

February 2004 Issue

Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: Tuesday February 17th. 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

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

2004 Club Officers:

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



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



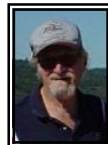
Secretary: Larry Miller (707) 577-0496 exefire@aol.com



Treasurer: Tom Haddorff (707) 526-7058



Member @ Large Sid Maxwell (707) 584-4428 airmanx@inreach.com



2004 Board Members

Brody Carlson	(707) 545-8272 brody@connectionsit.com
John Reade	(707) 545-9831 john.e.reade@gte.net
Gary Child	(707) 579-2325 garychild@sbcglobal.net
Guy Nicholas	(707) 544-2141 guy@gui-soft.com
Ralph Grella	(707) 539-0187 rgrella@msn.com

Newsletter and Website

Newsletter Editor in Chief:	Stevo Smith	(707) 523-4703 bigtex@speakeasy.net
Assistant Editor	Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557 leechstudios@sonic.net
Contributing writers this month	Sid Maxwell, Phil Leech, sTevo Smith, Larry Miller	
Website:	Patrick O'Halloran / Stevo Smith	

Note from the editor

submitted by sTevo Smith

You will probably recognize this first paragraph from last month's letter but time is running out so thought I'd run it again.

"It's time again to renew our dues. The rules are the same, no pay, no fly. We have until the end of February and after that there will be a 50 dollar late fee added to your dues. Also you will forfeit any work points that you had for the previous year so no discounted dues. This should be plenty of time for everyone to get their dues paid and also their AMA renewed. So get out the check books and cut that check and just get it over with so you don't have to worry about it. If you need to make special arrangements you can contact any of the board members and we will try to work something out with you."

COMBAT AIR SQUADRON

Submitted by Sid Maxwell

Well combat pilots, it's that time of year again. Winter is winding down and spring is coming. The Squadron will have their first practice session on March 6 with another one to follow if need be. April 25 will be our first Combat Exhibition. We now have 23 Colonels in the Squadron with 4 new additions.

Colonel Larry Miller

Colonel Tom Haddroff

Colonel Bob Rose

Colonel Patrick O'Halloran

You will find the events calendar in this month's newsletter along with the combat procedure rules. It's looks like we are in for a lot of fun this year so get those combat planes ready. We can use all the combat pilots we can find.

Take the challenge-----
-----fly combat

sid maxwell

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2004

Submitted by Larry Miller, Sec

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice President Phil Leech. Members present were Tom Haddorff, Larry Miller, Gary Child, Guy Nicholas, Sid Maxwell, Ralph Grella, John Reade, and Brody Carlson & son.

Sid passed out the proposed schedule of events for the upcoming year. This will be published in the next newsletter.

Ralph announced that he is working on the full scale flyover for the Opening Day Air Show and picnic.

Sid mentioned that if Art Sutter has another picnic at his house that it will probably be the first weekend of August. Gary and Brody gave us an update on the proposed changes in our flight training program. They are still working on this project.

Tom announced that, as of this date, we have 88 members signed up so far this year.

We held a discussion on some proposed changes to the bylaws. A vote to finalize them will soon be held at an upcoming general meeting if there is no more input. Sid showed us some new flight station number plates he has made up to hang on the fence to replace the ones on the ground that everyone keeps tripping over. They should be in place shortly.

John volunteered the use of his generator for any future events where one may be needed.

Sid stated that he would like to take over the T-shirt, hat, and jacket concession.

These will be offered for sale at future meetings and at the field.

Ralph volunteered to procure the prizes for the meetings. He and Tom discussed the budget for these items.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Miller, Sec.

MINUTES GENERAL MEETING 1/20/04

The meeting was called to order by President Stevo Smith at 7:30 pm.

There were 37 members present.

New member and guests were introduced to the membership.

The first order of business was to hold the door prize drawing. This month's prize was a Flashpoint infrared temperature gauge which was won by Ken Melani.

Phil Leech announced that reservations for next year's Christmas party have been made. It will again be held at Cattleman's on December 11th, so mark your calendars.

The membership thanked Sid Maxwell for all the work he has done at the field.

Stevo reported that much progress is being made on updating the club website.

Treasurer's report was given by Ton Haddorff and approved by the membership. He also reported that we ended up with a total of 109 members last year.

The Secretary's report was approved as printed in the newsletter.

J.T. Williams and Ralph Grella volunteered to be on the audit committee for this year.

