

## Improvements are on the Way!



STS runways seen from the air looking west. The coupled runways will be improved to meet current safety standards.

### Board of Supervisors Voted to Approve Airport Master Plan Update

On Tuesday, January 24, 2012, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) voted to approve the Sonoma County Airport Master Plan Update. The decision allows the Airport to lay the groundwork for the first of several short-term (within five years) improvement projects, beginning with extending the main runway (14/32) from 5,115 to 6,000 feet. Other projects to support the runway improvements include extending Runway 1/19 200 feet to the north, the construction of connecting taxiways, placing about 650 feet of Airport Creek into a culvert, and implementing related drainage improvements.

Local air travelers have been asking for flights to an eastern hub like Denver or Salt Lake City. Runway improvements will make it more likely that an eastern hub might be added to the schedule. Runway weight restrictions and a small regional market put large jets out of local skies, but will allow for regional jets that seat up to 99 passengers. Daily departures of scheduled air service would continue to be limited to 21 flights a day for the next 20 years.

Long term project elements (within 20 years) include construction of a replacement airline passenger terminal, relocation and construction of a new aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) building, and relocation and construction of a new Air Traffic Control Tower.

*Continued on page 2*



Airport Volunteers Celebrate Anniversary

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# Master Plan Update *Continued from page 1*

Getting to this important juncture required careful consideration and a lot of hard work. The Master Plan Update began in 2004 when the BOS directed the Airport to develop a plan to project Airport needs over the next 20 years. Although the Airport did not have scheduled air service in 2004, it was in talks with airlines to bring air service back to the County after service ceased in 2001. In 2005 the Airport hired consulting firm Mead & Hunt to assist with the development of the Master Plan Update.

In November 2005, the U.S. Congress mandated that all airports with scheduled airline service be brought into conformance with FAA standards for Runway Safety Areas (RSA) by 2015. An RSA enhances the safety of and reduces the risk of damage to airplanes. RSAs also provide accessibility for firefighting and rescue equipment responding to runway incidents. The timeliness of the mandate allowed for the Airport to incorporate new safety improvements into proposed project elements. In 2006 the BOS formed a Community Advisory Committee that conducted six public meetings between August 2006 and May 2007 to discuss the plan and gather feedback from the community.

In March of 2007 scheduled air service returned to the Airport when Horizon Air launched service to Los Angeles and Seattle. In May of 2007, the Draft Master Plan Update was completed, published, and ready for public review.

The BOS accepted the plan on December 4, 2007. Once accepted, the Environmental Review began. Existing and potential environmental effects and appropriate mitigating measures were considered throughout the Environmental Review process.

Meanwhile, Horizon Air (now known as Alaska Airlines) was so successful that flights to Portland and Las Vegas were added to the schedule, and the 1960's era terminal was remodeled and enlarged by 5,000 square feet for passenger comfort.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was released in August 2011, and a 45-day public meeting and public comment period began. Responses to public comment are posted on the Airport's website as part of the Final EIR (FEIR).

The FEIR was presented to the Planning Commission on December 1, 2011. The Commission voted 4/1 to recommend the project to the BOS. On Tuesday, January 10, the FEIR was presented to the BOS, a public hearing was held and the BOS, in a straw vote, unanimously voted to certify the FEIR and adopt the Master Plan Update, prior to the final vote of approval on January 24. Read all about the Master Plan Update at <http://www.sonomacountyairport.org/master-plan-update>.

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## Alaska Announces Nonstop flights to San Diego!

**Great news!** On January 18, Alaska Airlines announced that daily nonstop flights from Santa Rosa to San Diego will begin on June 4, 2012. It is anticipated San Diego will be a very popular flight. San Diego is one of the most frequently requested destinations locally, and could increase visits to the Wine Country with the convenience of direct flights to between the two cities. In addition, a third seasonal flight to Los Angeles will also begin on June 4. For tickets and reservations visit [alaskaair.com](http://alaskaair.com) or call 800-252-7522 / TTY 800-682-2221.

**Not so good news:** Daily nonstop flights to Las Vegas will cease on June 3. Although passenger loads to LAS have been good, the daily flight has not been as profitable as required for Alaska Airlines to sustain it. The Airport will continue to seek other potential airlines to fly the route. There should be a strong chance that we will get LAS back, but it might not happen until the runway project is complete in 2013.

