

The 2010 San Jose (RHV) VMG Fly-in

I wanted to start the new year off right with some flying fun. The Vintage Mooney Group had a hangar BBQ lunch fly-in planned for January 9, 2010. Way back on Thursday, December 3, 2009, Adriana wrote and said "Yay I'd love to go!", and that was my plan for the day. We had flown together twice before and she was a lot of fun to be with. From the VMG website, today looked like fun to me -



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San Jose, CA
Reid-Hillview Airport (KRHV)
January 9, 2010

Dear Vintage Mooney Flyers,

We'd like to start off the new year's fly-in schedule with a classic fly-in BBQ at VMG host Michael Coyle's home field, Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose, CA. On every second Saturday, the Reid-Hillview Airport Association holds a Historic Aircraft Display Day and invites airport tenants and pilots based at nearby airports to show off their aircraft. Airplane owners whose aircraft qualify can receive a display day signoff from the president of the [Reid Hillview Airport Association \(RHVAA\)](#). What Michael would like to do is have our Vintage Mooney Group show Reid-Hillview what a fly-in BBQ is all about by festooning the ramp with Mooneys of every type and color! As an added bonus, there may be a few interesting historic aircraft to see. Even in the winter, the weather is usually VFR in San Jose, but if it's raining, the fly-in will be postponed to another day.



Thanks to Adriana's wake up call, I got up at 6:30. It was disappointing to see that the Reid-Hillview / Santa Clara County Airport (KRHV) in San Jose, CA was socked in with fog. The nearby airports were also fogged in. The whole eastern San Joaquin Valley was also reporting fog, all the way south past Fresno to Bakersfield.

This morning's weather conditions at the KRHV airport

Time	Temp	Humidity	Visibility	Conditions
6:57	46.4 °F	93%	0.5 miles	Fog
7:47	46.4 °F	93%	0.2 miles	Fog
8:50	46.4 °F	100%	0.4 miles	Fog
9:37	46.4 °F	100%	1.8 miles	Mist
9:55	46.4 °F	100%	1.4 miles	Mist

I called Adriana and told her we'd have to wait awhile. By 9:00 it wasn't getting any better and I called her again. To leave later made no sense as that would have meant fly for two hours, spend two or three hours with the Vintage Mooney Group, and then fly for two more hours to get home before dark.

I hope some of the IFR rated pilots or the VFR pilots based closer to San Jose made it there. It looks like I made the right decision as another look at conditions posted at 10:47 this morning showed the RHV airport was still IFR. The temp there was only 48°, the fog had lifted to become an overcast 200 feet above the ground, and visibility was only 2.5 miles. Not a nice day. The airport put out a special weather bulletin at 11:05 showing they had finally become (barely) VFR.

This was a perfect day to fly to Phoenix, but not to San Jose. Mother Nature has now cheated me out of 2 VMG fly-ins in a row, as well as my last Angel Flight mission flight to Fresno. This sucks.

Later on around 1:00, I went to my hangar to reflect in silence. Not only was I disappointed, but I am sure Adriana was too. Then an old pilot's adage came to mind. **"I'd rather be down here wishing I was up there, than to be up there wishing I was down here"**. How true. The Corona airport temperature was a beautiful 75°, which was over 20° warmer than up at San Jose at the time.



What a surprise - someone had partially parked a car in front of my hangar. Looks like I could have pulled her out with the wing clearing over the hood of the car, but this is certainly unusual. By now I wasn't going anywhere today but hey, this is not proper airport etiquette!



A gentle breeze from the east was benign, not Santa Ana's



The sky was blue with 50 to 60% cloud cover from some high cirrus at 20,000 feet

I did some research to see where else I could fly today but most of the destinations didn't appeal to me or had some weather condition that left me in the cold. Like Rosamond Airpark (L00) for example. A nice place in the Mojave Desert just west of Edwards AFB. A café on the field, right by parking. But it was below 60° there as well. Oh well, another day, another flight.

Thinking of warmer temps, Palm Springs came to mind. I had been to the Bermuda Dunes (UDD) airport just north of Palm Springs last fall on an Angel Flight, and heard about some fantastic chicken being served there. Especially on Sundays but I had forgotten the details.

I called the FBO at 760 345-2558 today to refresh my memory. The name is Murph's Gaslight Restaurant. Their specialty is fried chicken. They also serve other things like the typical airport café \$100 hamburger. Pilot comments on AirNav gush over that chicken. They are right on the field. The FBO waives their airplane parking fee for customers of Murph's.

I called Murph's at 760 345-6242 and got the scoop on what goes on there, on Sundays. They are open from 3:00 to 9:00 on Sundays and on that day they serve only one thing, their renowned chicken dinner and nothing else. It is \$17.95 Wonder what Cordelia Knott's world famous fried chicken dinner costs these days.

Sometimes a VFR pilot has to deal with reality and be 'grounded' when the flight is not assured to be a safe one. More plans are already coming down the pike. Bisbee AZ and Fresno CA are future possibilities. And even more stuff is already in the 'wings' to be flown in the future.