



# AERO SQUADRON

A Monthly Publication for the Members and Friends of the Yolo County Sheriff's Aero Squadron

July & August, 2000

Issues 6 & 7

## Commander's Corner

by Larry Lawson



Greetings. Congratulations to all who were instrumental in locating and eradicating the recent marijuana crops. It should be noted that the first seizure of 2700 plants was the direct result of the keen eye of one of our observers. Pictures showed that it was almost impossible to spot and could never have been spotted but for aerial operations. Shortly after that, our members spotted another growth of 100 plants and then a third growth of 50 plants. A job well done. Keep up the good work.

I had breakfast with **Sheriff Ed Prieto** a couple of weeks ago and I am pleased to announce that he has given full approval for a unit patch. We will now have the patch (patch #1, due to majority vote) sized, followed by production and distribution to the members.

Since our organization is ever expanding, it is necessary to create a couple of new positions. These will be implemented by Executive Orders 20-01 and 20-02, respectively. Copies of these will be distributed to all members and will fully outline the duties of these positions. The first new position is

that of Information Systems Officer (ISO). Primarily, this position will be in charge of everything dealing with our website and maintenance of Schedule Master, and the person selected to undertake this task is **Randy Price**. This position is also a non-voting Board member. Congratulations to **Randy Price** on this new position and we thank him for undertaking the duties and responsibilities. The second position is Events Coordinator. The primary duty of this position is to coordinate all of our special activi-

ties, such as air shows, fly-ins, static displays and other special events. **Joaquin Torres** has been appointed to this position. Thanks to **Joaquin Torres** for accepting this position and the responsibilities that go with it.

As you know, **Randy Price** has been taking care of the website and thanks to his help, we now have a registered domain, which is **www.yolosherriffaerosquadron.com**. I want to thank **Randy** for all of his efforts putting this project together, as it was not only time consuming

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## IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS

The General Member's Meeting for August will be held on **Wednesday, August 23rd at 7:30 p.m.** in the Monroe Training Center. FAA will be presenting an hour long seminar on airport incursions.

September's Executive Board Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 5th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Sheriff's administration building.

September's General Member's Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 27th at 7:30 p.m.** in the Monroe Training Center.

October's Meetings are as follows: General Member's Meeting is **Wednesday,**

**October 25th, at 7:30 p.m.,** this is also election night for the 2001 Executive Board. October's Executive Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m.** in the Sheriff's administration building.

The third annual Golden West EAA Regional Fly-in will be held **September 8-10** at Sacramento Executive Airport. **Joaquin Torres**, will be overseeing the event so please see him for scheduling.

# Commander's Corner

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but also requires a lot of computer savvy.

While I am busy patting **Randy** on the back, I don't want to overlook all of the input and work he did in designing different patches for the members to select. Thanks again **Randy**, job well done!

At the same meeting where **Sheriff Prieto** approved our patch, he also authorized us to pursue the acquisition of seized aircraft. I will be asking for volunteers, who have any experience or expertise in this area to assist in pursuing this. Our airplane is still in reasonably good condition, but it is not going to last forever, especially with the hours that are being logged. About a month ago, we discovered that the Hobbs meter was reading 3/10 of an hour, per hour, low. So at the end of July when we thought that we had flown approximately 380 hours, it turns out that we have actually exceeded 435 hours. Hobbs meters either work or they don't, so it would appear that this was a defective meter from the date of installation. Some of you may want to adjust your log books accordingly.

Now we come to the good news/bad news department. As many of you know, or have heard, AVEMCO stopped writing commercial insurance. We were insured by AVEMCO and unfortunately improperly placed in the commercial category. I say improper because we are not a commercial operation in the eyes

