

December 2015

Air Currents



T-28 Races! Thanks to Steve Anderson for organizing this event!

The Official Newsletter of the Diablo Valley Radio Controllers

3500 John Henry Johnson Parkway

P.O. Box 9411

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www.dvrc.org



President's Corner...



Wow, I still can't believe it's December already! 2015 has turned out to be quite a year of changes and adventures. At DVRC, and with your help, we have accomplished some great things as a club. This year we built a few additional start tables, replaced the fencing... twice, resurfaced the runway, brought in a couple secure storage containers, repaired the sewage line coming from the restroom, regraded the road and removed the old trailer (thanks to the police department), replaced our weather station, filled the potholes on the side of the runways, and kept the field looking great!

With the addition of more start tables and our new policy for prohibiting electric airplane batteries from be installed or removed on the assembly tables, we have made some significant strides towards improving safety for everyone.

To make matters more interesting earlier this year, the FAA introduced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would've impacted our hobby significantly. Thanks in part to the action and comments posted by our club members, this proposal was soundly rejected and sent back to the FAA for reconsideration.

In the midst of all this, we've also had a blast this year! As fun as it is to fly, perhaps it's even better to get the chance to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow aviators, share some laughs and fun stories as we help and encourage each other. Perhaps because of this, we were also blessed by a big uptake in new members this year too! We truly have much to be thankful for!

Thank you all for your support, assistance and encouragement this year. But the biggest thank you of all go to the 2015 officers and board members - Mel Nash, John Tester, Carlos Garcia, Jim Seibert, Ron Williams, Gene Aughtry, Steve

Anderson, Steve Iverson, Jack Schonberger, Anthony Cox, and our past President, Ron Penn, without who's help we wouldn't have been able to do any of this.

2015 will be a hard year to beat, but the adventures of 2016 are just around the corner... I can't wait to see what we'll accomplish together next.

Sincerely,
-Ken Bieler

Upcoming Events (visitors welcome)....

Saturday, December 5 - DVRC Holiday Party

Saturday, December 12 - Members Meeting (Visitors Welcome)

Note from our Safety Officer

I just want to remind all members that fly electric aircraft of the following: "NO batteries allowed in electric aircraft when they are on the assembly tables."

-Gene Aughtry, Safety Officer



Interesting Link ...



Blue Angels Insane Footage - buckle your seat belts!

Thanks to Mike Phelan for this link...

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/u4DOyx4DVBk?rel=0>

The Red Baron ...

By Nigel Watson

The following is a very rare piece of film, 100 years old. It shows Baron von Richthofen, doing an external prior to a mission, as well as his putting on a flying suit prior to flight in cold weather. If you look close you will notice Hermann Goering. The Baron was shot down on 21 April 1918 by Roy Brown of the Royal Navy Air Services, a prelude of the R.A.F.. The Aussies also claim that one of their machine gunners on the ground shot the Baron down. UK & Aussie Doctors, after the autopsy stated that the fatal bullet was shot from above. The author of this has been very involved as a Director of the Roy Brown Museum in Carleton Place, the home town of Roy.

Many letters have been written over the past 3-4 years and finally Roy Brown was inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame on 4 June 2015... To think this film is almost 100 years old! If you're interested in history or aviation, you cannot miss this footage. It was just posted online, and I've never seen anything like it. It's from 1917, and it's an up-close and personal look at the most legendary combat pilot who ever lived, the infamous Red Baron,



Manfred von Richthofen. Watch the extremely rare, extremely old footage and re-live history. ULTRA-RARE footage of the most famous fighter pilot ever.

Here's the link... <https://shar.es/12Ag7e>

Who was Thomas C. Allen?

Written by John Tester, as told by Orin T. Allen

(Article reprint from May, 2010 DVRC Newsletter - Nice work John!)

Thomas C. Allen was born in Texas in 1907. He moved to Oklahoma at age 12 at a time that people had little money. Thomas started out cleaning airplanes at Bob Tarbutton's airfield in Oklahoma City. He soon became an aircraft mechanic, and would sometimes trade his services for flying time.



