



What a wonderful presentation by Jill Rutan Hoffman sharing her memories of her father's daring non-stop, unrefueled flight around the world that took place twenty-nine years ago in 1986, when she was a teenage girl, not fully realizing she might never see him alive again.

Jill lived in Mojave as a little girl and told about growing up in a family with a can-do attitude of seeing obstacles as things to be overcome, she called it "the Mojave spirit." She remembers her Dad setting records flying the LongEZ airplane that he built and her Uncle Burt designed. She never thought it unusual for her Dad, Dick Rutan, and Uncle Burt to build airplanes in the garage or even have airplane parts in the house. Doesn't everyone? She always thought her family was normal! It wasn't until she was married to Lars Hoffman, who retired after serving in the U.S. Air Force for twenty-seven years that she realized and began to appreciate that her family was truly extraordinary – real aviation 'nutjobs!' She means that to be taken in the absolute highest regard too. The passion and the dedication of trying to accomplish something that no one else has ever done before; full well knowing that failure is possible, but you do it anyway.

She expressed her delight in speaking to an audience who understood the aviation spirit of adventure. An audience with Voyager Volunteers present, homebuilders, pilots, aerospace engineers, aviation history fans and as she referred to her family and those who have that special aviation spirit, 'nutjobs.'

She explained that most of the time she has to explain why someone would want to build an airplane in their garage or why they would want to design an aircraft that could fly around the world, beginning with a drawing



on a napkin, then taking years to go from drawing board, to all of the composite work and laying up all of the carbon fiber, to finally rolling out for a first flight.



That 'Mojave Spirit' lives on today in the many T-hangars at the west end of Mojave Air & Spaceport; where young aerospace engineers who work at Scaled Composites, The Spaceship Company and Strato-Launch, keep the aircraft they have built or are in the process of building. The same spirit resides at Tehachapi Airport and

Inyokern, Rosamond and Wm. J. Fox Air Field. These are the airplanes you see fly in for Plane Crazy Saturday and the guys and gals who fly them come into Voyager Restaurant for breakfast or lunch and visit with all the other 'nutjobs' who live, love, breathe and speak aviation.

Our good friend, Axel Alvarez, from Inyokern Airport brought his brand new AA-1, a mixture of RV-4 and Harmon Rocket, over to Plane Crazy Saturday. His



aircraft only has 15 hours flying time logged so far!

Speedy Nigel flew over from Tehachapi in his one-of-a-kind 'Speedy Special' sporting an impressive IO-360 Lycoming for power.



Thankfully the weather actually held for us on Saturday and the wind didn't start getting serious until 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. The winds haven't really let up since then!





Look what Dustin Mosher is flying now! A sweet little 1947 Cessna 120!

Dick Rutan's Berkut was on the flight-line to give a ride to a lucky guy who was the highest bidder at the Rotary Club fund-raiser auction. Dick was also on hand to sign Voyager posters after his flight.



Newest MTM Board Member, Ursula Finkbeiner wanted a photo taken with Dick and his airplane. The wind had started to come up a little by then.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this month's Plane Crazy Saturday a success! Thank you to MTM Board Members and special friends of MTM: Bill Deaver, Steve Rushford, Wen Painter and Ursula Finkbeiner!



Thank you Ron Langford for all of your help and support with the tables, chairs and conference room! And special thanks to Irene Randolph for the very best and delicious homemade chocolate chip cookies! Thank you also to Jim Balentine for helping vacuum up all the cookie crumbs from the carpet! 😊



Jill Rutan Hoffman was on the ramp visiting with attendees before her presentation on Saturday. She has so much warmth and enthusiasm and enjoys working with young adults to inspire them to look skyward!



She says that it was Irene 'Mom' Rutan, her grandmother, who instilled the idea of following your dreams to her Dad, Dick Rutan and her Uncle Burt Rutan and the "If you can dream it, you can do it" concept carried through the family to each new generation.

Thank you to our August 2015 – July 2016 PCS sponsors:
Here is our new banner listing all of PCS sponsors – THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

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www.mojavemuseum.org

PLANE CRAZY SATURDAY began on January 17, 2009 and our Aircraft of the Month was Cory Bird's magnificent 'Symmetry.' We will be celebrating our seventh year of Plane Crazy Saturday at Mojave Air & Spaceport on January 16, 2016 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. with a briefing by Eileen Shibley, Founder and CEO of Monarch, Inc., design and manufacture of commercial robotic aircraft systems. UAV (unmanned aerial vehicles) or aerial drones used for precision agriculture, surveying and aerial inspections of energy systems.



The Mojave Transportation Museum Foundation wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!
Hope to see you on January 16th for Plane Crazy Saturday!