



The Flypaper

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SVPA BBQ potluck at A30 Thursday, November 2nd at 5:30 PM. NOTE THE EARLIER TIME! Bring something to throw on the grill and a dish to share.

Illinois Valley triad descends on Scott Valley

A plane touched down at A30 on October 5th that sounded a bit different from the usual Cessna or Stinson. It proved to be an Aeroprakt 22LS(see photo) flown from Illinois Valley(near Cave Junction) by Cal Schmidt on his first solo cross country. About a half hour later, an even different-er(?) sounding aircraft arrived. It proved to be two of Cal's friends in a gyrocopter(see photo). They were wanting to get some lunch and needed transportation. I had ridden my bike to the airport, so I generously offered them Nelson's pickup! So congratulations to Cal for completing his first solo XC!

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

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Cal soaks up Scott Valley sunshine.



Have you seen an Aeroprakt around here?



Out from under the (low) clouds!



The clouds just make it prettier.



Bee Tree Gap and Siligo Meadows in the Trinity Alps.

Prez Sez

SVPA President Chuck Jopson

Everything ahead is a murky brown as I leave Scott Valley bound for Chico. I thought all of the fires were out, so where is the smoke coming from? I am going to pick up my son Eric, then head down to Harris Ranch for a Meyers luncheon.

The smoke makes the flight forgettable, an endless blah compounded by a headwind. It was very warm at Harris Ranch for early October, the temperature was pushing 90. Fortunately, there were great people there and great conversation. Harris Ranch was out of fuel, but the Meyers had plenty in the tanks to get back to Chico.

After taking off, I noticed that the engine exhaust gas temperatures (EGT) were high on all of the cylinders, but that cylinder head temperatures were normal. I puzzled over this for awhile as I climbed over Fresno. Finally, I checked my mag switch and noticed that it wasn't quite set to BOTH. I switched it to BOTH and the EGT's went to normal. Note to self: after checking mags, make sure I turn key hard enough to get it back to the BOTH setting!

On the way back to Chico, we noticed a fire just north of Yosemite, so all of the smoke was explained. A tailwind made for a quick flight home and the view out the window seemed a little less brown, perhaps because we were heading away from the sun.

After landing back at Scott Valley, I reflected on how much the clarity of the air (or lack thereof) affects the mood of the flight. A big part of my enjoyment of flying is due to the view I get.

Fast forward to a recent flight to Cloverdale, CA. There was still smoke visible, but it wasn't enough to wash out the green of the forests – much better! Clear Lake reflected the blue of the clear sky and all was well in the world. I woke up the next morning in Cloverdale to clear skies, but a low overcast had settled in by the time I was done with breakfast.

During flight planning, I got the impression that the overcast extended north to Weaverville and east to the Sacramento Valley, so I planned to jog east and fly up the valley to avoid the obscured Yolla Bolly Mountains. I was also afraid that the overcast had roofed over the valley I was in, but once at airport, it could be seen that the overcast was above the ridge tops to the northeast.

Shortly after takeoff, I was happy to hear the the Lakeport AWOS was reporting clear below 10,000 feet. The clouds proved to clear terrain by an uncomfortable 500 feet or so, but once the ridge was crossed, the Meyers was in the clear. I could see north all the way to the Trinity Alps, so I changed course and headed directly home.

A dense cloud deck just east of the Trinity Alps only served to make photos more interesting. A brisk tailwind had me cruising at around 220 MPH, so I was expecting to receive a severe buffeting upon descent into Scott Valley. Fortunately, this did not happen and I actually had a decent landing with almost no wind at ground level. This trip served to erase the bad memories of the Harris Ranch trip in the murk.

Come to the SVPA BBQ potluck on Thursday, November 2nd at 5:30 PM. Come earlier, come often!