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Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 17th

Time: 7:30 Pm

Veterans Memorial Bldg. (North Room) Across from Fairgrounds

Get there early for your free door prize raffle ticket!

2002 Club Officers:

President:	Kevin Riecke	(415) 898-1174	
Vice President:	Larry Childs	(707) 794-8487	
Secretary:	Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557	
Treasurer:	Tom Haddorff	(707) 526-7058	
Newsletter Editors:	Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557	leechstudios@sonic.net
	Stevo Smith	(707) 523-4703	stevocs@yahoo.com
Events Coordinator:	Ron Amrein	(707) 526-4316	

EDITOR'S NOTE

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom Nowelsky for taking care of the Newsletter for the past several months. He has done a great job and we know it will be a challenge to fill his shoes.

However, that being said, we do need to fill these shoes and we need some help. If you have some digital photos of current or past projects from your hangar (or pics, stories from the field) we would love to share them. If you could attach a short description along with the photos that would be great.

Any news that you come across that you would like to share with other members such as new solo flyers, spectacular crashes or any other cool stuff please send them in to either Stevo or Phil. E-Mail, Voice Mail any kind of mail just send something.

**WINE COUNTRY FLYERS
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2002**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by President Kevin Riecke with 24 members present.

The door prize was a model kit won by Dave Locatell.

For "New Members" Jordan Strong was introduced and was accompanied by his father Jerry. Scott Alderson was also introduced and he was accompanied by his mother Darcy and his brother Clayton.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Kevin announced that Tom Nowelsky has resigned his position of Newsletter Editor and asked the membership to help form a committee dedicated to publishing the Wine Country Flier. Stevo Smith indicated his willingness to help out.

TREASURERS REPORT

Tom Haddorff gave a detailed financial report and told us that the current membership is up to 111 members.

SECRETARIES REPORT

Phil Leech told of attending the County Supervisors meeting that reviewed out Land Use Permit for the Healdsburg Site. Supervisor Paul Kelley commented that there had been noise complaints and that it looked like the Town of Healdsburg would likely be more involved in the future. Nevertheless, the vote was 5-0 in favor of continuing our use of the site.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry Miller gave us an update on the upcoming PCAM event scheduled for

August 24-25. He reviewed the schedule of flying that is to begin at 9:30 each morning and extend until 10:00 AM. The short 30 minute time frame will allow only about 3 – 10 minute flights. Larry plans to be at the site at 2:00 PM Friday setting up our display. Larry distributed free WCF T-shirts for all those members who will help with our booth and display.

NEW BUSINESS

Chuck Green told us about a program the County has to promote activities for kids aged K through 12. Chuck explained that if we are to participate we must submit a proposal by October 31, 2002. Doug Boucher and Joe Olson indicated that they would like to serve on a committee chaired by Chuck to help prepare the proposal. Since the activities for kids would be on an "after school" basis it would require a new flying site because the Healdsburg field must close at 3:30 PM. Chuck has been investigating a site on Highway 12 near Sebastopol.

Chuck also asked that a motion be presented to allow him to construct a floating dock at the Hansen water site. The dock would be approx. 6' x 10' and would cost \$400 to \$500.

A brief discussion re: securing the dock and construction details resulted in unanimous support for the project.

THE RAFFLE

The "Half Cash" (\$38) was won by Larry Miller. Other winners were: Mickey McCracken, Phil Heidt, Kevin Riecke, Joe Kagan, Phil Leech, Tom Haddorff, Joe Olson, Stevo Smith, Scott Alderson and John Reade.

SHOW AND TELL

Kevin Riecke brought in his completed F8F Bearcat. Kevin has finished the model in colors and trim once used by Lyle Shelton. The plane is white with purple trim colors and sports the number "77" that Kevin painstakingly cut out by hand. The model has an air driven retract system and is powered by a YS 91. Kevin told us about his positive experiences with buying model kits and equipment on the Net. He hasn't flown the plane yet but expects to in the near future. See you at the field!

Doug Boucher brought a series of pictures that he took at a recent scale event held in

Oregon. Doug explained how the scale event is scored with both a Static Score and a Flying Score. Overall Doug came out pretty well and feels that he can successfully compete in future events. The models in the pix looked fabulous and it was apparent that these were very serious modelers.

REFRESHMENTS

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 with refreshments and bull sessions at the rear of the room.

A NEW DOCK FOR THE HANSON WATER SITE

On Friday August 30 six of our members gathered at the Hanson Water Site (on East Side Road) to assemble and construct a new dock that can be used to launch and retrieve Seaplane model aircraft. Chuck Green engineered and the project and had much of the dock pre-cut, pre-drilled and ready for assembly. Assisting Chuck were Bob Film, Joe Olson, Gil Delagnes, Jeff Costa and Phil Leech. Chuck had things so well organized and prepared that the guys had it complete, in the water and fitted with a hinged walk-board before noon. Gil Delagnes initiated the dock with a flight with his Sig Astro Hog fitted with floats. Gil has had the Astro Hog for several years and the model has well over 200 flights on it. The plane looked great taking off from the pond. Hope more of our members will become familiar with this great flying site.

Here's a shot of the new dock. Looks like Jeff Costa is enjoying it already. He seems to be demonstrating the proper way to drain your plane. haha.

(Photo courtesy of Jeff Costa)



PCAM

The August 24 & 25 Wings Over Wine Country Airshow has come and gone. This years theme "The Sound of Freedom" seemed very appropriate considering what this country has been through this year. Many Military aircraft participated in this years show including the USAF F 117 doing a few dramatic flybys. Is it just me or does that plane look like it should not fly. Very impressive.

The static display was just as impressive as we were able to get "up close and personal" with the aircraft and speak with some of the pilots. It was a great show indeed.

