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THE TUMBLING BEAR IS BACK IN THE AIR!

Rob Harrison, “The Tumbling Bear,” will be performing at two inland Southern California Airshows, the San Bernardino Planes of Fame - Chino Airshow 2009 on May 16-17 and the Hemet-Ryan Airshow on May 30, 2009. The skies will be filled with action all day long. Both promise to be great family events!

These will be Rob’s second and third airshow performances in Southern California, since a near fatal accident in Modesto, CA May 10, 2008. Rob suffered serious injuries, two broken ankles, broken hand, broken ribs and all kinds of cuts and bruises. Doctors did not expect Rob would walk again, but, he’s worked very hard to get back in the air. He thanks all his friends and fans who have been praying for him and supported him through his recovery.

San Bernardino County Planes of Fame - Chino Airshow 2009 on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17, 2009 in Chino, CA. Gates open at 8 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. General admission is \$20 with one child (5-11) admitted free with each paid adult, ages 5-11 \$5, under age five is free. Advanced discounted tickets are \$16 adults, with one child admitted free and additional children (5-11) for \$4 until May 10th. Active military are admitted free! Parking is free. Not only will you see Rob Harrison The Tumbling Bear, but performances by Silver Wings Wingwalkers, WW2 Fighters, WW2 Bombers, Korean War Jet Fighters, C-17 Globemaster III Demo (first time at this airshow), A-10A Thunderbolt II Demo, plus aviation history up close with static vintage military aircraft and vehicle displays. For additional airshow information and advanced tickets visit the Web site at www.planesoffame.org.

Hemet-Ryan Airshow 2009 on Saturday, May 30, 2009 in Hemet, CA. Gates open at 9 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. Free admission and parking. Joining Rob Harrison The Tumbling Bear will be aerobatic performances by Jon Melby, Doug Jardine and Dr. Frank Donnelly. Bring a lawn chair. No pets please. For additional airshow information visit their Web site at www.hemet-ryanairshow.org.

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The Tumbling Bear, all 6-foot and 240 pounds of him, has been a marquee airshow attraction since 1993 when he made the decision to embark on a new career after 28 years with the United States Forest Service, where he was responsible for the technical aspects of firefighting airplanes and helicopters.

The rarely-seen tumbles and gyrations of his Zlin 50 are now his trademark in the sky. The maneuvers are best described as gyroscopic, created by the gyroscopic effect of the engine and propeller.

An abrupt maneuver in one direction causes a force in a different direction. The plane isn't actually flying; the combination of aerodynamic and gyroscopic forces is what causes the plane to turn and tumble as it does.

None are more enthralled with his airborne acrobatics than the kids; in turn, their reactions seem to give Harrison the most enjoyment.

Wherever the show, he typically is surrounded by youngsters after touching down and responds as would a flying Santa Claus, passing out collector cards, pins, washable tattoos and other personalized giveaways. He signs Tumbling Bear coloring pages downloaded from his Web site, signs whatever else is requested, poses for every photo, answers every question and makes each youngster feel special.

He minces no words when discussion turns to how society today is treating its young. "I think we've made a mistake in depriving our youth of the ability to do darn near anything," he says. "I hope that by watching our show and talking with me about what I do in the sky they learn not what *can't* be done, but what *can* be done.

"We need to give young people positive information and example, which in turn builds their confidence and willingness to experiment. That's how kids find their special talents. We can't be holding them back from such discovery."

Rob Harrison earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at Oregon State, a law degree from La Verne (CA) University and a certificate in flight test engineering from the University of Tennessee Space Institute. He graduated from the Zlin Air School's training in advanced aerobatics in the Czech Republic.

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Rob has five children and nine grandchildren. In 2006, he married Susan, a private pilot herself and Rob's right hand in the hangar and on the flightline. Susan helps preflight the plane and sends Rob off with a kiss before each airshow flight.

During airshows, people often ask Susan "how can you stand there and smile while he's performing such extreme routines?", and she says, "Because I love it and I like flying aerobatics with Rob, too! He is an incredibly talented pilot and I respect what he does." Susan earned her pilot's license 19 years ago, and has flown and owned many types of planes. Between them, the couple shamelessly own five airplanes. At one point, they were up to nine airplanes.

For more on Rob Harrison - The Tumbling Bear, go to www.harrisonairshows.com.

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