

# TCAA Transponder

TO BE THE CHAMPION OF AVIATION IN TUOLUMNE COUNTY



*Above: Volunteer Planes for the Young Eagles Rally held this past April at Columbia Airport.*



*Paul Weston's son Galen with pilot Bill Fife at O22 in the late 80's.*

## Columbia & Pine Mountain Lake News

- Father's Day Fly In
  - Sea Plane Crash & Recovery
  - Father's Day Fly-In
  - New TCAA Logo Hats
  - Rick Livingston memorial
  - IAC Open West
- Championship Tracy, CA

*Below: Kids and families checking out an C120 at the EAA Young Eagles Rally in April 2022.*



## Meeting Schedule

Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday each month.

- July 13 2022 6:00 PM
- August 10 2022 6:00 PM
- September 14 2022 6:00 PM
- October 12 2022 6:00 PM
- November 9 2022 6:00 PM
- December 14 6:00 PM

*Below: Rick Livingston with his Cardinal.*





## BECOME A MEMBER!

Join Us! Bring a friend! Being a member of the TCAA is great! We are growing fast and have lots of ambitious plans! Whether you enjoy the social aspect of meeting with fellow aviators, pilots, neighbors and friends of the airport, or are interested in helping the TCAA with new projects, and challenges. We'd love to have you!

## AIRPORT NEWS

WHATS GOING ON AT COLUMBIA AIRPORT?

**Vehicle Gate** The west side vehicle gate went out of service in March and was said to only take two weeks to complete. An inquiry to the airport manager in late June replied with "soon" and some various typical excuses. As of the publish date of this newsletter, this gate was still out of service.

## TCAA MEETINGS

The member meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesdays of each month. Currently meetings have been held starting at 6pm. Meetings are currently held in Hangar 6 on the west side. If you choose to attend but cannot find us, Please call or text (209)-651-0632 and we will send someone guide you to the meeting location at the Columbia Airport!

Pot Luck BBQs are tons of fun! Bring something to share!

## TCAA Board

**President:** Rod McNally  
(rodmcnally@icloud.com)

**Vice President** - Jake Carter  
(JakesAirRepair@gmail.com)

**Secretary** - Robyn Moore

**Treasurer** - Shawn Price  
(aredjet@gmail.com)

**Board Member** - Ed Sunday  
(esunday@sbcglobal.net)

### Sub Committees:

*Website / Newsletter:* Jake Carter  
(JakesAirRepair@gmail.com)

*Scholarships:* Robyn Moore

*Young Eagles:* Ed Sunday  
(esunday@sbcglobal.net)

## TCAA PROJECTS:

### Campground Frisbee Locker!

In 2021 the airport installed a "frisbee golf" course in the campground. However this facility is unknown to fly-in visitors. Currently TCAA members are involved in providing frisbees and a storage method in the campground to benefit fly-in campers and visitors.

### COMMUNITY AIRPLANE MOVIE NIGHT

The TCAA is hoping to host and make available to the public an "Airplane Movie Night" at the airport this summer. This would be a great opportunity to showcase the TCAA and the airport in a positive way to the community. We are hoping to do this in August. If you are interested in attending or volunteering to help, it doesn't take much! Check out website for details. And consider volunteering!



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## Father's Day Fly-In 2022

The 54<sup>th</sup> Father's Day Fly-In at Columbia Airport started off with a cloud of somber disappointment flowing an accident on the Columbia Airport Runway on Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> as a drag racing Jeep veered out of control and killed the driver. Saturday saw what seemed like A LOT of cars parked on the grass runway, but the fly-in airplanes were roped off and the public was kept away from the few airplanes that were here. Yosemite Flights based at E45 was here with their Cessna Titan giving rides throughout both days. There was a Beech 18 on display near the front parade area, and a transient Huey Helicopter flew around with an American flag hanging underneath. Other than some classic cars parked on the grass runway, there wasn't much going on at this year's FDFI. The schedule was almost entirely filled with events that didn't happen. The STOL demonstrations and Car vs Airplane race did not happen. The few volunteers noticed around the area seemed to have no direction or instructions and no idea what they were doing. Visitors were parking their vehicles with no direction on the grass runway. In all attendance appeared up from 2019, probably in part to the last two years being canceled and the beautiful warm but not hot weather we had. There were a number of TCAA members volunteering. Hopefully the Father's Day Fly In can once again be a big draw to Columbia Airport and Tuolumne County.

Following the FDFI, the ramp and grass runway remained closed and inaccessible for almost a week. In the weeks following the FDFI, the grass runway has been reported to be extremely bumpy and in poor shape. Use caution when using runway 29/11.



## SHARE YOUR STORY!

We are always looking for contributors for our newsletter! If you would like to write an occasional article or helpful tip or share flying stories, please do so! If you have information about happenings at O22 or E45, please share that as well! We don't get a lot of first-hand important news around the airports and rely on members for that information!

## *Columbia Flying Club*

Aircraft Rental & Tailwheel Training

Cessna 120 & Piper PA-22/TW

<https://www.ColumbiaFlyers.com>

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



## SEAPLANE CRASH!

On June 11 a Maule amphibian crashed into New Melones Reservoir during a takeoff attempt. In mid June, the aircraft was recovered from the lake. The pilot who was not a local was not injured.

Photos from Tuolumne County Sheriff.



## CELEBRATION OF LIFE, RICK LIVINGSTON

On May 22 a Celebration of Life was held for Rick Livingston at the airport campground. There was a huge crowd, showing what an impact Rick had on his friends and the community. Many great stories were shared. A missing man formation of three Stearman's flown by Chris Miller, Mark Bautista and Clark Segerstrom honored Rick in a fitting way.





