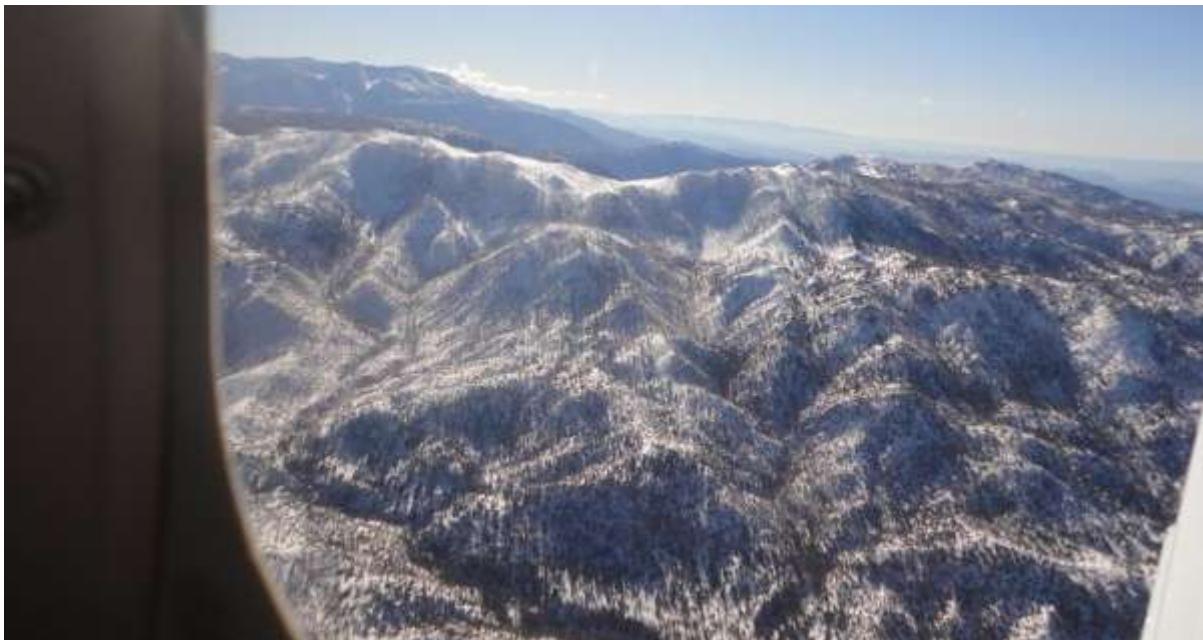




ICE PILOTS: Big Bear, CA VMG Fly-In (KL35)

Saturday, January 12th 2103





The weather could not have been more perfect for a winter Mooney Fly-in! A cold front brought near-record low temperatures to the SoCal region, which was straight out of central casting! Big Bear was blanketed with a couple inches of fresh powder Friday night leaving the Mooney pilots guessing whether or not they would make it in. A call to the airport manager assured that the runway was only covered with patchy snow and the ramp mostly clear. The temperature at Big Bear was 1. Yes, one (singular) degree F! Not to worry the sky was clear with calm winds.

In all TEN Mooneys arrived with over twenty people converging on the Barnstorm Café. The fly-in attracted Mooney pilots from Fresno, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Diego and all points in between. The temperature has climbed into the double digits by lunch. Renee, proprietor of the Barnstorm café worked magic worthy of a Disney movie as her staff quickly got our rowdy bunch of pilots fed. A trip to Big Bear for just for the food at the Barnstorm Café is well worth it.

As predicted the talk revolved around the extreme cold (for a bunch of CA guys). Folks were scrounging through their attics to find enough warm clothes in order to make the flight. The cold snap forced CA pilots to try to pre-heat their aircraft, something which resulted in many clever ideas. The best being the pilot who stole his wife's hair dryer and sat at the airport for two hours warming the engine. He made it!

A good time was had by all, especially the four kids who got to play in the snow for the first (and possibly only) time this season. They kept going till their noses turned red! The fifteen foot high airport snow piles were excellent for sliding down!

Big Bear turned out to be an excellent start to our 2013 flying year. The only question on everyone's mind was, "What's next?"

