

March, 2010

Dear Friends and Clients,

Leslie's normally the one who writes these newsletters, but she said I could write this March newsletter and let our new clients and friends know about what I enjoy doing "off hours".

A number of years ago I wanted to build an "irresponsible" airplane, that is, one that's just for fun! Or as Leslie says, a "sunset flyer" where we can putter up the coast for a short flight and watch the sun set behind the islands. I decided to build a rough replica of a 1930's era British trainer called a Tiger Moth – a 2 seat, open cockpit biplane.



Three wings are now done and hanging from the rafters in the hangar at Camarillo airport, and the 4th wing is almost done. Here's what I'm currently working on...

This is a close up shot of the lower right wing. You're looking at the back side of the wing that ultimately is going to be the aileron. I'm working on the pivot (circled) which will allow the aileron to swing up and down within the wing, thus turning the plane. I'm building the aileron in place within the entire wing, and when done I'll **carefully** cut it free of the wing.

Working with aluminum is fun – it's soft, easy to cut and trim, but gets very **hot** when being cut! Here I'm cutting a bracket for the aileron. I'll insert a bushing into the bracket and the aileron pin will rotate in that bushing.



I use a drill press frequently for holes – this is just a demo photo – sharp eyes will notice I'm not wearing my safety goggles!

Once I finish the aileron, it goes up into the rafters and I'll build the "tail feathers" - the rudder and horizontal stabilizer. Then on to the fuselage!

Inevitably, people like to ask how long it'll take to finish, and amongst us airplane builders the common answer is, "I'm 90% done with 90% to go..."!



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