

2011 Anniversary Picnic

On Sunday, July 10, 2011 AMPS celebrated its 52nd anniversary with another great picnic. The day started with pilots showing up as early as 6:30 AM to make sure they got a good spot under the canopies. As time went by and room under the canopies became sparse, pop-up tents started showing up on the east side of the runway. Families and friends, who normally do not come to the field, also said present.

Several members brought appetizers; most memorable were the meatballs prepared by Mrs. Juan Granados. Every one circled the tray and the meatballs quickly disappeared. Mrs. Ethel Bishop (Bill's wife) brought some killer baked beans. Others brought deserts like flan, brownies, and cookies which also rapidly vanished. Jim Stansell's wife baked the brownies, although she still refuses to visit us.

Lunch was catered by Tom Scott and his wife. They showed up around 11:00 AM and promptly began cooking ribs, chicken and corn on the cob. Unfortunately Mr. Scott did not bring a large grill and the service was somewhat slow. He quickly commandeered our grill in order to add some cooking area. Tom also underestimated the side dishes required to serve our hungry crowd. On the other hand, the food was excellent and everyone commented on the friendliness of Tom and his wife. Our estimate is that over 100 people were served...

Special kudos goes to Elaine Lowy (Ken's wife) who took it upon herself to be the kitchen helper. She was handy with the tongs and helped keeping the chow line moving steadily.

The bounce house was a great success with the kids. You could see it full most of the day. We also found some time to fly "the Coqui" full of candy which was dropped on the runway for the kids to pickup.

Though out the entire day you could see people flying their planes and helicopters. There were little foam planes, aerobatic giants and everything in between. The helis were also plentiful. Boris Gonzalez has a new contraption with four propellers on the top and a camera hanging from it which he used to take excellent aerial video of the field.

I want to personally thank all those that helped make this event a success. First to those members and their families that showed up; they are the ones we do this for. Second, those that helped with setup and pickup. Abraham Marquez deserves special mention; he helped setup the main shelter, picnic tables and canopies. Our thanks also go to Pablo Moscoso, Rolando Hernandez, Tony Fandino, Carlos Zuniga and various others who helped with the trash pickup and storage of tables, chairs and supplies. Forgive me if I did not mention you by name; please be sure that I do appreciate your help.

I am already thinking about next year and what to do to top this one. Please feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

Until next one, happy flying!

Vicar Hernandez, Picnic Boss