

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: Tuesday, October 19, 2004 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: Phil Leech (707)538-8557 [leechstudios@sonic.net](mailto:leechstudios@sonic.net)



Vice President: Sid Maxwell (707) 584-4428 [airman1x@msn.com](mailto:airman1x@msn.com)



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



Treasurer: Tom Haddorff (707) 526-7058 [thaddorff@neteze.com](mailto:thaddorff@neteze.com)



Member @ Large John Reade (707) 545-9831 [john.e.reamde@gte.net](mailto:john.e.reamde@gte.net)



## 2004 Board Members

Brody Carlson	(707) 545-8272	<a href="mailto:brody@connectionsit.com">brody@connectionsit.com</a>
John Stoufer	(707) 538-1636	<a href="mailto:jmstou@sonic.net">jmstou@sonic.net</a>
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## Newsletter and Website

Newsletter Team  
Website:

Phil Leech, Sid Maxwell, Larry Miller, Ralph Grella, Patrick O'Halloran, Guy Nicholas  
Patrick O'Halloran

## *A Preview of our October Meeting*

submitted by Phil Leech

I will have **good news** to report to you all in my President's Report regarding the outcome of the letter we received from Sonoma County regarding the complaint that was lodged by an unhappy homeowner who had one of our planes crash on their property. (See The President's Corner) The Wine Country Flyers Board has reviewed and approved the Flight Training Manual that will be presented and explained by Brody Carlson and Steve Cole. There has been a lot of work put into this and it looks like we have something really substantial to base our Flight Training Program on. A comprehensive flight program has been established that will provide a clear outline for all of the training required for a new student to become a solo pilot.

The Nominating Committee will present a 2005 Slate of Officers for club review and nominations from the floor will be asked for.

Mike Cingari is on board with a Show and Tell talk about helicopter fundamental flying principles and a demo flight of a Shogun Electric heli. You won't want to miss this one.

Ralph Grella has a nice line-up of prizes for September starting with a Thunder Tiger "Rare Bear" or a Miss America P-51 ARF we're not sure which at this point but you can bet that either one is a really nice plane that most everyone will appreciate. Ralph plans to have an additional array of tools and accessories. And there will also be the traditional gallon of fuel for the door prize.

### **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES September 21, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by President Phil Leech at 7:30 pm. There were 30 members present. The door prize drawing was held with Patrick O'Halloran taking home a free gallon of fuel just for coming to the meeting.

The Treasurer's report by Tom Haddorff was next. He also stated that we now have 128 members in the club.

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

Larry reported on our recent participation at the Pacific Coast Air Museum airshow. After our morning flight demonstrations, we were overwhelmed with interested spectators at our display area. Another successful event, thanks to all the members who helped out. Sid gave us a rundown on the combat event held recently at the field. Sid did another great job putting this one together as usual. Larry also reported on the pylon race we had several weeks ago. We raced Quickie 500's and .40 size trainers. Everyone had a great time as usual.

Brody showed us the new flight training manual he and Red have put together. It was very nicely done and appears to cover all the bases for training new flyers.

Sid reminded everyone of the upcoming combat event.

Larry said that a pylon race will be scheduled for next month. A flyer will be sent out with details of when this will be held.

The President asked for nominations for club officers for next year. He also read a letter we received from the county expressing concern that some members are flying outside our designated airspace.

Sid announced his desire to hold T-34 pylon races next year if there are enough interested people. Sounds like a lot of fun. More on this from Sid at a future date.

Mike Cracchiolo brought in his Black Dog Sport Aeroworks sport plane for show and tell. It's made from Coroplas and looks like it should be quite aerobatic.

Ryan Muehlbauer donated a fully built Goldberg Gentle Lady glider to the monthly raffle to go along with the Funtana .90 3D model picked up by Ralph.

The first ticket drawn for the raffle belonged to Anthony Lee who chose, of course, the Funtana. This was followed by James Belisle who picked out a couple of servos. John Stoufer took home the Gentle Lady and Bruce Haskell got a bench caddy. Tom

got a new club hat, Gary Child picked up a ni-starter, Ralph got a club polo shirt, Kurt won a transmitter stand, Sid got a club T-shirt, Des Shapiro got a new pilot for one of his airplanes, and, lastly, John Reade was thrilled to death to be the lucky winner of the hinges.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.  
as adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Miller, Sec.

