

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 21 June, 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: Guy Nicholas, Phil Leech, Larry Miller, Sid Maxwell, Red Jensen  
Website: Patrick O'Halloran



## ***Presidents Report***

Guy Nicholas

I am sorry to report that one of our members, John Reade, suffered the tragic loss of his Step Daughter, Deborah Arlene Smith. The news came as a shock and my heart goes out to John and his family. There has been a trust fund setup her children and donations can be made to the David Smith Trust Fund for Ashley and Amanda, Exchange Bank, College Office, 2201 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa.

I am writing this after just returning from a very nice private air show I had the privilege of participating in. This particular chapter of this club has a big summertime bash on a large lemon orchard in Camarillo, right next door to Point Mugu Naval Air Station. Anyway, Eddie Garcia, Steve Cole, Mike Cingari, and I flew our helicopters prior to the opening of the full scale exhibition. It was a bit of a challenge flying into the sun, over the trees, and avoiding the power lines, but we managed to fly a decent demo without a scratch. I have some video that I am burning to a DVD and I will have it ready by this months meeting...don't miss it! The full scale air show contained some pretty rare planes, the Northrup flying wing, and a real Zero, among other things. And Robosaurus (<http://www.robosaurus.com/>) has to be seen to be believed!

You may notice my threesome of photos on the front page. For those with their glasses on you may also notice the plane on the right is a bit shorter than the plane on the left. Well, that was my ride to and from the air show. The ride down was great; an old Flying Tigers buddy of Ralph's Jimmy Rollison was our gracious host and a really nice guy. John Stoufer, Ralph Grella, and I, along with all our helicopters and equipment flew down in Jimmy's Twin Beech. It was a very comfortable ride down. Actually the ride back was very comfortable as well...until we landed. Apparently the gear was up and as we were in our flare at Nut

Tree we were lucky to have the previous owner of the plane taxiing out. He came over the radio with a short, but to the point, "Gear up!" Jimmy immediately powered up and climbed back up. We spent the next half hour messing around trying to get the gear to come down. We were very fortunate to have the ex owner of the plane in the air along side us in his Citabria giving us a blow by blow. There was no way to see the gear ourselves and he became our "gear cam". At one point Jimmy tried some negative G maneuvers to try to free it up. The first two were pretty minor with us just getting a bit light in our seats. The last one started with a 45% climb and a hard push over. We had thrown a moving pad over our bundle, which included four helicopters, one P-51, and a bunch of miscellaneous stuff. When he did the push over, the whole mass rose to the top of the aircraft, held there for a couple of seconds, then came back down. Finally it was decided that the gear was as down as it was going to get. Our observer told us that the right gear was still slightly behind the left, but they weren't moving anymore. Jimmy's idea was to do a flying landing, touch the gear, and see what happened. Jimmy made a perfect touchdown and the gear held. He pulled the power back but didn't touch the brakes for fear it would put too much load on the gear. When the tail wheel touched down we felt a great relief. The engines were shut down as we kept rolling towards the end of the runway. Finally, he turned off at the last taxi way and we were doing between five and ten MPH, when WHAM! The gear collapsed. We all walked out the back door and the result is what you see in the right hand picture. In the end the only thing that got hurt was the plane which is great. But it was very unfortunate that the airplane got hurt...it was a nice bird.

## ***WCF Board Meeting Minutes***

6/7/05

-Members present were Chairman Guy Nicholas, Brody Carlson, Phil Leech, Treasurer Brian Blackburn, Mike Cracchiolo,

John Reade, Gary Child, Steve Cole, and Secretary Larry Miller. Guest Patrick O'Halloran was also present.

-The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

-Patrick was asked to report on his progress on the upcoming swap meet. It sounded as though he had done a very thorough job and we can look forward to a very successful event.

-Guy suggested that we buy another frequency monitor to replace the one we lost. It is essential that we have one on hand for events such as PCAM where we are flying in front of an audience. He has found one at a reasonable price and is easy to operate so he will proceed with the purchase.

-Sid Maxwell sent word that he would like the club to pick up a lightweight folding table and a portable canopy for use in the pit area at the field and at the pond. Word was sent back to Sid to come to the next meeting with his proposal and prices.

-A discussion was held on the past float fly and the upcoming one on July 4th. This is starting to become a popular event. It's different and lots of fun. Give it a try.

-The question was raised as to whether the winner of the AT-6 ride had claimed his prize yet. No one had the answer and we still don't know what it's going to cost us. We will be checking further into this.

-The plans for the upcoming Learn to Fly Day are nearing completion with plenty of pilots and aircraft lined up. This is usually among our most successful events.

-The board held a critique of the past Opening Day event. Things went pretty well considering that a few minor setbacks changed our original plan. We determined that a little more organization is in order for future events.

-Since we have only one JR buddy box at the field and it doesn't work half the time, we asked Steve to pick up a new one with cord, plus a new battery for the old one, and drop it off at the field. It should be there in time for the Learn to Fly Day event.

-We have a Fun Fly coming up next month and Mike has graciously volunteered to head

it up. He says he will recruit his buddy, Kurt Hiner, to help him out with this event.

-Steve stated that he has another lead on a potential flying site in the Healdsburg area. He will get back to us on this at the next meeting.

