

December 2009 Newsletter - Cal-Coupers Ercoupe Owner's Club Region 7 (California)

*** **Hello everyone.** Buzz Dolim and Dan Hall have been helping me work on the 2010 EOC-7 Calendar. A draft of the first quarter of 2010 is below, for your advance planning pleasure; balance to follow once I get just a bit more info. A few big things to note: Watsonville has moved its Air Show to Labor Day and the EOC National is Sept. 9-12 in Illinois.

*** Upcoming December EOC Region 7 events:

December 13th (SoCal) French Valley, EOC Fly-out brunch; meet at 11:30 a.m., restaurant faces transient parking. When I flew out this way last winter, there was still snow on the peaks, at about eye level -- beautiful! **PLEASE RSVP** to Linda, so we can coordinate an alternate site/date, in case wx isn't good. <http://www.airnav.com/airport/Kf70>

No scheduled NorCal events for December, but Buzz has been organizing several impromptu fly-outs. Contact Buzz Dolim buzz597@comcast.net to get on his last-minute-notice list.

We're also open to impromptu events as weather permits (see some possibilities in the Non-EOC Events list below). Please RSVP to Linda Abrams @ LASprite@cox.net and Gary Dallugge @ garydallugge@gmail.com or (805-300-5349) for SoCal events, or to Maynard Smith @ ercoupe@suddenlink.net & Buzz Dolim @ buzz597@comcast.net for NorCal events as soon as possible, but no later than the Thursday night prior if you are planning to attend the event and would like to meet up!

*** **Other (non-EOC) events to consider this month:**

Many of the events below were forwarded from members & other sources (AOPA, EAA, Flyins.com). *We recommend that you independently confirm the event's status with the sponsor and/or the airport.*

The Palm Springs Air Museum has several events in December; info: (760) 778-6262.

Dec 5 - Aviation and Military Book Fair. Over a dozen noted authors will be on hand to sign and discuss their books. Relive history with them. 10 - 4

Dec 12 — Pearl Harbor Program and Flight Demonstration. Relive the day of infamy when the US was attacked by Japan and was thrust unprepared into war. Meet Pearl Harbor survivors. 1:00 PM (760) 778-6262.

Dec 19 — Santa Flies In. Santa arrives by Stearman at 1:00 and will give out goody bags to all children until 3 or 4, or as long as there are children to meet him. (760) 778-6262.

Dec. 19 - Western Museum of Flight at TOA:

- talk by Jean Chamberlin, VP of Boeing, on C-17 and Global Mobility. 11:00 a.m.

Dec 5 – Santa Monica (SMO). Noon: FREE monthly BBQ and Wings seminar. The Santa Monica Airport Assn. and American Flyers host their monthly (first Saturday of every month) FREE barbecue and Wings seminar. This month's topic is "Transitioning into Different Airplane Types and Technically Advanced Airplanes." Food is served at noon and the seminar begins at about 12:30. All are welcome. See the link below for directions, or if you fly in, American Flyers is located at the southeast corner of the airport. Contact Colin Gonzales, (800) 233-0808.

Dec 20 – La Verne, CA, Brackett Field (POC). Holiday Antique Aircraft/Classic Car Display Antique aircraft/classic car display, fly ins welcomed; historical sign off; biplane rides, restaurant on site. Contact Yvonne, 626-576-8692.

***** REPORTS from past events:**

Report by Joe Brooks on the North Las Vegas Halloween Fly In at Jean, Nevada:
"The fly in that wont die.

Ruthy and I arrived at the Gold Strike Casino on Thursday, 10/29/09. The 1078 miles from Independence, Oregon took two long days of driving. Talk about Ercoupe cheap, the room was \$139 for Thursday, Friday and Saturday total. Jo-ann and Fred arrived Friday which started the continual stream of arrivals. Gary Dallugge (Forney), Tom Crowder (Ercoupe), and Ron Minere (Alon) flew in from Santa Paula. Wayne Johnson (Navion) flew in from Lancaster. Ed Bilewitch, Sandy Bilewitch and her friend Bob drove in from Hesperia. The casino gave out 50% off coupons for the Steakhouse. Of course, as true Ercoupers, we all went BOGO (buy one, get one free!). The Prime Rib (3 lbs) and Steaks (2 lbs) were bigger than anyone could eat, Max Dubrava called to invite everyone to North Las Vegas Airport Saturday morning for his weekly hangar feed. It seems that it has been such a success that he put the airport cafe out of business. Of course, we all went. I will say, it was 3G (good eats, good pro-aviation camaraderie, and good weather). Joan Dubrave invited all of us to a local Casino in North Las Vegas for the Saturday night feed. The Mexican food was fantastic. Sunday morning, Eddy Tohikian and his wife Maria (RV8) flew in from Chino. They came to have breakfast and fly back to LA with the gang. The Gold Strike is getting long in the tooth and Las Vegas is hurting for business. The terminal at Jean airport has been taken over by the local Sky Dive company. Avgas prices were OK but not the usual cheapest in town. Auto gas was cheap, \$2.85 / gallon for Chevron Supreme. I love it when a difficult plan comes together. Of course there was no plan and as luck would have it, all turned out much better than could have been hoped for. Three cheers for the fly in that wont die.

