

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: Tuesday January 20<sup>th</sup>. Time: 7:30 P.m.  
Veterans Memorial Bldg. (Northwest Room) Across from Fairgrounds

**Get there early for your free door prize raffle ticket!**

[www.wcflyers.com](http://www.wcflyers.com)

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

## 2004 Club Officers:

President: Stevo Smith (707) 523-4703 [bigtex@speakeasy.net](mailto:bigtex@speakeasy.net)



Vice President: Phil Leech (707) 538-8557 [leechstudios@sonic.net](mailto:leechstudios@sonic.net)



Secretary: Larry Miller (707) 577-0496 [exefire@aol.com](mailto:exefire@aol.com)



Treasurer: Tom Haddorff (707) 526-7058 Pic coming soon



Member @ Large Sid Maxwell (707) 584-4428 [airmanx@inreach.com](mailto:airmanx@inreach.com)



## 2004 Board Members

John Reade (707) 545-9831 [john.e.reade@gte.net](mailto:john.e.reade@gte.net)  
Gary Child (707) 579-2325 [garychild@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garychild@sbcglobal.net)  
Guy Nicholas (707) 544-2141 [guy@gui-soft.com](mailto:guy@gui-soft.com)  
Ralph Grella (707) 539-0187

## Newsletter and Website

Newsletter Editor in Chief: Stevo Smith (707) 523-4703 [bigtex@speakeasy.net](mailto:bigtex@speakeasy.net)  
Assistant Editor: Phil Leech (707) 538-8557 [leechstudios@sonic.net](mailto:leechstudios@sonic.net)  
Contributing writers this month: Sid Maxwell, Steve Cole, Phil Leech, sTevo Smith  
Website: Stevo Smith

## *Note from the editor*

submitted by sTevo Smith

I know all of us would like to thank the 2003 Officers and board members for a job well done. A lot of good things were done on behalf of the club to make not only the field a better place but also our meetings more enjoyable. A special thanks goes out to Rob Jensen. He has contributed to the well being of the club by drawing in new members and also by giving discounts for the prizes at our meetings and events. With these discounts we are able to provide higher quality and quantity of prizes than ever before. So from all of us from WCF we want to thank you Red for all your help, support and hard work.

The party was great and if you missed it, well there's always next year. We had a blast.

This month I thought we would make a few changes to the newsletter. Pictures are added of the officers (2004). Didn't mean to jump the gun on the 2003 officers but since we are publishing so late in the month I thought why not. We will try to get pics of all the board members on the website but it might be a few weeks. We also made a change to the structure of the newsletter as to staff. Well not really a change but more defined as to who does what. I will continue as Editor in Chief, Phil Leech will continue as Assistant Editor and then we will have contributing writers each month with Phil and I contributing with that also. This way we should be able to keep the content a little more consistent and not too much overlap among articles. We are also converting the newsletter to a .pdf file for Adobe Acrobat Reader. This should resolve any compatibility issues.

If anyone would like to submit articles please send them to me, sTevo and I will do my best to get them into the letter.

[bigtex@speakeasy.net](mailto:bigtex@speakeasy.net)

We look forward to a great and fun filled new year of flying and hanging out with our buds. See y'all at the field.

sTevo

## *WINE COUNTRY FLYERS CHRISTMAS PARTY 2003*

Submitted by Phil Leech

The Christmas party was held this year at Cattlemen's Restaurant in Montgomery Village this year with 64 members and guests attending. This has got to be a record number for our club. Doug Boucher had made reservations with the restaurant and was the acting EmCee for part of the evening. There was a raffle for the Ladies' gifts which were five Gift Certificates for \$50 each at the Santa Rosa Mall. And the winners were: Suzanne Cole, Donna Locatell, Victoria Carlson and Shay Tankerley.

Next was a the presentation of Certificates of appreciation for Club Officers for 2003 and included,

Tom Haddorff - Treasurer  
Red Jensen - Vice President  
Larry Miller - Secretary  
Steve Cole - President.

