

## PLANES OF FAME AIRSHOW

# Stunts in the sky

**Will Lester** Staff Photographer

Stunt pilot Rob Harrison of Claremont receives help from his wife, Susan, as he straps into his plane at Cable Airport in Upland on Thursday before practicing for this weekend's Planes of Fame Airshow.

By **Wes Woods II** Staff Writer

CHINO - Rob "The Tumbling Bear" Harrison will spin, dive and twist his plane at the at this week's Planes of Fame Airshow after missing last year's show because of an airplane crash at Modesto Airport.

Harrison, 67, of Claremont walks with a noticeable limp after the May 2008 crash, during which he injured his ankles, a hand and broke three ribs.

"I did my final maneuver, and for reasons still unclear, I became distracted and momentarily lost my orientation," Harrison said.

"When you're going 200 mph, that's 300 feet per second. If you screw up a tenth of a second, you wad your airplane up in a ball and spend the next six months in a wheelchair."

Harrison - a professional engineer with degrees in aeronautical and mechanical engineering - will

perform in his Zlin 50 LX plane at 11:25 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at the County of San Bernardino Planes of Fame Airshow at Chino Airport.

Admission is \$20.

Other performers include the Silver Wings Wingwalking team at 11:10 a.m. and the Steve Hinton F7F Aerobatics at 12:05 p.m. today and Sunday.

Harrison said he went through 16 1/2 hours of surgery after doctors told him he might not survive an operation to save his feet.

"I didn't realize you had 25 bones in your feet and I broke all 25," he said. "They said 'Well, you'll probably never walk again.' Six months later I was walking. I'm not young. I'm 67. I'm not supposed to be able to fix, but I fooled 'em."