

# Webers Wanderings

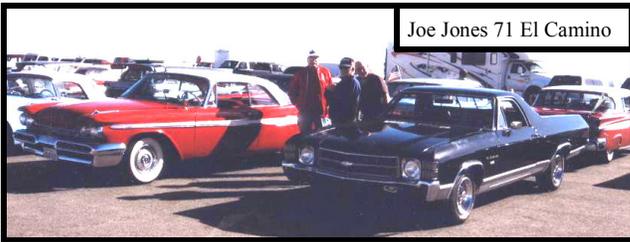
CABLE FIELD AIR/CAR SHOW JANUARY 6, 2007

This annual first air show of the year was rained out two years ago and had to be rescheduled. Last year the weather was perfect. This year the big winds we experienced the days before the meet had us wondering if the light vintage aircraft, hang—gliders, chutists, and many scale model performers would be able to fly.

Weber tried to wash Yeller, the '58 Pacer convert, the afternoon before the meet, but the wind was blowing so much stuff around, before I could dry it, she ended up dirtier than when I started!

But by dawn Saturday, the wind had calmed down, and it seemed the 40-mile trip to Upland was worth a try. At about 8:30 AM Joe Jones (now retired) showed up at Webers' in his newly finished 1971 El Camino that belonged to his late father—in—law, and began dusting. A shiny new black finish really keeps you busy. A few minutes later Dick Leu drove up in his beautiful red/white '59 DeSoto, followed by Hoady Hoist, who kept Weber company on the ride. Once out at Cable Field the day couldn't have been nicer.

The assemblage of vintage vehicles for the free car show didn't seem to have been fazed by the possible winds. There was quite a large and diverse variety on display to enjoy, including a large number of Model As and some Ts, a number of which displayed some very good looking Rajo and Cragar overhead valve heads and performance equipment.



Joe Jones 71 El Camino



De Havilland Gypsy Moth



GT 40 Le Mans

At 10:00, right on schedule, a pair of chutists drifted down, one trailing Old Glory, as the National Anthem played to open to show.

Shortly afterward, Rob Harrison, "The Tumbling Bear" zoomed upward in his bright yellow acrobatic monoplane, and preceded to wow the crowd with a series of stunts and flying that an airplane should not be able to do. The rarely seen tumbles and gyrations of his custom built Czechoslovakian Zlin 50XL are now Rob's trademark in the sky.

The maneuvers are best described as gyroscopic, created by the gyroscope effect of the engine and propeller. An abrupt maneuver in one direction causes a force in a different direction. The plane isn't actually flying – the combination of aerodynamic and gyroscopic forces is what causes the plane to turn and tumble as it does. It is amazing that he can remain oriented with all of the tumbling while using all of his considerable strength to brace his body against up to a ton of pressure.

Next up were some much milder stunts, but when one realizes the little high wing 1946 Taylorcraft was originally designed just to fly from point A to point B cheaply, the loops and rolls were far more than one might expect. The main mods Frank Donnelly did to this little old plane were clipping its wings and replacing the 65 HP motor with 125 HP.

Some *radio* controlled models were next in the air. Sounding like an angry bee and looking like a crazed dragonfly, a little helicopter made you want to swat it, but it was way too fast – forwards, backwards, sideways, right side up, upside down, and everything in between. Controlling this little bug must take tremendous hand—eye coordination.

Then -a flying doghouse!??? Sure enough, Snoopy perched on the roof of his little doghouse really amused the crowd with maneuvers that would easily stump the Red Baron.

A number of other R.C. models were put thru their paces, including a demonstration of backing straight down under control to touch a tail to the ground. Then at 12:30 the parade of vintage cars proceeded past the wonderful collection of vintage aircraft behind the hangars before being announced one by one while passing in front the large crowd. Peer balloting selected the favorite car of all of the many fine ones on display. It was a real *action* era vehicle – a purportedly real '66 Ford GT—40 LeMans!



Andrea Enthall '60 Edsel

Russian AN-2 "Colt"

There was much more to come after lunch. Fly-bys by many old planes. Paraplegic Dan Buchanan demonstrated his showmanship piloting his custom built hang glider. Dan says he has to fly – he can't walk! More stunt flying. Crowds of skydivers from high up.

It was an absolutely perfect day, with only one possible problem. Watching all of the aerial action was sure to result in some stiff necks.

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