The raffle for the pilots prizes was conducted by Gary Child and Red Jensen and started with Phil Heidt and Duane Hope winning Park Flyers. Then was the ticket from the table with large prizes and Phil Leech won a 8103 JR radio. This was followed by Don Bais and Brody Carlson who won Park Flyers. The next big gift winner was Ralph Grella who picked the Horizon Hobbies F4u Corsair. Art Sutter came next and picked the JR radio case, followed by Loren Fong with a Park Flyer. The next big gift was won by Jim Montgomery who walked away with a Saito 100 from the large prize table. Ryan Muehlbauer won a Park Flyer and so did Kurt Hiner, Bob Nellor, Jerry Williams and Stevo Smith. Eddie Garcia won an OS two stroke with Gary Child winning a Park Flyer followed by Larry Miller with a Tiger 2 ARF. Ken Melani and John Stoufer went home with Park Flyers also. Dino House walked off with an A6M Zero and Mike Martin got a Flight Pack. That was the end of the best prizes but Gary announced that all the

remaining members would each get a gallon of fuel if they take their tickets down to Hangar One Hobbies. So, none of the guys left without winning something!

Merit Certificates were awarded by Steve Cole to: Stevo Smith Newsletter, Gary Child – By Laws, John Reade – Field Maintenance, Phil Leech – for whatever, and Sid Maxwell – new float pond and Field Maintenance.

The “Passing of the Gavel” ceremony was conducted and our new President, Stevo Smith had a few encouraging words for 2004 and closed the party with MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

## FLYER OF THE MONTH LARRY FRANK

Submitted by Sid Maxwell

When you find a club member that is hard working, sincere, dedicated and loves to fly, you will find Larry Frank. For 14 years Larry has been giving his time and hard work for the improvement and progress of the WCF. His love for the club, RC and scale building has been an inspiration to everyone.



Larry Frank was born in 1921 in Los Angeles. Moving many times from LA to Baltimore over the years he joined the Army Air Corps in 1942. He was discharged in 1946 and bummed around the country for 2 years. Then he settled in LA and started a career as a machinist that would last 43 years, with the last 31 years owning his own tool company. Larry moved to Santa Rosa from Chico in 1963 and started the, "Santa Rosa Tool Co". He retired in 1989. Then became interested in RC. While living at his lake front property he decided to build a 5 ft. electric boat. "A destroyer." . It wasn't very exciting because it

never left the water. Then he built a PBY with a 8 ft. wing and (2) .61 engines. Well it never flew so he put it on display . Now the RC bug had bitten and he was hooked. So here was Larry, retired, 70 years old and ready to learn to fly RC. He started with a good teacher, Doug Boucher, a buddy cord and, a “don't give up attitude”. I asked Larry how he learned to fly he said, "the hard way but I kept at it until I learned". It took Larry 6 months to solo but he told me how it was for him "The flying skills went up to a point when you are in your 70's your reflexes change, you get so sharp then you fall to pieces. Your learning process can be slow". Larry also had a good teacher at the lake, but he had to fly in a cow pasture. Larry's favorite RC is scale building airplanes. Scratch building and even scratch drawing the plans for his own airplanes. Most of his planes.....no one has ever heard of. "I have built so many planes I can't remember how many," he said "but I've built about 20 scale planes". He joined the WCF in 1989 and has been an active member until recently having trouble with his health. He has been President, Vice President and Board member. I asked him what he liked about the WCF. "The ability to get up and do what you want to do and fly model airplanes. I think it's great, that's why I've stayed with it for 14 years. I asked Larry what advice he could give. “Be congenial and then work everything out, that's a good step forward". For beginners he said, "start with a good flat bottom wing trainer, don't give up and have fun. Larry has trained a number of people to fly and says, "I just enjoy getting up there to fly and just having fun". I asked him about his flying now, "If I get my health back, I'll go fly, until then.....", "For a final word he said, "don't look back, look forward and have fun". Then he showed me a sign he kept on his desk. It said, "Standing still is preparatory to sliding backwards". Larry has been married to his wife Dorothy for 53 years and they have 3 boys, the youngest is 40. When you look back at Larry's enjoyment of the WCF, RC,

all the things he has accomplished and the new projects he is working on now, you see a true desire to forward the progress of RC Larry Frank, "The one and only".  
as told to .....sid maxwell

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2003

The final board meeting of the year was called to order at 7:30 pm. All board members were present. They included Steve Cole, Rob Jensen, Larry Miller, Tom Haddorff, Phil Leech, Stevo Smith, Gary Child, John Reade, Guy Nicholas, and Mike Cingari.

One last discussion of the upcoming Christmas party was held to make sure everything was coming together as it should. After a review of the club finances, Steve Cole made a motion that we spend a few more dollars on gifts. This was seconded by Stevo Smith and the resulting vote was unanimously in favor.

