

The Second Annual WAMM (Western Association of Mooney Mites) Fly-In was held August 25, 26 and 27, 1978 at Porterville, California. All those who attended had a very enjoyable time. Again, the Porterville airport management and townspeople were very cooperative. We were given, as was the case last year, the "Red Carpet" treatment. All of us wish to sincerely express our appreciation to John Konop, the airport manager, Ken Billingsley who generously provided transportation, and all the people who helped make the fly-in a success.

Eight Mooney Mite's arrived with their owners during the three days. These were Ben Faverholdt (Torrance), Dave Jappay (Hayward), Dick McComas (Torrance), Earl "Sandy" Sanderson (Placerville), the brothers Ken Shea and Rodger Shea (San Diego), Tony Terrigno (Corona) and Allan Weddle (Sacramento).

Five additional Mite owners arrived and reported on their restoration/repair progress during the past year. These people were Ernie Buenting (Cable), Jack Callahan (Bakersfield), Gary Gramman (San Diego), Doris Loftsgaard (Sacramento) and Ed Soncrant (Torrance). Ernie Buenting's Mite is flying, however he thoughtfully brought his three children in a Tripacer to enjoy the fun. In addition, four interested people arrived for a total of twenty Mite owners and guests.

As in the past, the early morning "Dawn Patrols" and the early evening fly-by's and formation flights were a delight. The Saturday afternoon formation flight including the low altitude airport fly-by was enhanced by the expert pre-flight briefing given by ex-Marine Corps. Colonel and pilot Ed Soncrant who flew F4-U Corsairs and other aircraft during WWII and Korea. Some of us have a little formation flying experience but there is no substitute for the guidance from a professional.

Three trophies were presented at this fly-in. One for the greatest distance flown shared by Ken and Roger Shea who came from San Diego. A trophy was given for the most original and unmodified Mite. This was presented to Dick McComas. The third trophy was, by unanimous vote, presented to Ken Billingsley from Porterville in sincere appreciation for his generous support in providing automobiles for transportation. Although Ken does not yet own a Mite (he is actively looking) this trophy was given for his beautifully restored J-3 Cub. Ken joined us early Sunday morning in the Cub for our Dawn Patrol. The Cub is now an honorary Mooney Mite. Ever try flying formation with a J-3 Cub 400 feet AGL at 70 MPH ?-----FUN!!!!!!

Pat Tomlinson, who operates the MEW Flying Service at Porterville gave us an exciting show Saturday afternoon flying his replica Sopwith Pup complete with an original Le Rhone rotary engine, hardware, instruments and machine gun (de-activated). Incidentally, if anyone knows the whereabouts of a Le Rhone engine, send the details to WAMM so the information can be passed on.

As all good things do, this second annual Mooney Mite Fly-In came to a close Sunday with everyone saying, not goodbye, but 'til we meet again. Those who were unable to attend missed a good time and a great experience. The re-newing of