On the subject of new awnings for the field, Larry Frank suggested we check on the internet to see what there is to offer. Brody Carlson and Steve Cole will be working on this project and should have a report soon.

Gary Child gave an explanation of the new bylaws to the members present and asked them to bring any questions or comments to the next meeting. If you have not yet received a copy of them, contact any club officer or board member and we will get one to you or there will be copies available at the next general meeting.

Larry Frank will be looking into getting a copy of our incorporation documents which have apparently been misplaced over the years.

Ralph Grella brought up some suggestions as to what to do with any more astro turf that we can come up with.

John Reade presented Phil Leech with his overdue solo certificate.

A discussion was held on whether to continue with the 50/50 portion of the raffle or use the money to buy more prizes. This was tabled until the next meeting. It was also suggested that we limit the prizes to one per member per meeting. This we implemented affective this evening by unanimous vote.

Affective immediately, any updates such as change of address, phone number, e-mail address, etc. be sent to either Stevo or Guy Nicholas.

May 15th has been set for the Opening Day Picnic and Fly In. Rob gave us a rundown of what he has planned. Along with model demonstrations there will also be a full scale warbird flyby. He is also working with Steve Cole on updating the flight training program.

New Solo. Guy Nicholas has decided that there is more to this hobby than just helicopters and has taken up flying airplanes.

Sid Maxwell announced that the first combat event is scheduled for April 25th. If you don't want to fly in it, come on out and watch the fun. He could also use some help keeping score for the event.

Raffle time. The 50/50 jackpot of \$97.00 was won by Sid Maxwell, a well deserved win. Other winners were Stevo, a tool caddy, Gary Child, a park flyer, Kurt Hiner, an airplane hanger for the wall, Rob got a Ni-starter. John Lehtio, Guy Nicholas, and several other members also walked away with some nice prizes.

For Show and Tell, Larry Frank brought in his latest scratch built subject and gave a great talk on scratch building your next aircraft.

Rob gave us the low down on Quickie 500 racing. Quite a few people seem to be interested in this so we should have a great racing season. It's fairly inexpensive and a whole lot of fun.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

A short computer radio clinic was held by Rob after the meeting. Hopefully, this helped members to better understand how to program their transmitters. Thanks Rob.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Miller, Sec.

SPECIAL NOTICE

When arriving at Alexander Valley Field to fly and there is no one at the field, make sure you get a frequency pin before you fly. There may be someone flying at Sal Lake.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Submitted by sTevo Smith

Is it February or June? Can't hardly tell by the turn-outs we have had at the field in the last 30 days. If you haven't made it up you've been missing out. There has been some great flying weather in between the rain and wind and fortunately I have been able to take advantage of at least some of those days.

We have some real fun events scheduled for this year so you want to make sure and keep up with the calendar. Pylon racing, Combat, along with our usual events. Should turn out to be an exceptional year. In addition, the May 15th Opening day Airshow is shaping up to be one of the best we've ever had so tell everyone you know. This will probably be our biggest fund raiser of the year so we want to really talk it up. We will let everyone know as to the exact admission price and other details but believe me, this will be our own little PCAM. Speaking of which, I believe we are scheduled to fly again this year at the PCAM Airshow so that will be a must see also.

There has been some growing concern about unauthorized flying at the field so just wanted to make sure everyone understands the rules on that.

It is okay to bring a guest (did you notice I said **bring** a guest) with you to the field to let them check out the field and see if they would like to join. They can do this twice if they are

flying and then are expected to join. Anyone can come up to watch and there is no limit to that. As a matter of fact, we encourage that. What is not okay is for someone to continue to come up and fly whenever they want without joining the club.

As with all things we do have a few exceptions. We may have a special guest from time to time that has a particular type of plane or experience that all can enjoy and benefit from. Still the guest should be accompanied by a paid member and it is preferred if that member can let the board know in advance so we can get the word out something special is going to take place at the field. We feel confident that all members will respect this and abide by the rules of the club. Air shows and events are other areas where we would not expect people to join the club but the AMA rule still applies to anyone flying at our field. Also, we may have a visiting fellow flyer who is here for a short time but would like a friendly place to fly. Let's show them our hospitality and welcome them. The same club rules apply for such a person but we want to invite them to fly as an extended guest. If someone knows of such an individual, please let a board member know so we can welcome them also.

