An Exciting Day at Flabob Airport
By Gillian Schneider - Teacher, Ina Arbuckle East

Our preschool to 5th grade students from the Riverside County Office of Education based at the Ina Arbuckle School were welcomed by Kathy Rohm on June 11th 2013 at Flabob Airport. The students were in awe by the sights and sounds of the many planes and helicopters at Flabob. The students had an opportunity to engage with the environment, socialize with others and respond to their surroundings. This kind of community based activity is important for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, which can make it challenging for them to communicate, regulate their sensory needs, socialize and play. Kathy engaged our students with step-by-step paper plane making, held flying competitions, read an interactive story about planes, and gave us a tour of the 1930s replica racing planes in Hangar 20. To add to the fun, Kathy provided us a picnic spot for our lunch near the runway where she had arranged a fly past for the students. Our students were thrilled and so were we because Kathy and her staff enabled our students and families to have a new and exciting experience. A big thanks from Ina Arbuckle students and staff to Kathy and her staff at the Flabob Airport.

For more information on Flabob School Field Trip Programs contact:

Kathy Rohm
kathy@tomwathencenter.org
(951) 683-2309 Ext. 104

www.tomwathencenter.org
Flabob Airport is still renovating its café! It is turning into a showplace as it nears completion, one which will be a great draw for fly-ins!

In the early stages of the project, our wonderful Flabob maintenance crew, comprised of Carl, Luis, Pedro, and Leon, led by Jim Doiron, removed the pictures, booths, tables, and chairs for cleaning and refurbishment. They cleaned the ceiling rafters, fans, and cleaned/sealed the mural above the fireplace. Air ventilation ducts were painted, and the shingles from roof located over the counter-top were removed. One of the first changes you will notice as you walk in the front door is that the entrance to the restrooms has been relocated. It is now immediately to the right of the front door, rather than having to cut through the dining area to access the restrooms.

You may have seen a new face around here! Contractor Andy Moffitt and his crew have installed new tile flooring, all of the wood paneling has been restored to its original condition, the fireplace has been cleaned of years of grease, and the interior of the building has a new coat of paint. Additionally, the kitchen/storeroom ceilings, walls, and ventilation have been replaced.

Still to come, a private dining area for parties or business meetings will be available, new floral will be planted in front of the café, and the building’s exterior will be power-washed and repainted. Pictures of Flabob’s history will be rotated in a collage style format, allowing diners to see Flabob and the people of Flabob throughout the years, while providing a cleaner and more modern look to the café. Bill Sawin, President and CEO of the Tom Wathen Center said, “The renovation of our Flabobian café has exceeded our expectations, and we are excited to invite you all to have a fabulous experience in our new café.”

Due to extra-needed maintenance of the 70+ year old building, which was formerly at Camp Haan (now March Air Reserve Base), the restaurant is currently scheduled to open Monday, August 12th.
The real heroes in this program are the mentor volunteer teachers who captured the attention and captivated these 45 kids. Every one of the students admired and revered these great instructors. Each one of you as instructors should be proud of your contribution and continued support of the Air Academy, The Tom Wathen Center and Flabob Airport. You are truly our best asset.

In addition to our wonderful Flabob instructors, we had the privilege of having Dr. Paul Foster and Ross Gregory, both of the FAA, teach a course on careers in aviation. These 45 kids left Flabob with new thoughts, ideas, a warm feeling and a desire to grow. I attended the graduation ceremony at Cal State LA and it was the most inspiring graduation ceremony I have ever attended. Each student spoke from the heart about the programs, the instructors and the staff; especially Kathy Rohm, Chris Felton and Beth LaRock.

