

**Mojave Transportation Museum – Plane Crazy Saturday
After Action Report
April 21, 2012
Scaled Composites Career Day**



A beehive of activity on the ground and in the air is the best way to describe Plane Crazy Saturday at Mojave Air & Spaceport for April!

Over 2,000 people covered the flightline, filling Scaled Composites open hangar, the FIRST robotics scrimmage held in hangar #70 and the airport restaurant.

Many people flew in from other states to interview at Scaled Composites, including folks from Wisconsin, Iowa and other states in the U.S.

Talk about flying in! Nearly 200 aircraft landed at Mojave Air & Spaceport to see the magnificent Scaled Composites aircraft designs on display. The Vintage Mooney

Group brought 30 Mooney's to Plane Crazy as they were rained out last month. The weather made it possible for Mooney's to come from AZ, NV, NM and all over CA. Temperatures in the mid-90's and calm winds gave us all a taste of what is in store for the summer months ahead!

The Vintage Mooney Group (VMG) is a group Mooney aircraft owners and enthusiasts that share a devoted passion for this aircraft first designed by Al Mooney in 1955. They believe that the M20 Mooney's are the best four-place aircraft ever manufactured. They always compare speed to economy, and firmly believe that nothing beats the Mooney designs. Every available parking space on the flightline was occupied all the way down the ramp to the National Test Pilot School!





Major David Marten, USAF, B-1B pilot and Mooney owner worked to bring the Mooney Group to Plane Crazy and helped EKAD personnel park aircraft.

Scaled Composites had received over 300 resumes` online and some people hand-carried their resume`

hopeful for a position with the prestigious aerospace company at Mojave Air & Spaceport!

The Northrop-Grumman Scaled Composites Firebird had a place of honor on the ramp in front of the open hangar



doors.

From inception, Firebird was designed to be flown as a manned or unmanned aircraft and can be quickly modified for either option. Either configuration offers a large internal payload bay and an ability to operate multiple intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR) and communications

payloads simultaneously through a universal interface.

The airport restaurant was packed with people from the time they opened until they closed the doors.



Chuck Coleman brought a Wright Flyer scaled down replica that he helped build for a movie entitled "First in Flight."

Often you will see Chuck, an airshow performer and certified flight instructor with over 3,000 hours in the Extra 300 series aircraft flying over Mojave Air & Spaceport.

During flight tests, an Extra 300 owned and flown by Chuck Coleman was one of the official chase planes of SpaceShipOne and the Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer. He now flies chase for The Spaceship Company.

Dick Rutan was on hand with his beautifully painted Berkut.

He gave a ride in his aircraft to a winner of a Kiwanis Club auction.

Thank you to Carl in the tower, Mike Sterbens with Security, Harold Smith with fuel and the great staff at Mojave Air & Spaceport for a job well-done! Everyone pitched in for this one!



Friendly, helpful EKAD staff guided aircraft to parking spots.

Not since the Mojave Air Races in the 1970s were so many aircraft in the air and on the ground at Mojave Airport!

Fuel sales were way up, in spite of the high price of 100 LL (low lead).

The Los Angeles FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge was held at Plane Crazy this month. Junior and Senior High Schools participated, including: Whitney High School Robotics (Cerritos); Paraclete High School (Lancaster); Rickrollers (Tehachapi, Dryden-sponsored); PHI Alpha (Lancaster; Dryden-sponsored); PHI Omega (Lancaster; Dryden-sponsored) and Millionaire Mind Kids (Victorville).



Greg Peters and Suparna Mukherjee of Firestar Technologies at Mojave Air & Spaceport volunteer their time to promote these worthy science and technology projects.

Please call Greg (661) 860-1088 if you would like to help sponsor one of these teams. They require around \$3,000 each year to purchase the robot kit and other expenses for the season. Even a small donation helps offset the

costs that the parents contribute.

This Plane Crazy offered something for everyone and at 11:00 a.m., the EKAD Board Room was totally packed when SpaceShipTwo pilot Mark Stucky gave his detailed presentation of what it is like to fly SpaceShipTwo!

SpaceShipTwo utilizes the unique feather configuration that allowed SpaceShipOne to successfully re-enter the atmosphere.

The attendees were most impressed with the videos showing the pilot striking the stick to test oscillations induced by the abrupt control surface movements. Stucky said, "Stick wraps were simply a matter of hitting the controls with a bit of force."

Unlike, SpaceShipOne, SpaceShipTwo has a belly mounted



speed brake that can be used to control the glide ratio of the descent portion of the flight. Thank you Mark for your informative and fascinating presentation!

Scaled Composites thought of everything including great signs directing people to various activities!

Bill Deaver, Alan Radecki and Roy Gant took wonderful photos of the aircraft and people at Plane Crazy. Thank you to all of them for recording this historic day!

Los Angeles County flew in a Firehawk for maintenance and I'm sure they were surprised



with the crowded skies over Mojave!

Alan Radecki drove the tram non-stop, except for restroom breaks, from 0930 until 1430 (2:30 p.m.) He deserves a medal!! We need to find a relief driver for him if we ever have another really big Plane Crazy!

Heather Benes, Bill Deaver and Chris Martin manned the MTM booth handing out brochures, selling posters and books

and Bill signed pilot forms in place of Wen Painter (Wen was out of town). A record day in every way!

Rob Scherer flew his beautiful Starship in for display and Boomerang, Catbird and Symmetry were all sitting out for everyone to oooh and aaah over.



I doubt we will ever be able to top this day, but be sure to come to next month's Plane Crazy on Saturday, May 19th. It's Armed Forces Day and we will honor our military – past and present!