He completed his first solo flight on a dare at age 17. Thomas left Oklahoma for a short period of time to work at Brooks Field in San Antonio. When he returned to Oklahoma he found work as a mechanic at Tom Braniff's Planes, which later became Braniff Airlines. He worked here, where he was certified as an A&E Mechanic, until 1929. Braniff suggested he would find more opportunities if he moved to southern California. He did move, but things were not as favorable as described. However, he soon met the love of his life; they were married, and established a home in Alhambra. One of their sons, Orin, was born in 1932.



THOMAS C. ALLEN, J. HERMAN BANNING.
Co-pilot & Mec. Pilot.
FIRST NEGRO TRANS-CONTINENTAL FLIGHT. Los Angeles to New York
October 9th, 1932, Flying time 41 Hrs. 37 Min.



It was here that Thomas met Herman Banning, another African-American pilot from Oklahoma. They had heard there was a \$1000 prize for the first African-Americans aviators who successfully made a cross country flight. They left in search of this prize in 1932, J. Herman Banning and Thomas C. Allen, Aviators, and they crossed the country in the Alexander Eaglerock biplane. These were the days of the Depression, and they had little money, but townspeople helped them obtain fuel, food, parts, and lodging as they flew toward New York. It was a 21 day historical event, but they were unable to locate the people who promised to award the prize money. Sadly, his good friend Banning, was killed in a plane crash in 1933.



In 1934, Thomas set-up a flying school as his business, but it did not succeed, probably due to the hold over of the Depression. At one point, Thomas was an instructor with the County Recreation Department, where he worked with young people interested in model aviation. Later, Thomas obtained a better job with Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach, CA, where part of his job was ferrying bombers during the war. He worked for Douglas for 19 years, and retired in 1962.

In 1980, Thomas Allen joined the Oklahoma Aviation and Space Hall of Fame and Museum staff. He loved working with and encouraging young people to succeed. He was a frequent speaker to youth groups, and his topic never varied...optimism, opportunity and Americanism. He was with the museum until his death in 1989.



Thomas' son, Orin T. Allen, had an early interest in all things "flying". As a teenager he built and flew radio controlled models. While in high school, he bought a Taylor Craft full scale plane, which he flew for several years out of the Fullerton Airport. Orin graduated from high school in Alhambra and went on to community college, at which point he had to sell his wonderful Taylor Craft to help

with expenses. After three years in community college, Orin transferred to U.C. Davis, where he majored in Agriculture. Later, he earned his Masters in Psychology. Following receiving his degree from Davis, he was looking for work in Contra Costa County, and landed a job where he could use his agricultural training, operating the Byron Boys' Ranch. The ranch was much larger in those days, raising crops and livestock. He was very active in Boy Scouts and other youth organizations. In 1998, Orin was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree by JFK University for his outstanding work with youth in the county and the state. As most of you know, the boys' ranch is now known as Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility in honor of all his work there. We fly there once a year for his young people.

Orin was a member of the Pittsburg School District Board for 24 years. Because of his activities he became well known in governmental and political circles, and was often urged to run for office, which he always declined. He had been a member of DVRC from its early days, along with old timers like Mel Mattson and Bob Provine. After the club lost its flying site at Contra Loma Park, Orin worked closely with the City of Pittsburg, urging them to lease the current club site to DVRC. His efforts were rewarded in December 2001, when DVRC was offered a lease of 10 years on the 241 acre property south of the golf course.

Club members were so happy to have the new site, they wanted to name it for Orin, but he said, "You can name it for my father if you will, but not me." And so, the new home of DVRC became known as 'Thomas C. Allen Memorial Airpark.'



