

May 2016

# IAC38 NEWSLETTER

## *President's Report* *An 18 Year Dream About to Come True*



***Peter with Sean Tucker***

On May 5, 2015 I received this email:

*I am a private pilot and former IAC38 member who has been away at medical school for the last four years. I am coming back to the Sacramento area to be a surgical resident in about a month. Does anyone know of any acro training/aircraft to rent/aircraft to partner into etc. in that area? I'm an Air Force officer and there is an associated flight school but*

*they have no tailwheel or acro training that I can find.*

*Trying to get creative here,*

*Peter Kjell Ballard*

I added Peter to our IAC38 mailing list and sent him the last few months' newsletters to get him up to speed about our club. At the Coalinga contest last year, a young man and

his father walked up to me on the ramp. It was Peter. He and his dad were flying from Southern California back up to Sacramento and they stopped by to say hi to meet us and check out the contest. Peter joined IAC 38 and attended meetings when his schedule allowed.

With precisely 10 aerobatic training flights under his belt, Peter signed up for his first aerobatic contest in the Primary category on May 23, 2016 and posted this on Face Book:

“I cannot begin to explain how much effort this has taken to make happen, but on June 4th, a dream, 18 years in the making, will come to fruition.”

I’ll let him tell the rest of the story...

In 1998 my dad made a horrible mistake: he took me to the Wings Over Stockton Airshow and then tried to convince me that aerobatics was a bad idea. Plans to become a fighter pilot were canceled after talking to a couple hundred disgruntled corporate pilots at my first job out of high school (a fueller at SJC) and realizing I would retire and be one of them someday. Instead, I embarked on a journey to find something I could do day-to-day that would fund a flying hobby. The job was not all dead ends, however. Not only did I end a 9-year career there as Director of Safety of our jet charter department, but by a stroke of good luck or divine providence, I happened to give Sean Tucker a ride to the terminal one day. After asking him as many questions as I could in the five minute drive, he reached into his pocket and scrawled something on the back of a business card: “good for one free acro lesson.” My first 0.6hr of logged flight time was in a Pitts S-2B with Sean as my instructor.

***So...are we going to talk about this or are we going to do it?  
-Peter Kjell Ballard***

For the following year, I worked two to three part-time jobs while full-time in school and put all expendable cash in a bank account literally entitled “pilot’s license.” I started my license at Amelia Reid Aviation (now Aerodynamic) with one goal in mind: acro. Unfortunately, I was accepted to medical school in Washington D.C. before I could finish my license, and flying was temporarily put on hold until an unexpected break during my second year afforded me two weeks off. I called my instructor and asked him if we could fly every day for two weeks and finish my private pilots license. Two weeks later, I had a license. Three weeks later, I was back in D.C. rounding on patients and flying nada.

So, when I found out that the Air Force had “voluntold” me to complete a year of General Surgery Residency at UC Davis, I was conflicted. I was going to be back in The Golden State, surrounded by the world’s best flying weather and home to some of the best acro schools...to start the longest year of my life. Surgical Interns are limited to 80-hour work weeks by regulation (and we usually reach that limit) and we only get four days off per month with one month off so we do not end up admitted to the psych service. It also turned out that the closest acro mount was going to be at least a two hour drive. Bemoaning the fact that I was about to go another year without pursuing an 18-year old dream to a former fueller buddy (now an airline pilot), he responded with some familiar words “Well, are you going to talk about it, or are you going to do it?” This is one of the many impish sayings with which we prod each other, derived from an old story about a buddy of his (who ironically is talking about starting acro training...and not doing it).

*(continued)*

My month vacation this year was spent completing a BFR, with that same trusty instructor that had fast-tracked my license, attending IAC 38 meetings, and taking a flight with Dave Watson in the Super Decathlon. My first conversations with Dave were to communicate that my flying skills were rusty and I could not fly very often but I wanted to compete this year. On June 4th I plan to do exactly that.

This is not intended as the abbreviated story of my life, but as a reminder that obstacles are

overcome by motivation and that Thomas Jefferson probably was not far off when he said "I'm a greater believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it." **Whatever it is for you, stop talking about it and start doing it.**

As I prepare to move to Texas for the continuation of my medical training, I want to thank IAC 38 for being unbelievably welcoming, encouraging, and helpful this year. You are all crazy and I like it.



## ***US Open West Aerobatic Championships***

***Are on this weekend!***

***Many thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors who have helped make the magic happen.***

# Coalinga 2016 sponsors

## Important Announcement Regarding Silver Parachute Sales

I have loved my work - it's been an incredible journey! I have had the privilege of knowing several thousand pilots over the 54 years I've been jumping out of airplanes, performing in airshows, and packing parachutes. I count almost 600 pilots as current customers, and I'm pleased to think of many of you as my friends during both good times and bad for over 35 years.

