

**PLANE CRAZY SATURDAY
AFTER ACTION REPORT
DECEMBER 21, 2013**

Happy New Year! WOW! Can you believe our perfect weather for our December Plane Crazy Saturday? Mid-60's, sunny, with light breeze from the east, just picture perfect for December! Lots of folks turned out to hear our speaker Brian Binnie tell about the exhilarating first rocket powered flight of SpaceShipOne on December 17, 2003, the Centennial of the Wright Brothers flight at Kitty Hawk.



One of the first arrivals on Saturday was John Stockell. He flew his beautiful 1949 Cessna 140A over from Camarillo Airport, sporting the name "Plum Crazy!" The white pearl paint job was trimmed with a bright plum color, right down to the wheel pants.



Brian Binnie described in great detail the rocket engine tests for SpaceShipOne; the horizontal tail modification aerodynamic tests, using a Ford 250 pickup truck for ground based "wind tunnel" tests; the glide flight tests and the first powered flight on December 17, 2003.

Even though Brian was tightly strapped in, once the motor ignited he moved upwards and back six inches from the force of the thrust. With his

hand on the control stick, it too moved back six inches causing the spacecraft's nose to go upwards at a steeper angle. Brian explained, "Now this thing really wants to turn the corner!"

After a chaotic fifteen second rocket burn with all flight displays out, except one showing his relative position from the ground and flight path, which was wildly bouncing around during the flight, SS1 was upside down and Brian was looking down at the Earth below.

The aircraft righted itself when he feathered the tail and he glided back to Mojave Airport for landing. He had reached at altitude of 67,800 feet and a speed of Mach 1.2 (about 921 miles per hour).

Due to some unusual flight control issues, on final approach after lowering the gear, the nose of SS1 moved to the right. As Brian worked the controls to compensate for the movement, the ship went into a left leaning roll, thus causing a harder landing on the left gear than was intended. The left gear collapsed and SS1 slid into the dirt alongside the runway.

The anomalies were corrected and SS1 went on to win the \$10-million dollar X-Prize. Brian flew the prize-winning flight on October 4, 2004 and became America's second Commercial Astronaut, flying to a height of 367,442 feet and breaking the record altitude of 354,200 feet for a rocket plane that was set by the X-15 in 1963.

Look closely at the registration number on this aircraft. All aircraft registered in the U.S. begin with the letter 'N' (N-number or November registration). This Piper Arrow IV begins with the letter 'C' and hails from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Brian Harton and Ruth Wyrill flew up to Mojave from their winter home in Palm Springs for Plane Crazy Saturday and we were so happy to meet them!

It was a beautiful day for flying



and we had quite a few taildraggers on the ramp, including Chris McMurtry's 1939 Piper J-3 Cub that he purchased from his famous dad, Tom McMurtry. Sister Ninety-Nine, Rosemary Jensen, was lucky enough to get a ride in this wonderful time machine!





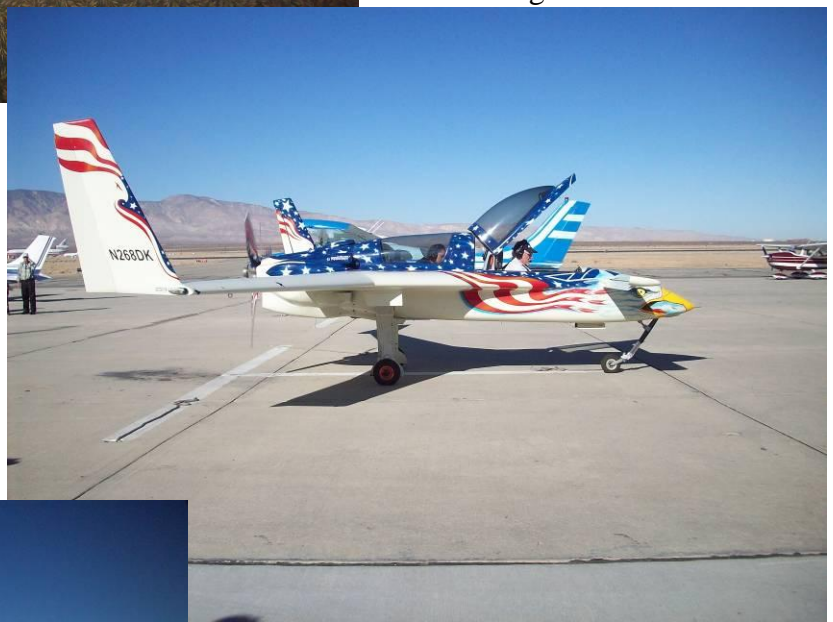
The Antelope Valley Ninety-Nines had a nice showing for this month's PCS and invited Dick Rutan to join them for a photo. Left to right: Dick Rutan, Rosemary Jensen, Gary Spencer, Char Spencer, Carol Reukauf, Kate Pavlok and Chris McMurtry.