of FAA, and none of us receive compensation for flying. I have spoken with a representative of AVEMCO and written a somewhat pointed letter, but per their notice of cancellation, insurance coverage with AVEMCO ended at midnight on August 12, 2000. The fight is not over by a long shot and if "the powers that be" don't respond to my last letter, I will employ the assistance of the Insurance Commissioner. (At the next General Member's meeting, I will bring copies of the letter for anybody who is interested). The good news is that I employed the services of the company who writes my aircraft insurance and they were able to insure us through HCC Aviation. More good news is that the annual premium was about two-thirds the amount of the AVEMCO premium; the bad news is that the open pilot warranty was changed to require all pilots to have a minimum of 750 total logged hours and 25 hours in make and model. We have been able to secure approval of four pilots who do not have the requisite number of hours. They are: **Erin McCrory, Carl Norton, Joaquin Torres and Don Johnston**. There is always the possibility that we can get waivers on other pilots, but for right now, if you do not have 750 logged hours, plus 25 hours in make and model, you are only allowed to fly as an observer and not as a pilot.

We are still shopping around for other possible insurance carriers, and also pursuing the possibility of lowering the open pilot warranty requirement. Rather than ground the plane, we had to take the best deal possible. Hopefully, this is only a temporary inconvenience. If anyone has specific concerns, please feel free to contact me. More information on this issue will be available at the August meeting.

I have also spoken with **Sheriff Ed Prieto**, and presented him with the concept of placing our plane under the County insurance. His office is inquiring into the feasibility of this. There are a number of possibilities, one of which would be to be covered under the County policy and in the alternative, entering into a separate contract with the County/Sheriff's Department to reimburse us for the cost of an insurance policy suitable to our needs.

I would also like to thank **Gustavo Heredia** for all of his work in securing contributions to our organization. These contributions are certainly appreciated, especially at this time since we have been subjected to substantial increases in the cost of fuel. As you know we are now paying on the average of about \$2.56 per gallon, when historically anything approaching the \$2 per gallon mark was considered expensive.

I would like to give a special thanks to **Steve Fritz**, who painted and spruced up the hangar, a task that he took single handedly. A job well done.

Finally, I would also like to recognize and thank **Al Epstein** for flying the Food and Agriculture folks on a requested mission.

# Operation Officer's Report

By Jim Divine

On the 9th of July, N1187M again proved its worth while on a routine patrol over the Tyndall Landing area. With the squadron's Operations Officer at the controls and the observer at his side, marijuana plant cultivation was noted in an isolated area. A request was made to the Sheriff's Office to have a deputy meet us at the airport. The information was transferred and immediate action was taken when positive identification was established.

Due to the large number of plants discovered, approximately 2,700, a number of agencies became involved, such as the CHP, Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, the Boat Patrol Unit and the Dunnigan Fire Dpt. Eradication was made over a two day period.

Historically, I believe this to be one of the largest operations in the county and the fact that it was discovered by the Aero Squadron, reinforces our continued value as an assisting entity. We have been successful in a number of areas lately, such as search and rescue, arson prevention, assistance in the capture of suspects, several spottings of crops, and coverage for the ground units. Remember, the more that we keep One-Victor-One in the air, the more we contribute to the community. We are definitely the county's "Eyes in the Sky."

More mundane thoughts regarding our flying activities: the annual inspection was completed on July 1st, at a cost of \$1,067. As we double and triple our flying hours,

maintenance continues to become an issue. It is up to our membership to actively participate in such actions as keeping our aircraft bug free after flights (wipe down the leading edges), keeping the oil level appropriate, utilizing the proper engine shut down procedure to prevent plug fouling, utilizing TCP, sharpening up our landing techniques to prevent side-loads, letting the airplane roll on landings a little bit longer and not applying early braking.

The disregard by some pilots/observers for hangar



and aircraft, is becoming unacceptable. Half-empty coffee cups and soda cans contribute to a sloppy appearance, but the worst offence is finding coffee cups in the baggage compartment, soda straws and headset ear covers that have drifted past the aft access cover in the baggage compartment over the pulleys and cables. Please treat the airplane as if you owned it (unless you do this to your own aircraft!) A little gentleness goes a long way. Treat the airplane as if the maintenance costs come out of your pocket - because they do. Happy flying.

