

**Plane Crazy Saturday – February 19, 2011**  
**After Action Report by Cathy Hansen**



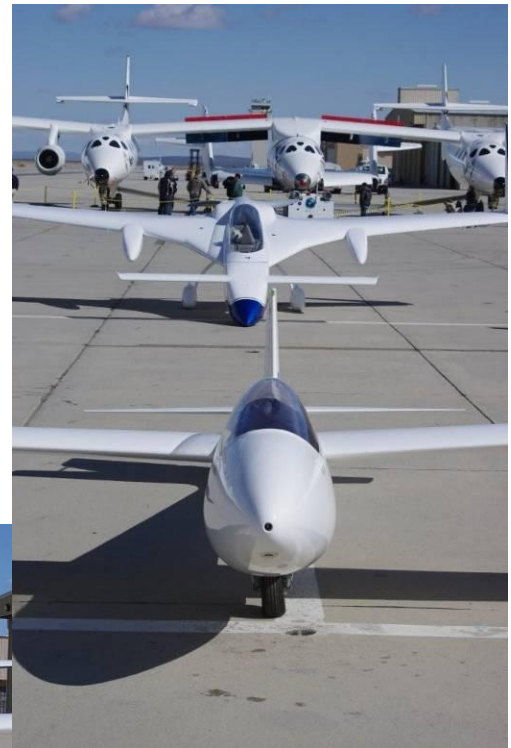
Mojave Transportation Museum Foundation presented “A Salute to Soaring” last Saturday honoring altitude records set fifty years ago by Paul Bikle on Feb. 25, 1961, 46,267-feet; Bob Harris’ 49,009-foot record twenty-five years ago on Feb. 17, 1986 and Jim Payne’s many speed and distance records.

*Gliders on ramp at Mojave Airport include: Cam Martin's H301 Libelle - Contest Letter “J,” callsign Blue Jay) from Tehachapi; Jim Payne , “Jet*

*Pilot,” flew Bob Ettinger's ASW-27 (Contest Letter “F-16”) over from Rosamond and trailered it back home after Plane Crazy and Steve Pawling trailered his LS-3 - Contest Letter “AM,” callsign “August Moon” from Tehachapi. (photo by Cathy Hansen)*

Soaring enthusiast Cam Martin, Office of External Affairs and Government Liaison at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, California suggested the Mojave Transportation Museum honor the sport of soaring during the month of February since that is the month that Bikle and Harris set their altitude records, 50 and 25-years-ago, respectively.

Bikle and Payne are both honorees in the U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame and recipients of the Lilienthal Gliding Medal, created by Fédération Aéronautique Internationale in 1938. Bikle received the Hall of Fame award in 1962 and Payne in 2001.



*Classic “plastic” airplanes, in chronological order - H301 Libelle, Long EZ Deja Vu (N178EZ), and SpaceShipTwo mounted on to White Knight Two. (Photo by Cam Martin)*

Cam sent me an email and said, “The Libelle is typically aero towed and launched by a Piper Pawnee, but

now dreams of being carried aloft by White Knight Two!

One hundred-fifty people attended Jim Payne’s presentation “Sierra Wave – Friend and Foe.” Payne explained how the wave helped him achieve all of his speed and distance records, but how small powered aircraft can experience structure threatening damage if they remain in the wave’s rotor.

Lenticular or lens shaped clouds are indicators that the wave is working. Sometimes they look like a UFO or a stack of pancakes!

Lenticular clouds form when a current of moist air is forced upwards as it travels over a mountain, causing the moisture to condense and form a cloud. Sometimes the air is forced into a wave pattern, generating what is known as a wave cloud. Wave clouds can look like strings of discs spreading out from the leeward side of the mountain.

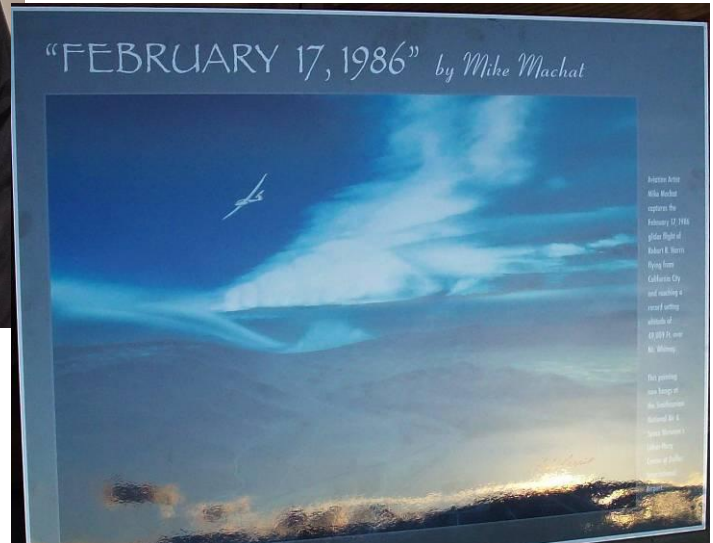
When I see lenticular clouds, I know it’s windy and might be a good day to stay indoors. When Jim Payne sees lenticular’s, he wants to get the glider out and go soaring! He knows he will be able to fly fast and he loves that!



