

## A Saturday Barbeque in Pleasant Grove

Contributed by Stan C  
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On a Saturday morning in September , thirty-five GGF members converged on the James Brothers Airport (59CN) in Pleasant Grove, CA, for a BBQ feast and tour of Plain Partsâ€™™ warehousing facilities for retrieved wrecked aircraft. NOTE: Also see the article on our return visit to Plain Parts, in June 2012.

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We were welcomed by Plain Parts owner Dennis James and his staff, and by the friendly Jamesâ€™™ family dogs. Fresh coffee, lemonade, iced tea, pastries, and fudge brownies awaited early arrivals. Plain Parts specializes in the retrieval and storage of accident aircraft, and its facilities and services are used by the NTSB, the FAA, attorney firms, and insurance companies.

The weather throughout the Bay Area and the Sacramento Delta was sunny and warm, so several members flew into the 2,500 foot turf runway at 59CN, while others chose to drive. Pleasant Grove is twenty miles north of Sacramento, so from the Bay Area to 59CN is an easy hour and forty-five minute drive. Flying in were two Cessna 172s, a 170, a 180, and a 182. Three members also flew into the Yuba County airport (KMYV) in a Diamond DA40, and were picked up by Plain Parts staff who generously provided ground transportation between KMYV and 59CN.

Dennis and his staff and neighbors prepared a delicious lunch of barbequed hamburgers and hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, and soft drinks which was served at picnic tables under huge shade trees with a cool gentle breeze blowing. The food, venue, and company were perfect.

After lunch, Dennis and his staff led a tour of many of the stored aircraft in his several huge warehouses and described the results of accident investigations, including probable causes and contributing factors leading to the accidents. The tour provided quite an education as in case after case poor judgment was at least a contributing factor. Dennisâ€™™ narrations were very sobering.

After the facilities tour was completed, we all said our good-byes and departed for home wiser than when we had arrived.Â Thank you, Dennis and staff, for a great event and for sharing your experiences with us.