

March 2004 Issue

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: Tuesday March 16th. 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)



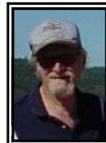
Secretary: Larry Miller (707) 577-0496 [exefire@aol.com](mailto:exefire@aol.com)



Treasurer: Tom Haddorff (707) 526-7058



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



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## Newsletter and Website

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Contributing writers this month	Sid Maxwell, Phil Leech, sTevo Smith, Larry Miller, Red Jensen	
Website:	<a href="#">Patrick O'Halloran</a> / <a href="#">Stevo Smith</a>	

## *Editor's Note*

submitted by sTevo Smith

Spring is in the air and so should we be. The weather has been outstanding for flying and if you haven't been up to the field to check it out what are you waiting for, it don't get no better than this.

The cut off date for the dues has come and gone so don't be upset when your asked to cough up the full price for dues plus a fifty. We gave everyone two extra months to get up to date on their dues. We will be checking memberships at the field to see if your current or not so you really need to take care of it if you haven't already. No pay no fly!

This months prizes for the General meeting are:

Great Planes Viper ARF (Pylon Racer)

OS LA40

Magnum 15

Battle Floyd Combat Plane

WCF Hat, Shirt, Jacket

Piston and Connecting Rod out of a P-51 Rolls Royce Merlin engine  
(Donated by Dan & Art Vance)

How cool is that, two planes, two engines and some other great prizes.

See you at the meeting.

sTevo

## **COMBAT AIR SQUADRON**

Submitted by Sid Maxwell

The combat practice on 3/6 was good....we had 6 combat pilots with 4 flying.

We are having another combat practice on sat. march 13 at 10 am.

We should have more pilots this next time.

This will be the last practice.

see you there.....

sid the airman

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

### **Board Meeting 3/2/04**

Submitted by Larry Miller, Sec

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Stevo Smith.

Members present were Phil Leech, Larry Miller, Gary Child, Ralph Grella, Sid Maxwell, Guy Nicholas, and Tom Haddorff. Absent were Brody Carlson and John Reade.

Gary explained the changes he made to the bylaws as requested by members at the last general meeting. These were acceptable to the board and will be brought to the general membership at the next meeting for a formal vote of approval before adopting.

Sid presented some additions that should be added to the general rules. These will be looked over and inserted as necessary.

Sid, who is chairman of the events committee, announced that the CD's for the upcoming events will be as follows: Larry Miller will take of the PCAM airshow, Stevo will handle the Learn to Fly event, Sid will take care of the combat events, Rob has already gotten the Opening Day Picnic and demonstrations well under control as well as CD'ing the Pylon Racing, and Guy and Ralph will be taking on the Fun Flies.

Guy volunteered to take care of new club applications and to keep up the roster.

The Secretary reported that the paperwork requesting copies of our non-profit corporate status is in the mail. We are just waiting for the State to return the copies. Stevo will be checking with Brody on the search for new canopies for the field.

**Important note:** If your dues have not been paid by February 29th, there will a \$50.00 late fee imposed if you wish to rejoin in addition to the \$80.00 annual fees.

It was brought up by several members that they would like to see some brighter colors for our club T-shirts and hats. We will be ordering several different colors of shirts and hats with our logo imprinted on them and see how well they go over.

Ralph reported that he is still working on a fly-over of a P-51 Mustang and several AT-6's for our Opening Day Extravaganza. He is also trying to set up a raffle for a ride in the P-51.

That should be pretty exciting for the winner.

Ralph has also volunteered to write a helicopter column for the newsletter.

Phil has reluctantly volunteered to coordinate the show and tell portion of our club meetings.

Any help along this line would be much appreciated by Phil.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

## **MINUTES GENERAL MEETING**

Submitted by Larry Miller, Sec

### General Membership Meeting 2/17/04

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

There were 31 members present. Guest Dennis Rogers and several new members were introduced to the group. Dennis, who recently retired from the fire department, expects to join soon. His primary interest is helicopters.

The ticket for the door prize was drawn, resulting in Rob Jensen winning a gallon of fuel.

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

The Treasurer gave his report on our financial status. He also reported that we have received 14 new members in the last month for a total of 104 members to date.

