

Ding Friends Hao

Monthly Meeting



January 2011

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January Dinner Meeting

The first meeting for the 2011 year was a great success and fun for all. We had planned on a Pearl Harbor Survivor speaker but he had a conflict and was unable to attend. In his place we had two of our very own, very experienced speakers and an interesting guest. Naturally, one of our very own was Bud (LOUDPIPES) Ukes. In one of his "shorter presentations", Bud recited the entire years worth of airshows and other activities for 2011. (See last page)



Bud fills us in!

Nonetheless, we still had time for our feature fill-in speaker, Marine and air-boss Cliff Heathcoat.



Sadly, your Editor/Photographer missed getting the pictures of Cliff so you are stuck with one from 2005.

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Cliff gave us the lowdown on what it is like to be an Airboss and some of his adventures in that role over the past 15 years. Although I had not thought of Cliff as the “ballet type”, there is little doubt that he plays the role as a choreographer.

First, there is dealing with the FAA. A waiver must be obtained so that the usual rules do not apply and the airshow can go ahead as we are all used to seeing it. The show schedule is created with precise planning to the minute --- it does not usually happen that way but the proper sequence is the most important thing to pursue even if the times cannot be strictly adhered to. The pilots must be briefed in detail as to when, where, and how their performance is to be executed and what the standby emergency procedures and radio frequencies and messages would be if needed. What to do if radio contact is lost during a flight is always important to know, especially if there are other aircraft in the air at the same time. Weather should be briefed and this is especially critical when it is marginal as at the Cable Airshow this year. Critical restrictions must be stated and emphasized so that violations of FAA requirements and safe operating procedures are not committed. These include such things as there shall be no prop turning within 50 feet of the crowd. Likewise performers in the aerobatic box must keep their flights not closer than 500 feet from the crowd line. How to handle in-flight emergencies should be briefed, although Cliff emphasized “Bernoulli before Marconi” or

first fly the airplane then talk only when safely able.

The arrival of parachute jumpers is another safety issue. They will be at altitudes such as 14,000 feet and talking to SoCal. It is important that there be no props turning on the ground as the jumpers descend and approach their landing an errant jumper could really damage a prop!.

Cliff told us about one of his adventures during which the jump plane was in the wrong location and actually was interfering with traffic at Long Beach despite prior planning and briefing!

The FAA will have representation at an airshow and they will be alert to any misconduct and require the Airboss to correct it if he can. The best thing of all is to be lucky and get a good guy FAA agent. It is one heck of a big job that requires constant and unpredictable changes that keep one on his toes. We are lucky to have Cliff to handle the job for Cable.



Marian & Beany

Guests

We were fortunate to have some new faces attend as guests. Marian brought a lady with a fascinating background, Rubenia, renamed “Beany” by astronaut Wally Schirra. Beany was a WAVE, a term that stood for Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency service. This was a Navy division that existed specifically for the WW-II war effort. Beany was a flight attendant on the Berlin Airlift.

Also there was Howard Ulm, one of the designers and creators of the YO-3A. Howard is a member of the CAF Southern California Wing at Camarillo, but lives nearby to us --- we hope he keeps coming back.



YO-3A At Cable

Lt. Commander Bob Dixon attended. His particular field of interest is in the U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Corps, a unit of the Navy that is open to kids from 11 to 17 years. There are 20 units in the U.S. Their program offers physical training, since so many young persons cannot pass the military entrance testing. They also do drill training and learn Navy course work with testing. It sounds as if these kids are well prepared for service in the Navy.



LCDR Bob Dixon

Regular Bob Chapman was there, although Marilyn was at home. He was escorted by Mary Ellen.





John Varley watches Marian as she has Howard Ulm draw a raffle ticket.

The Food

The food was prepared by a new caterer. It was EXCELLENT! It was as good as we have had since the retirement of our onboard gourmet member chefs. He even had floral arrangements on the serving table. Not only was the food excellent, but he was a charming person to talk with. The gentleman lives in Apple Valley and I hope we see a lot more of him!!



PIPES LISTING

- 1/23 IEW Friday movie God is my Co pilot
- 1/29 IEW Wheels to Warbirds Cruise
- 2/2 3rd Pursuit Staff Meeting also GroundHog Day
- 2/12 249 aircraft fly over North Island
- 2/18 IEW movie night
- 2/19 3rd Pursuit Monthly meeting
- 2/25-26-27 Winter staff at Midland
- 3/19-20 Luke AFB Show
- 3/26 Riverside Airshow
- 4/29-30 Beale AFB Airshow
- 5/14-15 Chino Airshow
- 6/3-4-5 Gillespie Airshow
- 6/11 Castle AFB open house
- 7/9 Great Park something
- 7/25-31 Oshkosh
- 8/20-21 Camarillo Airshow
- 8/27-28 Santa Maria Airshow
- 9/3-3 Watsonville Airshow
- 9/10-11 Sacramento Airshow
- 9/24-25 Hill AFB Airshow
- 9/30-10/1-2 Miramar Airshow
- 10/4-10 Midland Raiders flight
- 10/7-8-9 CAF Midland Airshow
- 10/15 Flight Test Nation Edwards AFB
- 10/23 Wings Wheels & Rotors Los Al
- 11/11-13 Nellis Airshow
- 12/10 IEW Christmas Party

