaviationassociation.org.
Click on the “Membership” tab at the top.

Around the Mach5 Clubhouse

Happenings

Stop by the Mach 5 Clubhouse and say hello to new CFI Jacob Roach, returning CFI-II Molly Lewis, and smiling Christy Oliveira, who is now assisting in taking care of this bustling place by keeping the office and front desk running smoothly. We also welcome back young entrepreneur and happy airplane washer Hannah Perry – make an appointment soon because she is happy to wash your plane this summer. Big congrats to our own Mach 5 instructor Karen Sutherland for earning her CFI-I rating!

As usual, we've had the honor of helping people achieve their aviation dreams! On May 8th, Helio earned his Private Pilot license - congratulations to him and his CFI Larry Uzelac. May 13th Patricio performed the amazing feat of flying his first SOLO flight! Congratulations to him and his CFI Andrew Moon. A couple of days later Colton also soloed, flying nearly flawless patterns and landing every time! Congratulations to him and his CFI Jen Meiners. One special student, Robert, showed up in hot pursuit of his private pilot rating.

He was an enlisted Marine who had earned a slot to go to pilot training for the US Air Force. HOWEVER, it was contingent upon him attaining his private pilot rating. Unfortunately, when he came to us he had been the victim of very poor instruction and had failed his check ride. We had barely a week to 'fix' all of the deficiencies, get him up to speed, and complete his check ride successfully – a very tough task given the situation and time constraints. In typical fashion the entire Mach 5 team rallied around Rob and he was able to take his check ride on the last day before reporting back to duty passing with flying colors! Congratulations to Rob and his instructors Beau and Dennis. We look forward to hearing which USAF Jet he will be assigned to fly about a year from now.

Landings

We have had a fantastic couple months of adventure and exploring! In addition to the well-attended Hangar of Dreams Fly-Out and Positive Altitude Disadvantaged Youth Event in May, we had a very special visitor to the region in early June. The Auburn team played a role in transporting all the media and safe arrival as well as week-long care and security for the only flying B-29 Superfortress in the world. 'FIFI' and a gang of gorgeous warbirds arrived to huge crowds at Mather Airport on June 5th and the broadcast media and social media went wild! The chatter was so lively that all of her available flights were all sold out before she even touched

down in Sacramento. Even though we experienced 100+ temperatures each day, the fans and families braved the heat to spend some time meeting the pilots and crew, climbing through the cockpit and some even took a ride to experience history first-hand. The CAF had a record breaking stop financially in our region for her first visit in almost 25 years, so we hope she returns again in the near future. The VIP party and BBQ on the ramp on Saturday night with WWII-era band was unforgettable, too!



CFI Jake Roach gave new office assistant Christy Oliveira her first flight lesson June 4th and Natalia rode along.





New Stuff

Congratulations to proud papa, John Crawford and Sierra Air Helicopters on the new arrival! The gorgeous black R-44 Helicopter you will see buzzing around town is his new advanced trainer. Drop by and take a peek or if you have always been a fixed-wing pilot, try your hand at something new!



First and second row photos: More shots from the B-29 visit at Mather. Bottom center and right: John Crawford and Sierra Air Helicopters have a new craft.

In addition to all of this – a new IFR ground school has started and we are looking forward to having a dozen IFR pilots ready to explore the foggy coastal areas in a couple of months! This is a tough rating to obtain and we are proud of the efforts these pilots are putting forth to expand their capabilities and knowledge!

The Next Gen

It's a terrific year for AAA Scholarship kids! **James, Natalia and Chris have all soloed** and are on their way to getting their pilot's license. In addition, James and Natalia are both interns at Mach 5 learning how to properly care for an airplane, work in a busy office and keep the shop and hangar areas in tip-top shape. Stay tuned for more details about these awesome young aviators and their training updates at the July general meeting!

Wrap-up

A busy couple of months and more are to follow! We are looking forward to being a part of growing our Auburn aviation community.