

REAL ESTATE

Bonny Doon airport for sale

Airport *5-23-09*
\$3.2 million price tag put on 23-acre facility with home

✓ By JONDI GUMZ

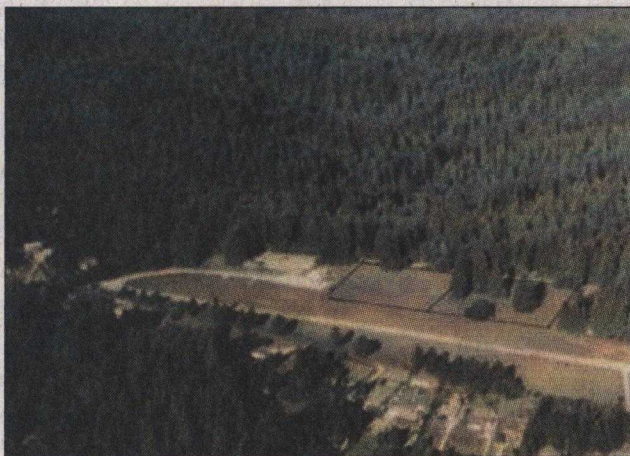
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BONNY DOON — Rich Hoogner, owner of the Bonny Doon Airport, has put the property on the market just in time for the Watsonville Fly In and Air Show this weekend. The asking price: \$3.2 million.

"It's a beautiful place," said broker Tom Stelling of KW Commercial in Santa Cruz. "A well-to-do pilot would call it heaven."

The deal includes about 23 acres at 8657 Empire Grade, a 1,300-square-foot home with landscaped grounds and the newly paved airport runway, with landing lights, and a 2,000-square-foot hangar big enough to house two planes.

Hoogner bought the airport in 1993 for \$400,000; it's currently assessed at \$455,451. He owns another 15 or so adjoining acres



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The owner of the Bonny Doon Airport has put the property up for sale.

with a house that are not included in this listing, Stelling said.

A retired high-tech executive who has been flying for more than 50 years, Hoogner has enjoyed the convenience of landing

in his own backyard. His grandchildren from over the hill used to visit, but now that they are older and spend weekends playing sports, he and his wife Elva would rather move closer to where they live.

During the Martin Fire last year, Hoogner allowed firefighters to use the FAA-approved airport as a staging area for their aircraft and water tankers.

"I'm sure this saved some homes, and maybe some lives," Stelling said.

An investor from Aptos has expressed interest in the property, according to Stelling, adding that pilots are welcome to fly into the airport as long as they sign a waiver.

If a deal isn't struck this weekend, potential buyers can get a look when the Bonny Doon Airport hosts the seventh annual Art and Wine Festival, a benefit for the Bonny Doon Community School Foundation, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 6.

Attendance will be limited to 400; advance tickets, which cost \$30, are available from Aleene Althouse. 420-1555.