

## Spot Landing Contest Sacramento Valley Pilots Association Columbia, August 28, 2011

What is a spot landing contest anyhow? Anyone who has flown to the annual EAA Airventure at Oshkosh WI has probably been directed by the tower controller to land on (or past) the green spot or the some other colored spot, usually on the east-west runway. So I guess we all know what a spot landing contest means for pilots. It means that a pilot must land his or her airplane exactly on a spot on the runway in order to win a prize. Actually no! What it really means is that a pilot must land on or near a chalk line marked across the runway. So we are really talking here about a line landing contest. The distance past the chalk line is measured by spotters standing on west edge of the runway. There are rules:

- The wheels must touch-down on or past the chalk line. The rule used to be that wheels on the line disqualified the pilot. But how can anyone get closer than that. So we changed the rule this year.
- To land means to plant the wheels firmly on the runway, full stall. A bounced landing can count, but only after the second touchdown (or last if they bounce more than once) and by then the plane is probably too far down the runway to win a prize.
- If the wheels touch-down ahead of the chalk line, that pilot is disqualified.

### Aircraft participating

Beech Bonanza	2
Beech Sundowner	1
Cessna 182	1
Glastar	1
Grumman	2
Piper Cherokee	1
Piper Comanche	1



But wait, there's more. A barbecue followed by a paper airplane contest in the club house of the Tuolumne County Aero. Assn. More darn fun than one person should be allowed in a single day. Here are the rules for the paper plane contest:

- Anyone can enter.
- Each person gets an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of yellow paper to fold any way they want into a paper airplane.
- Stand on a line, toss the paper airplane towards a ping pong table with a taped line.
- He or she who gets closest to the line wins a prize.
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**The winner?** A woman who is not a pilot. Does that deflate the egos of macho male pilots or what?

### Where is Columbia?



In the foothills of Northern California on Highway 49 there is an historic town named Columbia where miners came to make their fortunes panning for gold during the California gold rush of 1849. Within walking distance of the town is a general aviation

airfield that is used during the forest fire season as a support base for the



**Grumman S2T (Turbo)  
Tracker**

California Department of Forestry (CDF) aircraft used to fight forest fires. Two Grumman S2T aircraft were flying off the airstrip to a forest fire near Yosemite and another fire in Nevada. pilots participating in the spot landing contest were cautioned to stay clear of their air operations both on the runway and in the air. The "borate bombers" take off fully loaded with fire suppressant chemicals and fuel with little runway to spare in order to get airborne. Also, they were taking-off south (runway 17) and landing in the opposite direction on Runway 35. We appreciated the hazardous work they do, and we noted that CDF pilots were courteous on the radio always letting airport traffic know their location and direction of flight.