From Max Doubrava: the "Impromptu North Las Vegas Fly-In & Halloween Party" was rather well attended despite minimal notice or advertising. It demonstrated the possibility of renewing the event --possibly without using the Jean airport. Reasonable accommodations are now available at VGT.

Reports wanted: There are no photos in this month's newsletter; none were sent in.

NorCal has had several impromptu fly-outs, to Lodi Linds, AUN, Oroville, and Red Bluff, among others. Reports & photos are invited. Did anyone attend the ChuckYeager talk? (I sent out an interim mailing on this one.) We'd love to have your report on it.

If YOU were at an aviation event, please write it up for us all and send it (& any photos) to LASprite@cox.net

*** If you have something to include in an upcoming newsletter, please have it to the Region 7 Director no later than the 25th day of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter (by 08/25 for the September newsletter, for example). If YOU have a unique or interesting experience you would like to share with the group please let the Region 7 Director or a Wing Leader know! (We really appreciate help writing all this stuff, and will take all the help we can get!).

In the interests of brevity, I'm tentatively not planning to reprint info from EAA & AOPA, unless it looks VERY important; I trust most of us belong to one or both of those organizations and are already receiving mailings from them. That was the consensus of those queried at the Camarillo fly-in. If this is a problem for you, or you were relying on our newsletter to get these other group's news, please let Linda know at LASprite@cox.net.

*** A BIG "Thank you!", to the contributors this month including: Ken Iwahashi (web master), Buzz Dolim, Joe Brooks, Ed Burkhead, Glen Davis, Curtis Smith, Jim Grimes, Fred Willson, and Bud DeCastro

Ercouper / member Profile(s):

YOUR STORY HERE..... !!! (Yes, YOU!)

Please share your own aviation history. Do you have a story to tell...? We'd like to hear it, and learn more about our members. Email me @ LASprite@cox.net

Planes of the Month:

YOUR PLANE'S STORY HERE..... !!! We're interested in your Ercoupe/Aircoupe's history, too.

2010 CALENDAR (Draft) for EOC-7 -- First Quarter

Jan. 9-10	Cable Airshow (SoCal)
Jan. 16	Willows (NorCal)
late Jan/Feb.	Borrego Valley? (SoCal) (your thoughts on this are solicited)
Feb. 20	Woodland (NorCal)
Mar. 12-14	Lake Havasu (EOC 7 & 8)
Mar. 20	Brownsville (NorCal)

For more details about an event please contact:

NorCal: Maynard Smith @ ercoupe@suddenlink.net AND Buzz Dolim @ buzz597@comcast.net or 530 743 3672.

SoCal: Linda Abrams @ LASprite@cox.net or phone *between 10 am - 10 pm ONLY please* (323) 394-2331, or Gary Dallugge @ (805-300-5349)

The Fly In & Air Fair event dates are generally fixed. The 'rain date' for the California 'EOC Fly-out' events will normally be the following weekend however; contact the Wing Leader or Director for details. For the EOC Fly-out events, plan to arrive for late brunch or lunch (~ 11 AM to 12:00 noon), with most departing around 2:00 PM although this is entirely a personal choice. If you have a friend to fly to the event with, you are encouraged to do so (passenger or an Ercoupe 'flight').

News of interest & Fun Stuff, Ercoupe-related:

Great Flying video from OSH

Posted by: "Glen Davis" glen@ishootpictures.com

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=nKU0uQki5Dc

Courtesy of Ed Burkhead:

Here's a newspaper update based on the FAA investigator report about the April 'Coupe crash in Sandwich, Illinois. It contains a lesson we should all have firmly in mind.

<http://mywebtimes.com/archives/ottawa/display.php?id=391626>

(Comment by Tommy Terry of Texas: Someone in this group said a while back that once you have a problem, the airframe belongs to the insurance company and you should use it (the airframe) to save your life. We all love our planes, but there is wisdom in those words.

News of interest & Fun Stuff, Other:

Thanks to Buzz Dolim for sharing “**A Great ‘Aviation’ Story**”

A different kind of air battle!

This came from a gent who runs a 2000 acre corn farm up around Barron WI , not far from Oshkosh where the annual EAA convention is held He used to fly F4Es and F-16s for the Guard and participated in the first Gulf War... Submitted for your enjoyment, and as a reminder that there are other great, magnificent flyers around besides us.

I went out to plant corn for a bit to finish a field before tomorrow morning and witnessed The Great Battle . A golden eagle - big bastard, about six foot wingspan - flew right in front of the tractor. It was being chased by three crows that were continually dive bombing it and pecking at it. The crows do this because the eagles rob their nests when they find them.

