



# *The Flypaper*

Vol. 29 Issue 2 SCOTT VALLEY PILOTS ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 1136, Fort Jones, CA February 2024

SVPA BBQ potluck at A30 Thursday, February 1st at 5:30 PM. NOTE THE EARLIER TIME! Bring something to throw on the grill and a dish to share.

## **Rake in February?**

Well, we did not get a Saturday with predictably good weather in January, so the raking party is still on the table - or rather, the leaves are still on the lawn. Once again, I will put out an email when a raking party is imminent. Let's hope it happens this month!

## **A30 has a new grounding reel!**

The years of fighting our eternally-retracting grounding cable are over! Come to the BBQ Thursday and check out the new, non-retracting grounding cable reel. Since it has no retract spring, there should be nothing on this reel to break. Since this reel does not retract, it means that you – dear customer – must reel the cable in by turning the handle on the reel. Please remember to do this after fueling so the next customer does not get the cable wrapped around his or her prop. Thanks in advance!

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

**Website:** [svpilots.org/](http://svpilots.org/)

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*Our new grounding reel has already attracted paparazzi.*



*When the fog is in, you fly low to the ground.*



*In the air at last - with cloud reflections making wing look dented.*

## **Prez Sez**

*SVPA President Chuck Jopson*

January proved to be a great month to focus on aircraft maintenance! Days of rain followed by days of fog. What better time to replace bushings and hoses? After several gear retraction tests, the Meyers was lowered back to the ground and was ready to fly. Like many previous days, the valley was cloaked in a thick fog at dawn. My windbreaker was damp by the time I arrived at the airport on my bicycle. After several hours and numerous sun breaks, only the airport and Fort Jones were shrouded in fog. That too dissipated with an agonizing slowness.

As is customary after any aircraft maintenance, I conducted the flight with the mentality of a test pilot, constantly looking for problems as the flight progressed. A thin wisp of

smoke or vapor came out of the defrost vent as I was taxiing for takeoff, so I went back to the ramp, shut down and looked for a loose dipstick or excessive oil around the engine. I didn't find anything so I taxied out again and the vapor did not reappear.

Having not flown for a month, I started the short flight with a vague sense of unfamiliarity that slowly went away as the flight progressed – kind of like the fog that was in the valley that morning.

The flight ended with a decent landing and a refueling with inaugural use of our new grounding reel – talk about excitement!

You too can make your week exciting by coming to the SVPA BBQ potluck on Thursday, February 1st at 5:30 PM!