

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 15 February, 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

2005 Club Officers: (sorry no pictures yet)

President:	Guy Nicholas	(707) 544-2141	<a href="mailto:Guy@Gui-Soft.com">Guy@Gui-Soft.com</a>
Vice President:	Brody Carlson	(707) 545-8272	<a href="mailto:brody@connectionsit.com">brody@connectionsit.com</a>
Secretary:	Larry Miller	(707) 577-0496	<a href="mailto:exefire@aol.com">exefire@aol.com</a>
Treasurer:	Brian Blackburn	(707) 527-9645	<a href="mailto:bblackburn@santarosa.edu">bblackburn@santarosa.edu</a>
Member @ Large	John Reade	(707) 545-9831	<a href="mailto:john.e.ream@gte.net">john.e.ream@gte.net</a>

## 2005 Board Members:

Gary Child	(707) 579-2325	<a href="mailto:garychild@sbcglobal.net">garychild@sbcglobal.net</a>
Steve Cole	(707) 566-8838	<a href="mailto:stevecole@awesomehobbies.com">stevecole@awesomehobbies.com</a>
Rob Jensen	(707) 544-2827	<a href="mailto:Hangar1@Sonic.net">Hangar1@Sonic.net</a>
Mike Cracchiolo	(707) 291-2739	<a href="mailto:vdubbub@hotmail.com">vdubbub@hotmail.com</a>
Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557	<a href="mailto:leechstudios@sonic.net">leechstudios@sonic.net</a>

## Newsletter and Website

Newsletter Team:  
Website:

Guy Nicholas, Phil Leech, Larry Miller, Sid Maxwell, Red Jensen  
Patrick O'Halloran

## Presidents Report

By Guy Nicholas

Hmmm, another month has gone by and I still haven't put my helicopter back together...I am a slug. But it was a great month. I have been anxiously awaiting the birth of my new radio for at least six months. I was sitting at work a couple weeks ago and all of a sudden something was dangling in front of my face. Then I saw the word Futaba on it...I turned around to see my delivery boy, Robbie, with my new Futaba T14MZ! [14mz.com](http://14mz.com). Oh yes! \$2200 of bliss ☺ It has a number of revolutionary things not seen in any RC unit before. From the cool glow of the Windows CE power backlit color touch screen display to the Compact Flash memory card, it is awesome. I will have it at this month's meeting for show and tell...or should I say this month's ooooh and ahhhhhh.

Phil Leech sent me a couple pictures of what looks like a new stealth aircraft, of course Photoshop could be involved and it may all be a hoax. Anyone else seen this?



I brought my sons Cub Scout troop up to the field to give them all a chance to buddy box. It was a fun experience for the kids and one that I think the club may get more involved with in the future. We have a birthday party of kids coming to the field sometime in April and if that goes well we may go out and offer it to schools or things in the future. It could be a good public relations/community service item for us in the future.

Winter has been upon us and as such not a lot going on...but here are a couple of pictures from the nice days we had this month.

"Crackerjack" with his yellow thing (I fly helicopters...don't expect me to know the name of your airplanes). If you look to the right hand edge you may notice, "blue dot man" from a previous newsletter.



Art looks very proud of his Cubbie.



Now to a more serious subject. Unfortunately my job as President requires me to occasionally handle unpleasant things. This is one of them. The club by-laws state that on the second occurrence of an infraction I am to report the individuals name in the newsletter. Joe Geiger has received such a notice and his flying

privileges have been revoked for a period of thirty days beginning on March 11th.

## ***Board Meeting Minutes***

March 1, 2005

-The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Guy Nicholas. All board members were present.

-Guy started off the meeting with a discussion of excessive engine noise at the field. Due to several members ignoring our sound level rules, we have to go back to checking all aircraft intending to fly at the field. We have received several noise complaints from our neighbors at the north end of the runway and they also don't like us flying out over their houses. We will also be monitoring our no-fly zone rules. All flying must be kept within the borders of our flying site. There are signs posted at the field so there is no excuse for not following the rules. Violation of these rules may result in a suspension of flying privileges for the individual involved. Our right to use the area for flying model aircraft is being put in jeopardy by a few individuals and we can't allow this to happen. The county does not like to be bothered by these complaints from the neighbors.

-A discussion of alternate flying sites available in the area was held with Mike Cracchiolo stating that he may know of some available property near Sebastopol. Steve Cole volunteered to check with the Army Corp of Engineers for a piece of available land. We all need to be on the lookout for land with the potential of being suitable for our use. At the next general meeting, we will be putting together a committee to look into this subject as our days at our present site are numbered.

-Phil Leech read a letter that he received from Larry Frank concerning our latest problems at the field.

-Gary Child volunteered to head up a committee to get some more definitive guidelines from the county concerning our flying field.

-Mike and Steve will be getting together to gather up the prizes for the next general meeting. If anyone has any suggestions on what they would like to see raffled off, let one of them know of your desires.