The proposed new Bylaws were reviewed by the board and accepted as written. A copy will be made available to all members by either Email or snail mail and they will also be made available at the next general meeting. The membership is encouraged to look them over and offer any concerns or suggestions they might have prior to a vote on adoption.

In order to comply with the bylaws, there will be a sign-in sheet at all future general meetings, so don't forget to sign in when you come in the door and pick up your door prize ticket.

Several members have expressed concern over an unusual amount of radio interference at the flying field. We will be investigating this further but until then, all flyers should check their radios before each flight as a safety precaution.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Miller, Sec.

## FEARLESS FLYER "FLYING WITH BEST"

submitted by Sid Maxwell

The first time I came to Alexander Valley Field it was 1999. At first look I thought it was all grass but then I saw it was the second best thing. How beautiful it was that day. It was spring and everything was green. There were about 10 guys flying. I sat at a table with 4 guys and as we talked I noticed something different, a different feeling, something unusual, something good. The following visits were all the same. I would visit 3 or 4 times a year seeing relatives in the area. Then in 2003 I joined the WCF and as I met the many members and really got to know them I realized what that something was.....you guys are the BEST!!! I found myself in a flying club with the best guys ever. I have been in 7 flying clubs since I started flying in 1992 and you are the best. I haven't met anyone in the club that doesn't add enjoyment to flying, club activities, and just having fun. You guys are the best and I am glad to be part of it. So Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and all your smiling faces, so let's fly.....see you there  
sid maxwell

## Field Happenings

By: Phil Leech

This past month or so has been something less than great what with all of the wet weather and the Sundays that the Transfer Station has been closed but we have just had to make the best of it. We'll be looking forward to the removal of the "mounds" as promised to Red Jensen by Bob Simi of the Sonoma County Waste Removal Dept. in the near future...we hope.

A few weeks ago I participated in an impromptu "Work Party" just before Thanksgiving. I was at the field with Sid Maxwell to fly but it turned out to be too windy for me anyway. Sid had asked me if I would help him install a section of new Safety Fence and I had replied, "Sure if it doesn't take too long". Sid had stored

several roles of new fencing and promptly pulled out a roll. "Well. Let's do it", Sid said. John Stoufer was present and he mentioned that his wife was busy shopping and he didn't have anything better to do so he jumped in too. Kurt Hiner was there too trying to fly in the windy weather and soon he wandered over to see what we were up to. I had brought wire cutters along and Sid had a bag of cable ties to secure the new fencing. It wasn't long until the four of us were making good progress and had completed the North section of the Safety Fence.

John Stoufer was really getting into the project and said, "Hey, this is going great, let's get another roll out and do another section". "Well, OK", I thought, "maybe this won't take too long". After completing that section I could have anticipated what John was going to come up with next when he called out, "Hey, why don't we just do the whole thing?" So what started out to be just a small effort turned out to be doing **the whole thing!** Oh well, it was a nice day even if it was pretty windy and I was with my buddies so who could say no. Not me. I wouldn't have missed it for anything!

I thought it would be a nice idea since it is at the end of the 2003 flying season to have a look back at the year to see just how many new pilots we have trained and soloed. So, here is a list of all of the guys that have soloed this past year and some who had flown some time ago and have returned to our field to be sort of re-certified. Here's the list. Joe Geiger, Jerry Williams, Duane Hope, John Stoufer, Bob Rose, Alex Sherrill, John Wolfe, Don Bais, Brian Blackburn, Brody Carlson, Bob Sherrill & son Alec and John Lehtio. OK, so we have twelve members trained at about one per month and I guess we can look at it like what the club has accomplished for the year (not to mention having a whole lot of fun). Anyway, there were a number of instructors that participated in all this training including: Tom Haddorff, Gary Child, Steve Cole, Stevo Smith, Mike Cingari, Art Sutter, John Reade, Red Jensen, Stan Adkins, Ryan Muehlenbauer, Dale Chiaroni and Julio Alvarez! I'm not sure that I haven't left out

someone and will try to put more effort into verifying this info for 2004. There were also a number of guys who were working toward solo that haven't made it yet that we hope to see in the "Solo" column for this coming year!

## MINUTES GENERAL MEETING

November 17, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Steve Cole.

We had 30 members present for the meeting.

The drawing for the door prize was held first with John Reade winning a gallon of fuel.

This was followed by the Secretary's report which was accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Next was the Treasurer's report by Tom Haddorff and approved by the membership.

