

# Air show delights and thrills



KEVIN JOHNSON — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Onlookers watch as Vicky Benzing performs aerial acrobatic stunts during the 50th annual Watsonville Fly-In & Airshow at the Watsonville Municipal Airport on Saturday. *Fly-In 10.12.14*

## Entertainment includes precision flying, aerobatics

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**WATSONVILLE »** For Kyle Stueve, the most interesting thing about the air shows are the advertisements for aviation schools.

"Advertisements for flight schools to get you to go fly a plane," he said.

It was through the air shows and the flight schools that Stueve discovered his passion. Stueve, 23, is a pilot by profession and caught the aviation bug at air shows such as the 50th annual Watsonville Fly-In & Airshow.

The show, which will continue Sunday, is a great way to expose flying to future pilots. Walking

### WATSONVILLE FLY-IN & AIRSHOW

**What:** Aerobatic performances, vintage, military and modern aircraft, classic and high-performance cars, helicopter and tethered balloon rides, vendors, food, Kidz Zone.

**Where:** Watsonville Municipal Airport, 100 Aviation Way, Watsonville.

**When:** 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.

**Cost:** \$20 adults, \$12 children. Veterans, active military personnel and children ages 6 and younger, free. Family pack (2 adults, 2 children), \$55. Parking, \$7.

**Details:** For details, visit [www.watsonvilleflyin.org](http://www.watsonvilleflyin.org).

down a row of older fighter pilot planes used during World War II, Stueve said the planes were built in the heyday of aviation.

"Back when the airplanes we built were top of the line," he said.



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Vicky Benzing wows the crowds at the Watsonville Municipal Airport on Saturday during the 50th annual Watsonville Fly-In & Airshow.

## Air show

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But in fewer than a hundred years, bigger, faster, more comfortable planes have been built, he said.

On Saturday, hundreds of people flocked to the Watsonville Municipal Airport for the show. In addition to two time blocks of acrobatic performances by pilots, the show also featured a car show, a private plane showcase and historical planes.

On a landing strip away from the western portion of the airport, a line of planes used to train pilots during World War II and the Korean War gleamed in the Saturday sun.

Jeff Quaid, 62, was polishing the wings of a plane he co-owned with his father. The plane, which he described as an advanced trainer aircraft used to train pilots. Out of the

10,000 manufactured, only 400 are still functioning, Quaid said.

The Paso Robles-based Quaid said planes such as his were important because they showed aviation heritage, something kids aren't too interested in now. Now when young admirers come and gape at his aircraft, he makes it a point to try and get them into it.

"I just try to get them interested in it," he said.

Those who didn't own airplanes were content to admire the dozens of planes on display or grab a seat to watch aeronautical acrobatic performances.

Annabelle Juntado, of Santa Cruz, brought her two nephews to the show for the first time. Sitting a few hundred yards away from the pavement where the planes landed, they had a front-row seat of all the acrobatic feats performed by the pilots. The two boys stared in awe at the sky as

planes performed barrel rolls and flew in tight formation.

"It's pretty cool for a small airport," she said. "It's not too big. Just right for kids."

The family attended the California International Airshow Salinas and Juntado said the show was too big for her nephews, ages 2 and 5, to comfortably walk around.

A short distance away, Pat Moffet, a 74-year-old Scotts Valley resident, wore a large hat to shade her eyes.

It was her third year at the air show and Moffet said she was more than happy to sit astounded as pilots maneuvered their planes in the sky.

The most impressive feat, she said, were the pilots who flew in formation.

"For how so many planes fly together and how they have to be extra careful of how they do it," she said.