

**Plane Crazy Saturday – July 21, 2012**  
**Saluting Mojave Air & Spaceport Unicom and Tower Air Traffic Controllers!**  
**After Action Report**

Whew! What a scorching hot day, but everyone seemed to have a good time in spite of the humidity!

We had visitors from all over California, as well as Kentucky, Florida, Pennsylvania, Maryland, plus; visitors from UK; Australia; Argentina; and Germany!

Bill Deaver, Joyce Grant and Cathy Hansen took photos during the four hour event that was held from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

MTM was happy to honor all of the air traffic controllers and Unicom operator at Mojave Airport. Plaques of appreciation were

presented to Mojave Unicom Operator, Sara Teeter and Mojave Tower Controllers, Carl Ingram, Johnny 'J.D.' Davis, Bill Kuhar, Dave Bytheway & Nick Booker.



Our speaker for the MTM Lecture Series was Susan Staabs, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Traffic Control Specialist, support Manager – Training ZLA-17T, Los Angeles Center located at Palmdale Airport.

A seven year Veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Susan is a pilot and formerly worked at Joshua Approach. She has worked with the FAA for 23 years and



worked alongside all of the controllers in Mojave Tower during her career with the Federal Aviation Administration. She gave a presentation describing the history and importance of ATCs (Air Traffic Control Centers).

A big thank you to all of our Mojave Tower, Unicom and ATC personnel! A Mojave Air & Spaceport flight bag and Plane Crazy Saturday ball cap was presented to Susan.

Jim Roberts of Tehachapi flew in his beautiful and historic 1957 Bellanca Cruisair! This aircraft was sometimes called the “Cardboard Constellation” due to the three vertical fins!

In 1910, a young Sicilian named Giuseppe Mario Bellanca immigrated to the United States with dreams of building aircraft in the New World. His first aircraft was a revolutionary design with a high wing, engine and propeller in the front and the tail at the rear! (The Wright brothers and other early aircraft designers positioned the tail at the front and the propellers in the rear.) Bellanca was the man who put the propeller at the front of the airplane!



Jim has flown his Cruisair to Plane Crazy several times and told me that this aircraft is a “family heirloom.” He has a 1957 pickup truck painted to match the airplane that has been in the family for years as well!

Al Hansen had some of his aircraft on the flightline, as well as on display in front of the Hansen Hangar. Everyone who had the opportunity to catch a



ride on the tram was able to see various aircraft parked in front of hangars on the flightline tour.

Joyce Grant captured a few photos of Al giving tours with the tram. We sure missed Alan Radecki who usually drives the tram. He gives a great dialogue on the history of Mojave Airport and the aircraft associated with the airport. Al certainly did a fine job, but he especially likes to hear Alan’s rendition of the flightline tour! Perhaps we will make a recording of Alan to play for our tours!





Thank you Heather Benes and Bill Deaver for your work in the MTM booth during Plane Crazy. Joyce Grant stopped by to take in a little shade for awhile too! Thanks Joyce for your great photos and articles in the *Mojave Desert News*!

Heather not only is a fabulous dance instructor, but she is a wonderful salesperson too! Next time you come to Plane Crazy, be sure to check out this rocket kit that Heather is showing!

Wen Painter was in Voyager Restaurant signing Historical Aircraft Certificates. Thank you

Wen for your time and your great stories!

Dick Rutan flew over the field several times in his colorful Berkut aircraft that he constructed a few years ago. As soon as he taxied in and the engine stopped, as he was climbing out, kids of all ages gathered around to meet him and take a closer look at the unusual red, white and blue paint scheme that has an All-American patriotic message.

An American eagle morphing into an American Flag and inside the open mouth of the Eagle on one side of the aircraft is the Voyager aircraft that he flew around the world, non-stop, unrefueled in 1986 and on the other side, an F-100F that he flew while serving in the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam. He



flew 105 combat missions with the MISTY squadron. Go to: [www.dickrutan.com](http://www.dickrutan.com) for more information about his adventures.

Jimmy Balentine, EKAD Board President, took his daughter flying in his beautiful 1966 Bonanza. Jimmy is always at Plane Crazy Saturday and the sound of that big Continental engine is music to the ears!

While most displays involve airplanes, sometimes there are exhibits that are more space related.

Everyone who attended this month's event was greeted with a special treat! TearDropOne was on display!

Joe Clark has a passion for SpaceShipOne and has dedicated this teardrop camping trailer to reflect his enthusiasm for the X-Prize winning spacecraft!



Painted like SpaceShipOne – TearDropOne is full of memorabilia from the historic flights made by Mike Melvill and Brian Binnie. Even the license plate is TDROP1.

Joe has meticulously attended to each little



detail to ensure perfection. Models and photos are signed by Burt Rutan, Mike Melvill, Brian Binnie and Doug Shane.

Everything has been thought of, including a mini-microwave, coffee maker, hot plate and refrigerator.



This little jewel is for sale for \$11,500 – so if you are interested, please contact Joe at: [joejo1957x2@yahoo.com](mailto:joejo1957x2@yahoo.com)

Thank you to Harold Smith, Ron Langford and Karina Drees for their support of Plane Crazy and their great help with tables, chairs and opening the EKAD Board Room for our guest speaker. It was another memorable day at Mojave Air & Spaceport!

See you next month – August 18<sup>th</sup>!