

CLEAR LAKE AVIATION GATHERING

Clear Lake Flying Club Staff

A diverse group of seaplane pilots and other aviation professionals attended the Clear Lake Aviation Gathering at Lampson Field Airport (102) in Lakeport, California, on April 22-23, 2023. The Clear Lake Flying Club (CLFC) hosted the conference and produced it with the Professional Aerial Photographers Association.

Herb Lingl, education director of the CLFC, noted that, "One of the conference objectives is to develop opportunities for young people in Lake County, California, to pursue careers in aviation." Details about the youth program are at clearlakeflyingclub.com/youth.htm

AOPA's Steve Bateman spoke about flying clubs and the AOPA Foundation High School STEM Aviation Curriculum.

Paul Koscheka, the FAA's FAAS Team

Program Manager in Sacramento, provided a briefing on the WINGS Pilot Proficiency Program. Three of the seminars at the conference qualified for WINGS credit.

Additional presenters included Tom Beattie, instructor and test pilot for ICON Aircraft; Kent Carlomagn; Terry Hayes from Foothill Aviation and the Backcountry Flying Experience; Missy Lee, owner of Alaska Floats and Skis; Herb Lingl; Rick Long; Gordon Mills from Alpine Aviation; Jason Johanson, who provides multiengine seaplane training in a Twin Seabee; and Tom Wasson from Tom's Aircraft Enterprises.

During the "Which Seaplane Is Right for You?" session, Tom discussed the ICON A5, Kent the SeaMax, Gordon the

Lake Buccaneer, Rick the Quicksilver on floats, and Jason the Twin Seabee.

Terry, Gordon, Missy and Jason were panelists for the "Emergency Procedures in Seaplanes" session. They discussed emergency procedures as they apply to the specific flying environments in which they operate.

The conference included a session about the "History of Aviation in Lake County." Lake County Museums curator J. Clark McAbee prepared a presentation about Navy and Pan Am seaplane operations at Clear Lake entitled "Wings Over Water: Flying Boats on Clear Lake circa 1939-1958." Two retired high school teachers described the high school aviation programs they taught in the 1970s. Paul Loewen, who

built a globally recognized Mooney modification firm at Lampson Field, described the airport's history from the 1960s, his experience teaching aviation, and flying a Fleetwings Sea Bird, a high school aviation project that Paul and his wife Shery flew to Clear Lake with Paul's high school aviation teacher.

The conference session about the "Future of Aviation in Lake County" examined the possible construction of seaplane docks and a seaplane ramp in Lakeport.

After the sessions, attendees sampled some fine wines produced in Lake County and enjoyed a catered hangar dinner. French aerial photographer Jean Luc Kaiser received a cash prize for his entry in the seaplane photography exhibition that took place at the conference.

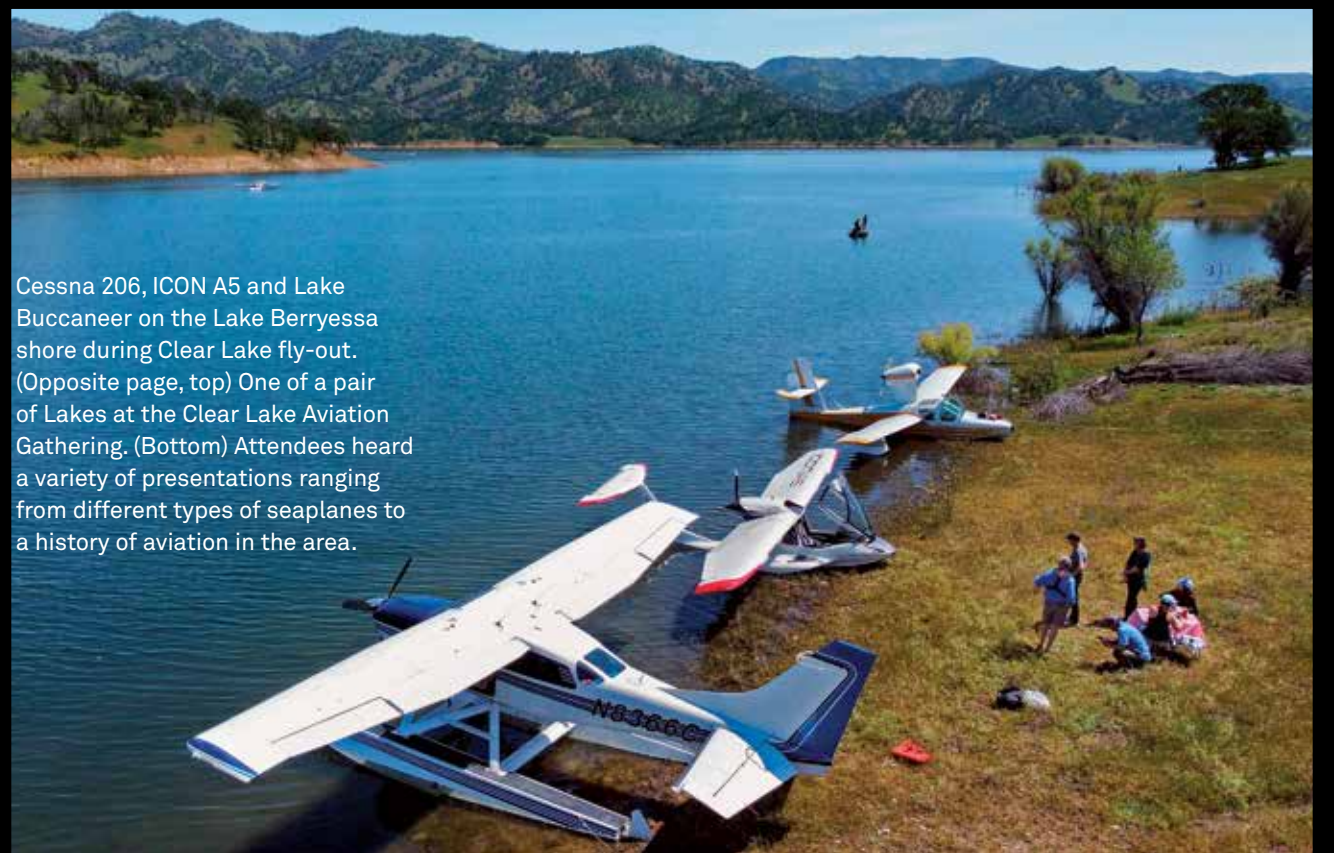
Sunday featured a seaplane fly out to Lake Berryessa. The fly out included an ICON A5 flown by Tom Beattie; two Lake Buccaneers, one flown by Gordon Mills and the other by Henry Roberson from Air Carriage; and a Cessna 206 on floats flown by Byron Hernandez.

For more information, visit clearlakeflyingclub.com.



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Cessna 206, ICON A5 and Lake Buccaneer on the Lake Berryessa shore during Clear Lake fly-out. (Opposite page, top) One of a pair of Lakes at the Clear Lake Aviation Gathering. (Bottom) Attendees heard a variety of presentations ranging from different types of seaplanes to a history of aviation in the area.

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A collage of four photographs showing seaplanes in flight and on the water against a backdrop of mountains.

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