President Cole thanked all the members who showed up to help out with the placement of the new astro turf at the field. It was announced that all preparations for the Christmas party were complete and a great time was expected to be had by all with plenty of prizes and awards to be given out.

Sid Maxwell reported that he had carpeted a number of tables at the field and that work on the new fencing was coming along nicely. He also informed us that one of the shade canopy's had been blown down during the last big wind storm and was pretty much destroyed. We will be looking into replacing it before next spring. They are usually taken down and put into storage at the end of the flying season each year but it was apparently overlooked this fall.

We have a new great looking wind sock flying at the field thanks to Joe Gieger. Sid also reported on the combat exhibition he hosted at the field recently. There were 55 people in attendance and it sounds like everyone had a lot of fun.

Brody Carlson was presented with a solo certificate after completing the flight training program in record time. Son, Brody Jr., was on hand to watch the presentation.

**News concerning flying days at the field; after Thanksgiving, the field will be closed on Sundays until the end of the year.** This is an attempt by the county to save money. The election of new officers for next year was held with the following results: President- Stevo Smith, Vice President- Phil Leech. Secretary- Larry Miller, Treasurer- Tom Haddorff, and Member-At-Large, Sid Maxwell. The new board of directors will be appointed by the new president for 2004.

There was a discussion on revising our flight training program to bring it up to date and to make it easier for instructors to evaluate the progress of the students.

Next was the highlight of the evening, the 50/50 raffle. This month the jackpot was worth \$92.00. And the lucky winner was-----Sid Maxwell. We also had a nice kit and numerous other prizes awarded to a bunch of other winners. It pays to come to the meetings. They are fun and can be quite profitable.

For show and tell, Chuck Green brought in his scratch built model of a DC-1, the twin engine prototype to the well known DC-3. Chuck did a lot of research on this aircraft and gave an interesting presentation on it's development. John Stoufer brought in an interesting model, too. It was a high speed boat. This baby was huge and had two modified gas engines for power. Even though this is primarily an aircraft oriented club, John says this boat really flies across the water so I guess it was appropriate. I think more people were interested in the boat than any of the aircraft there.

That's it for this month. The final board meeting of the year will be Tuesday, Dec. 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

## FEARLESS FLYER FLYING WITH BEST

Submitted by Sid Maxwell

The first time I came to Alexander Valley Field it was 1999. At first look I thought it was all grass but then I saw it was the second best thing. How beautiful it was that day. It was spring and everything was green. There were about 10 guys flying. I sat at a table with 4 guys and as we talked I noticed something different, a different feeling, something unusual, something good. The following visits were all the same. I would visit 3 or 4 times a year seeing relatives in the area. Then in 2003 I joined the WCF and as I met the many members and really got to know them I realized what that something was.....you guys are the BEST!!! I found myself in a flying club with the best guys ever. I have been in 7 flying clubs since I started flying in 1992 and you are the best. I haven't met anyone in the club that doesn't add enjoyment to flying, club activities, and just having fun. You guys are the best and I am glad to be part of it. So Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and all your smiling faces, so let's fly.....see you there

**sid maxwell**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Submitted by Steve Cole

In the beginning, there was uncertainty as to what lies in front of me in 2003 as President of WCFlyers. I reflected back on this past year to how the club grew, and feel I can leave with satisfaction knowing I had a small part in making the club a better place for others.

I did not get there without the help of some dedicated people: Red



Jensen, Larry Miller, Tom Haddorff, Phil Leech, John Reade and Stevo Smith to name a few. Without these people and countless others, 2003 would not have been as successful as it was.

In the process, I had a great time, met a lot of great people and learned a lot about the club. Although, we didn't accomplish everything we set out to do this year, we covered the majority of the items on the list. One of these items includes the Christmas party. There was a good time had by all. Want to thank everyone who attended and helped make it an occasion to remember!

For the upcoming year, I know Stevo has some new ideas and enthusiasm to make the club even better. So show your support! As Stevo gets the club up and running, I will be spending much needed time with my family and will be doing a few things around the house. That includes working on a few kits ☺. In closing just wanted to say I had a lot of fun being president. Possibly in the future I could do it again. Perhaps, we will have a California recall. ☺

Hope I have served you well.

