



March 2007

# PROPWASH

*Newsletter of the San Luis Obispo Pilots Association*

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## From the Editor's Desk

Checked about an hour ago, SBP ATIS Information Hotel: winds 280 @ 12, visibility 10 miles, and sky clear. Time to get up there and enjoy this gorgeous flying weather. Let me update you on some SLOPA news before we get those take-off clearances.



**John Eichler**

First off, please join me in giving John Eichler a huge thank you for his terrific work as SLOPA President and Airport Day Director for 2006. As with many volunteer organizations, I'm told that SLOPA has also experienced many peaks and valleys over the years, in terms of membership activism and involvement. That's the nature of things. In the last part of 2005, SLOPA was so knee-deep in one of those valleys that it was suggested that a vote be taken to dissolve the organization. A sobering thought for a holiday party gathering. It was then that John, and a few current board members and directors, stepped up and volunteered to pull this association out of the valley one more time. As it turned out, 2006 became a great rebuilding year, and the momentum that was created is rolling right along into 2007. So, thanks John for a terrific 2006.

And also please welcome John Ziegler, as our new SLOPA President. John has a good feel for all the changes happening with our local airports and has been a great addition to the SLOPA Board. And, as owner of Aerobrite professional aircraft cleaning service, he's easy to find.

A couple of new additions to the Board include Michael Senn, as Board Director and Robin Marks, SLOPA Web Master. Welcome aboard, Guys.



**John Ziegler**



[www.slopilots.org](http://www.slopilots.org)

Speaking of the SLOPA web site, check out the great work Robin has done on the site. The goal is for this site to be the one-stop General Aviation connection for SLOPA members and all GA enthusiasts on the Central Coast, and one visit will tell you that it's well on the way. You'll find weather information and flight planning links, organizations and business contacts, and a Pilot Forum. Have a question about what to expect from your first annual? Looking for a partner to share your plane? Trying to find a willing tail-wheel instructor? Connect with other pilots on the web site Pilot Forum. Put your questions on the forum. No doubt other members have answers. Have pictures from a recent trip? Share them on the web site. And while you're at it, send them to me and I'll also post them in the Propwash newsletter.

## 2007 San Luis Obispo County Airport Day – Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>

We're building on the momentum created in 2006 by getting a great start on planning and organizing this year's Airport Day. This is going to be another terrific General Aviation day and will once again include a barbecue and wine event later that evening. SLOPA Treasurer, Keith Godfrey is the contact person for this year's Airport Day. SLOPA Board meetings are held the first Saturday of every month at 9am at the Spirit of San Luis Restaurant, and are followed by Airport Day meetings at 10am. All members are invited to attend.

### EVENTS

**-AOPA Air Safety Seminar April 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 9pm at the San Luis Obispo Vet's Hall.**

**A SLOPA General Meeting and Barbecue is tentatively scheduled for May. Date, time and location will be announced soon.**

**Fly-Ins: The slo99's have invited SLOPA members to join them on their fly-ins. Visit their web site for details. [http://www.slo99s.org/](http://www.slo99s.org)**

**Collings Foundation Wings of Freedom Tour 2007  
May 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, San Luis Obispo County Airport  
B-17, B-24, and B-25 Rides. For more information  
Visit <http://www.collingsfoundation.org/>**



And there's this...

Reprinted from Feathers, the publication of the California Poultry Industry Federation.

The Federal Aviation Commission has a unique device for testing the strength of windshields on airplanes. The device is an air cannon that launches a dead chicken at a plane's windshield at approximately the speed the plane flies.

The theory is that if the windshield doesn't crack from the carcass impact, it will survive a real collision with a bird during flight.

British Rail was very interested in this, and wanted to test the windshield on a brand new ultra high-speed locomotive they were developing. So British Rail borrowed the FAA's chicken launcher, loaded the chicken, and fired. The ballistic chicken shattered the windshield, went through the engineer's chair, broke an instrument panel, and imbedded itself in the back wall of the engine cab.

The British engineers were stunned, and asked the FAA to review the test to see if everything was done correctly. The FAA checked the test thoroughly and had one recommendation: "Try thawing the chicken next time."

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**Spirit of San Luis Restaurant**

Located at the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport, the Spirit is at the center of activity for area business, aviation, families and travelers who love its friendly atmosphere and great food. Sit on the patio and watch the world come and go by air, or inside where a century of aviation history decorates the walls. Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner, anytime is great to get "the Spirit".  
925 Airport Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA. 805-549-9466.  
Hours M-Sa 7am-8pm, Sunday 9am-8pm



Please send articles, story ideas and comments to Propwash Editor, Bruce Brown at [Propwash@slopilots.com](mailto:Propwash@slopilots.com), or call Bruce at 474-1408.

***San Luis Obispo Pilots Association***

**[www.slopilots.org](http://www.slopilots.org)**

For information regarding commercial ad space in the Propwash Newsletter, please contact SLOPA Treasurer, Keith Godfrey at [Treasurer@slopilots.com](mailto:Treasurer@slopilots.com).

