

August 2009

## A weekend with our Marines and the Camarillo Air Show...

Dear friends and clients,

This past weekend Don and I traveled to the Marine Corp Recruiting Depot in San Diego to see Susan's son Jordan, and my pen pal Ondrej (pronounced Andre), graduate as recruits from boot camp to full fledged United States Marines. Then on Saturday and Sunday, Don was involved with the Camarillo Air Show (see the back side).



The first thing we noticed was the immense size of the parade ground. Here you only see two of the six platoons on the immense parade ground, but note the huge American flag.

Each platoon had about 50 men, and we were surprised to learn that men from other countries (like Russia and the Czech Republic) can be in the Marines.

The men had just finished "The Crucible" - a 54 hour, no sleep, brutal final endurance test to teach the men they couldn't do it on their own, but only through teamwork. The picture doesn't show it, but you could see the pride in the men as they stood with their Drill Instructors.



It's obvious to see in Jordan's demeanor after the ceremony how he feels about his accomplishment!

You'll also remember how Jordan organized a letter writing campaign for others in his platoon. I mailed 6 letters to Ondrej (right) who's from the Czech Republic. What a pleasure it was to meet him in person!



But when the ceremony was over we were looking for him, but having never met him, didn't know what he looked like. Someone said, "Go to where the Marines have their luggage (with their names on their luggage) and maybe he hasn't picked his up yet." So we did and it worked!

The new Marines had 10 days of leave and Ondrej was flying to Chicago to be with friends, but another platoon buddy, Brandon from Missouri, also needed a lift to the airport and so we took them both to the airport where they were able to hang out together until their respective flights took off. Jordan came back to Ventura for some well deserved R&R.



This was a very meaningful day and one we wouldn't have missed! As the Marines say - "Oorah!"

*Leslie Nelson*

## While Leslie works, Don spends his time at Camarillo airport having fun!

Leslie and I came back from the Marine Corps boot camp graduation in San Diego Friday night, and at 7 a.m. the next morning Leslie left for 2 full days of broker review training in preparation for her state broker's examination - while I headed out to work at the annual Camarillo Air Show.



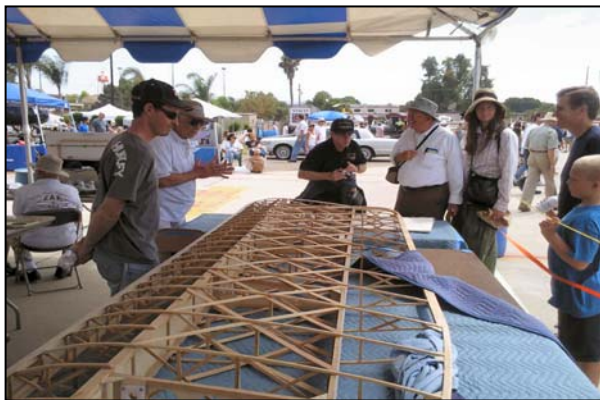
Our local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) has put on the show for almost 30 years, highlighting the romance and adventure of flight with lots of noise, sun and fun!

Many of you know I've been (slowly!) building a 1930s era replica of a British trainer called a Tiger Moth – an open cockpit, 2 seat bi-plane – with lots of help from local high school students. The kids have basically built the wings over the past 4 + years and I hope to start on the fuselage this fall.

Our chapter sets up a tent at the show to highlight the building of different types of aircraft – old wood and fabric (like mine), sheet metal aircraft and new designs using carbon fiber construction. People love to study the intricate workmanship!



I had on display one of the wings built by the students, along with the blueprints, jigs and other stuff we've used in building the 4 wings.



Saturday's weather was interesting – overcast in the morning, but early in the afternoon the wind picked up and started blowing stuff around. I was mildly concerned our tent would come down!

But Sunday was drop dead gorgeous weather!

So while I had fun meeting lots of people and talking about airplane stuff this past weekend, Leslie was hard at work!

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## Less than 90 days left for first time homebuyer \$8,000 credit!

To qualify for the credit, escrow **must close** by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Because of inevitable last minute delays in the escrow process, we're telling people to plan on closing before Thanksgiving to be safe!