-Steve filled us in on the details of the planned birthday party to be held at the field. There will be 16 kids and it is expected to be held on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Several members have graciously agreed to help out.

-Phil gave us an update on the swap meet he and Patrick O'Halloran have planned for the late spring.

-There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

## ***General Meeting 02/15/05***

-The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Guy Nicholas. He again asked for contributions of articles to be printed in the newsletter, adding that he is the newsletter printer not the newsletter writer. He also told us that the new PA system he picked up has been tested and works quite well.

-Mike Cracchiolo told us he has donated a battery charger for use at the field. See Mike for more details on its use.

-We were also informed that new locks have been procured for the lock box and should be in place by the time you read this. See Guy or Steve Cole if you need access to the lock box.

-John Stoufer volunteered the use of his portable generator if needed at the field for any events in the future. Thanks, John.

-The drawing for the free door prize was held with John Reade winning the gallon of fuel with a ticket he had just gotten from Julio Alvarez on a trade.

-Sid Maxwell and John Reade have finalized their plans for the July 4th float fly at the Salvation Army pond. It should be lots of fun. If you've never tried flying off water, put some floats on just about any kind of plane, trainers included, and give it a try. It's

exciting and different and loads of fun. Just be sure to waterproof your radio and safety tie your engine to the fuselage. Just ask John about that.

-Mike Cracchiolo says he's working on setting up a new heli pad.

-The president presented the following list of qualified flight instructors: Rob Jensen, Steve Cole, Mike Cingari, John Reade, Julio Alvarez, Phil Heidt, and Art Sutter. Note: This doesn't mean that you can't buddy box with another pilot, but you need a flight instructor to sign off on a training manual and to solo a new pilot. Also, there are plenty of flight training manuals in the file cabinet at the field for those that need them.

-Brian Blackburn presented the treasurer's report and announced that we have 88 members paid up at this time with more expected soon.

-The secretary's report was voted on and approved as printed in the last newsletter.

-Phil Leech gave us an update on the swap meet he and Patrick O'Halloran have planned for the spring. At this time, it is planned to be held in the west parking lot of the Vets Memorial Building.

-Steve Cole reported that he received a request from a non club member for a birthday party for 16 kids to be held at the club field on March 5th. After a short discussion, it sounded like it would be a great idea and was Okayed by the membership. Steve will work out the details and several members agreed to help out.

-Guy related the details of several of his recent crashes. While flying his heli one day, it suddenly went out of control for no apparent reason. Upon inspection of the crash site, he found that the crystal had fallen out of his receiver thereby causing him to lose control. This is a very unusual occurrence. A few weeks later, while flying in a pylon race, his racer lost control and landed in the grass. At first he thought it was just his flying in the heat of battle, but it turned out that he had another crystal part company with the receiver while in flight. Lesson learned. He now tapes all his crystals in securely. He used to fly JR radios so those of you with JRs might want

to consider doing the same thing. His synthesized Futaba radios don't have that same problem.

-Rob announced that the next pylon race will be on February 27th. There were 15 participants at the last race so there should be another good turnout, weather permitting.

-For show and tell, Dan Coffman brought in his recently completed Bridi Aircruiser.

-Raffle time: The first ticket drawn belonged to Larry Miller who chose the Viper pylon racer. Guy was the next winner and he picked an OS .40 LA engine. Other winners were Ken Melani, Brody Carlson, Joe Giddings, Brian Blackburn, John Reade, Joe Kagan, Tom Haddorff, Mike Cracchiolo, Steve Cole, John Lehtio, Bob Rose, Phil Leech, and Curt Hiner, who chose the coveted hinges.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

## ***FIELD HAPPENINGS***

Phil Leech



**Larry Miller** built a Fokker DVII model from scale plans and wood cut from a kit cutter outfit a few years ago. The model, with a wingspan of 75", weighing 20 pounds was powered by a ZDZ 40 cc gas engine. It is a beautiful, highly detailed scale model complete with scale pilot, machine gun and an articulated Mercedes Benz engine (1918 Benz that is). The model is so gorgeous that Larry had a problem with it. He didn't want

to fly it! Over the years he has flown it twice. And he will tell you, "It flies just great".

Enter **Sid Maxwell**. Sid heard about Larry's problem and decided to make an offer. If Larry would set up the airplane, start it and fly it, then Sid would help Larry solve his problem. Sid would buy the airplane. So, a couple of weeks ago they met at the field and Larry showed Sid all of the "ins and outs" of the Fokker DVII. Properly set up, Larry hand propped the ZDZ to life, taxied out and flew it! No BIG DEAL! Once aloft, he passed it over to Sid who flew it around a bit and then put it through some gentle aerobatics. The big DVII flew gracefully in a very scale like manner, finally settling softly on to our Astroturf runway.