The Air Academy Program has developed national merit and is considered the top aviation program by many including EAA National. We are proud to be part of that history and we look forward to a great future. The key is that we change lives and the Fascination of Flight continues to inspire Lifelong Learning. The best news is that we all are learning with these students and we all are growing together.
AirVenture
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The Flabob Aviators have an exciting new project they are working on! Courtesy of Jon Goldenbaum and the Planes of Fame Air Museum in Chino, the Aviators have the opportunity to restore a Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-15 for a new display honoring Korean War veterans at the museum. Upon completion of the MiG, they will begin working on a North American F-86. The plan is for the F-86 to be mounted atop a pole with the MiG on the ground as if it had been shot down. The display will be set up on the corner entrance to the museum near the B-17.

So far, the project required the Aviators to completely gut the interior of the aircraft. Don Newman helped in guiding the kids with the process of removing the instrument panel, ejection seat, control column, etc.

After sanding of the aircraft’s exterior surfaces was completed, the aircraft was moved out of hangar 29 to be washed and primed for a new paint job. Hualdo Mendoza, of PolyFiber, has been helping the kids with the repainting process by sanding, pressure-washing, and acid washing the aircraft. The next step is to put a priming coat on the aircraft.

The final product will be an aircraft restored to its original Korean War era colors. The MiG is expected to be completed by the end of August.

"Thank you for a fun and educational day! The presentation was a great way to start the day and get the kids excited and involved as well as gives them some history on the planes. This unique experience of actually going on a historical plan was awesome. Since some of the students had never been on an airplane, it was fascinating to see their reaction when getting on a plane that was made before they were born! Your tour even sparked some interest for some potential future pilots when they were able to go into the cockpit and take a look at how things work. That was truly the icing on the cake!

We remember the good times we had every time the children make paper airplanes. We look forward to visiting you again! Thank you!"
I attended the Air Academy at Flabob Airport from June 18 through June 21 of 2013. I flew in a Cessna 150 with Jimmy (James O’Brien III) on July 13.

I learned many things during this class. It sparked my scientific curiosity. It made me want to learn more about planes and how aerodynamics work. For example I learned how a plane flies and lands and what it needs to prepare for take-off.

I learned about the history of planes and how it all began. I learned about perseverance through the Wright Brothers, and how they tried many times to build a plane that would fly and never gave up. We also learned about rockets and how they fly. We each built our own rocket and we launched it the last day of the class.

I found the class very interesting because it surpassed my expectations. I didn’t think I was going to learn so much and have lots of fun at the same time. The best day was when I went in the air. I have been in a commercial airplane many times but I had never been a copilot before. Jimmy, the pilot of the Cessna 150 that I flew in, was very nice and was a wonderful instructor. He explained very well what he wanted me to do and then he let me do right and left turns while flying.

It was very exciting to be in the air. It was an amazing experience. I hope to do this class again in the future.

For more information on 2 Day and 4 Day Air Academies contact:
Kathy Rohm
kathy@tomwathencenter.org
(951) 683-2309 Ext. 104
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4130 Mennes Ave.
Riverside 92509
Contact: LaShon Samuel @ 951-225-7100 or 760-691-9684
Dontae Jelks @ 760-330-7754

www.riverspringscharter.org/our-choices/aviation-academy
A FLIGHT TO IDAHO

by Tyler Howell

JULY 2013

The Daniel David Dopps Memorial P.R.C.A (Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association) Rodeo is held once a year, on June 28-29. Daniel was a Bull Rider moving up to the professional side of Rodeo, and anyone who knew my cousin Daniel soon realized he was a cowboy in every way. Rodeo was a love for Daniel as well as it being a part of his life. I can truly say I love aviation and I will keep flying till I can’t fly no more. I have always traveled with my family by car up to Idaho but there was always this want to experience the trip differently, flying was the thought in my head, but there was a problem I didn’t have my pilot’s certificate at the time? So I solved that problem on June 29, 2012. When I achieved that goal with the help of Tom Wathen, and my family I became a private pilot. My dream came true on June 25, 2013. Thanks to my Grandparents Pete & Gladys Gallegos for letting me use their 1965 Cessna 172G SkyHawk. Also Thank you to Beth LaRock for all the help along the way, this trip would have never happened without you “Thank you”.

