



JON WEIAND/SENTINEL

Fans of all ages enjoy the Watsonville Fly-In & Air Show on Saturday.

Up in the Air

Air show brings planes of various makes, models

✓ Fly-In

By CALVIN MEN

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WATSONVILLE — Watching four airplanes flying in tight formation from the ground, Ron Moritz said it takes a special kind of pilot to fly an airplane within several yards of another.

"It's not like driving a car down the freeway," said Moritz, 60, who flies helicopters as a hobby. "These guys are on their game all the time."

Moritz, of Aromas, was one of hundreds of spectators at the 49th annual Watsonville Fly-In & Air Show Saturday.

IF YOU GO

Watsonville Fly-In & Air Show

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

WHEN: Gates open at 10 a.m. Sunday

WHERE: Watsonville Municipal Airport, 100 Aviation Way

COST: \$15 for adult admission, \$7 for children ages 7-12. Parking is \$15.

DETAILS: www.watsonvilleairshow.org

The show featured dozens of planes displayed on the tarmac of Watsonville Municipal Airport and a lineup of aerial performers doing loops, barrel rolls and other tricks. The show continues Sunday with gates opening at 10 a.m.

Moritz said he doubts most of the crowd could appreciate how difficult it is to obtain a pilot's license,

let alone fly with the precision seen at the show.

"You don't just get in and drive around with your mom and get your pilot's license," he said.

Guy Sliter, 60, was with his 2-year-old grandson Logan to admire the airplanes.

The duo is from Marina and it was Logan's first time at the show. The elder Sliter admitted his grandson is probably too young to appreciate the show. Sliter said they'll return next year for more quality family time.

Student pilots Lupita Jaime and Jeanne Sabankaya were walking between rows of planes and reading about their history throughout the day.

"I like to hear the older pilots talking about the feats and challenges," said Sabankaya, 64, of Santa Cruz.

For 35-year-old Jaime, it was her first time at the show and she said she was just soaking all of it in.

Mark Kadrich, who is in charge of managing show pilots the event and a member of the board, said the event was a labor of love.

"We have a lot of people who are very proud of their airplanes and they come from all over," Kadrich said, adding there are some who come from San Diego.

The morning of the festival, he characterized the flying conditions with a aviation phrase: clear and visibility unlimited, meaning ideal conditions for the show.

"We got a pretty dazzling array of airplanes," he said. "Everything from antique airplanes to amateur



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Pilot Eddy Andreini takes off in his P-51 Mustang nicknamed 'Primo Branco' during the Watsonville Fly-In & Air Show on Saturday.



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A Watsonville Fly-In & Air Show visitor pushes a stroller past one of the many polished planes at the Watsonville Municipal Airport on Saturday.

build airplanes."

In addition to the aerial show were dozens of private aircraft on display.

Frank Ducker, a 50-year-old from Santa Cruz, was sitting next to his Colb Mark III Xtra, a plane classified by the Federal Aviation Administration as an experimental aircraft. Ducker bought the plane in 2001 and built it over a decade, flying it for the first time in 2011.

Since it's an experimental model, it allows him to make modifications to the plane's body more easily.

"If you want to change something, like if I wanted to add a part to increase the plane's response, I can," he said.

Another thing Ducker likes about the air show is seeing the expensive planes. "That's the Lamborghini of airplanes," he said, discreetly pointing to a plane a few spots away from his. "Whereas mine is a tricycle. But it's my tricycle."

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