Sharing the freq pins is going to become more frequent as the club grows so get used to it. It is a rare thing that a club of this size does not have to deal with this so it is nothing new. If your keeping the pin and your working on your plane, let it go if someone else needs it to fly. Make sure and impound your radio at that time. This is also something we really need to crack down on. I can't stress this enough: **IF YOUR NOT FLYING, IMPOUND YOUR RADIO.** We will start having planes shot down if this is not strictly enforced.

Rules are everywhere. Where we work, live or play so we shouldn't be discouraged by them but recognize they are there for a reason. It's for our safety and a way to help us keep organized and to protect our field. It's a good thing. Remember to treat others

like you would like to be treated. Yes, we have to have rules but the way we enforce them can mean the difference in welcoming a new member or running people off.

The club is growing, not just in numbers but in the quality of our membership. Let's each of us continue to be a part of this momentum and enjoy the camaraderie of our fellow aircraft enthusiasts.

On a different note: The meeting attendance has also seen some growth this year and it is a great thing to see. We are having some great prizes and are having fun and staying informed of what's happening with the club. This month we will finalize whether or not to keep the 50/50 part of the raffle or have bigger and better prizes. Just as a preview, at this next meeting, we will not have the 50/50 but will be raffling off a **Great Planes Viper ARF Pylon Racer** so more can join us when the racing starts. A few other things on the list are;

**OS LA40
Magnum 15
WCF Hat, Shirt, Jacket
Plus assorted building tools and a gallon of fuel for the door prize.**

Our buddy Ralph Grella has volunteered to take on the task of rustling up these gifts for us so hats off to Ralph.

We will also be voting on the acceptance of the club By-Laws. There will more than likely be some indoor flying as I am sure Red and myself will bring out little eclectics. If anyone else has a small indoor flyer bring it on.

Kevin Riecke sent us this pic and info on one of his recent projects and is planning on bringing this for show and tell.

Here are a couple of recent pics. The fuse is nearing completion, just need to install the cowl blocks, assemble the removable oil cooler, fabricate a fuel and retract air filling location, and sheet the lower fuse. The rudder and elevator servos are in-they are Hitec 5625MG programmable digital servos.

The throttle servo is a JR NEH-531. I am building the Stab and elevator now. This things starting to look like a 109-



See y'all at the meeting and the field.
sTevo

FIELD HAPPENINGS

Submitted by Phil Leech

A couple of weeks ago or so I was at the field and I saw Ralph Grella and a group of his friends. They were all having a spirited conversation, about what I didn't have a clue, but it seemed to be centered on Dan Vance who has been a guest of Ralph's a time or two. They were talking about Dan's airplane and it sounded like he had a P-51 of some kind or another. I wondered if it was a Top Flite or maybe a Hangar Nine ARF. After a while I realized that Dan's P-51 was none of the above but a **NORTH AMERICAN** P-51. You know, the kind that comes with a Rolls Royce Merlin engine. They were talking to Dan about whether he could do a fly-by for us at our Opening Day Air show. He was amenable to the idea but constrained by some of the substantial costs to fly his plane, like \$3/gallon aviation fuel for a plane that burns 80 gal/ hour and annual maintenance costs that would make a down payment on your house. As we talked, Ralph asked him if he would be interested in making his plane available for a flight with one of our members if we held a raffle for the ride. "Yeah, sure, we could work that out", Dan said. At about this

point I wondered if we couldn't put these two ideas together. In other words, "How about combining the Opening Day Flyover with a raffle ride in the P-51 for one of our members?" There are many details to be worked out but the prospect of one of our guys participating in a P-51 flyover at the Opening Day Airshow gets my blood pumping. Of course, I would like to be that guy, but I'll tell you, whoever would be the lucky guy wouldn't matter all that much as long as it was one of us. Stay tuned.

Red's Corner

Submitted by Rob (Red) Jensen

This article is being reprinted as I unintentionally left it out of last issue.

Hi all, Happy New Year! At the next general meeting I will be starting a multi-part how-to clinic designed to uncover the tips and tricks of advanced aerobatic flying. We will cover a new topic each month and there will be at least one hands on demo at the field. This month general aircraft and radio setup for aerobatics will be covered. I think there will be considerable interest and I hope you all will enjoy it.

Racing is back! We had a sport Quickie 500 class a few years back that was a ton of fun. We had several races and the participation was great. We stopped because the standard AMA 3 pylon course was too big for our field. After hearing several pilots say they would like to try it again, I have come up with a new course that will work fine at our field.