Lets not forget our very own impressive display booth. There was quite a crowd gathered through out the day at the Wine Country Flyers booth with all kinds of questions being asked and answered. The only disappointment of the two days was our being denied access to put on our flight demo. Maybe next year but special thanks to those that were ready to go.

None of this would be possible without volunteers to man the booth so the club would like to thank Larry Miller, Doug Boucher, Dave Locatell, Jeff Costa, John Reade, Steve Cole, Mike Cingari, Guy Nicholas, and Phil Leech and any other members who stopped by to help out. Also thanks to Chris Setting for the turbine jet display. That was very impressive and really drew a crowd every time it cranked up. At 17 lbs. of thrust and a cost around 2500.00 I don't think too many of us will be using one any time soon. Okay, I know what your thinking. Yes your Utter Chaos or the Voodoo would really rock with that on it.

NEXT EVENT: NEIL TAYLOR DAY

Earmark Sunday, September 22, 2002 for the Neil Taylor BBQ and Family Picnic. This is our traditional, annual event for all of us to invite our wives, kids, girlfriends, friends, and neighbors to our flying field to show them what we do and where we do it on all of the weekends that we are away "doing our thing". There will be a series of demonstration flights scheduled and we will all be encouraged to do our own fun flying. There will be gliders for the kids and flowers for the Moms. The BBQ tent will be open with free burgers, dogs, chili, chips and cookies along with soft drinks and water for all.

The event is dedicated to the memory of Neil Taylor who initiated this event with the idea of letting the public know what we are about. We hope the spirit of his ideas is alive and well at the Alexander Valley Airport today!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Doug Boucher and Larry Miller will Co-Direct this year's annual Christmas Party. Doug must know somebody on the inside at Cattlemen's Restaurant in Montgomery Village because he has been able to secure a spot for us on Saturday, December 14 with cocktails at 4:30 and dinner at 6:00. In past years we have had to take dates in January because of the fierce competition with Company Christmas parties for dates in December. So, Hats Off! to Doug for getting us lined up so early!

LOST AT THE FIELD

Gary Geving is a new member of our club. You may have seen him at the field with one of his numerous planes, a Pitts, P-51, PT-19. Gary has lost a new combo starter/battery that he forgot one afternoon.

This is a really nice unit that someone supposedly placed in the Impound Shed with the thought that it would make its way to Hangar One. Does anyone know the whereabouts of said starter?

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Art Sutter has joined our group. Art works in Walnut Creek and can fly only on weekends.

He is a new flyer and will need lots of instruction. Welcome aboard!

Hai Nguyen was laid off from his High Tech job a few months ago and has been looking ever since. He has been forced to give up the search in the Bay Area and is going to give it a try in the Los Angeles Area. Hai will be remembered for his amazing 3-D aerobatics, his exotic airplanes and his generosity to many of us in many ways.

Richard Lange has worked for the same company for the past 16 years but the recession has come knocking and Richard had to choose between staying with his company and staying in Sonoma County. A hard choice but Richard has chosen the company and will be residing in Carson City, NV. with his wife, Jean. They both spent a lot of time at the field with Richard flying Helis and Mutli-Engine planes. We all wish them the best.

The meeting was held at the home of Larry Childs and was called to order at 8:00 PM. Members present included Tom Haddorff, Larry Childs, Gary Child, Larry Miller, Steve Cole, Stevo Smith and Phil Leech.

Tom Haddorff presented the Board with a signed Land Use "Amendment" from the County of Sonoma, Real Estate Division that allows us to use the Healdsburg field through April 14, 2007 for the fee of \$105/month (an increase of \$20/month). The agreement is "Revocable" by the County at any time and they are required to give us only five days notice! Oh well.

The upcoming Neil Taylor Day event was discussed and it was decided to move the date to Sunday, September 22, 2002. It was felt that more members and their families would be able to attend on Sunday.

It was stressed that Neil Taylor Day is supposed to be a day for flyers and their friends, neighbors and families. It is centered around a free BBQ for all. Demonstration flights are planned and possibly some races and combat flying. Gliders for the kids and flowers for the Moms will be part of the program.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

Steve Cole made a presentation for Robbie Jensen that revolves around an idea that Robbie had as he realized that there was a lot of public disappointment in the fact that we weren't allowed to fly at PCAM. Robbie is suggesting that we plan toward a Model Airshow 2003! Robbie is volunteering to head a committee and will also be the Airshow announcer/Emcee. Demonstration flights like the ones planned for PCAM will be central to the plan but other ideas such as air races and combat flying and maybe some turbine jets might be a part of the program. There was some discussion of finding a site available for just one day that we can secure "Event Insurance" from AMA that is not expensive and readily available. This idea will require a lot of coordination, planning and work from the membership but it would probably be the most exciting event of the year with the promise of becoming an Annual Event.

The interest in the Airshow idea prompted memories of "Quickie Races" that were based on "Scat Cat" models powered by 40 sized bushed engines around pylons with a pace plane and the racers in formation until the pace plane drops out and the "Race is on".

Stevy Smith and I are working on the September Newsletter and plan to publish it the week of Sept 9-13. Tom Haddorff is planning to come up with mailing labels based on the current roster.

Larry Miller announced that he is planning to order more Hats and Shirts to have available to the membership in the near future.

He also announced that he and Doug Boucher have formed a committee of two to plan the Christmas Party. Probably none too soon as booking for seasonal parties can be tight.

Tom Haddorff submitted a Treasurer's report that indicates we currently have 111 members. Tom asked for clarification about policy for dues paid by new members who have recently joined. Larry Miller explained that there should be a pro-rated reduction for each month after June for Adult members. Tom is planning to send checks to those who have recently paid for full year and should receive an adjusted rebate.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

See ya next month
Phil & sTevo