

## Big Bear Fly-In 2009

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September 11-13, 2009

Once again, more than twenty-five Golden Gate Flyers and Unusual Attitudes members and guests headed to Big Bear Lake this September for a weekend of great food, beautiful views and good friends. Nick and Cory opened up their Shore Acres Resort for us for the second year in a row. We were the only guests there for the weekend, which allowed us to really relax and enjoy ourselves.

For a weekend contribution of \$175, Nick and Cory provided two nights' accommodations, a 24-hour open bar (a gracious, but as it turned out, expensive gesture), BBQ dinners Friday and Saturday nights (a neighbor of Nick's providing BBQ ribs and chicken with all the fixings; it was excellent). And, by the way, he still owns two restaurants in Las Vegas. The ribs were to die for. Continental breakfast was available Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Activities included boat rides on Big Bear Lake and a ski chair ride to the top of Snow Summit for lunch. Saturday's activities offered the option of a trip to Aztec Falls or a group hike up Cougar Crest Trail on the north side of the lake. Some even chose to fly the short distance to an airstrip near Aztec falls, and hike down to the falls. The views and weather were outstanding. Saturday night featured the previously mentioned BBQ dinner and the telling of stories around the bonfire. The night sky at Big Bear is beautiful; with the dark surroundings we could see stars we had not seen in years.

Last year, on Sunday morning we headed out to the airport (L35) to look at member's airplanes. They were all brought into a semicircle for a photo op orchestrated by David C. However, this year it seemed that everybody planned to depart at different times, so we didn't do the usual group photo. As in the previous year, some eight or nine airplanes flew in for the event (including Nick's Cherokee Six, based there).

Everyone negotiated the high altitude landings and take-offs with an abundance of skill. The altitude of the airport is at 6752 feet and the Density Altitude was nearly 9000 feet. Those with turbo chargers were envied. Well, they were envied because they had the performance to top off their fuel tanks with the cheapest AV Gas in California. The non-turbo guys took off with minimum fuel for early refueling along the way. One chose to send one of his passengers with a member who was flying a higher-performance C-180, with no other passengers. They then re-grouped at Harris Ranch airport restaurant (nearer sea level) for the passenger exchange and continuation of the flight home to Oakland.

The weekend was another great success from start to finish, and the weather perfect. Nick and Cory were outstanding hosts. Thank you guys for all the planning and hard work you put into the event. They plan a repeat of the event in September 2010. Mark your calendar.