At any rate, the eagle banked hard right in one evasive maneuver, then landed in the field about 100 feet from the tractor. This eagle stood about 3 feet tall. The crows all landed too and took up positions around the eagle at 120 degrees apart, but kept their distance at about 20 feet from the big bird. The eagle would take a couple steps towards one of the crows and they'd hop backwards and forward to keep their

distance. Then the reinforcement showed up.

I happened to spot the eagle's mate hurtling down out of the sky at what appeared to be approximately Mach 1.5. Just before impact the eagle on the ground took flight, (obviously a coordinated tactic; probably pre-briefed) and the three crows which were watching the grounded eagle, also took flight thinking they were going to get in some more pecking on the big bird. The first crow being targeted by the diving eagle never stood a snowball's chance in hell. There was a mid-air explosion of black feathers and that crow was done. The diving eagle then banked hard left in what had to be a 9G climbing turn, using the energy it had accumulated in the dive, and hit crow #2 less than two seconds later. Another crow dead.

The grounded eagle, which was now airborne and had an altitude advantage on the remaining crow, which was streaking eastward in full burner, made a short dive then banked hard right when the escaping crow tried to evade the hit. It didn't work - crow #3 bit the dust at about 20 feet altitude.

This aerial battle was better than any air show I've been to, including the warbirds show at Oshkosh ! The two eagles ripped the crows apart and ate them on the ground, and as I got closer and closer working my way across the field, I passed within 20 feet of one of them as it ate its catch. It stopped and looked at me as I went by and you could see in the look of that bird that it knew who's Boss Of The Sky. What a beautiful bird!

I love it. Not only did they kill their enemy, they ate them.

Aviation Humor, Courtesy of Curtis Smith:

A check ride ought to be like a skirt: short enough to be interesting, but long enough to cover everything.

Speed is life. Altitude is life insurance.

It only takes two things to fly: Airspeed, and money.

The three most dangerous things in aviation:

1. A Doctor or Dentist in a Cessna.
2. Two captains in a DC-9.

Aircraft Identification:

If it's ugly, it's British.

If it's weird, it's French.

If it's ugly and weird, it's Russian.

Without ammunition, the USAF would be just another very expensive flying club.

The similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots? If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies.
If ATC screws up, the pilot dies.

The difference between flight attendants and jet engines:
The engines usually quit whining when they get to the gate.

New FAA motto: 'We're not happy, till you're not happy.'

If Air Traffic Control screws up, it's called a "System Malfunction", If a pilot screws up it's called a "violation".

Basic Flying Rules:

1. Try to stay in the middle of the air.
2. Do not go near the edges of it.
3. The edges of the air can be recognized by the appearance of ground, buildings, sea, trees and interstellar space. It is much more difficult to fly in the edges.

Video Links:

Courtesy of Bud DeCastro & Jim Grimes:

In case that you've never been to the "Red Barn" (aka Museum of Flight, Boeing Field) here is a link to some great hi res photos including two shots of the Lear Fan...

<http://home.comcast.net/~bzee1a/MuseumOfFlight/MuseumOfFlight.html>

From Edwards AFB: Check out www.youtube.com/user/flighttestnation

Check out the various Ercoupe Web sites:

- 1) *** Our EOC Region 7 web site is <http://www.calcoupers.org>
Look here for Resources; A&P/IA's; Classified Ads; we're also collecting or linking to Performance & Mechanical information, Weather & Flight Planning tools, etc.
- 2) Also check out the National EOC site @ <http://www.Ercoupe.org/>
(Please join and support our National Club organization (The Ercoupe Owner Club or EOC, based back in NC). They really help us all in many ways and are well worth the VERY modest annual fee (\$30). To join up please either contact Carolyn Cardin @ coupecaper@aol.com OR (news flash!!!) the Ercoupe Owners Club is now accepting credit cards for memberships and renewals on their web site @ <http://www.ercoupe.org/> & <http://www.ercoupe.org/Pay%20Pal.htm>)
- 3) International Ercoupe Owners Club (join!) @ <http://www.Ercoupe.org/>
- 4) Ed Burkhead's Ercoupe web site (& sign up for the Tech or Fly-in email lists mentioned below) @ <http://edburkhead.com/Ercoupe/index.htm>
- 5) The Ercoupe network (swap page, photos, AD's & links) @ <http://www.Ercoupe.net/>
- 6) Harmut's Ercoupe technical info, maintenance, & repair site; <http://www.ercoupe.info>
- 7) Jason Ellingson's Ercoupe site - lot's of interesting links @ <http://www.ellingson.com/Ercoupe/links.asp>
- 8) Mike Willis's UK Ercoupe site @ <http://www.ercoupe.co.uk/>
- 9) Ercoupe site (Belgium) @ www.ercoupe.be

Highly recommended: the Ercoupe Yahoo Group Chat mailing lists:

Technical information <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ercoupe-tech/>

If you've never looked it over, I highly recommend checking it out! You can post a technical question here one day & have 6-8 answers waiting for you the next morning!

For Social, Fly-ins, and General content <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ercoupe-flyin/>

Best Regards,
Linda Abrams
EOC Region 7 Interim Director

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