

After Action Report
Plane Crazy Saturday
March 17, 2012
By Cathy Hansen

An unbelievable cold, windy and rainy St. Patrick's Day, but we had great time at Plane Crazy Saturday anyway!

The terrible weather prevented all twenty-six of the Mooney's from flying in from around Southern California, but Dave Marten displayed his 1980 M20K four-place Mooney for everyone to enjoy.

Dave's Mooney is powered with a Continental TSIO-360 SER, a turbo-charged, fuel injected air cooled, six-cylinder piston

aircraft engine. It is lots of power for the streamlined Mooney design with a top speed of 278 miles per hour! Perhaps his friends can fly out next month on April 21st when we have our next Plane Crazy.

Marten serves America as a Major in the U.S. Air Force at Edwards Air Force Base and is a test pilot with the B-1B bomber aircraft.



Mojave Transportation Museum Foundation President, Bill Deaver, took this photo of engineers from Masten Space Systems, XCOR Aerospace and The Spaceship Company as they explained to East Kern Airport District President, Jim Balentine what their goals are with Mojave Makers.

They are incorporating their shared space with tools and equipment, as a non-profit organization to provide a service to members and the community, and to have a place to dream and build projects, meet like minded people who also think outside the box.

“This is an incubator for new ventures,” said Balentine. “It will be a great place for these great young minds to get together and bounce ideas off of each other!”

Mojave Makers Founders are Michael Clive, Ethan Chew, Scott Nietfeld, Andrew Bingham and Nadir Bagaveyev. For more information email: Info@mojavemakers.org or check out their website: www.mojavemakers.org



It was nice and warm inside with the tables in the hallway of the Mojave Air & Spaceport Administration Building, while outside the rain continued to fall and the cold wind from the west blew from 20 to 30 miles per hour!



A Saab Draken graced the ramp with gray clouds in the background.

Al Hansen brought some of his aircraft out for people to view, even though it was from the windows of the Voyager Restaurant.

A 1958 Grumman S-2F-1 Tracker, a pair of 1950s vintage North American T-28Bs and an 1952 Canadair F-86E Mk.6 surrounded the Draken.

At 11 a.m. Dr. Lee Valentine, Director at XCOR Aerospace gave a detailed history and technical overview of the company's Lynx space vehicle.

Dr. Valentine is Executive Vice President of the Space Studies Institute at Princeton University.

He has been involved in space development for 34 years and is



well known in the commercial space community for his work with early stage space companies and for his leadership of the Space Studies Institute.

Everyone in the room was ready to take a flight in the Lynx space vehicle after Lee's presentation!

Photo by Bill Deaver



Photo by Bill Deaver

Holding a large model of XCOR Aerospace Lynx Spacecraft are Khaki Rodway, Program Manager; Dr. Lee Valentine, Director and Nadir Bagaveyev, Design Engineer.

Wen Painter greeted all of the aircraft owners who were intending to display their historic aircraft at the designated Mojave Airport Display Day. When the weather is inclement, if the pilot had planned to display on that day, it is acceptable to have the form signed. Wen enjoys telling stories of his days at NASA Dryden and this time had his sister, daughter and brother-in-law from Nebraska to introduce to everyone!

Wen's brother-in-law was a crewchief on B-47s while serving in the U.S. Air Force in the early 1950s.

In spite of the weather, we had visitors from afar, Ron and Karin Sheardown came to Plane Crazy Saturday from Anchorage, Alaska and Ron won the drawing for the Mojave Transportation Museum Foundation's duffle bag. Khaki Rodway drew the lucky ticket.

Each month we are having folks fill out a small card with a chance to win an MTM duffle bag, so we can keep track of our out of town visitor's zip codes to qualify us for our tourism grant from the Kern County Board of Trade.

Ron Sheardown, Dave Marten and Karin Sheardown are checking routes on a flight chart during Plane Crazy Saturday.

Since Mojave is at the transportation hub of the attraction-rich East Kern region, materials developed with grant funds will promote attractions in Boron,



California City, Edwards Air Force Base, Rosamond, Tehachapi, and the Indian Wells Valley, as well as Mojave.

Be sure to check out The Spaceship Company's website, www.thespaceshipcompany.com and <http://www.thespaceshipcompany.com/careers/mojave>. Here is a great tourism quote from their website!

“A lot of people think Mojave is the Middle of Nowhere, but it's actually the **Center of Everywhere!**”



Dave Marten wanted a special lunch for the Vintage Mooney Group and asked Domingo's in Boron to cater a lunch for them in a hangar at Mojave Airport. They sure missed a delicious meal!

After Plane Crazy is over, Al Hansen uses his tug to move airplanes back into the hangar.



Dave watches the wing of the T-28 as Al Hansen pushes it into the hangar.

Thank you to Bill and Billye Deaver, and Chris and Riitta Martin for working the MTM booth! Also, my sincere thanks to the EKAD staff and Ron Langford for their help. Al Hansen, Doug Burdick and Sean Cooper are always there to help with all of the extras too.

The spirit that has been created at Plane Crazy Saturday is alive and always fun, in spite of unpleasant weather conditions! See you next month on April 21st!