## IAC OPEN WEST CHAMPIONSHIP, TRACY CA

June 3-4 was the 2022 IAC Open West Championship Aerobatic Contest. This Year the Northern California Chapter 38 moved their regional contest from Coalinga to Tracy! The city was huge in the support they showed in moving this contest to Tracy. Historically these contests are held at very small and rural airports that don't have much of a population nearby due to noise complaints. What started as a noise complaint from one very rude and violent resident in Tracy grew into the city co-hosting a contest in Tracy! This was the Open West and is the west coast championship for IAC competition. Over 30 pilots competed in 20 different airplanes, throughout five categories. Chapter 38 (Northern California) was the highest scoring chapter, with Columbia's Jake Carter placing second in Sportsman category while also flying as a safety pilot and instructing for two other pilots in the same category. IAC 38 has great hopes for the future of Tracy Airport with the current City Council, and look forward to hosting the next IAC regional contest at Tracy next year!



Jake Carter diving into the box.



Josh Horwich of San Jose knife edge in front of the judges.



The IAC Open West Championship Competitors and Volunteers.



Endo, who hails from Japan, finished 1st in Unlimited.



TCAA volunteer Chris and IAC 38 President, Matt Schultz.

## PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL

The Columbia Flying Club has been hosting an 8 week private pilot ground school that will wrap up in July. There are 14 students enrolled with half of them being kids ages 15-18! The tuition for these kids is FREE and is co-sponsored by the TCAA. More info can be found at [www.ColumbiaFlyers.com](http://www.ColumbiaFlyers.com).

## COLUMBIA AIRPORT DRAG RACING CRASH

Nathan Henson, 46 of Oakdale was fatally injured in the roll over crash of his drag racing Jeep on the Columbia Airport Runway on June 17 2022. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. The TCAA is deeply saddened by this tragic accident and wishes the best to Nathans family and friends.



The reason for the drag racing is unknown. These drag racing events have been held two or three times each year prior to the Father's Day Fly-In. It's no surprise to airport tenants that the multiple runway closures for automotive use go against the FAA grant assurance obligations. There were no safety personal, safety inspections or safety equipment requirements as witnesses have reported. Some drivers admitted to this being their first time "driving a car fast" and one driver looked to be approximately 13 years old. Other drivers had no safety equipment or even helmets. There were no medical personal staffed for this event. It was fortunate that CAL Fire personal were spectating and were able to respond. Some vehicles were observed to have mechanical failures with parts falling onto the runway. The runway remained closed for a couple of hours while CHP investigated. It very likely could have prevented Cal Fire tankers from operating in case of fire. We do not know if they had to decline their services due to the runway closure. A local aircraft diverted to Calaveras while waiting for the airport to re-open. Fly-In visitors had to be turned away. The Father's Day Fly In started the next day without drag racing.



## Aircraft Maintenance Tip

In January 2020, the FAA mandated all aircraft that would be operating in certain airspaces to be equipped with ADS-B out equipment. Many people opted for the cost effective solutions provided by uAvionix. In the last two years, many of these uAvionix products, including the skyBeacon (left wingtip and the tailBeacon (tail light) have failed to properly transmit a correct signal. A Public ADS-B Performance Report (PAPR) is an FAA service provided to the owners, pilots and mechanics with additional methods of verifying proper operation of ADS-B equipment. I find that about 50% of the ADS-B units and over 80% of uAvionix ADSB units are not configured correctly, and have jeopardized the pilot by affirming that their aircraft was properly equipped for flight into those airspaces. If that equipment is not operating properly, then entering such airspace is a violation of 91.255/227. These reports are easy to request on the FAA website. [faa.gov/nextgen/equipadsb](https://www.faa.gov/nextgen/equipadsb)

Jake Carter, A&P, IA Jake's Air Repair (209) 651-0632



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### GATHERING OF LUSCOMBES 2022

The Luscombe Association has been having its Fly-In at Columbia for over 50 years! It has easily become one of the top West Coast Fly-In's during the summer and always draws a crowd of other neat antique airplanes. Last year alone there were two Luscombe Phantoms, the only two flying and the only Luscombe Model 4 in existence. It's worth checking out! They also host a flour bombing contest and spot landing contest on Saturday! See you there May 20-22 2022!

## TCAA LOGO HATS

We will be having ball caps made with the old TCAA logo. Currently Tan or Black caps will be available. If you are interested on one, we will be taking deposits to order some this summer. Cost is about \$25.



## Meet a Member

### Nick Crossfield

Nick is a Helicopter Pilot & Instructor who currently works for Siller Helicopters of Yuba City on fire fighting contracts throughout the western US. Currently he flies the S64 Skycrane. He lives in Murphys, CA and owns an AcroDuster biplane, but is looking to upgrade into a commuter airplane. If you need a heli CFI, Nick is your guy!



## FOR SALE

This space is available for FREE classified ads. Airplanes, parts, hangar stuff. Whatever within reason! Submit your items with a brief description, a price and a method of contact.

### 1960's YALE Tractor Tug

Runs great. Newer tires hold air. New battery & repair work. Located O22

\$3,500.00

(209)651-0632



## DONATE TO YOUTH AVIATION SCHOLARSHIPS!

WE ARE TRYING TO RAISE MORE FOR OUR YOUTH AVIATION SCHOLARSHIPS!  
PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO SUPPORT TUOLUMNE COUNTY'S FUTURE AVIATORS!

### MEDIA & CONTACT INFO:

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