Sid has the DVII at home now and he is caring for it in a very respectful way. He has named it "RED Max" (Sid always names his planes). Look for "Red" in the skies over the Dump real soon.

## **FLOAT FLY AT SAL LAKE**

Sid Maxwell  
John Reade

On July 4 and September 5 everyone with Float Planes will go to Sal Lake, put their planes in the water and have the time of their life. The field will be closed that day so we do not have to worry about frequency pins. We will start at 9 a.m. but the Lake is open from dawn to dusk so it's up to you. We will have a contest with awards to 3 places. The contest will be so casual you

won't even know there is a contest going on. It will be easy, smooth, un-noticed and so cool it will make you wonder what is really going on. We just want to have fun and we want you to have fun, all this fun on the water.

Here are the events for the contest:

1. Roops...(3) loops & (3) rolls -Timed from take off to landing.
  2. Touch & Go - do as many as possible in 2 minutes.
  3. Loop-da-loop - do as many as you can in 2 minutes.
  4. Splash & dash - Touch & go with as small as splash as possible.
- There you have it. So practice if you can. The better you are the more fun we will have. You have 3 months till splash down...but I wish it was tomorrow. So let's fly on water.  
See you at the lake...

## ***Flying on a Web site***

Sid Maxwell

Flying at the field is really enjoyable especially when the weather is great. When it's not so great why not go flying on a Web site. I know we all have many web sites for RC but here are a few I found that I would like to share with anyone interested.

1. [theprofilebrotherhood.com](http://theprofilebrotherhood.com) - club for profile flyers
2. [rcuniverse.com](http://rcuniverse.com) - buy, sell, chat about RC
3. [insiderc.com](http://insiderc.com) - RC misc.
4. [cal-grafx.com](http://cal-grafx.com) - decals
5. [arizonamodels.com](http://arizonamodels.com) - antique kits
6. [propwashvideo.com](http://propwashvideo.com) - RC videos
7. [chiphhyde.com](http://chiphhyde.com) - models and products
8. [mini-iac.com](http://mini-iac.com) - IMAC-aerobatic club
9. [3Dbatix.com](http://3Dbatix.com) - 3-D tips
10. [blainaaustin.com](http://blainaaustin.com) - 3-D tips

Let's fly

See you there

## ***Red's Corner***

Red Jensen

Well the races were a bust because of weather. We'll announce a make-up race

date soon, but for now we'll follow the schedule.

I'm working on a new Q-500 kit and should have them available soon. It will be all wood built-up with all the speed secrets I know. I'll be racing one as soon as I get time to build it.

Did I mention I've got a laser cutter now? Its 50 Watt with a 24" x 48" cutting area, so I can cut some pretty big stuff. Anything from control horns to full kits. It will cut vinyl graphics, foam, fiberglass and lots of other stuff too. It will also engrave anodized aluminum and plaques. Look for lots of neat things in the future.

I'm interested in forming a group and finding a spot to fly electrics indoors. Anyone who is interested, please contact me to form a list. Also has anyone have any leads on a place?

I've been working on an easy do-it-yourself variable pitch prop for electric airplanes. The results of the first prototype were spectacular! I'd never seen an airplane back up mid-air before! Anyway, I've refined the design and may have it flying at the next meeting. Come check it out.

Name the plane:

There were several aircraft that used both piston and jet power. Name at least two. Bonus points for a third. Bring you answer to the meeting and receive a prize!

### ***TIMELY TIPS***

Bob Film

Hint for stuck pistons on Old Engines:

Check out a product from your local gunsmith store called "BREAK FREE" . Pour the "Break Free" into the glow-plug hole and the intake/exhaust port. Also, remove the back plate and pour into the bottom end of the engine. Let it soak awhile then clamp the engine in a vise and apply

heat with a heat gun. Using a gloved hand to rock back and forth gently working the crankshaft until it loosens up allowing the piston and crankshaft to rotate.

This is why I fly sailplanes.

### ***SHOW AND TELL FOR MARCH***

Sid Maxwell  
John Reade

Alert to all Float Plane Flyers! At the March meeting the Show & Tell will feature float planes. Bring all float planes so we can, "showcase", them to all the other members who are wishing...

### ***For Sale***

JR micro R610M 5 channel FM receiver  
JR R600 6 channel FM receiver both with channel 49 crystals. Will trade for Futaba or compatible receiver.

Contact Bob Film 823-1165

Futaba 9ZWCII with synthesizer with R309DPS PCM Rx w/synthesizer, metal case and charger. \$900.00 OBO  
Contact Guy Nicholas  
544-2141 or [guy@gui-soft.com](mailto:guy@gui-soft.com)

## EVENTS CALENDAR 2005



Opening Day Air Show	14 May
Learn to Fly Day	25 June
Day on the Pond	4 July
Fun Fly	23 July
PCAM Air Show Santa Rosa Airport	20-21 August
Day on the Pond	5 September
Neil Taylor Day	11 September



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