The AMA course is a triangular 3 pylon affair with the pilots standing at the base of the triangle and flying around themselves. The new course will be just 2 pylons and be set up parallel to the runway. This will be easier to fly, easier to keep same and fun for all. If you have seen Steve and I rat racing together you will get the idea.

The planes will be any Quickie 500 legal design with an O.S. LA .40 engine and a Master Airscrew 9x6 prop. I have ARF plane and engine combos for \$164.99.

The goal is once a month races, so come by the store or call for more info. Maybe we should do a racing clinic too!

See ya, Red

The Hangar

Submitted by sTevo Smith

Is it just me or does it seem like FLYING SEASON IS HERE!!! Get out there and go to it.

Here is some more detail on Kev's latest project.

Here is an update on the bf-109 I'm building. The fuselage is built out and ready to be skinned. Pushrods are in place and the skins are made. I'm waiting for the engine (Moki 1.8) to get back from a company called Air Hobbies. They fabricate custom in cowl muffler systems that are actually the muffler and vibration isolated engine mount-all in one! Really slick design, and QUIET. Unfortunately, they aren't cheap. But the engine/muffler will be nicely concealed in the cowl. Oh, and the exhaust will exit thru SCALE stacks!!!! Cant skin the fuse. out till I get the engine/firewall figured out.

I included a picture of the airframe and pilot. The pilot is an EXACT scale German pilot in a North Africa summer attire. He wears the parachute, harness, flare gun, p-38 pistol, oxy. mask, goggles, boots, helmet.....etc.

I have never built a plane that flies with a pilot-cuz they all look like crap. Then I found this guy. He possess the proper attire and is therefore "worthy" of a scale cockpit.

I have spoken to a couple of fliers who have built this kit. One is Pat Mcurry who owns PCM models and has built 3 of these. They are awesome fliers, and finish out very scale. One in particular placed well in Scale Masters before PCM introduced their model. The Dave Platt kit is pretty easy to build, and is pretty straightforward. I did incorporate some changes-new techniques and materials

that weren't avail. when the kit first came out.
Thanks for the update Kev, can't wait to see it.



Here's a few shots taken by our own Phil Leech. Really shows some of the nice days we've enjoyed at the field.

Neat jet Jeff



Steve Cole's great flying P 38



Muffler Gary's P 51



That's it for the Hangar. See ya later.
sTevo

Combat Air Squadron Instructions

1. All Pilots will fly 5 Rounds.
2. Each Round is 4 minutes.
3. There will be a signal 1 minute before each round.
4. Another signal will sound the start of the round.
5. The combat flying zone will be 100 ft. in front of the flight line.
6. The flight line is the safe zone.
7. After 4 minutes there will be a signal to end the round.
8. Landing will be in a spot zone 60ft X 60 ft for extra points.
9. Spot landings will be one at a time if possible.
10. No aircraft shall be retrieved until the round has ended and all aircraft have landed.
11. Streamers will be 30 ft. with a 5 ft string leader.
12. In Case of a tie at the end of the combat contest, the highest previous round will determine the winner.

Scoring

Fly 4 minute round	50 points
Airborne at start of round	25 points
Land and stop in spot zone	25 points
Cut streamer	25 points
Continue to fly after mid-air	25 points
Fly over the safe zone	-50 points

EVENTS CALENDAR 2004



Combat Orientation Meeting	March 6 th Saturday (at the field) 10:00 AM
Pylon Racing Orientation Meeting	March 7 th Sunday (at the field) 10:00 AM
Pylon Racing	April 4 th Sunday
Combat	April 25 th Sunday
Opening Day Air Show	May 15 th Saturday
Pylon Racing	May 23 rd Sunday
Combat	June 5 th Saturday
Pylon Racing	June 13 th Sunday
Learn to Fly Day	June 26 th Saturday
Day on the Pond	July 4 th Sunday
Pylon Racing	July 11 th Sunday
Fun Fly	July 24 th Saturday
Pylon Racing	August 15 th Sunday
PCAM Air show Santa Rosa Airport	August 21&22 nd Saturday & Sunday
Combat	August 29 th Sunday
Neil Taylor Day	September 11 th Saturday
Pylon Racing	September 12 th Sunday
Combat	September 25 th Saturday
Christmas Party	December 11 th Saturday



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