



## ---FUN DESTINATIONS---

NRI Flying Club Inc.

Pismo Beach Adventure (L52) --- by Peter Anderson  
January 2019

Since I got my ticket at the end of September my wife and I have been on a ton of great adventures. From Castle and the air museum to a night flight on Christmas. In the 50 or so hours that I have been flying sans an instructor we still had not been on an overnight adventure. We decided do our first one and embarked on a weekend trip to Pismo Beach. I furiously flight planned and checked weather all week. We ended up with a forecast of clear skies and very little winds aloft and got to fly 07U down there on a beautiful Saturday. Our flight plan took us to the East of class Bravo airspace and then turned South after the busy San Jose corridor. It As we neared the coast we asked ATC about the active MOA areas near Atascadero and since none of them were active that day we cut right through them to the coast. The first glimpse of the coast we captured was coming into Moro Bay. They have a beautiful harbor area and are known for a giant rock that sticks up out of nowhere!! I had never seen it from the air and it worked out great and gave us a great view of the Altamont pass as we went by.



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We started our descent into Oceano airport. This is a tiny little strip planted right in the middle of the Oceano Dunes, or Pismo Beach as it is more famously named. We were greeted coming into the pattern by several pilots flying powered parachute trikes over the sand and landing in the taxiways. It was pretty cool to watch. When we landed we were greeted with a great little airport environment. (Landing- <https://youtu.be/qIZ3hN73G7I>) An old Steerman biplane was parked in front of a hanger and ready to do some aerobatics. My wife really loved the look of the radial engine and snapped a pic. I wish we would have snapped a few more here as it is one of my favorite airports I have ever stopped at.



We dropped our bags off at a hotel named The Inn at The Pier (which was exactly what it was, a beautiful Inn right near the pier). First stop was the world famous clam chowder place called Splash. My wife had been craving it the whole trip and we waited in the massive line to get our fill. It was amazing and worth the wait! We ate it on our hotel balcony. I highly recommend the clam chowder bread bowl. While it is the only thing I have ever had from Splash, it was amazing.

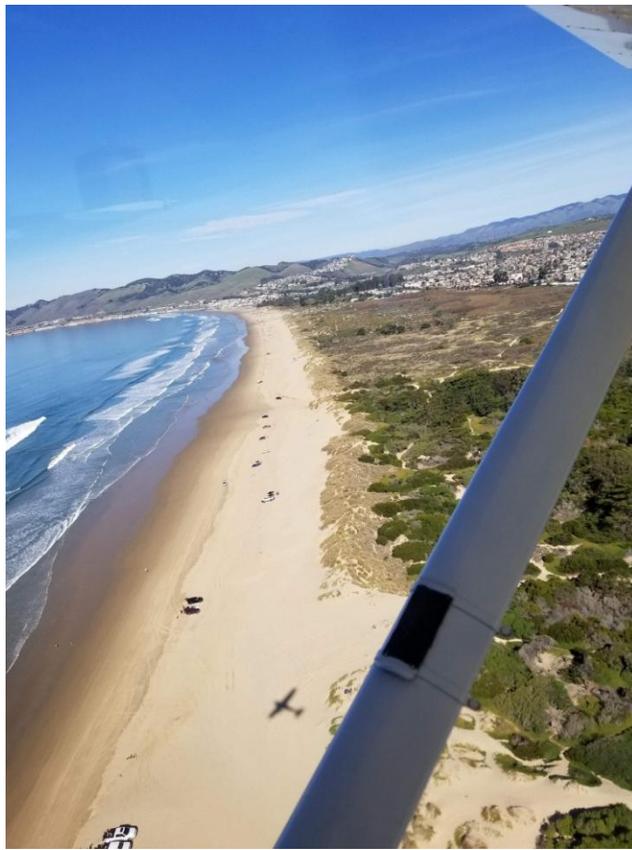


We strolled around downtown and watched a lot of people unsuccessfully fish at the pier. It was a really fun afternoon. We ended our daylight hours by going for a sunset run on the beach. I know, I know, but we had to burn off that clam chowder somehow to make weight and balance the next day :) The views and sights on our run were fantastic. The fog was rolling in as we capped off our run and the sunset was nothing short of sensational. It was truthfully one of the



highlights of the trip.

The next morning we awoke, had some breakfast and then observed all the people trying to catch a glimpse of the Monarch butterflies. Our very knowledgeable Uber driver informed us that once a year over 400,000 of them migrate to Pismo and hang out for a few weeks. There were binoculars and spotting scopes everywhere. And also a few smashed ones on many of the cars. Butterfly strikes are a real thing this time of year in Pismo! We flight planned and took the scenic route home. Following the coastline for a good 45 minutes.



One of my wife's favorite places is Hearst Castle. Its a pretty sizable bachelor pad built over the course of 28 years by a famous guy named William Randolph Hearst. He happened to own a few news outlets back in the day. Since we had to opportunity to fly over we grabbed it. That



made the trip that much more exciting for my wife.

We arrived home shortly after and returned 07U back to the East ramp. This was our first overnight trip, and had been the best trip yet. My wife told me on the way home that it was the kind of trip she had always envisioned when I told her I wanted to learn how to fly. It definitely made me proud to be a pilot. Pismo is a spot we will frequent a few times a year. In NRI's slowest plane it took an hour and 45 minutes to get there. It might be the most scenic and diverse 1:45 minutes I have gotten to experience. The beauty of the cities, the green rolling hills, and the beautiful California coast did not disappoint the eyes!

