

April Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: Tuesday, April 20th. 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)



## 2004 Board Members

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## Newsletter and Website

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Contributing writers this month  
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Phil Leech (707) 538-8557 [leechstudios@sonic.net](mailto:leechstudios@sonic.net)  
Sid Maxwell, Phil Leech, sTevo Smith, Larry Miller  
[Patrick O'Halloran](#) / [Stevo Smith](#)

## *Changing of the Guard*

submitted by sTevo

Wanted to let everyone know that there will be a change in the newsletter starting with this edition. Due to a very hectic schedule (life in general) I will be handing the reigns as Chief Newsletter Editor to Phil Leech. He has helped me with it for the past year and a half and it's been fun. He has progressed at the computer enough now to be turned loose so my hats off to da boy. Thanks Phil and to everyone who has either contributed or shown their appreciation for the newsletter.

## *A Preview of our April Meeting*

submitted by Phil Leech

The upcoming meeting next Tuesday will be special for several reasons. The most important will be the raffle for the P-51 ride on our Opening Day Event. The Raffle Committee has been decided that the drawing for the ride should be held at our April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting for a number of reasons but mainly to allow for coordination with P-51 pilot Dan Vance and whoever the lucky winner is. This means that there won't be much more time to buy tickets but you'll still be able to buy tickets at the April meeting just before the drawing. Ralph Grella tells me that he has sold 33 tickets so far and some guys have bought 4 or 5 tickets.

Ralph has a nice line-up of prizes for April including:

- Tiger 2 ARF
- OS46 AX (this is a new engine  
That is barely on the  
Market)
- Ernst Plane Stand
- Hot Shot glo starter (this one has  
the little meter in it)
- WCF Shirt & Jacket
- Packet of Hinges!

There will also be the traditional gallon of fuel for the door prize.

For Show and Tell we have Larry Miller lined up to present his beautiful Fokker D8 and Wayne Frederick will tell us all there is to know about pattern flying and how it is judged and scored.

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**April 6, 2004**

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

Stevo reported that the web site is coming along nicely thanks to Patrick OHalloran. Noting the need for an official club photographer to take photos for the web site and the newsletter, Phil volunteered to fill the position.

Steve and Brody gave an indepth report on their search for new canopies for the field. After reviewing several options, the board decided on one that should serve our needs well into the future. This will be brought before the membership at the next general meeting for a discussion and vote. If this is approved by the membership, we will be looking for a few good men to help with the installation.

Our list of frequencies on our club members radios needs to be updated. We do this to assist people buying new radio systems in getting a frequency that is not already in use. So you can expect a call from one of our board members asking for your most used frequency to add to the list. Sid and Phil have the Show and Tell portion of the next general meeting lined up. Wayne Frederick will bring in a pattern plane and give a talk on the basics of pattern flying. Also, Larry Miller will bring in his Balsa USA Fokker DVIII.

Ralph gave us an update on the ticket sales for the P-51 ride. They appear to be selling well. This should be quite a treat for the lucky person who has the winning ticket.

It was brought up that we could use a few more picnic tables at the field. We will talk about it further at the next general meeting. The grass at the field is in dire need of mowing so Phil volunteered to check with Dale on the availability of the tractor/mower. John announced that on Saturday, April 24th, there is a work party scheduled to mow and do general cleanup at the field. As usual, there will be no flying until the work is completed.

Sid informed us that he has located a reasonably priced PA system that we can use at the field for special events. The board gave him the go-ahead to pick one up.

A discussion of the Opening Day Picnic resulted in a decision to charge non members \$5.00 a carload. Everyone will still have to pay for the food.

Sid announced there will a combat event on Sunday, April 25th, at 10:00 AM.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

## **MINUTES GENERAL MEETING**

### **March 16, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by President sTevo Smith at 7:30 PM.

There were 33 members present. Four new members introduced themselves to the group and were welcomed into the fold.

The free door prize drawing was held with Kurt Hiner winning a gallon of fuel.

The President's Report- sTevo threw out some suggestions on the replacement of the shade structures for the field. A discussion followed with several options suggested. A decision will be made by the next meeting.

The Treasurer's Report- Tom presented an amendment to last months report followed by a statement of finances up to this date. He also reported that we now have a total of 108 paid up members for the year to date.

The Secretary's Report- This was approved as printed in the newsletter.

Old Business- Adoption of the bylaws. There being no more questions or suggestions on

the proposed Bylaws as presented to the membership, Guy Nicholas made a motion that they be accepted as written. It was seconded by sTevo Smith. The vote was 33 to 0 in favor of adoption.

Gary Child reported that the standing rules and the field rules have been updated.