Do you like the map in behind everyone? It has the route taken by the Voyager aircraft 27 years ago.

Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager flew 26,366 statute miles during this historic

journey in nine days, 3-minutes and 44-seconds December 14-23, 1986. It was the first successful circumnavigation of the planet, non-stop, and non-refueled.

Dick had the beautiful Berkut on the flightline and did some nice passes for everyone. He is always a crowd pleaser!



A rare machine visited from W.J. Fox Airfield Lancaster, CA.

A Thorp/Sunderland S-18T with a nose wheel, instead of a tail wheel.

The two-place, all-metal, homebuilt Thorp T-18 was designed in 1963 by John Thorp, who was a professional aircraft engineer of Burbank, California.

The T-18 has evolved over the years, with design input from Lou Sunderland who was also a professional aircraft engineer, and who worked on the redesigns in co-operation with John Thorp.

Later models were the S 18 (S for Sunderland) which had a new airfoil, and finally the S-18T which has a tricycle undercarriage.



There were some new display tables on hand in December too. Grampy Mark's Toys with handmade wood toys and magazine stands.

Mark Bennett and his wife, Bonnie live right here in Mojave and are extremely talented. The rocking horses would make wonderful gifts for new babies or birthday parties. You may contact them at markbennett49@yahoo.com if you would like to purchase some beautiful handmade gifts!

Doug Castleman had some new paintings to show everyone last month too.

<http://www.douglascastlemanaviationart.com/>

Barbara Schultz of Plane Mercantile had a table with lots of jewelry and other aviation gifts on display. Check out her website.

www.planemercantile.com/



Thank you to Midge Wright, Chris and Riitta Martin and Bill Deaver for manning the MTM table and handing out tickets for Brian Binnie's talk.

Maggie Geimke of California City was there with AV Usborne Books too! Helida Haro is purchasing books for Christmas gifts!





Lots of ‘real’ airplanes on the flightline for our December Plane Crazy Saturday!

Thank you to Roy Gant and Bill Nancarrow for sharing their photos with me, some of which are included in this report!

Mary Ann Nelsen of California City told a great story about the Voyager aircraft. She was a 3rd grade teacher in Lancaster when the Voyager was being built at Mojave Airport.

She brought her entire class to the airport for a field trip and was thrilled when Dick helped each of the students into the airplane to experience how small the cockpit was.

When they returned back to school they were playing in small cardboard boxes simulating the cockpit. When the principal of the school asked Mary Ann what the children were doing, she replied, “Oh, they are pretending that they are flying in the cramped cockpit of the Voyager aircraft!”

She was so happy to introduce her grandson to the famous aviator who flew around the world.

Hope to see everyone next month, January 18, 2014, at Plane Crazy Saturday as the Mojave Transportation Museum Foundation begins their fifth year of Historic Aircraft Display Days at Mojave Air and SpacePort.

Dr. Edward Jones, founder and director emeritus of the Rocket Science Institute will be the featured guest speaker. The Rocket Science Institute has recently moved their publishing offices from White Sands NM to Mojave, where they serve rocket and space research projects at the Mojave Air and Space Port.

The Rocket Science Institute is a non-profit scientific and educational foundation in support of “amateur” experimental rocket science, engineering, and technology. See their website:

<http://www.RocketScienceBooks.com>



**A big thank you to our Plane Crazy Saturday sponsors: Radio Shack in Mojave;
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and Voyager Restaurant!**