

## A Breakfast at KRAL

Aviation has always just naturally been in my blood. I don't know what triggered it unless it was the summers day when my parents took me to the Lake Michigan lakefront to witness a part of Milwaukee's Centennial celebration in 1946 and I looked up to see my first jet plane flyover. In my pre-teens and later, I made simple stick and paper model airplanes. It was a labor of love. A few years later when my paper route allowed for me to spend a few more dollars, I made some small U Control or free flight model airplanes that were powered by a small engine.

It wasn't until I was 48 and my children were all grown that I again had two extra nickels to rub together. The company that I had worked at for the past 20 years had been sold and we were all out of work. Between vacation pay, company stock, and the boring details of the rest, I finally had money and time at the same time. Finally, I could and did take flying lessons in Corona, graduating upon the completion of some aerial maneuvers in February 1990 at 3,000 feet above Lake Mathews when the FAA designated examiner said "I'll fly us back and you enjoy the view. You're a Private Pilot now".

Sure, I could drive and land an airplane at the airport of my intentions, but I had so much more to learn. My 'post graduate' lessons are always on-going. Far beyond learning more about airplanes and flying them, airspace, airports, and all of that pilot stuff, I have learned a lot more about people. This to me, is the essence of my joy of flying. I have flown with family, people at work, other friends and people who contacted me out of the blue to share a flight with me. We all have had fun together.

And I have met even more people just because I am a pilot. People I would never have otherwise known. The great people at my Corona airport at first. Later the Vintage Mooney Group pilots and their friends who I meet for lunch at fly-ins in several states. Then the families that make up the Corona Pilots Association, a social organization of pilots who fly out of my home base for lunch together. And specially, the great group of fly-buddies who collectively have flown many hours and miles alongside of me as we have gone in search of fun together. Someday, when I hang up my airplane keys, I think it will be my fly-buddies who I shall remember the most. They are a big part of my social life. They are the people who I like to write about in my flying stories.



The Chiriaco Summit airport café is also a truck stop café on I-10

Which brings me to this short story. Three weeks ago this email arrived. ['Please join us for a VMG Fly-in to Chiriaco Summit \(L77\) on Saturday, February 26.'](#) I asked via email, and Soni replied that she would like to fly there with me. Then the weather forecast turned dark which prompted this email. ['Due to the severe winter storm front passing through Southern California, we have decided to postpone the VMG Chiriaco Summit fly-in until next Saturday, March 3.'](#)

Then an email came in from Glenn, the President of the CPA reminding us ['The breakfast hosted by CPA member Pete Gallegos is this Saturday Feb. 26th @ 9am. It will be held in the terminal building at the Riverside airport. The breakfast will be held RAIN or SHINE !!!!!. If you can't fly over, drive!.'](#)

Soni said she would like to go to breakfast with me so we went to Riverside instead. We drove over.



We walked into the airport café entrance on the left under the blue awning but found that we had been set up banquet style in the main terminal area in the middle of the picture. A good sized group was already there and welcomed us as we arrived. We found a place to sit.



Soni and I found two empty seats at the end of the table where we enjoyed ourselves



We sat down and were immediately entered into conversation by my hangar neighbor John Rosenau to my right. The atmosphere in there was perfect and the food was a comin' soon. Soni got us some coffee from the table nearby. All was well. Pete Gallegos got a round of applause for hosting us.



We had a nice talk presented to us while breakfast was cooking and everyone was interested



And this was just some of us, seemed like everyone wanted to talk about flying, hmmm



One secret to a great breakfast is a great waitress, and we were lucky to have one



Our CPA President Glenn and his wife Denise were all smiles





My fly-buddy Soni and I had a great time thanks to Pete, Glenn, and the CPA



Soni was intrigued by the CPA jackets worn by many members





Charlie and Wally introduced themselves to Soni and made her feel welcome



Meanwhile some lonely airplanes just waited quietly on the wet ramp under low clouds

We drove back to Corona

Ed Shreffler

02/26/2011

Email me at: [eshreffler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eshreffler@sbcglobal.net)

More of my stories are at: <http://www.mooneyevents.com/shreffler.html>

Photographs by Soni, Denise, and other CPA members