Noting the increase in flyers at the field on weekends, the President urged members to adhere to the impound policy and to not forget to share the frequency pin with others.

Old business: Prior to a vote of acceptance, another discussion was held on the bylaws

with another explanation by Gary Child of the contents. Some members still have some questions so this item was tabled until the next meeting.

Sid Maxwell showed us the new scale he purchased for the club. It will be kept in the impound shed for weighing models for those who care to know how much their aircraft weighs. It will be kept on a long cable so that it won't get lost.

Continued from last month, we held a vote on whether to continue with the 50/50 portion of the raffle or to use the money for more and better prizes. The vote was unanimous. We will discontinue the 50/50 portion and the money will be use to buy more prizes.

Sid reported that on March 6th, (Saturday) there will an orientation and practice flying, for those interested in flying combat, at the field at 10:00 am.

Rob reported that on the following day, March 7th, (Sunday) there will be an orientation and practice flying for those folks interested in flying Quickie 500 pylon racing, again to be held at the field at 10:00 am.

Rob reported that he is still putting together the entertainment for opening day.

Joe Kagan alertly noticed a mistake on the date for the Christmas party published in the newsletter. It should read the 11th of December, not the 13th.

New business: Larry Frank reported that he received a complaint from one of our neighbors north of the flying field which he forwarded to the board. The neighbor was personally contacted and, hopefully, it was smoothed over. We need to be more careful of over flying the adjoining properties. This is our only flying field so we don't want to lose it. Keep your landing approaches in tight.

Rob is going to make sure that all of our neighbors will be aware of our opening day festivities and to invite them to enjoy our barbeque on us and to see what we are about.

A discussion was held on various ways to raise funds. To be continued next month.

Sid, who has been in charge of the club shirts, hats, and jackets, reported that John Stoufer has volunteered to take over that project. He will try to have them available at the meetings, at the field, and any special events we have. It was noted that we are out of hats so more will be ordered soon.

Raffle time. We had some really nice prizes this month. Joe Olson got a .15 size engine, great for our combat event, Gary Gyving took home an ARF pylon racer. We expect to see him at the first race this year. Ralph Grella won a .40 size engine, the same as we use in pylon racing, Dan Powell got WCF jacket, Steve Cole won some fuel, Sid got a book on aviation, J. T. Williams won a WCF polo shirt, John Lehtio got a WCF T-shirt, Guy Nicholas won an aviation book, Joe Kagan won an Exacto, Rob got some glow plugs, and, the big winner of the night, Rich Larson won some EZ hinges.

For show and tell, Paul Kramosil brought in his latest electric creation. It weighed 17 oz. with a flight time of about 7 minutes. He says it's a great flyer.

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

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

You want to be at this next meeting as we will start selling (to current members only) raffle tickets for a ride in a P 51 on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The tickets will be \$20.00 a piece and you can buy as many as you like. This is the plane you will be riding in.



Well, maybe not this one unless it's ready in time. The damn engine keeps falling out. (just kidding Dan).

This is the one we will more than likely be taking a ride in.



Yeah, that's more like it.

The air show seems to be shaping up nicely so talk it up to everyone you see. Remember this is our biggest fund raiser for the club so lets make it count. We will need volunteers to help with the event so see our event coordinator Sid Maxwell if you would like to sign up to help.

Later,  
sTevo

## **FIELD HAPPENINGS**

Submitted by Phil Leech

A couple of weeks ago or so on a beautiful Saturday afternoon with lots of activity at the field I noticed Joe Geiger approaching in his work truck. He had what appeared

