



2009 HEMET-RYAN AIRSHOW

# Airplanes to tumble and soar at Hemet-Ryan Air Show

10:00 PM PDT on Tuesday, May 26, 2009

By MICHAEL PERRAULT  
The Press-Enterprise

**HEMET** - On Saturday at the Hemet-Ryan Air Show, high-flying Rob Harrison, aka "The Tumbling Bear," will take his bright yellow Zlin 50LX aircraft through tumbles and gyrations that have become his trademark in the sky.

"We tumble the airplane end over end, and that's something very few people can do," Harrison said.

His 12-minute routine wasn't routine last May, when he crashed in an open field away from spectators at an air show at Modesto Airport.

"I made a pretty remarkable recovery, for an old man," said the 67-year-old Claremont pilot.

Harrison's broken bones have mended, and he is back full-throttle for the Hemet air show.

Doug Jardine, Jon Melby and other well-known pilots are lined up for the free air show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hemet-Ryan Airport.

Frank Donnelly, a retired psychology professor,

will show spectators some slow and graceful maneuvers in his 1946 clipped-wing Taylorcraft plane. Donnelly has dubbed his act "Dr. D's Old-Time Aerobatics."

The air show was last held at Hemet-Ryan in 2006, when some 30,000 people attended.

"We're going to have a fantastic, family-oriented event out there with a skydiving team, vintage and experimental aircraft, food and drink," said Tom Freeman, spokesman for the Riverside County Economic Development Agency.

It's an opportunity for Riverside County, which owns the airport, to showcase Ryan Air Attack Base. It was there during World War II that thousands of pilots were trained to fly and flying trainers were manufactured.

Air show visitors can also check out an air museum and the supertankers used to fight Inland wildfires.

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**AIRSHOW**

**When:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Hemet-Ryan Airport, 4200 Walden Weaver Road, Hemet

**Admission:** Free

**Information:** [www.hemet-ryanairshow.org](http://www.hemet-ryanairshow.org)

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