## 2000 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**Commander:**

**Larry Lawson**

**Executive Officer:**

**Christian Ott**

**Operations Officer**

**Jim Divine**

**Treasurer:**

**Wendy Lawson**

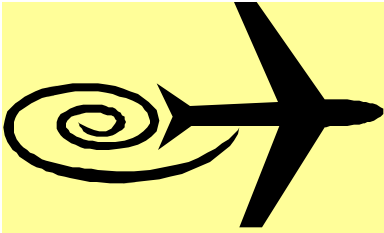
**Secretary:**

**Ted Narasaki**

***Emeritus***

**ISO:**

**Randy Price**



# Thoughts From Your Executive Officer

by Christian Ott

I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to a long time member as well as our squadron's secretary, **Ted Narasaki**. **Ted** has decided to resign from the Aero Squadron due to personal reasons. He has been an outstanding member of the squadron and he will be missed. We wish him luck in all of his future endeavors.

To date, our membership

stands at 51 members. Although we are close to capacity, if you know someone who would like to become a member of the Aero Squadron, please bring him/her to one of our meetings or contact me directly.

As mentioned previously, I need to obtain the following documents from each of our pilots:

1. medical certificate
2. flight review endorsement
3. pilot certificate

I have received these documents from some of you, thank you for getting them to me. For those of you who still have not submitted your information, please see me at the next meeting or mail them to me directly. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

## Treasurer's Report

by Wendy Lawson

Our July 1, 2000 semi annual dues deadline has come and gone and we still have five members who have not paid their dues. If you are one of these members, please submit a check to me immediately. Please do not add to our financial hardship, particularly with the increased fuel costs and maintenance costs. For those of you who paid your dues, thank you, I appreciate your promptness.

On a lighter note, I am pleased to report that our Campaign Chairman has been busy at work collecting

donations from generous members of the community. A special thanks to **Gustavo Heredia** for all of his hard work, it certainly is paying off. I would also like to recognize **Vern Henry**, as he has been assisting **Gustavo** with the aerial photography.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our newest contributor and thank them for their support.

**Granite Construction Company** - contribution of \$500.

**Granite Bay Construction Company** also donated six rolls of film to the Aero Squadron.





# Calling all Writers - Guest Column Available

*by Wendy Lawson*

Have you ever felt as if you had something to say but never had the proper venue? Or perhaps you have wanted to read about certain topics in our newsletter, but found them missing. Are you a writer? Well, now is your chance! We have decided to make a guest column available to any member of the Aero Squadron. Simply submit an article to me via mail or internet and we will print it in the guest column. Each month we will print an article from different guest columnist. Please submit articles that would be appropriate to our readers. All articles are subject to review and editing.

We would also like to welcome any letters to the editor. If you have any questions or comments, please submit them to me as well. All questions will be researched and addressed accordingly. Remember, this is your newsletter!

# Great turn out for the Harris Ranch Fly-in Dinner

*by Wendy Lawson*

**COALINGA: HARRIS RANCH (308) 470' 9NE. 36°14.88'N 120°14.26'W. (559) 935-0717. Att days. KKFO 1470 D. → Calm-wind rwy 32. No stright-in apch nor base entry. Acft taxi on rwy. Pole rwy 14. P-Ins rwy 32.**

<b>CTAF</b> 122.9	<b>TPA</b> MSL: 1470
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★ON FLD (559):

- ① **Inn at Harris Ranch** 935-0717 (800) 942-2333 Country store, swim
- ② **Harris Ranch Rstrnt** 935-0717

**REC INFO (559):** C of C 935-2948

**ON FLD:** Tx & Shl 100

**VOR FREQ RAD NM**  
ROM 110.00 057° 22  
AVE 117.1 325° 38

**FSS: RANCHO MURIETA 122.55**

**F.T.L. (559):** Red Robin Rstrnt across hwy 935-2096

Map labels: 1A, Park, L2820 x 30, 32

On June 28, 2000, Aero Squadron members loaded into planes and headed for Harris Ranch. The weather was hot and humid, but that didn't stop around 25 of our members from participating in one of our annual fly-in dinners. To date, Harris Ranch has been the farthest destination for one of our fly-ins, but now also holds the record for one of our biggest turn outs. The food was good, the camaraderie, great! Definitely a good time was had by all.