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**October 3, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Phil Leech.

Members present were Gary Child, Brody Carlson, Ralph Grella, John Stoufer, Phil Leech, Guy Nicholas, John Reade, Larry Miller, Sid Maxwell, and guest Steve Cole. Phil informed us that the County will be erecting a drilling rig ( approximately 50 feet tall) at the field on October 25th. Members are to be cautioned about flying if the rig is in our flight path.

A discussion was held on the recent letter we received from the County. Members are reminded to fly within the boundaries set forth by the County.

The matter of fire safety was brought up. Members flying gas engines must have a fire extinguisher close at hand (in the pit area) per the club and AMA rules.

Work points for the year were reviewed with Guy.

A Reminder: All aircraft must have the name and phone number of the owner in the fuselage somewhere for identification purposes. ( Per the club and AMA rules). Steve and Brody presented their newly revised flight training manual for review by the board. They did an outstanding job, and after a few minor typos are corrected, it will be adopted. Steve would like to see all flight instructors be re-certified annually. So, if you would like to be an instructor next year, see Steve.

Discussed the election slate of potential officers for next year.

Treasurer Tom Haddorff will be checking local banks for the best rate on our CD. Phil read a notice that we received from the Sacramento Red Barons informing us that they are selling raffle tickets as they are in financial straits.

Ralph gave us a rundown on the prizes he will picking up for the next general meeting. This month they will be coming from Awesome Hobbies in Healdsburg.

After a lengthy discussion and vote, it was decided to allow paid advertising in our newsletter. Ralph and John Stoufer will head up that committee.

Sid brought up the fact that rules for disciplinary action by the club are missing from our list of rules. He will be taking care of that omission for us, to be presented at the next meeting. He will be using AMA guidelines concerning that issue.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

## **THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Phil Leech

At the September meeting I read a letter that we had received from the County regarding a complaint that had been filed about an RC plane that had crashed on a neighbor's property, I sent a letter in response a couple of days later. In the letter, I told them that we would do everything possible to inform our members about the flight limits of our field and to emphasize the importance of flying only over County property and that we would employ corrective procedures to limit the occurrence of planes flying over adjoining neighbors. I also told them that the Menthol based fuels that we normally use are not highly flammable and should not be cause for fire in grassy areas near our field.

About a week after I sent the letter, I made a follow-up call to Ken Wells who heads the Refuse Division for the Dept of Public Works. He told me that he had forwarded

my letter to the Complainant who turned out to be Jason Wilcox. Jason has had complaints about us before with planes flying over and crashing on his property. Jason lives on Alexander Valley Road and is located north of our field. Ken Wells told me that he is satisfied with our response and considers the matter resolved. He went on to tell me about our other problem to the south of the field, namely the Saggio Hills Estates that developer Don Beauregard is pursuing. Apparently the negotiations with the town of Healdsburg are proceeding and will probably be concluded sometime in the future. In the meantime, the County has no plans to close the Transfer Station but they have concern about future complaints that may be lodged toward the County regarding noise and odor generated at the Transfer Station. Ken mentioned that he thought our future neighbors might also have complaints about noise from our planes. I reminded him that we conform to the counties' noise regulations and he acknowledged that but he worries that people will complain regardless of the legitimacy of the complaint. It all comes down to the fact that the Town of Healdsburg is moving to our back door and there will probably be problems to deal with in the future. He assured me that we will most likely be OK for a couple of years or so but some of the handwriting is on the wall. Ken Wells thinks our use of the site is a good one and he wishes us well but he has outlined areas for us to be concerned about and it will be in our interest for us to address these areas. Notably, flying strictly within the confines of the Transfer Station Site, fire of any kind, and Noise. If we can take care of these concerns ourselves we can probably extend out stay for some time, but it will be in our best interest if we do it ourselves before someone does it for us.