### Best Year So Far! Alaska Airlines 2011 Passenger Numbers

Alaska Airlines reported that 16,541 passengers flew in and out of Sonoma County Airport in December 2011, an increase of 1.2% over December 2010 when 16,349 passenger flew in and out of the Airport. Total passengers for the year 2011 is 207,188; up 9.8% over the 2010 total of 154,618, and beating the 2008 record of 204,734 total passengers by 1.2%.

### FIDS and Widgets and Mobile Websites!

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Departures ▾

The Airport website now features a Flight Informations Display Screen (FIDS) widget on the home page of [sonomacountyairport.org](http://sonomacountyairport.org). In other words, travelers can check the status of departures and arrivals at STS by visiting our website. The widget was created by ProDIGIQ, the technology company that designed and installed FIDS in the terminal.

STS has also made it easier for travelers to access information from our website while using mobile devices. When a traveler accesses the Airport website from a mobile device, the mobile version of the full website will appear. In addition, users can toggle between the regular and mobile site if they choose. Nu-Designs, Airport web host, created the mobile site.

## CAFE Gold Resolution



Front row: Supervisor Shirlee Zane, Mike Fenn, Dr. Brien Seeley, Supervisor Mike McGuire, and Wayne Cook. From left to right in back: Anne Seeley, Susan Klassen, DTPW, Alan Soule, Dr. Larry Ford, Jon Stout, Bruno Mombrinie, Supervisor David Rabbitt, Supervisor Efren Carrillo, Liz Cook, John Palmerlee.

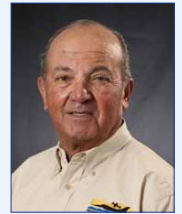
The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (BOS) adopted a resolution in December commending the [CAFE Foundation](#) for its key role in advancing the science, education and growth of personal aviation for everyone, and for promoting the development of zero emission, efficient, and quiet aircraft. The volunteer board members of the non-profit CAFE Foundation were recognized for having pioneered valuable new ways to study aerodynamics and for developing and promoting flight test expertise that has become a national asset recognized by many prominent in the world of aviation, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), and Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).

The Board recognized that CAFE, with the vital support of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 124, hosted the 2011 Green Flight Challenge in October, sponsored by Google at their Flight Test Center at the STS, marking an historic achievement in aviation. The

Green Flight Challenge was the first demonstration of quiet, practical, cross-country, emission-free flight and brought to Sonoma County NASA leaders from across the nation and competitors from around the world.

The NASA funded flight competition for the Green Flight Challenge awarded aviation's largest-ever prize of \$1,350,000 to its winner, Team Pipistrel-USA.com. The BOS acknowledged that due to CAFE's efforts, and with money provided by Google as part of the Green Flight Challenge, there now exists a pair of geothermal powered electric aircraft charging stations at the Airport which will increase the likelihood of more electric planes coming to Sonoma County in the future.

**Dave Pinsky Honored** Each year the County of Sonoma Economic Development Board sponsors the Spirit of Sonoma Awards, where Chambers of Commerce and trade groups from Sonoma County honor individuals for their contributions to the economic development and enhancement of their communities through donations of time and expertise. This year, 22 people were honored.



The Mark West Chamber honored Dave Pinsky, Colonel, USAF (Ret.), Executive Director of the Pacific Coast Air Museum, for ensuring that the museum gained certification by the Air Force and for instituting growth in educational programs. He was the force behind obtaining the F-15A "Eagle" aircraft for an exhibit at the museum, the first aircraft to respond to New York City and the World Trade Center after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Additionally, Pinsky's hard work has attracted some of the top name air show performers in the country to display their talent at the "Wings Over Wine Country" annual event, and has increased the attendance to over 25,000 spectators.

### **Doug Clay Named 2011 Pacific Coast Air Museum Volunteer of the Year**

Congratulations to Doug Clay, Marketing Director for the Pacific Coast Air Museum and the "Wings Over Wine Country" Air Show for being named "2011 Volunteer of the Year." Doug accomplished a lot for the museum in 2011, working countless hours on hugely successful advertising and public relations campaigns for the Air Show, the 10th anniversary of 9/11, the Santa Fly In, dedication of the 9/11 First Responder F-15 exhibit, and for leading the effort to get a significant advertising grant from the County of Sonoma.

