

Upland's Cable Air Show draws crowd

Jannise Johnson, Staff Writer

Created: 01/10/2010 05:33:39 PM PST



Rob Harrison, known as The Tumbling Bear, performs in his Zlin 50 on Sunday during the Cable Air Show at Cable Airport in Upland. Harrison, a Claremont resident, is a regular performer at the show. (Jennifer Cappuccio-Maher/Staff Photographer)

UPLAND - Clear skies, unseasonably warm temperatures and low winds greeted spectators Sunday for the 35th Annual Cable Air Show.

This year also marked the airport's 65th anniversary.

New for 2010 was the participation of Julie Clark. Clark was one of the first women to fly for a major airline back in 1977. But on Sunday she performed aerial acrobatics to the tune of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A." in a plane built for aerobatics.

Clark piloted a small plane named the "Free Spirit," a Chevron Mentor T-34 through loops and rolls as red, white and blue smoke trailed from the aircraft.

Planes were not the only attraction, Cable said.

"We had an exceptional car show this year," he said. "And this year there seems to be much more volunteer participation."

Rob Harrison, AKA "The Tumbling Bear," thrilled the crowd with several minutes of air acrobatics while his wife narrated the moves being performed from the ground.

"Honey don't forget to put the smoke on," she said. "Sometimes I have to nag him a little."

Harrison worked with the U.S. Forest Service, where he was responsible for the technical aspects of fire planes and helicopters, according to biographical information on the air show program.

Frank Donnelly, AKA Dr. D, flew his 1946 Taylorcraft after Harrison landed.

Air acrobatics are harder to perform at lower speeds, the narrator informed the audience.

Donnelly performed barrel rolls, half-quarter loops and an eight-point roll as the narrator counted off each point during the maneuver.

Donnelly performed a loop and rolls after he shut off his engine to end his routine. He then landed his plane and rolled to a stop directly next to his narrator's raised hand.

Bob Cable, president of the airport said attendance this year may exceed that of 2009.