

## HOT FUEL

Rutan Rocket Fuel was a novel souvenir for visitors to the Experimental Aircraft Association's AirVenture 2010 in Oshkosh, Wis. last week. The Mojave Transportation Museum fundraiser was displayed with aviation-themed goods from Lancaster's Plane Mercantile.

Cathy Hansen



# Rutan Rocket Fuel hot sauce flies to Wisconsin's AirVenture

By ALLISON GATLIN  
Valley Press Staff Writer

Even for a long-time aviation veteran, the airplane extravaganza that is the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual gathering in Oshkosh, Wis., is a wonder.

"It was unbelievable. It's so huge, you need to clone yourself to see everything," said Cathy Hansen, director of the East Kern Airport District, pilot and owner of a number of different aircraft with her husband Al.

Hansen visited AirVenture 2010 — the formal name of the event known in airplane circles simply as "Oshkosh" — last week, her first time since 1988.

This year's event saw 535,000 visitors through the gates at Wittman Regional Airport, along with more than 10,000 airplanes there and at other surrounding airfields, according to EAA officials.

The gathering got off to a soggy start — and earned the nickname of "Sloshkosh" — when heavy rains shortly before the start of the week-long event soaked the grass fields where many of the visiting airplanes typically reside, often with their owners camped alongside.

This year, many of those airplanes were diverted to other airports in the area, and the North 40 field was filled with tents minus the airplanes, Hansen said.

At AirVenture, Hansen helped sell Rutan Rocket Fuel, a custom-produced hot sauce the Mojave Transportation Museum Foundation is selling to raise money for a future transportation museum.

"People were excited to see it," Hansen said, although the spicy condiment seemed a bit extreme for Midwestern palates. "Most people bought it for the novelty."

The foundation has sold more than 2,000 bottles since introducing the novel product a year ago, said Kelly Hall, Mojave Transportation Museum director.

Saturdays at the Mojave Air and Space Port, and online through the museum's website and at other events, the project has raised more than \$4,000 for the museum and the nonprofit Celebrity Scholarships Inc., she said.

As is typically the case at the annual EAA event, the Rutan brothers — aerospace designer Burt and record-setting pilot Dick — were a huge draw, not only at their several speaking engagements, but everywhere they went on the air show grounds.

"They were rock stars," Hansen said, with people continuously approaching them for autographs, even at a local restaurant during dinner.

"I just was so impressed with Dick and Burt, how gracious they are with people. They never turn people away," she said.

The Rutans figure prominently in the EAA AirVenture Museum on the air show grounds, a "breathtaking" display, Hansen said.

"It was gratifying to know people really do admire their accomplishments," she said.

Their father, George Rutan, who died in September at age 93, was among those memorialized during a special service at the chapel there Sunday, she said.

AirVenture, dubbed the "World's Greatest Aviation Celebration" lived up to its international reputation, with 2,167 international visitors from 66 nations registered, according to EAA officials.

Hansen enjoyed meeting the international pilots and learning of their flying experiences at home. The German pilots, she said, were impressed by the relative lack of restrictions for flying in the United States.

"It was a glorious event, as always," Hansen said. "Oshkosh is something that you have to experience."

# Legislature no move

By CRAIG CURRIER  
Valley Press Staff Writer

State lawmakers were back in session on Monday following the Legislature recess as the budget deadline moved to the rear-view mirror, now 34 days past due.

The Assembly and the Senate convened on Monday, but the broken deadline on the budget received no mention.

Among the bills passed Monday was Assembly Bill 2314, authored by Palmdale Republican and San Diego Democrat Marty Block, which would make it easier for disabled veterans to receive tax exemption by extending the time to file for a rating.

The law, now on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for final approval, takes some of the burden off disabled veterans who can be a years-long wait disabled veterans to get their disability rating is considered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Those who are given a rating from VA are eligible for the tax exemption under current law they only have 30 days to file for the rating is issued to file for the exemption.

If he signs the bill, that period will be extended to 90 days and become retroactive to the date of the rating.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved the bill Monday as members went through a series of bills awaiting action, including one that would require convenience and similar stores from accepting paper or plastic bags to the state.

The proposal, Assembly Bill 1998, was authored by San Diego Democrat Julia Brownley, who wants stores to sell approved paper bags to the state.

## Lancaster d

LAKE LOS ANGELES — A motorist was killed Monday morning in a crash involving a big rig and a Jeep. The crash occurred at 6:10 a.m. at 170th Street and Rawhide Avenue. A witness reported the 1997 Jeep Cherokee was smashed.

Elizabeth Ann Godwin, 39, of Lancaster, was declared dead at the scene.

Godwin was alone in her vehicle when she had been driving north on Rawhide Avenue at an unknown speed when her vehicle steered into the west dirt shoulder, then to the left, which caused her to travel in a southeasterly direction, according to a California Highway Patrol report.

Godwin had crossed over the southbound lane and entered the northbound lane, colliding with the underside of a Peterbilt tractor-trailer, the report said. Godwin was ejected from her vehicle and came to rest near the west dirt shoulder. It was unclear if the trucker was injured or whether Godwin was wearing a seat belt. The wreck prompted authorities to declare a Sigalert in the area until 1