And now in order to make room for other wonderful things, some good things must come to an end. Therefore, after packing between 35 and 40 thousand parachutes for you and the Air Force, the time has come to sell the repacking portion of my business. I am not selling my whole business, but only the repacking portion.

For over 18 months I have searched to find the most qualified person to serve your repacking needs, and finding a replacement has not been easy. I have always taken a great deal of pride in my work, and I would not settle for someone less when it comes to your safety and service. In February I found an exceptional candidate and experienced parachute rigger by the name of Robert Marshall of Roberts Air Services. **He will begin packing parachutes on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.** When you begin having your parachute serviced by Robert, I am sure you will find the same high level of confidence in him as you have thankfully placed in me throughout the years. **More information on Robert is at the end of this notice.**

I am excited about passing along this part of the business and entering into this new phase of my life. However, you are not entirely getting rid of me. As I said I am selling the repacking portion but:

- I **will keep** my long standing **dealership with Para-Phernalia**, the manufacturer of the **Softie line of pilot emergency parachutes**. I know many of you will require a new parachute in the coming years as yours reaches their recommended 20 year service life. I will still be here to offer you the best deals I can.
- I will also continue to **keep about 15 to 20 parachutes in stock** for those who would like to try one on before purchasing and for the pilot who "needed one yesterday". I will gladly ship one to you, or you may fly to the Columbia Airport (O22) where I can deliver one to you in person.
- I shall **maintain my website [www.SilverParachutes.com](http://www.SilverParachutes.com)** and;
- I will continue to **manufacture my 5 point ratchet belt system (AcroBelt)** as well as my popular **SMAK Pak survival kit** that attaches to your parachute harness.

I will continue living in the area, and will be doing everything I did before - but just not packing parachutes. This I will stop on April 30<sup>th</sup>, and I will be closing my doors at the

*(continued)*

Columbia Airport by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please note that my old phone number in the 510 area code will no longer exist. After June 30<sup>th</sup> you can still reach me at (209) 532-7070. If you need to call me, please phone that number or email me at <[allen@silverparachutes.com](mailto:allen@silverparachutes.com)>.

As in the past, I will:

- Continue to **write for Sport Aerobatics magazine**, and
- Will also still be available worldwide to give my PowerPoint **Emergency Bailout Seminar** to pilots.
- I recently **added a second presentation** about my long career as a professional skydiver, announcer, and wing walker in the airshow industry. Many reports say it is entertaining and informative. I invite you to continue asking me to present to your group.

**And now let me introduce you to Robert Marshall.** Please find his field of experience at [www.robertsairservices.com](http://www.robertsairservices.com) In addition to his aviation related accomplishments that you will find on his website, I have found him to be very precise and fair-minded and willing to accommodate. He continues to keep up to date on packing requirements and procedures. Like me, he specializes only in pilot emergency parachutes. He will be spending additional time with me at the end of April to make this transition as smooth as possible. So that each of you will receive the same good service that I hope I have been able to provide you over the years, after the transition I will be available to Robert in case he has questions.

Robert's business is located on the Ramona Airport in southern California. I think you will not be inconvenienced by the difference in shipping times. Transit turn-around time may entail an extra day each way for those of you in and around the northern California area and only perhaps five to ten dollars more in shipping costs. For the many of you who ship your parachutes to me from across the country, the shipping rates and time in transit should remain the same.

Robert is the best person I know of to take over the repacking part of my business, and I highly recommend him. I'm confident you will receive the best servicing available, and that's what I also want for each of you. If you have concerns please feel free to contact me personally. So far every customer I've spoken to has decided to go with Robert, and I hope you will as well.

***Please remember*** - I'm still in business for the services listed above. However, starting on April 25<sup>th</sup>, please contact Robert at the following phone number or email address below to make an appointment. You will also soon be receiving an email from Roberts Air Services.

I thank each of you for putting your trust in me to pack your parachutes for so many years. It's been a great journey, and now it's time to explore new avenues.

Roberts Air Services

760-533-0341

[robertsairservices@gmail.com](mailto:robertsairservices@gmail.com).

Also check out his website at [www.robertsairservices.com](http://www.robertsairservices.com)

Fly Safe and keep in touch,

Allen Silver

*(list of sponsors continued)*

# Roberts Air Services



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Email: [Robertsairservices@gmail.com](mailto:Robertsairservices@gmail.com)

Contact# 760-533-0341

To schedule your next parachute repack please call or email.



# ***2017 US National Aerobatic Championships moving to Oshkosh***

***Lorrie Penner***

The US National Aerobatic Championships will be held September 24-29, 2017 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Oshkosh offers the best facilities for an aviation event in the world by virtue of its development over the last 45 years as the site for EAA AirVenture. IAC has invested heavily in upgrading its own pavilion there and it will serve as headquarters for the contest. The show will be over the airfield. Also being planned are other activities during the week such as evening social events at the EAA Nature Center and closing ceremonies and awards banquet at the EAA museum's "Founder's Wing" – the place where EAA's annual Hall of Fame ceremonies are held.





