

# **Spectacular weather pushes Fly-In attendance sky-high**

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The 30th annual West Coast Antique Fly-In was a major triumph, with promoters reporting a 25 percent increase in attendance over last year.

Pam Cox, spokeswoman for the Fly-In, reported attendance at more than 15,000 over the three-day event, which began Friday. That figure represents an increase of 25 percent from last year and marks one of the most successful attendance records in the event's 30-year history, she said.

Ideal weather conditions on both Saturday and Sunday helped draw the crowds, Cox said. Low clouds on Saturday burned off in the morning, giving way to a clear blue sky. On Sunday, the sun rose to a crystal-clear sky. The only thing in the sky over Watsonville Sunday were aircraft.

Cox reported a total of 30,000 people crowded into the Watsonville Airport over the weekend and more than 600 aircraft were on display. A total of 2,200 people flew in to the event, she said.

The oldest pilot at the event was 85-year-old Buri McKinney, who flew his N7551H Piper to the event. The youngest pilot was Walt Bowe, 17. The pilot flying the longest distance to get to the event was Jerry Burr, of Gulkana, Alaska, who flew his N7037H Piper 2,018 miles to Watsonville.

Gordan Bain, of England, was the pilot who came from the farthest distance to participate in the event. This was the fourth year Bain participated in the event.

— Emilio Alvarado