



The Flypaper

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SCOTT VALLEY PILOTS ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 1136, Fort Jones, CA

January 2018

NEXT MEETING—THURSDAY, JAN. 4, 2018
Scott Valley Airport Pilot Center, 6 PM BBQ Potluck

Pres Sez

SVPA President Chuck Jopson

The clear days in December were not so good for the water supply, but it made for a great flying month! My brother from Spokane was visiting my mother in Cloverdale and the weather was clear, so it was a great opportunity for a flight! I was to fly to Santa Rosa, pick up my brother and then make the short flight to Cloverdale.

Since the mornings were in the 20s, I went to the airport the night before and ran a duct from a homemade 1200 watt preheater into the engine cowling. The preheater didn't work too well the last time it was used. The thermostat had been set low so I was unsure what to expect this time.

In the morning, a flight briefing at www.1800wxbrief.com was showing favorable 50 knots winds aloft with an airmet for moderate turbulence. The plan was to fly direct over the Coast Range so I resigned myself to a quick, but rough flight. There was a pleasant surprise waiting at the airport. The engine compartment was at a toasty 70 degrees thanks to the preheater, eliminating fears of premature wear due to a starting a cold engine.

The GPS was indicating a brisk 146 mph ground speed while climbing through 5000 feet. The turbulence that usually accompanies climbing out of the Scott Valley into high winds aloft never happened! I was treated to 210 mph ground speeds in smooth air – a luxury for my 182, which usually does about 130 mph. Gee, if Nelson had been up there in his Swift, he would have been supersonic! The Coast Range was bare of snow, so hopefully, we get many storms in 2018...

I finally paid some dues with a brief period of severe turbulence while descending into Santa Rosa. My brother commented on the devastation from the fires in Santa Rosa, but I was too busy flying the airplane to notice. The Alaska Air pilot did a long low landing approach over the city, perhaps to give all the passengers a good look.

Once again, I had a great weekend in Cloverdale due to the magic of general aviation. The winds had died down by the next day, so there were only 20 mph headwinds on the return flight.

Wishing all of you a happy, prosperous 2018! The January BBQ Potluck will be held on THURSDAY, January 4th – come out to the airport, throw something on the grill and enjoy some great company!

- Chuck

The **Scott Valley Pilots Association** is organized as a chapter of the **California Pilots Association**

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