They will be posted at the field and it is up to every member to familiarize themselves with them as they will be strictly enforced by the Field Marshal.

Rob gave an update on the first pylon race which is scheduled for Sunday, April 4th. Sid announced that the first combat event for the year will be held on Sunday April 25th.

Ralph Grella has arranged for a ride in a full scale P-51 which will be raffled off at \$20.00 per ticket. The ride will take place on the morning of our Opening Day event with the lucky winner doing a flyby of our field so he can wave to all of us on the ground.

Pick up your winning ticket at the next meeting. If we don't sell enough tickets to club members, it will be opened up to anyone who cares to take a chance for a ride. It's a chance of a lifetime so go for it. New business-There was a discussion of purchasing a PA system to be used at club events. Several people are looking in to this.

New club shirts and hats have been ordered. They should be done by Opening Day.

Thanks to Ralph for picking up the prizes for this months raffle. The big winner this month was Ryan Muehlbauer who took home the coveted package of hinges. Other winners were sTevo who got a nut driver set, Guy Nicholas picked the Viper pylon racer, John Wolfe took a OS .40 engine, Ryan Powell got a Combat Floyd, Phil Leech won a Sure Cycle battery cyler, John Stouffer won a Starter Source, John Reade got a gallon of fuel, Gary Child won a aircraft stand, Sid Maxwell won a Flight Training Book (good choice, Sid), Rob won a piston out of a Rolls Royce engine, Mike Powell got a WCF shirt, and Joey Giddings won a WCF jacket.

The planned demo for show and tell was unable to make it to the meeting so we had to forgo this monthly event.

It was announced that, after the meeting, Rob would be presenting another class on programming your computer transmitter for those interested.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

## **COMBAT AIR SQUADRON**

Submitted by Sid Maxwell

It's 1940 and the dawn is dark grey. You will be lucky if you see the sun at all today. As you look across the English Channel you wait for that tell-tale sign of tiny specks moving slowly towards you. After a closer look you realize just what it is. Enemy aircraft

approaching, German bombers, Heinkel 111's and fighters, ME109's coming over the Channel heading for London. As a member of the Combat Air Squadron you run for your Spitfire and join the other Colonels ready for combat in the "Battle for Britain".

On April 25 at 10 am at Alexander Valley Field that battle will begin. Combat pilots from the Squadron will recreate that battle and fly 5 rounds, cutting streamers, racking up points, having fun and challenging each other for the awards given to the three top combat pilots.

This Exhibition will be the first of four Exhibitions to be held during the summer.

To all those not flying but would like to participate.....we need scorekeepers. One for each combat pilot.

Come join us in this fun day.....

All for fun and fun for all.

Take the challenge-----fly combat  
colonel sid maxwell

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Submitted for sTevo Smith by Phil Leech

Stevo has been busier than a one armed paper hanger with a broken belt buckle recently. He has sold his condo and is moving to a house this month so his time is really short. We'll see him at Tuesday's meeting but he will be in short supply for a while.

## **FIELD HAPPENINGS**

Submitted by Phil Leech

A few weeks ago, I met an interesting guy at our field. He was a visitor that I had noticed observing our flying and our airplanes. His name was Rick Madden and he lives in Santa Rosa. Turns out that Rick is a member of S.A.M. 27, an RC club dedicated to old time classic airplanes. The "S.A.M." stands for Society for Antique Modelers and the number 27 is their chapter number. We chatted for a while and the upshot was that Rick invited me to visit their flying site. The site is located on Lakeville Road south of Petaluma and they fly on Thursday mornings. So, I traveled to their site the following Thursday but was unable to find it. Calling Rick, he explained that it had been too windy that particular day and that most of the guys had packed up and left by the time I got there. The following Thursday I was accompanied by some of our fellow Wine Country Flyers, namely, Ralph Grella, Bob Film (who turned out to be a SAM 27 member as well), John Stoufer and eventually, Bob Rose. I had mentioned what I was exploring to these guys and they all enthusiastically wanted to see what the Antique Modelers were about. This time we got there earlier and the wind was OK. Their field isn't like ours in that there are no buildings, no runway, no canopies. Really, there isn't anything there at all. Just a grassy field by the side of an access road that leads to several local ranches and a riding (equestrian) academy. Rick had told me that the design of their models had to have originated by 1939 or earlier and I think it would include any scale model of an airplane that existed prior to 1939. Most model airplanes of circa 1939 were free flight types and many of the engines that powered them were gas ignition types. While SAM rules specify the design of the plane they don't require that engines be of that era although many members do collect vintage engines and one of their members was proud to show