**Reno Racer Beats Hughes Speed Record** Flying at 407 mph, Airport tenant Will Whiteside shattered a three-kilometer speed record on October 10 at the 2011 Reno Air Races that had previously been set by Howard Hughes in 1935 in his H1 racer, and which had since been broken only by the H1 racer replica in 2002. Whiteside's Yak model 3U beat the H1 replica's speed by 102 mph. The flight for the record speed over a three-kilometer closed course by a piston aircraft under 6,600 pounds was monitored by a representative of the National Aeronautic Association, but the result won't be official until it's vetted and accepted by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.



Whiteside flew the course at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. The Yak, which was built in Romania in 2005, is powered by a Pratt & Whitney R-2000 7M2 piston engine. It was chosen for the record attempt, Whiteside said, because of its "significant power-to-weight design characteristics."

# Volunteer Corner



Near left: Cheryl McKnight, Wade Baker, and Ken Hicks. Below, cake (yum)! Jon Stout speaking to the group.

Above, L to R: Peter Menth, Mary Menth, Ray Farris, Jerry Lynch, George Johnston, Gloria Cote. Inset, Qiping Li & Yuqiong Jiang. Below left, Betsy Westing, Shirley Blum, and George Johnston.



*Happy Anniversary  
Airport Volunteers!*



The Airport celebrated the first anniversary of its Volunteer Program in December with a recognition event in the Airport Manager's office. Six volunteers received certificates in honor of one full year of service with the program. Bob Gallagher, Ken Hicks, George Johnston, Chris Royston, Lynn Royston, and Betsy Westing all began in December 2010. Paul Tatum celebrates one year with the program this January. Ken Hicks was recognized for having worked the most hours in 2011.

The program currently has 19 active volunteers. All together, in 2011 Airport Volunteers worked an impressive 1,165 hours in the terminal information booth. Bill Scott, Trinity Technology Group Security, Cheryl McKnight, Alaska Airlines, Jon Stout, STS, and Melinda Gay, STS, spoke words of gratitude for the tremendous help and good cheer the volunteers bring to visiting and local air travelers in Sonoma County. We salute you, Airport Volunteers!

## Airport AOA badge and gate remote audit

By Lidia Herbert, Sonoma County Airport

Beginning in January, the Airport Manager's Office will conduct its annual Airport AOA Badge Audit. Letters will be sent to all Airport Authorized Signers (i.e. main hangar tenant or commercial tenant managers) and ***it is the responsibility of each Authorized Signer to account for all Airport AOA badges that are issued under their hangar or business.*** If an individual no longer needs their badge, it must IMMEDIATELY be returned to the Airport Manager's office. There is a \$150 fine for each AOA badge that is not returned, which will be billed to the Authorized Signer. If an Authorized Signer fails to complete the audit before its due date, all AOA badges associated with that company or hangar will be deactivated until the audit has been completed.

If you or anyone associated with your company or hangar has a current, ACTIVE remote listed under their name, the remote device number must also be accounted for in the audit. If remotes are not accounted for, they will be deactivated. Once a remote is deactivated it will NOT be reactivated. As a reminder, ***gate remotes are no longer being sold by the Airport Manager's office.*** If something happens to a remote (breaks, gets deactivated, gets run over by a vehicle, etc), it will not be reactivated or replaced.

Note: The Annual SIDA Badge Audit is conducted at a later date.

### Authorized Signer annual training

As a reminder, each tenant who has been named an Authorized Signer (i.e. main hangar tenant or commercial tenant managers) must complete an annual training. The Airport Manager's office will send out notices throughout the year notifying tenants of when their annual training must be renewed. Failure to renew the annual Authorized Signer training will result in the deactivation of all gate access media (AOA badges, SIDA badges, remotes) that are associated with the company or hangar.

