

AZ Flyer News

SUMMER 2018

AIRCRAFT DAY AT THE CAPITOL

It was a nice, cool day on the Capitol lawn with a home-built canvas plane, several drones and even a helicopter. There were representatives from different businesses offering information, flyers and free handouts.

Drones seemed to be the focal point at the event — from mining companies to the Department of Transportation using drones daily. Today's technology allows ease of use with the help of phone apps and computers, and it is much easier to view and determine what the best action for mining precious metals would be, or deciding the best route for a new roadway or expressway. This can be done from a control room miles away from the location, or on-site with a cell phone.



Drones can range in size from units that fit in the palm of your hand up to the size of a go-kart. They can take amazing pictures and record video and important data. Costs can range from a few hundred dollars to several thousands, depending on the use and technology. Some are made for delivery of supplies or products; some using the video for movies you may have watched on PBS.

An emergency helicopter was on site for viewing, but with a "please don't touch" warning. This machine is big, powerful and very expensive to fix should service be necessary. The pilot of this amazing machine shared a story about saving people trapped on the side of Camelback Mountain just a few days earlier. This helicopter can be programmed with GPS and hold itself level and stationary when lifting an injured person into a safety basket. Several thousand hours go into training and practice to fly and perform maneuvers on the sides of mountains or in windy situations.



On display was a homebuilt aircraft that can be disassembled and loaded into a trailer and then reassembled when needed to fly. It is made of lightweight aluminum wrapped in a painted canvas wrap. Powered by a small 62hp engine with two cylinders, the pilot grabs a joystick and away he goes. The owner said he only needs a few hundred feet for take-offs and landings.

This was a great gathering of information and technology. Keep an eye on the drones as they become the future of flying. If you see a drone there may be someone close by or in an office building on the other side of town flying it. The date for next

year's Aviation Day at the Capitol has not been released yet, but there is a related upcoming event: International Girls in Aviation Day on October 13, 2018.

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International Girls in Aviation Day: October 13, 2018

This event is staged worldwide for girls ages 8 to 17 to help foster an interest in aviation.

Check the following website for information:

<https://www.wai.org/events/girls-aviation-day-2018>