*Record holders Jim Payne and Bob Harris share a laugh. (Photo by Bill Deaver)*

We want to extend our deep appreciation to NASA Dryden Flight Research Center for donating this beautiful print to the museum, of a painting by aviation artist Mike Machat, of the record-breaking flight Harris accomplished in the Sierra Wave.

Harris took off from California City Airport, reached 49,009-feet over Mt. Whitney and then landed at Inyokern Airport. The original painting hangs in the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum’s Udvar-Hazy Center at Dulles International Airport. Mr. Machat was on hand Saturday to personally sign this print, as did Mr. Harris.



A very special surprise appearance awaited everyone at Mojave Air & Spaceport – Virgin Galactic’s White Knight Two with SpaceShipTwo, graced the ramp that was filled with aircraft and sailplanes!

The sheer size of the magnificent “Mother-ship Eve” with SpaceShipTwo “Enterprise” was awe-inspiring and overwhelming!

Aviation Week & Space Technology’s Senior Editor Guy Norris brought his two sons to Mojave Air & Spaceport to hear Jim Payne’s presentation and to take advantage of seeing White Knight Two and SpaceShipTwo up close and personal! (Photo by Cam Martin)



We want to thank Rob Loughlin of Antelope Valley General Aviation Services (AVGAS) for allowing us to use his hangar for Jim Payne's presentation and the delicious barbecue that was catered by Champs BBQ & Catering of Bakersfield. I don't think anyone went away hungry!

Thank you to Doug Burdick and Sean Cooper for all of their work setting up and tearing down the tables and chairs for the hangar presentation.

*(Photo by Rob Loughlin)*

Two TV stations were on hand to



broadcast reports about Plane Crazy Saturday – Channel 9 News from L.A. and Channel 3 News from Lancaster.

*(Photo by Bill Deaver)*

Erika Westawski, Mojave Airport Finance Director reported there was a steady stream of visitors coming through the main gate onto the flightline to see all of the aircraft and sailplanes on display. An estimated crowd of 500-600 people was determined.

An event like this has many hands working behind the scenes and I want to let them know of my appreciation for all of their efforts. Thank you to Bob Rice, Mojave Airport Operations Manager for holding two "All Hands" meetings and laying out plans for Saturday's Plane Crazy. Thank you Erika for your valuable suggestions, Harold Smith for help with the sound system and podium; Jim Balentine for setting up the sound system, Chris Spandorf for Security and Carl in the tower, who had control over the cranes working in the rail yard, powered aircraft and a sailplane! Many thanks to Wen Painter for signing in all of the pilots aircraft forms for Mojave Airport Display Day.

Special thanks to the Tehachapi Civil Air Patrol and Catherine Estes for organizing the cadets to help us with traffic control! These young people were very professional and obviously experienced. We were very impressed!

Thank you to Benz Sanitation for helping us with the extra portable restrooms and wash station. When you are expecting a large number of people this is a real necessity!

Many thanks to Matt Stinemetz for organizing the display of White Knight Two and SpaceShipTwo. The volunteers from Scaled Composites and The SpaceShip Company went above and beyond by having your top people on hand to answer questions from an admiring public. We had some very young future pilots enjoying the day at Mojave Air & Spaceport thanks to your efforts!



Future pilots dream of flying at Mojave Airport!

*(Photo by Bill Deaver)*

Isn't this a cool tri-cycle? All bundled up and having fun at the airport!

*(Photo by Cathy Hansen)*

Thank you to Rheta Scott and Heather Benes for their work at the Mojave Transportation Museum



merchandise tables in the Administration Building hallway and thank you to Bill and Billye Deaver for manning the table in Rob's hangar selling posters and lunch tickets.

It was cold and windy, but it's February in Mojave! That's why all of the record sailplane flights are made in February. As Jim Payne says, "Think wave!"

*(Photo Rob Loughlin)*