### **FIELD WILL BE CLOSED OCT 25-27**

Phil Leech

Got a call from Keith Foszcz who is an engineer with the Dept of Public Works. Keith told me that they are planning to drill several wells on the site with the purpose of relieving methane gas that accumulates

under the capped landfill that we fly from. The drilling rig will be some 50 feet high and he was concerned that it might be in conflict with our flying. The drilling is scheduled for Monday Oct 25 thru Wednesday Oct 27. I brought this up at the Board Meeting and most of the members felt that we should just close the field for those three days during the week. The last thing we need is for one of us to crash into the County's drilling rig. I had a nice chat with Keith who told me all sorts of stuff about the capped landfill including the fact that our field settles several inches every year. We don't notice it because it is a more or less uniform settlement, although, we did see some significant separation in our parking lot last year. They take shots of the site every year to monitor the settling which occurs as material in the landfill slowly deteriorates expending methane gas in the process. In closing, he told me that he is a neighbor of one of our members....Bob Film. Hey, Bob.

### **MEMBERS DONATE TO OUR CLUB**

Phil Leech

We have had several donations to the club recently and it seems like it is time to mention some. Lets start with Jack Collins who gave us the much used and appreciated generator. A couple of months ago Chuck Green brought in a whole bunch of his float plane stuff and donated it. Then Larry Frank donated his J3 Cub at the PCAM show. I mentioned that I was about to buy some new kitchen BBQ equipment and Bob Rose piped up with "don't do that, I've got two new BBQ sets and one is really nice from Williams Sonoma". And, at the last meeting Ryan Muehlbauer came in with a kit-built Goldberg "Gentle Lady" glider to add to the raffle.

These gifts are much appreciated by us all and thanks to all of you who have been so thoughtful and generous.

### **PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP CHANGE**

Phil Leech

Larry Miller has a proposal to make to the group. Currently, the age limit for junior

members is 16 and Larry points out that he feels the age should be extended to 18 so that High School guys can enjoy some preferential (and economic) treatment. He is planning to put this into the form of a Motion for approval at the October Meeting. Kinda doubt that anyone will find much of anything wrong with this idea.

### HOBBY SHOPS

A couple of weeks or so ago, Steve Cole opened a new Hobby Shop in Healdsburg. The name of the shop is "Awesome Hobbies" and it is located just north of the Healdsburg Square on Healdsburg Ave. at 452 Healdsburg Ave. Last year a new shop opened in Sonoma and in August Hobbytown USA opened in Petaluma. We seem to have hobby shops in almost every Sonoma County city or town. For years, Hangar One has taken care of our RC needs first with Dave Higgins and for the last three years or so with our own Red Jensen. The club has always purchased the raffle prizes at Hangar One and Red has been generous with donations at the Christmas Party and other occasions. Both Red and Steve are pillars of our club with both having served as past Presidents and various other offices. Both are excellent flyers and instructors, held in high regard by all of us.

At the past Board Meeting it was discussed and the decision was made to alternate the raffle purchases between both Red and Steve. Steve has indicated that he wants to help the club as much as he can and he will offer to exchange raffle prizes for alternate choices as Red has so willingly done in the past. We feel fortunate to have two of our guys with shops of their own.

### THIS MONTH'S PICTURES



OK, So this isn't this month but it is Tom Haddorff and Sid Maxwell with their Neil Taylor plaques.



And the winners of the last Combat session for the season are: Patrick O'Halloran, John Reade and Larry Miller



This is what we're all about...John Reade on his knees training 10 year old Carlito Berg

### THANKS TO THE TRIBUNE

All of us at the Wine Country Flyers would like to thank the Healdsburg Tribune, especially Kim Jensen, for the article of September 22, 2004 about our club, RC flying and our connection with the community.

Good job Kim.

sid maxwell

### **SKY MARSHALS**

At the September regular club meeting we reviewed a letter from the county informing the WCF about an incident with the , "No Fly Zone". Someone's plane had flown into the, "No Fly Zone", and crashed. This is a very serious situation and should be given serious attention. We have rules to govern this situation, rules to be enforced and rules to be more aware of. The only control is, "self control", and it is up to each one of the club members to join together and work together to improve this situation. So at the October Board meeting we established a "Sky Marshal", plan. We have appointed 13 Sky Marshals.