# Introducing Dan Rice, Airport Operations Specialist Trainee

By Melinda Gay, Sonoma County Airport

Dan Rice, the Airport's newest permanent employee, joined the Airport team as an Airport Operations Specialist Trainee on the first of November 2011. He was already employed at the Airport as extra help (County temporary staff), and prior to that worked as a Lead Line Service Technician for Kaiser Air. In that position he fueled aircraft and managed fuel inspections, ensuring fuel trucks were up to ATA 103 standards.

As a Trainee, Dan is learning Airport maintenance and operations and training for certification in Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF). He is CPR certified but will undergo further CPR training as all Operations Specialists are required to do to keep current on first aid knowledge. Trainees spend their first six months on the day shift working with other Operations Specialists before working independently. After that they are seen all around the Airport performing a multitude of tasks, including responding to any number of issues that arise in the daily operations of a busy airport. Dan intends to pursue additional training in Airport operations, including earning certification in runway and taxiway lighting. "I've always like airplanes," Dan said. "What better place to work than at an airport?"



Dan Rice

Dan's earlier experiences prepared him to handle challenges. Dan grew up in Napa and spent five years in the infantry at Ford Ord, CA, before it closed down. He was then transferred to Fort Campbell, KY. After leaving the service he attended Napa Junior College before transferring to Chico State as a Psychology Major. During that time Dan went to Washington, D.C. where he held an internship at the National Institute of Health. Next, after a short time studying film, Dan re-enlisted in the Army National Guard as a Combat Engineer. In 2003 Dan was reactivated to do stateside security for a year.

Dan shared that the highlight of his career at STS so far was, "Getting hired. It was nerve-wracking!" Indeed, over 300 applications were received for the position.

Outside of work, Dan enjoys golfing and hiking. He and Janelle, his college sweetheart and wife, especially like to hike all the different trails on Mount Tamalpais. They are the proud parents of Ella, three years, and Nathan, nine months.

Welcome, Dan, we are glad to have you onboard!



Rebecca Lankford

## Meet Rebecca Lankford, Airport Intern

By Lidia Herbert, Sonoma County Airport

The Airport would like to introduce to you one of the newest members of our staff. Rebecca Lankford was hired in February 2011 as the Airport Intern. Rebecca is currently a junior at the American Military University, with a major in Sociology and a minor in Military Management. One of the reasons why she applied for the job was because her other job was not fulfilling enough and she felt that "this would be a good way to develop my office and customer service skills." Another reason why she applied is simply because she enjoys aviation. Rebecca had the opportunity to fly in the C-17 before the Air Show this past August and thought the flight was "amazing." She also volunteered at the Airport merchandise booth at the Air Show and was able to work with Airport volunteers and staff to set a record for Snoopy merchandise sales.

In her spare time, Rebecca enjoys flying with her boyfriend Zach, travelling, hiking, cooking, and spending time with her dog, Murphy. This past June, she also completed a 26.2 mile marathon in Anchorage, Alaska in support of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

When asked for one of the more memorable moments from this job, Rebecca recounted a time when she first started working at the Airport. The phone rang and she answered by saying, "Thank you for calling PetCo. How many I help you?" On the other line was Susan Klassen, Deputy Director of Transportation and Public Works. Thankfully, Susan was a good sport and excused the mistake.

Rebecca assists the Airport Manager's office in many ways. She helps by fielding noise complaints, working on the Annual Noise Summary, keeping track of Snoopy merchandise sales, creating both the pilot and customer surveys, as well as helping to answer phones and greet our fine Airport tenants. Rebecca enjoys working at the Airport and is excited to see it succeed in its prospected improvements. Rebecca is very ambitious and, if the opportunity arises, would like to continue working at the Airport after she is finished with school.

