

World renown speaker Pat Macha presents to Chapter 845!

Wow! That's the first thing that comes to mind when recollecting the events that unfolded on Saturday the 17th in the Redlands Airport lobby. We were all treated to a fascinating presentation from Mr. Macha on aircraft wrecks and crashes in San Bernardino county. Mr. Macha has dedicated his 'retired' life to researching and documenting aircraft crashes. 'Project Remembrance' was created to fill a certain void in the lives of the loved ones. The following description is directly quoted from the website (<http://www.aircraftwrecks.com>):

"In the past decade we've been contacted by numerous "next of kin" interested in visiting the crash site where loved ones lost their lives. In some cases next of kin are interested in placing a memorial marker, or a container attached to the wreck with photos and letters about their loved ones (where legal to do so). Other requests have been for photos of the crash site as it is today, the accident report, and a detailed description of the accident scene. In a few cases next of kin have asked to view the crash sites from the air.

Project Remembrance is an outgrowth of these requests. The men and women who make up the Project Remembrance Team are volunteers who give of their time and resources to facilitate the requests of next of kin where reasonable to do so. Next of kin are not charged for services rendered by team members. Special consideration is given to next of kin requests where servicemen and women lost their lives."



Pat Macha
with
Pete Gillies
(guest
speaker for
March)

So, Pat presented his lecture accompanied by a slideshow that was projected on a large screen. His stories hit home for many of us; all of the stories originate in Southern California, particularly San Bernardino County. There are over 90 wrecks in the San Bernardino Mountains alone.

Talking with Chapter members before and after the presentation, many remember these accidents either through the pilot network, or by reading

about them in the newspaper. Many of these stories contain strong emotional power; the story of the two girls that survived two nights by themselves in Big Bear comes to mind. I also saw many of you leaving with his books. That is great! I have read the San Bernardino book with much interest. Pat and his wife, Mary Jane, had many nice things to say about our members and the beautiful view from the airport lobby. We certainly hope they can come back again next year with another presentation!