

# VCUAS

## News Photos Events

**The Ventura County  
Ultralight Aircraft  
Society Inc. based at the  
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**Our monthly meeting will be this  
Saturday, March 5th.  
There will be a BBQ and  
refreshments**



## The Worker Bees

The heart of every organization contains the Worker Bees. Those folks who can be depended on to step up and give a hand where needed. In the scene above, Ron, Jim and Igor install solar panels on the roof of Hanger 2. These panels furnish all the electricity to our hangers. Others may be working on aircraft, cleaning up, mowing the field or lending their expertise in other areas. We have a lot of smart people out here, helping where they can. Our current focus is on runway repairs and dealing with those pesky little critters that are undermining our field. Below, the crew turned out to do battle after our monthly meeting. The War continues.



## PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

by Bill Watson

You find yourself sitting in the run-up area listening to ATIS on runway 26. You hear that the wind is 230 at 12 and you wonder what your crosswind component is. It turns out there's an easy rule of thumb available to use and avoid bringing your wind calculator with you.

One quarter for every 15 degrees is all you need to remember. For instance, in this case the wind is 30 degrees to your left on runway 26. Your crosswind component will be six knots. If the wind was 245 at 12, the crosswind would be one quarter of 12 knots or three knots. In our case, the wind was 230 or 30 degrees off center so that would be two quarters or one half of the 12 getting a six knots of crosswind.

For the scientific minded, the crosswind component is the sine of the angle times wind speed. For those who remember geometry, the sine of 30 degrees is one half. So one half of the 12 knot wind speed is our 6 knots of crosswind. To complete the puzzle, that headwind component is the cosine of the angle times the wind speed.

### Rule of Thumb

For other rules of thumb that actually use your thumb.

Continued on Page 3



Two other guys always willing to help are Jeffrey Steele and Bob Schidel, shown here ready to test flight Tweety after overhaul. Common knowledge is that Bob can fix anything. So how about that speeding ticket we talked about.....



Evan Green makes a low pass over the field flying his powered parachute in this undated photo. Evan is a flight instructor for these aircraft.

## MYSTERY AIRCRAFT

I ran across this scene a couple of years ago. I realized it was an aircraft because of the N number but I had to run the number through the FAA database to solve the mystery. I've blurred the numbers so you, my friends, do not have that benefit. All members who recognize this aircraft or guess correctly will receive a free hamburger at Saturdays meeting. Good Luck!



## RULE OF THUMB

(continued from page 1)

From the tip of your thumb to the first knuckle is 10 nautical miles on a sectional chart. The width of your thumb at arm's length is about 1.5 degrees. That equals 6 minutes or 1/10th of an hour of sun travel. You need at least a thumb of sun left above the horizon for a lap in the pattern. The sun is about a 1/2 degree or 2 minutes wide.

## SAFETY REMINDER

From Flight Instructor Jeffrey Steele

Our pattern is bounded on the South and East by a line of telephone lines. Stay within these pattern boundaries. I must confess that my faux pas prompted this reminder. A HUMA moment. I apologize but I defer to the flying gods for my punishment.



Ron Severson's mom Karen visited the field for the first time and took her first flight with her son. Judging from her broad smile on landing, we think she had a good time.

## AROUND THE FIELD

Bob Gast has been working on Hangar 14, getting it ready for our new member, Greg Rudebusch who takes over March 1st in anticipation of the arrival of his Aerolite 103 in about six weeks.

Jeffrey and Drew Cobb made a cross country run to Santa Ynez last week. Their route ran up the coast hugging the mountains to the San Marcos Pass at a little under 3000 ft. Total flight time 3.8

Chris Sheehan, flying with Jeffrey, shot this video last weekend on a flight to Phonehenge. So-called because of communications buildings camouflaged as big rocks. I picked this as "Video of the Month" for March. 45

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jn9Sics2Iks&feature=youtu.be>

### From the Scribe

I'm still battling the word processor and it's kickin' my tushey. After two days, I'm convinced that I have to go a different direction. Next issue, I'll be changing the format to something more manageable to my well worn brain cells. Hope you like it.

## Happy Flying

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