

# Tucker pushes the envelope

Pilot Sean Tucker stands next to one of his planes.



THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTO

## Salinas aerobatic pilot to fly with his son at this year's Airshow

### ABOUT SEAN TUCKER

Sean Tucker of Salinas will return to this year's Airshow to fly his Oracle Challenger biplane. He will be joined in the air by his son Eric.

also has captured the Championship Air Show Pilots Association Challenge four times in a row, from 1998 to 2001.

Tucker will be joined in the air by his son Eric, 24, his wingman. Also joining them are two pilots, forming what Sean Tucker calls "The Three Amigos and Pancho."

"It's really cool that (my son) gets to be here with me," Tucker said. "I love sharing the sky with him."

Fans can expect to see Tucker and his crew give a high-flying, edge-of-your-seat performance.

"We're always trying to push the envelope, while at the same time, performing on the safe side of the edge," he said.

Tucker operates the Tutima Academy of Aviation Safety at the Mesa Del Rey airport in King City. The school began in 1997 as the Sean D. Tucker School of Aerobatic Flight.

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THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTO

Sean Tucker practices his aerial acrobatic routine over Salinas Municipal Airport. Tucker will return to this year's event.

By VICTOR CALDERON  
The Salinas Californian

The pilots performing at this year's California International Airshow will make way for one of Salinas' own: pilot Sean Tucker, making a return in his Oracle Challenger biplane.

Tucker said he's honored to be performing in front of his "home" crowd.

"I enjoy the passion of the people who attend every year," he said. "For me to fly in my hometown Airshow — it's great, man."

Since beginning his air show career in the mid-1970s, Sean Tucker has flown more than 700 performances at about 300 air shows, in front of more than 60 million fans. This season alone, he and Team Oracle will entertain about 10 million fans at 25 shows throughout North America.

In 2003, Tucker was named one of the 25 "Living Legends of Flight" by the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. He