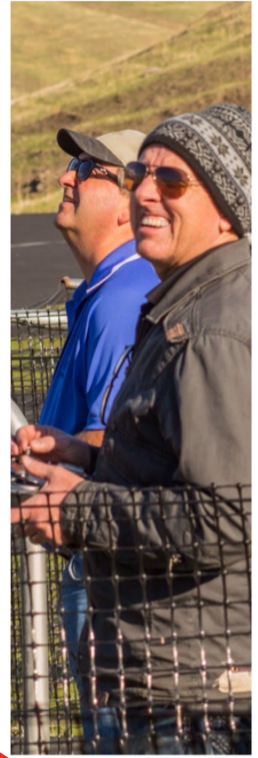
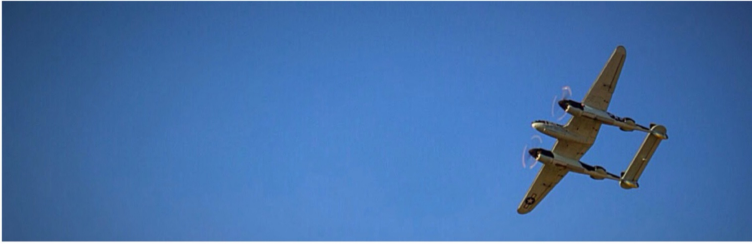
Club Photos ...



More Club Photos ...



More Club Photos ...



Here's to those flying machines we've lost this year!



Membership Meeting Minutes...

Date: 10/10/15

The meeting was called to order by Ken Bieler at 10:01 am.

Officers Present: President Ken Bieler, VP Mel Nash, Treasurer John Tester, Secretary Carlos Gracia

Total Members Present: 32

Guests: Daniel Herring, Richard Evans

New Members: None

The record of the last meeting's minutes were read approved by all of the members present.

Reports

Membership Coordinator/Flight Operations Officer, Ken for Jim Seibert:

Flight badges were give to: Doug Schramm, Vince Duncan, Ten Ianiro, Bill Bucellato and Daniel Herring. Student badges were awarded to John Wilson, Tom Hutchison, Rich Evans, Steve Moon, and Ron Lem.

Field Manager, Ron Williams: There are new keys to the old lawnmower shed. Also, reminder to take take caution on the access road and be courteous to hikers.

Safety Officer, Eugene Aughtry by Mel: 283 days without injury.

Old Business:

Concerns were raised by members regarding being caught off guard by police on the shooting range. It was restated that the police are to post a red flag when shooting on non-training days. They will be reminded that they need to resume this practice.

Nominating Committee chaired by Ron Pen has the following candidates for the upcoming election.

President: Bob Wolfe, Vice President: Rich Phillips & Jim Seibert, Secretary: Carlos Gracia, Treasure: John Tester, Board Member: Jack Schonberger

Seafood Festival was very successful providing very high visibility for the Club.

The Open House was a total success by every measure with excellent attendance noting 71 signatures in the guest book with the following breakdown: 65% friends, 18% from the Seafood Festival, 9% unknown, 4% from flyers, 3% from Craigs list. It was estimated that there were ~200 people with over 60 cars parked.

The current refresh on our weather station is 15 min vs the 5 min we had with the laptop. However, if you view the Davis website it provides a refresh every minute.

Replacement of the safety fence has begun with only 1 remaining section to complete.

Members were reminded that they need to sign up for Yahoo Groups with their correct emails in order to get messages from the Club.

New Business:

The Frankenmort event is scheduled for 10/31.

Christmas Party is on for 12/5 with Back Forty at \$25/person

It is time to plan for the upcoming elections in November. Officer's term is 1 year and Board is 3 years.

The next work party will be held in January.

Raffle:

First Prize: Nigel won the Goldberg Tiger 3

Second Prize: Vince Duncan won the Giles G-202 Phoenix ARF

Hat: Doug Schramm

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 am.

Submitted by Carlos Gracia, Secretary

Still There?! You Are Dedicated to DVRC!

Here's a Nice Final Pic ...



I'm confused, your profile on match.com said you fly jets?!

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2015 Club Officers:

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Ron Penn. 925-383-3232
Jack Schonberger. 925-672-4562
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Greg Gallegos 925-783-1072
Gene Aughtry 925-687-1762

For DVRC driving directions and some club information, check out this link:

<http://youtu.be/Owc7yDVYhc4>