This flying trip was a great experience! For a couple of fresh young pilot’s like Jacob and myself, we flew three two hour legs; our stops were at Tonapah airport and Elko municipal airport. The areas we flew across were vast and long, we ran into different types of weather and various high altitude airports that make pilots better because of the experience. I feel that this Idaho trip helped me grow as a new pilot.

Lastly I want to take this time to Thank God for Blessing me such a supportive family, and an awesome airport family at Flabob.

“To those learning to fly, keep your eyes to the sky and stay positive; and those who are pilots keep flying and by all means stay out of the trees! Your attitude determines your altitude!”
This experience was met with excitement as well as nervousness. Since I had never been aerobatic flying before, I was looking forward to it. When I got there, Norm Manary told me what we would be doing by demonstrating it with a mini airplane. Next, I was fitted into a heavy, blue parachute. I was hoping that I would actually get to jump out of the plane and use it, but thinking of the plane crashing and the plane not being his, I quickly changed my mind.

Then, he showed me how to get into the airplane, and how to put the seatbelt on, which, by the way was very uncomfortable. Next, he gave me a headset to put on, got in and turned the engine on and headed for the end of the runway. There he made sure everything was working properly. Suddenly we were going faster and faster and the wheels lifted from the ground and we were off. I got to fly the airplane for a while, which was exciting, and then we began.

The loops were fantastic, and the quick turns were fun, and the greatest part was when we were facing downward into the ground. There was a moment when suddenly darkness started to overcome me and all I saw was stars, but as soon as the plane leveled, that was history and I was ready for more. My favorite one was when he turned off the engine and pointed the nose downward and the ground was coming closer and closer, and suddenly he pulled up. All too soon it ended and we were headed back.

The flight back was a little bumpy but we managed. We circled the airport, landed and headed for the hangar. When I got out I took off the headset as well as the parachute. When I took it off: I felt as if tons off bricks had been taken off me. We drank water and talked some and then left.

This experience made me want some more aerobatic flying experiences and to work and study hard in school to achieve those straight A's. I am thankful that I was able to have this experience knowing that not many get to experience it and I am so thankful to Norm Manary and everybody else who made this opportunity possible.
PLATINUM LEVEL $1000

- Offer display space for your corporate banner
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GOLD LEVEL $500

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THE FLABOB FLYING CIRCUS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Flabob chapter of the Antique Airplane Association is happy to announce the second annual of what we intend to become the West Coast’s premier event for Antique and Vintage aircraft, The Flabob Flying Circus 2013. Last year’s attendance was between 1,500-2,000 guests. But we anticipate a much larger crowd and plan to make this year’s event bigger and better.

With your help, we can make this a memorable and enjoyable show for the community and aviation enthusiasts. You can help by providing cash donation or contributing supplies. Our event is supported by a 501(C)3 non-profit organization and your donation can be tax deductible. For your records, regarding donations, our Federal Tax I.D. is 42-6089512.

If you have any questions regarding sponsorship, media coverage, vendor information, cavalcade participation, and volunteer opportunities please contact the AAA Flabob Chapter Secretary at 951-235-7710.

Thank you again!

www.flabobflyingcircus.com
Looking for an answer to a Flabob Question?? Please put away those magic eight balls. The new and improved website for the Tom Wathen Center @ Flabob Airport will launch this August! A calendar of events on the new website will keep you up to date with all of our current and future events. Are you signed up to receive our Newsletter? If you missed it, the Newsletter will be posted to the new website monthly so that you never miss out on Flabob News. Want to get socially connected? You will find links to our Twitter, Facebook & LinkedIn accounts on our new website. If you got to make a hangar rent payment or would like to submit one of your most appreciated & generous donations for our foundation, you will find a link to PayPal on our new website for easy process. Visit our new page for updated airport history, pictures, services, educational programs, facility information & much, much more. Our team has been very busy in preparing the new website for all your Flabob needs. Keep a lookout; you won’t want to miss it!

COMING SOON…
By Grisel Medina

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Chris Felton
chris@tomwathencenter.org
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