Sincerely,  
Steve Cole

(This next article was meant for last month's newsletter but due to size limitations it was omitted so here it is this month, enjoy)

## COMBAT EXHIBITION

Submitted by Sid Maxwell

It was a hot muggy day on October 26, 2003. Temperature hovering around 98 degrees. Eight Colonels reported to the Ready Room ready for combat. We were to fly 5 rounds 4 minutes each with 2 minutes to get in the air. We ended up with 3 rounds 4 minutes each with a possible 100 points for a perfect round. In the first round Brian Rankin flew a perfect round with 2 cut streamers to take the lead. In the second round Brian broke a muffler bolt and had to retire. Red Jensen flew a perfect round with 2 cut streamers to take the lead. In the third round Red flew another perfect round with one cut streamer to win the round and the Exhibition. Julio Alvarez and Gary Child had a

mid-air with Julio's plane crashing while Gary's plane continued to fly and land for an extra 25 points for flying after a mid-air. Trophies for the Exhibition, which was 3 large rocks came from the trophy room in Phil Leech's back yard. I would like to thank all 8 combat pilots for joining in the Exhibition. A big thank you to Phil Leech and Brian Blackburn for keeping score, we couldn't do it without you. Also another big thank you to all the 55 people who attended.

Exhibition Results.....1. Red Jensen 2. Garry Child 3. Bob Film 4. Brian Rankin 5. Sid Maxwell 6. Julio Alvarez 7. Andrew Tickle 8. Kevin Rankin All Colonels ---be aware. there will be another combat Exhibition soon. Get your combat planes ready. sharpen your combat skill. Be ready and let's dog fight. Take the challenge----- fly combat  
Colonel sid maxwell

## TIMELY TIPS

Submitted by Sid Maxwell

After you put that beautiful covering on your model then you spill some CA glue all over it and you think it's a mess. Get a bottle of "Debonder", put a little on a paper towel and rub it right off. Wipe it clean and you are brand new again. Then if there is glue all over your fingers and it won't wash off don't wait for it to wear off, get a "pumice stone" from your hobby shop or the hardware store and you can wash and rub it right off with soap and water in seconds.

sid maxwell

## *The Hangar*

Submitted by sTevo Smith

Here we are at the end of yet another year. Goes by fast "*don't it*"? Hmmm that sounds like "*doughnut*". Anyway not much of an article this time but wanted to add some pics taken by Phil's wife, Ann Leech. Thanks Ann.

Also would like to thank Steve Cole for doing such a great job of leadership as 2003 President. Everyone on the board put forth a great effort and should be proud of the accomplishments made this year.

Going into 2004 those of us serving want to do our best to continue the momentum. We have a few things up our sleeves to help contribute towards 2004 being another great year for the club.

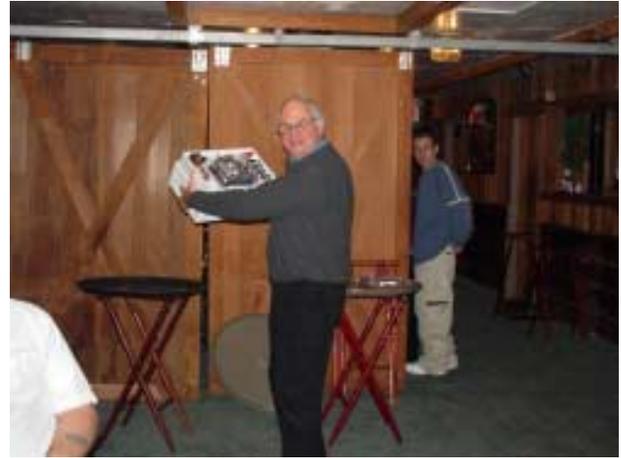
Remember that this club belongs to us all and every little bit someone can contribute helps everyone. Special thanks to Sid Maxwell who not only has been providing articles to this rag but has found us a new Float Pond, and also organized putting up our new safety fence near the runway.

I know we have missed saying thanks to several of you so hope this catches anyone else who helped out, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Happy Holidays to all,  
STevo