to be a monster airplane tied to the truck bed. The airplane turned out to be a 1/3 scale Sopwith Pup. It was so large that he had to have his wife, Antonia, drive a second car just to carry the wings. The airplane has a pedigree that begins with someone in Ukiah who started and then abandoned the project. Enter Art Sutter who bought the unfinished airplane and sold it to Joe who has been busy finishing it up. Not sure exactly what Joe had to do but I know that he mounted a new Zenoah G-62 engine, added all the radio gear, rigged it with real, working flying wires, painted it and installed wheels that look like baby buggy wheels. One of the wheels was retained on the axle with a circlip and the other wheel appeared to be missing its circlip. No problem, Joe came up with a DuBro wheel collar and tightened it on the axle. Rigging the Pup was a real struggle and soon Steve Cole was helping Joe connect, tighten and adjust the flying wires. Finally they were at the flight line, starting the engine but, no, we need more adjusting and tightening here. This whole process is in the neighborhood of two hours or so and I was anxious to leave for some lunch. I was just about to make an exit when someone shouted, "they're about ready to go". And sure enough Steve was taxiing out on the runway just taking his time to see how the ground handling would turn out. He turned into the wind and surprised everyone and probably himself with a very short takeoff. The plane literally jumped into the air. By this time everyone at the field has landed and all attention is focused on Steve and the new Sopwith Pup. Steve flew the Pup around the pattern a couple of times verrrry slowly with all eyes focused on the WW1 British fighter. Suddenly, something fell off the plane! It was one of the **baby buggy wheels!**



Gary Child raced across the runway and began the search for the wheel that proceeded to roll down the hill. Steve Cole was now faced with the dilemma on finding a way to land the Pup with only one wheel. He flew the plane around and around probably trying to figure out a plan. I thought he might try to put it down in the grassy area east of the runway but about then Steve began his approach flying slowly, slowly, just above stall, touching down on one wheel and rolling, rolling, rolling, and then gently tilting over and **stopping intact!** No broken prop no broken anything! The crowd immediately broke out with applause and cheering. It was like being at a sporting event when the home team has just scored a goal. No doubt about it, Steve Cole is one of our best flyers!



## Red's Corner

Submitted by Rob (Red) Jensen

### Pylon Fun

Racing is back! We had 7 pilots show up for our practice Quickie 500 race. The weather couldn't have been more perfect with temps in the mid 70's and virtually no wind to speak of. We set up our new 2 pylon course and after making some minor adjustments to it we were ready to run some practice heats.

In an added new twist it was decided to give an air start from behind a pace plane a try as an alternative to the typical racehorse start from the ground. Gary Child lent us his piloting skills with his trainer to act as the pace plane. It worked so well that we didn't even try a ground start! It's pretty cool to see 4 planes jockeying for position behind the pace plane without going ahead of it.



In the end we had run several heats with sometimes guys running a 10 lap heat and then restarting another one again while still in the air. This gave all the guys plenty of practice time on the course. We had some pretty close duels and some great laps. It's clear that everyone had a great time. It's gonna come down to pilot skill as all the planes are equally fast.

There were no mid-air's but quite a few landing gear problems. Reinforce those gear!

Our first race is Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup>. There are over 12 racers either ready to fly or close to it so we should have plenty of people for some great races. If anyone would like some speed secrets or setup help you know where to find me! ~Red

## The Hangar

Submitted by sTevo Smith

Howdy folks. Not much to write the month, been real busy.

If there are any of you who would like to contribute to the newsletter or better yet work with Phil Leech, let me know. My time is spread a little thin along with my other duties. If you are interested to see what is involved just send me an email or give me a call at 523 4703. You do need some computer skills to do this job but I can help if you get stumped.

Take care and have fun flying.  
sTevo

### FOR SALE

"Battle Floyd" kit for a 15 size combat plane  
w/40" foam wing. \$27.00

Sid Maxwell 584-4428

## EVENTS CALENDAR 2004



Pylon Racing	April 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Combat	April 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Opening Day Air Show	May 15 <sup>th</sup> Saturday
Pylon Racing	May 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday
Combat	June 5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday
Pylon Racing	June 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Learn to Fly Day	June 26 <sup>th</sup> Saturday
Day on the Pond	July 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Pylon Racing	July 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Fun Fly	July 24 <sup>th</sup> Saturday
Pylon Racing	August 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
PCAM Air show Santa Rosa Airport	August 21&22 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday & Sunday
Combat	August 29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Neil Taylor Day	September 11 <sup>th</sup> Saturday
Pylon Racing	September 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Combat	September 25 <sup>th</sup> Saturday
Christmas Party	December 11 <sup>th</sup> Saturday



**P.O. BOX 4198**  
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