

**Mojave Transportation Museum – Plane Crazy Saturday  
After Action Report  
April 19, 2012  
Armed Forces Day!**



Any Vietnam Veteran can identify this machine by its shape and distinctive sound – a Bell UH-1H “Huey” was one of the warbirds on the ramp at Mojave Air & Spaceport for the Armed Forces Day Plane Crazy Saturday, sponsored by the Mojave Transportation Museum Foundation.

We certainly were surprised to see Thunder Mustang Cloudchaser, owned by Wayne "Solo" Richards and based in Van Nuys, CA fly in for Plane Crazy! This ¾ scale P-51 Mustang carbon

fiber kit was meticulously built by Gunther Balz, a former Reno Unlimited Gold Winner.

The powerplant is most impressive! An all-aluminum Ryan Falconer V-12, 601 cubic-inch, 640 horsepower, 10.9:1 compression engine, with a 4.125 inch bore and 3.750 inch stroke that runs on 100LL Avgas. Boy, did it sound great when Solo started it up and the fly-by was super!

Cloudchaser’s owner, “Solo,” is an active member of the Thunder Builders Group and regularly flies Cloudchaser to



the Reno Air Races every September.

Thanks Solo for flying in! Hope to see you again sometime soon!

Other warbirds on the ramp included: a Canadair F-86E; a 1958 Grumman S2F Tracker; a 1954 North American T-28B; a 1964 Bell UH-1H “Huey” helicopter; a 1949 North American T-6; a 1941 Waco UPF-7 owned by Tom McMurtry, famous NASA test pilot; and a 1955 Beech T-34.

The gorgeous weather brought hundreds of families out for a day at Mojave Air & Spaceport to enjoy a free event that offered a chance to get up close to all kinds of flying machines and have breakfast or lunch at the airport restaurant!

Many thanks to all of our volunteers who give so much time and energy to make sure everyone have a good time at Plane Crazy! Alan Radecki, our tram driver, is faithful to take folks on a tour of the t-hangar area, plus tell them some interesting history about the airport and the aircraft that live here.

Thank you Wen Painter for helping all of the pilots check in and sign all of their tax exempt forms for aircraft that are 35 years or older. Bill Deaver, Chris and Riitta Martin managed the MTM booth and answered questions and we appreciate them so much!

Our winner for the MTM duffle bag drawing was Marta Brown from Lancaster, CA! Congratulations

Marta – we be sending the duffle bag your way soon!

Tom McMurtry's yellow and black 1941 Waco UPF-7 biplane was a big hit with everyone. Tom's son Chris and Scott Schultz are working on getting this classic biplane back into the air!

Lots of round engines filled the ramp for Armed Forces Day! Al Hansen's Grumman S-2F Tracker gave some nice shade for some of the visitors. Bill Deaver took this photo and the one above of



McMurtry's biplane.

New booths greeted visitors this month! The Antelope Valley Squadron Sea Cadets from Lancaster, sponsored by the Bakersfield Council Navy League set up a great looking booth handing out information about the Sea Cadet Corps and raising funds for their group with sales of crystal cubes with aircraft and patriotic symbols.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a Naval youth education program for Americans ages 11-17 years old.





Quote from the AVSeaCadets.com website “...through organization and cooperation with the Department of the Navy, to encourage and aid American youth to develop, train them in seagoing skills, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues.”



Also, joining us for the first time was the F-35 Operational Test Booster Club from Edwards Air Force Base. They had t-shirts, patches and stickers with the F-35 JSF logo. The F-35 Booster Club and the Sea Cadets will be back next month! The t-shirts are really cool! I bought two!

The Antelope Valley Squadron Sea Cadets are an aviation unit and were pleased to have the opportunity to walk around and check out the various vintage Navy aircraft on display.

Roy Gant comes over to Plane Crazy every month from Bakersfield. He is a member of the NLUS Bakersfield Council and is the official photographer. He always sends some of his favorite photos from Plane Crazy.



Here's one of the Saab Draken that was on display and a British armored personnel carrier in the distance.

This beautiful Beech T-34 lives at Tehachapi Airport and we appreciate Ron Alldredge flying to Mojave Air & Spaceport to share his airplane with all of us.

Roy Gant also captured this North American T-28B Navy trainer next to the Canadair F-86E.

During the early 1950s the U.S. Navy conducted a number of evaluation trials of USAF T-28As to determine if the aircraft would be a suitable replacement for the aging SNJ. In order to meet Navy training



requirements major modifications to the aircraft were required which resulted in North American designing a derivative aircraft, the T-28B, the "B" model differed in having a more power (1425 horsepower), a 3 bladed propeller, a hydraulically operated speed brake, low

profile canopy and structural modifications that permitted higher performance.

At 11:00 a.m. in the EKAD Board Room, Air Force Veteran, Russ Stewart, Test Pilot Instructor at the National Test Pilot School gave a terrific briefing about NTPS located at the east end of Mojave Air & Spaceport. After answering questions about training a test pilot, he told everyone what he did as a test and evaluation pilot in the United States Air Force while flying the Fairchild Republic A-10 Warthog, sometimes called the Tank Buster. Low, close air support aircraft! Check out this video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rGcn2XGr48&feature=related>

Awesome firepower! Thanks Russ! Great presentation!! Bill Deaver took this photo of EKAD Board President Jim Balentine with speaker Russ Stewart.



Another fabulous day at Mojave Air & Spaceport! If you missed this day, you missed a great time! See you next month on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> when we Salute Women in Aviation!