

SONOMA SKYPARK NEWS

JULY 2013

AIRPORT HAPPENINGS: Well June's unpredictable weather with cold windy days followed by some much needed rain and then unseasonably hot days leading up to the Fourth of July sure didn't slow the activities down at Skypark. The Sonoma Valley Ham Radio Club held their annual 24 hour Field Day at the airport on the first day of summer which felt like a windy cool fall day. They all survived the night time temperatures and reported making some good long distance contacts. Those of us that came out in the evening to check on them were rewarded with views of Saturn's Rings and the exceptionally close Moon through a computer controlled powerful telescope. Carneros Aviation, our flight school has been busy with students flying the Cessna 172 while they wait for the arrival of the Super Decathlon to join the fleet. Instructor, Travis Morton, took a one week Aerobatic Course with Ben Freelove down in King City in preparation for the Super Decathlon. Airplanes are selling! Gregg Durango sold his Champ (formerly Ed Barkhurst's treasure) two weeks ago. Just a few days later Dave & Karen Palmer sold their Meyers 2000 to a man in Oregon. I know the Palmers had owned and actively flew their Meyers for more than 27 years. On July 5th Jim & Jeff Bunschu sold their Grumman Tiger to a buyer from Southern California. That airplane like the Palmer's has been at Skypark for more years than I can remember. The hangars were quickly occupied. On Sunday, June 9th the EAA Young Eagle program gave 18 free rides to eager young passengers, some for their first flight experience and some for their fourth or fifth ride of the year.

I'm very happy to announce that Sonoma Skypark Airport Attendant, Jorge Oros, earned his Private Pilot License on Sunday, June 30th. I believe, Jorge took his first Young Eagle ride when he was 13 years old and his parents were willing to bring him back to the airport month after month until he could drive himself. Last year Jorge graduated from Sonoma Valley High School and this year he has been working for the airport and paying for his flying lessons. Now it's on to earn an Instrument rating while attending Santa Rosa Junior College. Jorge feels fortunate to be among a supportive group of aviation enthusiasts. Jorge's instructor was John Cabaud, assisted by Travis Morton and John Carmichael.

Just two days after Jorge's check ride Noel Perry celebrated his seventeenth birthday by taking his Private Pilot check ride successfully, with the same examiner at Sonoma County Airport. Noel and his dad, David Perry, have been taking lessons together for a couple of years but dad didn't have to wait for his birthday. Skypark extends a big "Well done to all three of the new pilots" and their instructor, Travis Morton