Sid Maxwell  
Ralph Grella  
Mike Cingari  
John Reade  
Art Sutter  
Larry Miller  
Red Jensen  
John Stouffer  
Steve Cole  
Guy Nicholas  
Gary Child  
Brodie Carlson  
Kurt Hiner

These Sky Marshals will assist everyone and anyone to become more aware of their flying, flying habits, flying rules, field rules, and the , "No Fly Zone". We must respect all rules and especially the , "No Fly Zone". Our right to fly depends upon our action.

sid maxwell

### **FEARLESS FLYER**

The war in the Pacific was winding down. The last of the battles were being fought by a courageous group of combat pilots on September 25, 2004. Patrick O'Halloran, John Reade, Art Sutter, Larry Miller, Joey Giddings and Brian Blackburn were flying

out of Alexander Valley Field fighting for the last three awards of the year. The flying was fierce with four Trainers engaging two .15 size combat planes. We only had one mid-air with Brian's Blackburn's "Floyd", cutting Art Sutter's "Jungle J", in half with no damage to Brian plane. Both planes were on loan from Sid Maxwell and Julio Alvarez. After four contested rounds, along with four ties we came up with the winners.

1st----John Reade

2nd----Larry Miller

3rd----Patrick O'Halloran

All in all I would have to say this was our best combat event of the year. We missed the Rankin Boys who could not make it because of their mid-air with one another the previous week. We had tons of fun and even enough for you, had you come. I would like to thank all the combat pilots for flying and I would also like to thank all the scorekeepers:.....:

Mike Cracchiolo

Gary Child

Jim Dearduff

Ralph Grella

Phil Leech

Anthony Lee

Thank you guys, I hope you had as much fun as I did. That's it for this year!!!!!!

So get ready for next year. It will be here before you know it.....

sid maxwell  
event coordinator

### **Standing Rules**

1. Annual Dues are \$80.00 per year with a "one time only" \$100.00 field assessment fee for new members. A new member consists of one who has never been a member of WCF. Junior members (under age 18) dues are \$30.00 per year.
2. Members start with 80 points at a value of \$1 per point each year. Points may be worked off at various club functions such as

work parties, funfllys, social events and through general maintenance. It is the responsibility of the member to sign-in at such events in order to receive point reduction. A maximum of 40 points may be worked off. Points only apply to the following year and do not carry over if there is a lapse in membership or past the cutoff date. Point values are set by the board and are available upon request. Dues are considered late on March 1<sup>st</sup> and a \$50 late fee will be strictly enforced.

3. A member in good standing is one who abides by club rules and is not on club probation or suspension.

4. Only members in good standing are eligible to vote.

5. Only members in good standing are eligible to be nominated or elected to office.

6. While not mandatory, every effort should be made to attend regular club meetings which are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Board meetings are considered mandatory for board members and shall be the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month.

7. All members must have AMA insurance before being allowed to fly at any W.C.F. sponsored field.

#### **Field Rules**

1. All transmitters shall be impounded upon arrival and only removed when the proper frequency pin has been obtained.

2. Pilots shall obey all rules (posted, AMA Safety or otherwise) with regard to flying area limitations and general safety.

3. New members or student pilots must not fly solo until approved by an authorized flight instructor. New pilots must complete the Flight Training Program before soloing.

4. Buddy box instruction may only be given by club appointed instructors.

5. No animals at the field

6. No smoking at the field.

7. All low passes and aerobatics shall be performed on the far side of the runway.

8. All pilots must have a spotter present when more than one aircraft is in the air.

9. All pilots must audibly announce their intentions ( takeoff, landing, auto etc.)

10. No hovering of helicopters over the runway except during takeoff and landing.

11. No more than 5 aircraft in the air at one time unless for a special event (such as a contest or combat).

12. Aircraft may only be started and run on the designated start-up tables (except helicopters).

13. You may fly only during the hours of 9:00 am and 3:30 pm and must leave the County property by 4 pm.

14. Helicopter hover training shall be over the designated heli pad at a height not to exceed approximately eye level.

15. All models running on gasoline shall have a fire extinguisher present at the flight line.



Christmas Party	December 11 <sup>th</sup> Saturday



**P.O. BOX 4198  
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