The prize everyone wanted

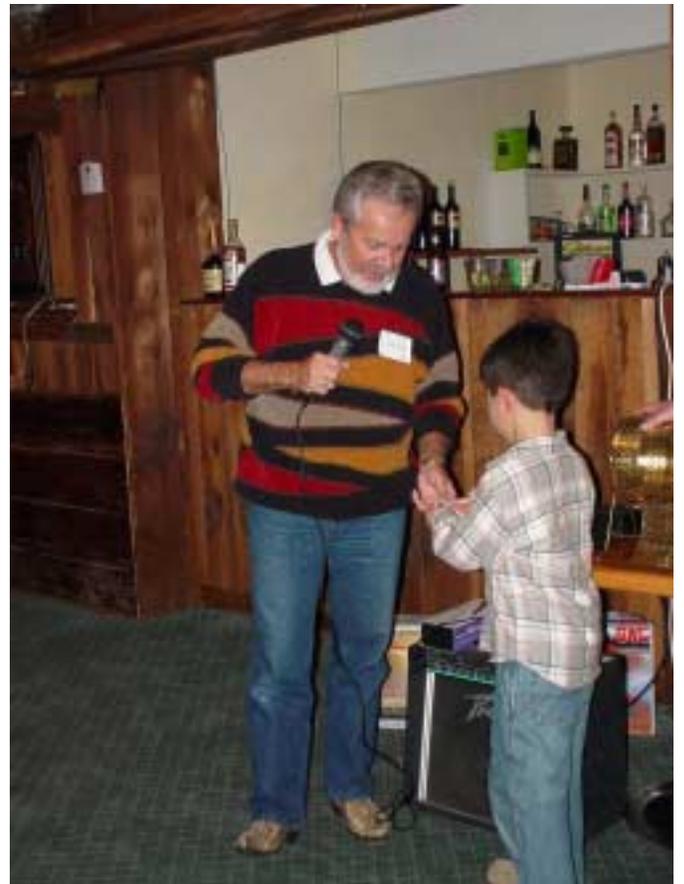


Red was taking a little nap





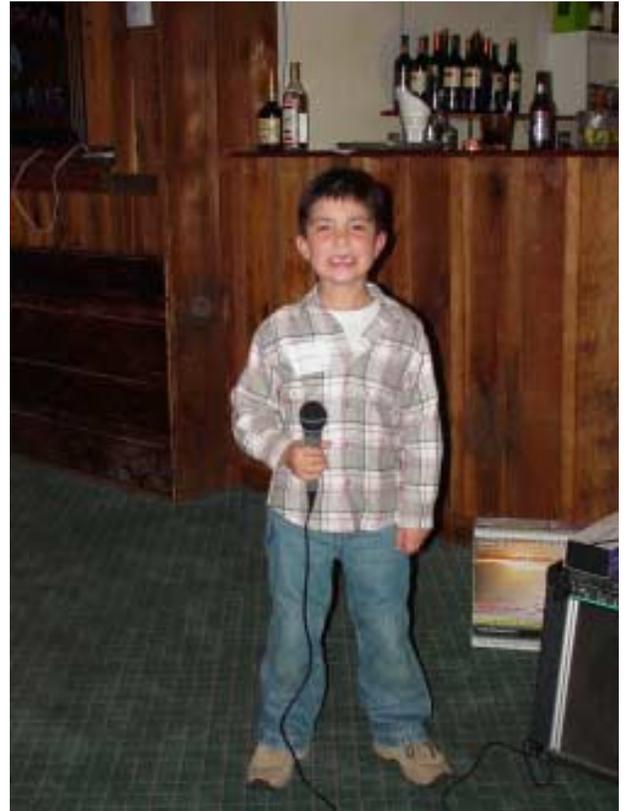
Little Brody helping Gary



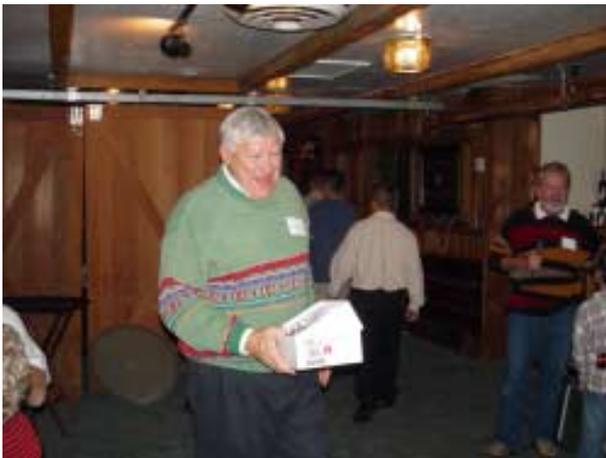
Larry Miller smiling



10 Thank you, thank you very much. You've been a great audience



A Saito 100, good choice.....wait a minute, who is this?



Even the ladies had a great time



# EVENTS CALENDAR 2004



Coming soon	
-------------	--

Happy Holidays from all of us at Wine Country Flyers.



**P.O. BOX 4198  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95402**