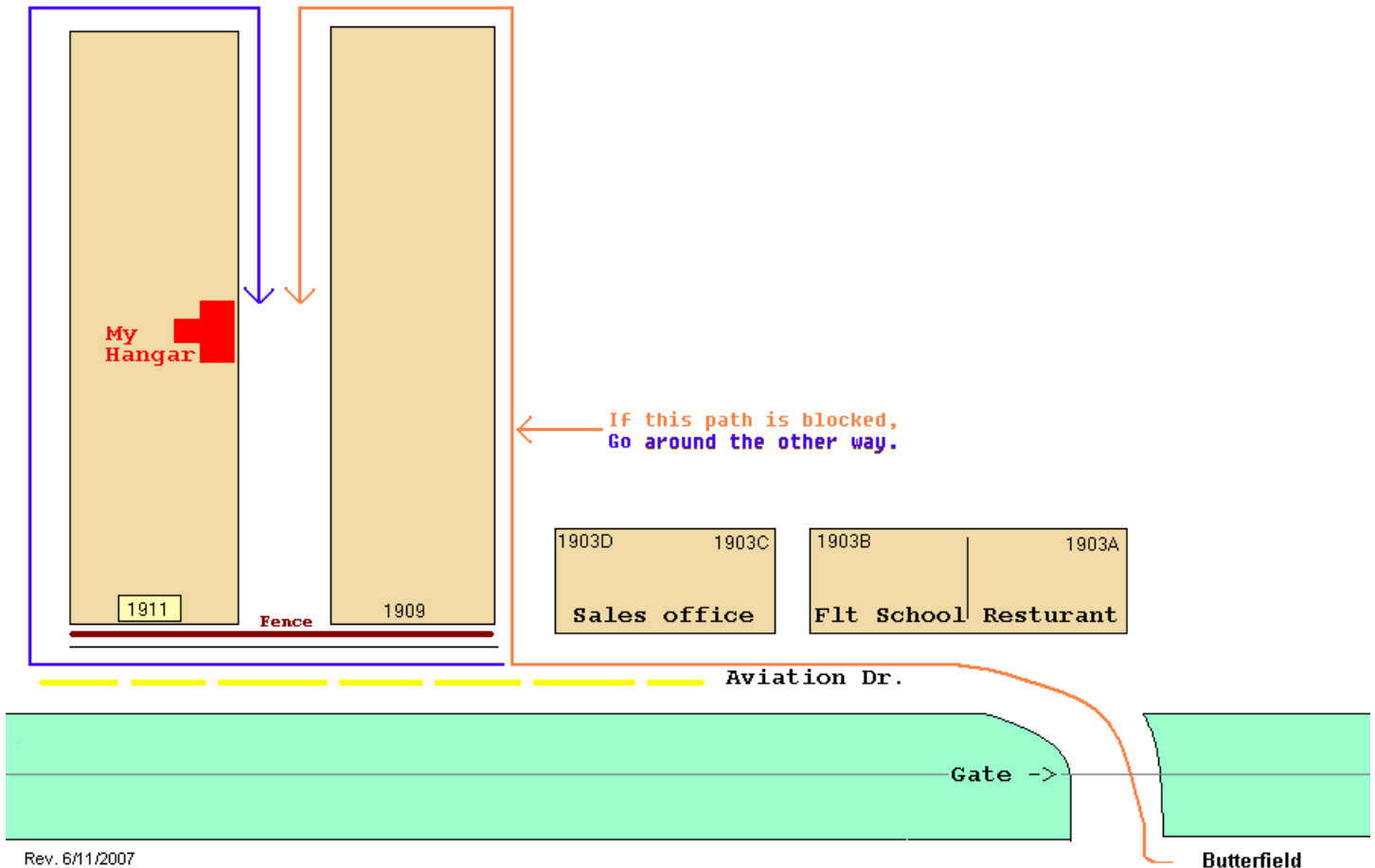


## Chino or Bust

It was to be my shortest ever Vintage Mooney Group fly-in at 4.8 nautical miles to Chino. I put out an email asking if anyone wanted to go along. I didn't expect any replies as people would have to drive farther to get to the airport than the length of the flight. I was surprised to get three replies. Dae Lee was the first responder. Dae is an Administrative Analyst in our Planning and Research department at the court, and we had collaborated on a project.

Friday night I realized that I had left Dae's cell phone number at work. I figured everything would turn out alright as I had given him directions to the airport, and this drawing of my hangar location.



It included my phone numbers so I thought we were covered in spite of my forgetfulness.

Saturday morning, I got to the airport early. I then did something I had not done in the last 10 years. At the last minute, I decided to stop at the café and get a cup of coffee. I had just passed the café, so I pulled around back and parked under a shade tree near the back door. As I got out of the car, someone waved at me from 200 feet away. It was Dae! He had forgotten to bring my diagram, which means he did not know where my hangar was, and he did not have my phone numbers. There is no way that we should have ever found each other. What a coincidence that we wound up right there!

Anyway back to flying stuff. I showed Dae all of the parts of my Mooney and explained what everything did. It was time to go. He snapped me pulling her out of the hangar.



What power – what grace

Everything had been arraigned so well that Chino Tower asked me if we were going to the Mooney fly-in and gave us special taxi instructions over to where a couple of young men were waiting in a golf cart. From there, we just followed them right up to our parking area. They even pushed the Mooney into a parking spot for us.



There we were, parked with all of the other Mooneys once again. These pictures courtesy of Dae

We met some of the other VMG pilots on the ramp and then we saw John Rosenau and His wife Becki. John is a student pilot and they had driven over. It was an excellent way for them to meet other pilots. I finally met John Elwell on that ramp. It was already upper 90s and 10 minutes in the sun was about enough!



Tubby me, Becki, Dae, and John Rosenau in the 90s heat

We were treated to an air conditioned room for our BBQ lunch. As it was Dae's first flight as a passenger in a General Aviation airplane, I presented him with a First Flight Certificate in front of the whole gang.



Congratulations Dae



Ray & Roberta Hicks



Oldest Mooney Award



First time VMG participant, Joe Zammit and son



These pictures courtesy of Phil Corman and the VMG website



Getting ready for another departure

I was not going to fly five miles back to Corona and say that Dae had a proper airplane flight, so I departed for Big Bear. After getting a couple of thousand feet off of the ground, Dae took some more pictures.



Zoom, zoom, I'm flying. The little homemade hook up there is where I hang my headset between flights.



The Corona area



A rugged ravine near Big Bear

We enjoyed the contrasting Big Bear 70s temperature for a while then Dae flew the Mooney part of the way home. He let me land it. Back at the hangar, Dae had his first Blue Can. I think he had fun.

Ed Shreffler  
August 18, 2007