



Meeting Minutes - Hollister Airman Association

Location: Hollister Airport
Date: June 20, 2019
Time: 1905

Attendees (15)

Debbie Cochran	Frank Gee
Diane Jennings	John Jennings
Mary Szpara	John Szpara
Ruth Erickson	Robbie Cochran
Jerry Fisher	Allen Ritter
Kathie Merwin	Alan Woodle
Phil Stefano	Sofia Stefano
Dale Ritter	

Minutes

N/A

Finances

\$6748.00 (Includes 2 new memberships)

Old Business

CAF for lunch June 29. Contact Mary Szpara for carpool or plane pool.

New Business

- ✈ Fly-in July 4. Need volunteers at table in front of Hughs to sign in antique or historic planes. One or two people needed to help with little airplane near to be located near the table, then moved to the area where the chairs are set up, prior to the fireworks taking place. Will start at 10:00.

Mary Szpara volunteered to work at the sign in table. Ruth Erickson mentioned the Warbirds will be there, and possibly do a fly-over similar to last year. It is unknown if the Stearmans will be on static display. The music will begin at 5:00. There will be 3 vendors (Shaved Ice, BBQ & Tacos). The fireworks begin at 9:15.

- ✈ July 13 & 14 there will be an "Open House" held at the airport for antique/historical planes to be on display for tax purposes. Phil Stefano will promote the fly-in on the internet and other media sources. This monthly event will take place on the 2nd weekend of each month, currently scheduled for 2 days. The HAA and EAA will staff the table to sign in pilots, each organization will take 1 of the 2 days. It has not yet been determined which day of the weekend has been assigned to the groups.

There was discussion as to what other activities can be done during the Open House to attract the aviation community as well as the general population. This will also be a good opportunity for potential membership in the HAA and EAA.

- ✈ Ruth spoke about the property at the end of the runway. Gavilan College and another corporation wanted to build upon it, but due to certain rules and regulations pertaining to grounds adjacent to an airport, these plans were negated.
- ✈ There will be no Airport Council Meeting in July.
- ✈ Dale Ritter mentioned the AOPA holds about ten fly-in events, annually, at Livermore. There is an event on June 21 & 22. There will be drone night display consisting of 200 drone.

Program

Guest speaker Frank Gee - USAF

Frank opened with how his father was a crop duster prior to WWII. He was recruited by the Flying Tigers because he was able to speak English and Mandarin. Following the war, the U.S. government agreed to give him citizenship.

Frank joined the USAF as an engineer, however with persuasion by a senior military member, he became a pilot. He initially requested to fly an RC175 (weather plane), which made his mom happy. His story continued with another pilot wishing to switch planes, and the Colonel gave Frank the "option" to accept. Shortly thereafter, the other pilot wanted to switch back, but Frank declined. Frank was permanently assigned to fly the F4 out of S.E. Asia.

Frank discussed the role of the F4 in Vietnam. There were over 5000 built. The F4 was a multi-role plane. About half of the were lost during the war. Frank also flew the F16 and F117 Night Hawk.

Frank's presentation then changed topic to why he was in town. He is working with the Hazel Hawkins BOD to requalify hospital as a Critical Access Hospital, since it is located in a rural community. Currently the hospital has 49 beds, but average usage is 16. The law requires the hospital to staff for 49, regardless of actual usage. As a result, this contributes to the hospital's 2M dollar deficit. Frank commented that while the population is growing in Hollister, the health care insurance carried by most people are for doctors out of this area. So, it is hard to fill the beds.

The hospital will be relicensed for 25 beds and by qualifying as a Critical Access Hospital (CAH), they are anticipating a profit each month, rather than a deficit. Frank mentioned the majority of patients are on Medi-Care or Medi-Cal. Under the current classification, the government pays a much lower payment for services. As a CAH the payment is greater, and the goal is to attract more doctors.

Meeting adjourned at 2115.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Debbie Cochran