# IAC38 2016 Calendar

*(subject to updates and revisions, we'll keep you apprised each month)*

**June 2-4**, COALINGA WESTERN SHOWDOWN, US Western Regional Championships

**June 16-18**, Corvalis Acro Camp 1

**June 26**, IAC38 chapter meeting, Attitude Aviation, KLVK, 4 pm (summer meeting time)

**July 11-13**, Corvalis Acro Camp 2

**July 14-16**, CORVALIS CORKSCREW, (\*new contest\*!), Corvalis, OR

**July 24**, IAC38 chapter meeting

**July 25-31**, EAA AirVenture 2016

**August 27 or 28**, IAC38 chapter meeting, TCY critique day

**September 24 or 25**, IAC38 chapter meeting, TCY critique day

**October 23**, IAC38 chapter meeting

**November** – no meeting, Thanksgiving weekend

**December 11**, IAC38 Holiday Party of Mayhem

We are a very diverse group of people with a lot of interesting stories to be told, and I solicit your input. Submissions are welcomed. We're not trying to win a Pulitzer Prize here, so don't be intimidated by a perceived lack of writing skills. If you have a story, or an idea for one, please submit it! If you would like an article to be in the next issue please submit within the week following the monthly meeting.

Dave Williams, [dw370@comcast.net](mailto:dw370@comcast.net)

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Chapter 38 would like to extend a very special thank you to Evan and Zoe Peers of Air Space Media. Contact:

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650-868-8998

**2016 IAC Chapter 38 team**

Beth Stanton, president

Dave Watson, vice president

Howard Kirker, treasurer

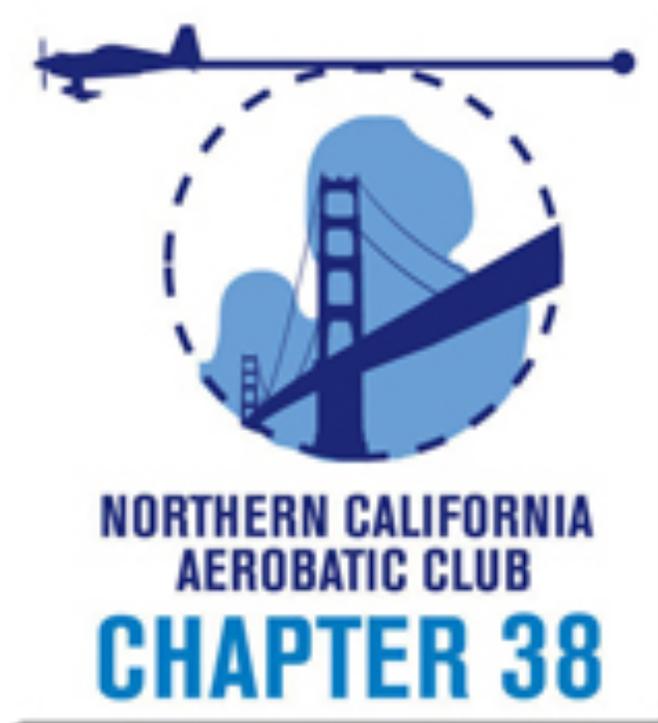
Tom Myers, secretary

Directors: Chris Combs, Mike Eggen, Marian Harris

Webmaster/email list: Brett Goldsmith

Newsletter editor, Dave Williams

Membership, David Manuel



# JOIN / RENEW

In addition to helping support all the activities of our chapter, IAC Chapter 38 membership is an insurance requirement if you want to fly in the box at Tracy for critique days. If you are receiving this newsletter and you know you need to get your membership updated, here are several ways to do it:

- sign up here for the International Aerobatic Club: <https://www.iac.org/roll-us-join-or-renew>
- sign up here IAC38 (using PayPal): <http://www.iac38.org>
- sign up at our next chapter meeting, we accept cash, check and credit card
- Fill out this form and mail it to Howard with your check:

IAC Chapter 38 Membership Application/Renewal Form	
Name: _____	Spouse: _____
Address: _____	
_____	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
E-mail 1: _____	E-mail 2: _____
IAC #: _____	EAA #: _____
Certificate #: _____	EAA Expiration Date: _____
Judge: <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> National	
Competition: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Basic <input type="checkbox"/> Sportsman <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Unlimited	
Aircraft: _____	N #: _____
Referred By: _____	
Dues: <input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership (\$25/year) <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership (\$30/year)	
Send with check, made payable to "International Aerobatic Club Chapter 38", to: Howard Kirker, IAC38 Treasurer - 2279 Ocaso Camino - Fremont, CA 94539	