# Airport Tenant Directory

Airport Operations Duty Officer 484-0236 → Airport Maintenance Shop 544-6198 → Complaint Line 544-4787

Organization	Description	Location	Phone*
Airport Express	Bus Service	5807 Old Redwood Hwy	837-8700
Avis Rent A Car	Car Rental Agency	Terminal	571-0465
Barron Air	Aircraft Maintenance	2290 Becker Blvd	284-9786
Budget	Car Rental Agency	Terminal	528-2195
CalFire	Firefighting	2235 Airport Blvd	576-2586
Civil Air Patrol	Non-Profit	2243 Airport Blvd	545-7488
Dragonfly Aviation	Flight School	2222 Airport Blvd	575-8750
Enterprise	Car Rental Agency	Terminal	570-3600
Experimental Aircraft Assoc.	Non-Profit	5550 Windsor Road	217-4439
Federal Aviation Admin. Tower	Government Agency	2245 Airport Blvd	546-4294
Hertz	Car Rental Agency	Terminal	528-0834
Alaska Airlines / Horizon Air	Airline	Terminal	1-800-252-7522
Kaiser Air - Santa Rosa Jet Center	Full Service FBO	2240 Airport Blvd	528-7400
North Coast Air	Flight School	5010 Flightline Dr	542-8687
Pacific Coast Air Museum	Historical Museum	2230 Becker Blvd	575-7900
PropJet Aviation	Aircraft Maintenance	2282 Becker Blvd	284-9777
REACH Air Medical Services	Air Ambulance	451 Aviation Blvd #201	575-6886
Republic Parking	Parking Lot Management	2200 Airport Blvd	523-2186
Santa Rosa Ninety-Nines	Women Pilots Non-Profit	2247 Airport Blvd	sr99s@sonic.net
Sky Lounge Restaurant	Restaurant	Terminal	542-9400
Solairus Aviation	Aircraft Maintenance & Charter	201 First St., Suite 307, Petaluma	415-897-4522
Sonoma Helicopter	Helicopter Training/Photos/Tours	5790 Flightline Dr.	528-4883
Sonoma Jet Center	Full Service FBO	6000 Flightline Dr	523-2800
Trinity Technology Group	Security	Terminal	527-7226

\* Area Code 707 unless otherwise noted.

## Sign up for Airport E-News

Visit [sonomacountyairport.org](http://sonomacountyairport.org) and click on "Sign-Up for Airport News" to get breaking news emails from the Airport.

**Park & Dine at STS = > Airline Points!**  
**[thanksagain.com/STS](http://thanksagain.com/STS)**

## Advertise in the Red Baron Flyer

Call (707) 565-7241 or email  
[airport@sonoma-county.org](mailto:airport@sonoma-county.org) for information.

## Office & Warehouse Space, Hangars, Storeroom for Rent

Call Gloria at (707) 565-7243 or email  
[gloria.cote@sonoma-county.org](mailto:gloria.cote@sonoma-county.org) for more information.



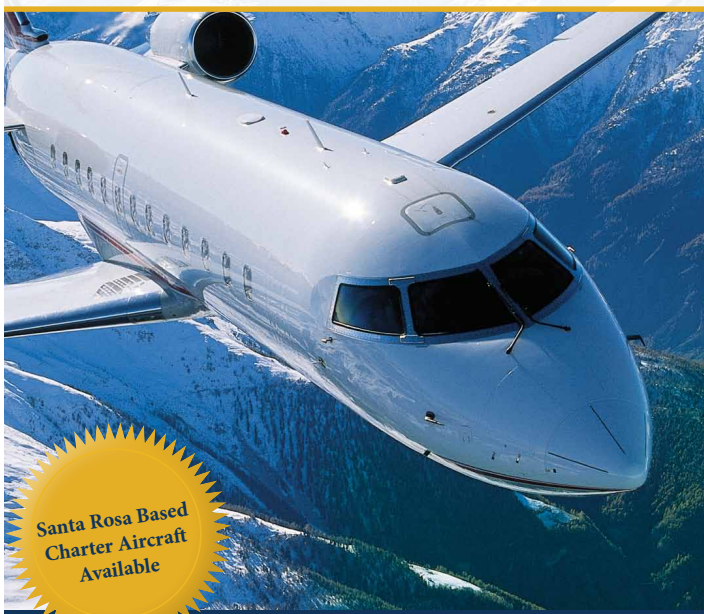
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## Instrument Pilot Ground School Beginning January 25

North Coast Air will host an Instrument Pilot Ground School on Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9:30 PM, January 25 through May 9, 2012. NAFI Master Instructor, Art Hayssen will teach the class. The course prepares pilots for instrument flight conditions as they relate to pilot and aircraft, cover basic aerodynamics, IDR, preflight procedures, regulations and procedures for IFR flight. The cost is \$345. For more information visit [northcoastair.com](http://northcoastair.com) or call (707) 542-8687.

