

**Special points of interest:**

- **Wednesday January 23—Monthly Meeting**

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President's Message

At a recent helicopter safety conference I was introduced to something new in the realm of "things that can kill you (or at least increase your laundry bill)". Just in case you thought you had heard it all, tell me what you can about **"Peaker Plumes"**. The power companies have solved the problem of peak power demand by adding turbine powered generators which can supply huge amounts of electricity during high demand periods. A great idea, unless you happen to fly over one of the exhaust stacks from one of these huge gas turbine engines. The speaker at the helicopter seminar had a personal experience where he flew over several of these peaker plant stacks located near a coal powered power plant and he thought that he had been struck by another aircraft as his light helicopter tumbled out of control. He made an immediate emergency landing to inspect for damages. When telling this story recently at a MPA state board meeting a fellow pilot commented that he thought that he had a similar encounter in a light aircraft. He described flying along at several thousand feet and suddenly experiencing an un-commanded roll of about ninety degrees with a similar yawing moment, resulting in an alarming loss of altitude. On reflection he now believes that this occurred above a power plant as well. It appears that the heat plume can rise thousands of feet in the air above the power plant with significant vertical velocity which has more than sufficient energy to adversely affect the flight of light fixed and rotary wing aircraft. **BE AWARE!!!!** Soon you may hear from ATC "Caution Peaker Plumes in your vicinity"

fjs



Meeting on Feb. 27, 2013

The February meeting will be at the "normal" location at the Hy-Vee on 40 Highway and Nolan Road.

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Blue Skies



February Program—The State of Aviation at UCM

Tony Monetti will bring the "The State of Aviation at UCM" presentation. We are all interested in the developments of the Aviation Program at the University of Central Missouri.

After 24 years of service, Monetti is officially retiring in July 2012 as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, having directed operations from 2009-2012 for one of two operational B-2 squadrons at Whiteman Air Force Base. He served most recently as the 394th senior advisor – B-2 instructor and evaluator pilot of the B-2 school house. In 24 years of military service, the well-seasoned pilot and combat veteran logged more than 4,000 military flight hours, including flying a B-52 during the initial strike of Operation Desert Storm and the debut of the B-2 stealth bomber in Operation Allied Force. He was one of the initial WAFB pilots to be selected for the B-2 program in 1994, and his distinguished military career has also included flying the B-1, T-38, and T-37. He has experience flying the Boeing 757 commercially, and is a part-owner of a small airline.

Well-known in Warrensburg, Monetti is the owner of Monetti's Pizzeria Ristorante, and is active in the area's community service through projects that have included leadership for improvements to Lion's Lake, and founding with his wife, Penny, Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Johnson County.

As assistant dean, Monetti's duties consists of bringing together the assets of the Department of Aviation and Max B. Swisher Skyhaven Airport and utilizing them in a manner that provides deeper benefits for and a greater impact on students and the local community.