

MOJAVE TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM FOUNDATION

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Plane Crazy Saturday After Action Report

May 17, 2014

Windy, windy, windy day at Mojave Air & Spaceport, but temperature was warm and sunscreen was a must! The Sierra Wave was working later in the day and our speaker, Jim Payne flew north to Minden, NV to fly in it!

What a surprise when Jim called me and said that he and Dennis Tito would be flying into MHV around 10:15 a.m. in Tito's Citation Mustang! Yes! Dennis Tito! What a truly sincere gentleman, easy to talk to, very approachable and friendly.

Inspiration Mars Foundation Chairman, Dennis Tito became the world's first private space explorer in 2001. Tito fulfilled his life's passion and made history by becoming the world's first private citizen to fly to the International Space Station. In the early '70s, Tito left a job at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to pursue a career in finance, but he never stopped dreaming about spaceflight.



We had Dennis park his Citation next to Al Hansen's F-86 Sabre on the end tiedown for convenient parking and easy turnout when leaving.

The Edwards AFB Squadron #84 Civil Air Patrol provided flight ground marshaling and safety at the Plane Crazy Saturday event. Gail Harper and Lt. Kevin Finster were on hand to coordinate the squadron.

Bill Deaver took photos of Tito's Citation taxiing into the designated parking tiedown.

Left to right: Member of Edwards Sq. 84 CAP, Lt. Finster, C/Amn Cisneros, C/SSgt Brenizer, and Capt. Gail Harper, Dennis Tito, Akiko Nakazawa, Jim Payne and Cathy Hansen.





The winds kept some pilots away, but pilots used to flying in windy conditions came anyway.

Marsaili Gillecrids flew his 1970 Cessna 172 in from Tehachapi and displayed some unique wooden airplanes that he had built. The propellers were really spinning fast in the wind!



Another Cessna 172 was parked next to Doug Triplat's 1964 Mooney M-20. Doug brought Jackie Payne over from Rosamond SkyPark.



Jackie Payne with Sandy Dralle visiting from Bakersfield. Sandy is involved with the 60+ Elder College at Cal State Bakersfield and came to Plane Crazy Saturday to check out Mojave Air & Spaceport!

Midge Wright, Bill Deaver and Steve Rushford worked in the MTM booth and enjoyed meeting people from all over the world!

Jim Wilhelm and other pilots from the Tehachapi Pilots Society came to hear Jim Payne's talk about soaring in Argentina. He brought his Cessna 182 in for the day.



Everyone was careful to securely tie their aircraft down in the steady 20-knot wind (23 miles per hour). You never know when a strong gust will come up, so we always tie our airplanes down at MHV!

Roy Martin brought his 1964 Cessna 206 out again for display. It has a Continental IO-520 fuel injected engine with six opposing cylinders, developing 300 horsepower.



There were special visitors driving classic Corvair car's from the San Fernando Corvair Club at Plane Crazy Saturday too! One or two of the Corvair Club members were glider pilots and wanted to hear from the top soaring champion Jim Payne.

Jim Payne first soared at the Air Force Academy in 1971. At the Academy he made his first wave flight and was immediately hooked. In 1983 Jim got his Gold and Diamond Altitude legs in a SGS 1-26 in the

Tehachapi wave. When he was assigned to staff at the US Air Force Test Pilot School he was part of the Soar Eagle Project flying a Grob 103 with a pressure suit system. Soaring in this sailplane Jim earned a Triple Lennie Pin for a flight to 42,200 feet.

With the advent of GPS (Global Positioning System) flight recorders, Jim pioneered wave speed records. For many years he held the fastest world record at 247 km/hr (154 mph), a record that was listed in the 2006 Guinness.



In recent years Jim has used the wave to win numerous OLC (On Line Contest - The worldwide leading database and scoring system for gliding, paragliding and hang-gliding) Championships: the Classic OLC World Championship in 2008 and the North American/USA in 2007, 2008, and 2009 plus the Speed OLC World Championship in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2011. His furthest flight is 2,180 km (1,354 miles). Jim was awarded the 2001 Lilienthal Medal winner (highest award given by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale for gliding) and is a member of the Soaring Hall of Fame.

Our good friend Flora Belle Reece didn't

want to miss Jim's talk either! As you know, Flora Belle flew with the WASP (Women Air Service Pilots) in World War II. It was so nice to see her daughter again too!

In appreciation to Jim Payne for his time and great presentation, Mojave Transportation Museum gave him a Mojave Mural shirt that tells the Mojave story in one picture! We also presented a Plane Crazy Saturday hat to Dennis Tito!



Thank you to Geraldo Everado, Mojave Air & Spaceport fueler for your help on Saturday with tables, chairs and board room. We appreciate your help Geraldo!

See you on June 21st as we celebrate an important space event at Mojave Air & Spaceport!

