

## 49TH ANNUAL WATSONVILLE FLY-IN AND AIR SHOW

# Air show flies in this weekend

*Fly-In* Event offers aerobatics in the sky, classic cars on the ground

By **DONNA JONES**

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WATSONVILLE — If you've never been to the Watsonville Fly-in and Air Show, this is the year to go, says air boss Mark Kadich.

And if you've been a regular at the Labor Day Weekend event at the Watsonville Municipal Airport, this isn't the year to miss, he said.

With aerial acrobatics in the sky and a variety of aircraft and cars on display below, plus live music and "tons of food," the 49th annual event has more to offer than ever, said Kadich.

A drive-in showing of the movie, "Planes, Trains and Automobiles," will kick off the festivities at dusk Friday and set the stage for weekend.

"It's going to be a different air show this year, a lot more diverse than past years," Kadich said. "We have a great lineup, something for everybody."

A car show will feature classics, hot rods and high performance vehicles. Also on display will be military, vintage and experimental aircraft including a unique gyroplane, which looks like a small helicopter and flies more like an airplane. Pilot Vance Breese will be demonstrating how his "motorcycle in the sky" works.

Due to the federal sequester, no military planes will be in the performance lineup, but two civilian teams, the Ravens and the Beech Boys — named in honor of their Beechcraft Bonanzas — will demonstrate formation flying. Several stunt pilots will



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

With the enormous tail of a military transport plane in the background, Eric Presen of Sonoma cranks the propeller on his replica of a 1907 Bleriot at the 2011 Watsonville Fly-In.

## IF YOU GO

### WATSONVILLE FLY-IN & AIR SHOW

**WHAT:** Aviation performances and displays, car show, live music, food

**WHEN:** Opens with spaghetti feed and drive-in movie 6 p.m. Friday. Gates open 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

**WHERE:** Watsonville Municipal Airport, 100 Aviation Way

**COST:** Free admission Friday. Movie, hot dogs and drinks \$1 each; Saturday and Sunday general admission adults, \$15, children, 7-12, \$7. Parking \$5.

**DETAILS:** [www.watsonvilleairshow.org](http://www.watsonvilleairshow.org)

perform as well.

There also will be landing contests for pilots, helicopter rides available to the public, and demonstrations by model airplane enthusiasts.

The Backyard Blues Band will close the show with a

concert at 5 p.m. Sunday.

The air show is celebrating its 49th year, and looking forward to its 50th anniversary next year.

"We're looking to make sure we're focused more on the (air show) becoming a

community event," said Airport Manager Rayvon Williams. "There's no reason why it can't have the same cachet as the (County) Fair and the Strawberry Festival."

Williams said hosting the event, which is put on by the nonprofit Watsonville Fly-in and raises money for community nonprofits, provides the airport with a chance to showcase the facility.

It's also an opportunity to inspire the next generation, Williams said. "The future jet pilots, the future astronauts, many of them start at their local air show," he said.

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