us his Forster (60?) that he had just purchased on E-bay. At any rate, most of the planes that we saw were free flight designs that had been converted to RC. Mostly 3 channel (rudder, elevator and throttle) configurations. Several of the models were in the air and it soon became apparent that most were flown in the manner of free flight planes and for many of our group it brought back memories of planes that we had flown many years ago. There were discussions about dethermalizers, timers and fuses, among us. I suspect that for many of our younger members most of this wouldn't have too much meaning but we all realized what these guys have in common and they were all having a great time. I realized what Rick Madden had meant when he said that what we fly at WCF as compared to what the SAM27 guys fly is like comparing a Model T Ford to the jet age. And it is, but you can't help appreciating that these guys are enjoying what was the dawn of model aviation and that is something we can all understand and revere.

In due time we were introduced to their club president and were given copies of their current newsletter and applications for membership to SAM27 (dues are \$15/yr). If anyone is interested in pursuing more info about SAM contact me or Bob Film. They have meetings the third Wednesday of each month at the Fire House in Novato.

I mentioned earlier that Bob Rose was part of the group from WCF. Bob lives just off of Lakeville Highway and he invited us all to see his workshop and home. It's always interesting to see another modeler's work area and we all were happy to see what Bob had to show us. Bob has spent quite a bit of time setting up his workshop with custom built storage drawers and a well organized work space that has inspired me to improve my own shop. But the most interesting thing to me was Bob's personal home office that had a myriad of pictures on the walls that highlighted Bob's career. Here were pictures of Bob with James Cagney in 1942 up through pictures of Bob with Susan Sarandon in the movie "Thelma and Louise". Here's another one with

Justin Hoffman...and Jane Fonda! There were dozens and dozens of pictures of Bob with many of Hollywood's most famous names. So what was Bob's career? He was a Key Grip. And what is a Key Grip? He's the guy that sets up the shots, places the track for the movie camera to travel on. Works out all of the necessary equipment and gear so that the cinematographer can "roll em". What a fabulous career! Bob's stories go on and on, just ask him about his candid opinion of Sly Stallone next time you see him.



Here's our WCF group at the SAM27 field

## **New Solo**

Larry Miller reports that his student pilot, Joey Giddings has soloed after only 22 flights. Larry helped Joey build his Tower Hobbies OS40 powered trainer. Joey also had some assistance from Stevo and Tom Haddorff. That's 22 flights and NO CRASHES! Congratulations Joey!

## **Work Party**

The Field Maintenance Committee has scheduled a work party for Saturday, April 24. We need to assemble and erect what's left of our mangled canopies, clean the picnic tables and do some trim mowing. We plan to start at 8:00AM and it may not take too long to complete and then we can all fly!

### **Bennett McMicking**

Bennett arrived at our field Tuesday, April 13 and mowed everything for 3.5 hours. I mean he mowed it all! The field has never looked so good. It is easy to see that we will be able to park a bunch of cars for our Opening Day Event. We owe Bennett a whole lot of attaboys!

### **Workers Wanted**

This is a call to all members of the Wine Country Flyers.

We need helpers to prepare for and work at the May 15 Open House---Air Show.

If you are ready and able to help.....call  
sid maxwell 584-4428

### **R C Fashion Wear**

The Wine Country Flyers traditional club clothing such as jackets, hats, T-shirts and polo shirts are back and ready to be purchased. But now the WCF has ordered a complete new line of hats and shirts in a variety of colors. A new look for our club members and a change of pace from our traditional colors.

You will see the clothes everywhere, at the field, club meetings and events.

Look for," Papa John's Clothing Depot", on May 15 at the Open House-Air Show where they will be on display and ready to be purchased. Have clothes.....will travel.

Also on display will be my unique line of racing boats. Large twin engines and others. A sight to behold.

John Stoufer  
538-1636

RAFFLE

RAFFLE

**RAFFLE\*\*\*\*\*RAFFLE**

Buy a raffle ticket for a  
**P-51 Mustang Ride**  
**\$ 20.00 per ticket**

Winner to ride in the Mustang fly-by  
at the Open House event on May 15

Only club members are eligible for  
this most exciting event of the  
summer

Winning ticket will be drawn at the  
**APRIL 20 MEETING**

**WINE COUNTRY FLYERS**

**NOTICE**

**COMBAT AIR SQUADRON**

**COMBAT EXHIBITION**

**APRIL 25, 2004**

**10:00 AM**

**AWARDS TO 3 PLACES**

**STREAMERS WILL BE PROVIDED**

# EVENTS CALENDAR 2004



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**  
**SANTA ROSA, CA 95402**