## Announcing Sonoma Jet Aircraft Sales!



**Sonoma Jet**  
AIRCRAFT SALES



Sonoma Jet Center is proud to announce Sonoma Jet Aircraft Sales, a full service aircraft sales company based here at STS! Sonoma Jet Aircraft Sales offers top-notch staff providing sales of new and used aircraft, aircraft brokerage, aircraft purchasing, and buyer's representative services. In addition, Sonoma Jet Aircraft Sales is now the **Flight Design aircraft dealer** for Northern California. With some of the best performance of any aircraft in its class, the Flight Design CTLS not only has the benefits of being a light sport aircraft, it is also a technologically advanced training aircraft, and a comfortable and efficient cross-country machine. Most importantly, the Flight Design CTLS is amazingly fun to fly! For more information, please contact Ron Cassero or Andy Rowe at (707) 523-2800.

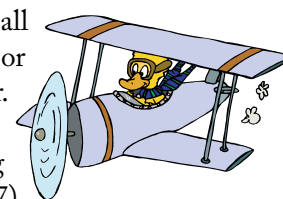
## Student Pilots Scholarship Opportunity

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is offering two \$5,000 scholarships for flight training. The merit-based scholarships are for student pilots pursuing an FAA sport, recreational, or private pilot certificate. The application deadline is February 10. Please visit [flighttraining.aopa.org/ftscholarship](http://flighttraining.aopa.org/ftscholarship) for more information

## Hangar Tenants Take Note!

Please notify Gloria Coté at the Airport Manager's office whenever you sell or acquire a new aircraft.

The Airport is required to report all based aircraft to the County Assessor on January 1 of each calendar year. Accurate reporting will ensure that you are not taxed on the wrong aircraft. Gloria can be reached at (707) 565-7243 or by email at [Gloria.Cote@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Gloria.Cote@sonoma-county.org).





Charles M. Schulz - Sonoma County Airport  
 2290 Airport Boulevard  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

## Aviation Commission Meetings

Meetings are held at the Airport Manager's office Conference Room, 2290 Airport Blvd, Santa Rosa. All meetings are Thursday mornings at 8 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

January 19, 2012  
 February 16, 2012  
 March 15, 2012  
 April 19, 2012

*The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.*

## Aviation Commissioners

District 1: Vacant  
 District 2: Don Smith, donaldsmith6051@comcast.net  
 District 3: Larry Carrillo, ljcarillo@msn.com, 888-0789  
 District 4: Del Starrett, 526-9645  
 District 5: Art Hayssen, burnside@sonic.net, 321-2040  
 At Large: Tim Delaney, tdelaney@jdhwealth.com, 542-1110  
 At Large: Marlon Young, myoung@majlaw.com, 528-2882

*All phone numbers are in area code 707.*

## Calendar of Events

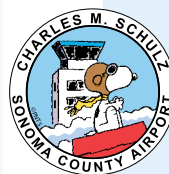
### Pacific Coast Air Museum Climb Aboard Vintage Aircraft

DC-6 Cockpit  
 February 18-19, 10 AM - 4 PM

H-34 Chocktaw Helicopter  
 March 17-18, 10 AM - 4 PM

Top Gun Weekend  
 F-14 Tomcat, F-16N Viper, F-5E Tiger II  
 April 21-22, 10 AM - 4 PM

North Laughlin and Becker Blvd., Santa Rosa  
 pacificcoastairmuseum.org



### Red Baron Flyer

Phone (707) 565-7243  
 E-mail: [airport@sonoma-county.org](mailto:airport@sonoma-county.org)  
 Web Site: [sonomacountyairport.org](http://sonomacountyairport.org)  
 Newsletter published quarterly  
 Next deadline: March 15 for April publication

### Share Your News in the Red Baron Flyer!

*Calendar items, story ideas, photos, and articles are always appreciated. Please submit to [melinda.gay@sonoma-county.org](mailto:melinda.gay@sonoma-county.org). Questions? Call the main office at (707) 565-7243 or Melinda Gay, Desktop Publisher, at (707) 565-7241.*