-Work has started on the annual Pacific Coast Air Museum Air Show. Committees are being formed and we will be looking for scale models of all types for display.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

## ***WCF General Membership Meeting***

5/17/05

-The meeting was called to order by President Guy Nicholas at 7:30 pm.

-We had thirty members present.

-The door prize drawing was held with new junior member Beau Brennen winning the free gallon of fuel.

-Three new members introduced themselves to the membership.

-Treasurer Brian Blackburn gave his financial report to the group and also stated that we have 107 members signed up so far this year.

-The secretary's report was approved as printed in the May newsletter.

-Field acquisition committee chairman Sid Maxwell gave his report on the outcome of their recent inquiries on locating another flying site. Sid has been putting in a lot of time on this project and deserves our heartfelt thanks.

-Steve Cole reported on the outcome of our Opening Day fly-in and BBQ. Wayne had a few pictures he had taken of the paintball action to show the membership. Bob Film reported that the food concession did very well and John Stoufer said that he had sold a number of club shirts and hats. The raffle for the T-6 ride did well, too, but the highlight

of the day was apparently the paintball shooting. The first target aircraft turned chicken and decided to fly away before even a single shot was fired. (Apparently the battery went bad). The next couple of aircraft took quite a beating before giving up with still a long line of people waiting for their turn to get in a few shots. It looks like next year we'll have to get a couple more paintball guns into action and maybe another airplane (target) or two to shoot at.

-Bob Film said that they need another propane bottle for the barbeques so he was told to go out and buy one and submit the bill to the treasurer for reimbursement.

-Guy gave a brief report on the last pylon race. He was asked to post the current standings either before or after the next race so that the participants know where they stand. It appears that the electric powered Quickie flown by Doc is the one to beat in the Quickie class. In the last race in the trainer division, junior member Joe Giddings won all three heats which makes him look like the one to go after next time.

-Phil reported on the plans for the upcoming swap meet in July and everything is in readiness for the event.

-Sid reminded everyone of the upcoming float-fly practice at the lake next week.

-Steve and Sid are preparing for the Learn To Fly Day event next month and are looking for volunteers with trainers to come on out and help out with the flying. Master chef Bob Film will once again perform his magic at the barbeque.

-Guy reported that Loren Fong won big at a recent helicopter event he attended in Fremont. Maybe we can get him to bring his helicopters to the next meeting and tell us about the event. How about it, Loren?

-The club would like to extend a big **'thank you'** to Wayne Watson who spent the entire day last week mowing the tall weeds at the field. He even brought along a helper (sorry, I didn't get his name) who spent the day weed wacking. Thanks again, guys.

-Mike Cracchiolo came up front and gave us a rundown on the array of raffle prizes he had picked up for us from Awesome Hobbies this month.

-Raffle time. The first ticket drawn belonged to Sid Maxwell and he chose the Hobbico Twinstar dual engine aircraft ARF. There are already four or five of these in the club so maybe we'll have to have a Twinstar fly-in. Anyway, the next ticket pulled belonged to Joe Giddings who picked an electric Yak with a brushless motor. The next winner, Tom Whitemore, also picked an electric aircraft, an Ultimate. Mike won a set of floats, Richard Cole won a failsafe device, and Beau Brenner got a nice battery charger. Joe Kagan also picked up a failsafe device and Phil Heidt got a glow starter. There were several other members who picked up some nice prizes but the big winner of the night was Julio Alvarez who chose the much sought after hinges. -There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

## ***FIELD HAPPENINGS***

By: Phil Leech

### **"Somebody mowed our field"**

Just before our "Airshow 2005" event the rains had been near record amounts for spring and the grass at the field had gotten really tall and it wasn't sure how we would get the mowing done.

Steve Cole assured me that he had someone lined up to mow it but he wasn't sure just when it would happen. Enter Sid Maxwell. Concerned that we were getting close to the May 14 date of our event, Sid talked with Bob Film who volunteered that he had a lawn tractor that he thought would be up to the task but he didn't have any way to get it to the field. Sid scratched around and found that Mike Hogan had a trailer that he would loan to Bob so that he could get his tractor up to the WCF airfield. Bob met with Mike and towed Mike's trailer home with him but Bob's next dilemma was how he would get the tractor up to the trailer bed of Mike's trailer as it was a couple of feet above the ground and Bob couldn't figure

out how he could safely get his tractor in the trailer. After much frustration Bob found a trailer at a rental place that was low enough to the ground that he could get the tractor secured for the trip to Healdsburg. At the field, Bob unloaded the tractor and mowed around the perimeter of the field but found that it was slow going and the grass was tough and difficult to cut. He struggled for several hours but soon the bewitching hour to return the trailer as well as the fact that the dump would close soon forced Bob to retreat and regroup.

The next chapter occurred a couple of days later when Wayne Watson arrived with his Kubota tractor and a new bush hog mower. Wayne is the guy that Steve had been telling me about all along and there he was, ready to tackle the job! Wayne proceeded to take up where Bob had left off and he mowed along our parking lot and completed the overflow lot to the north. This was especially important to us because we knew from last year that we would need that lot for the crowds that we expected. It turned out to be quite a job for Wayne too, as he spent the better part of the day working at it.



We all owe both of these guys a lot for their special efforts to bale us out. Thanks again, Bob and Wayne!

## FLOAT PLANES OPEN SEASON AT SAL LAKE – MAY 21, 2005



Sid Maxwell had laid the plans for a “practice fly” for float planes at SAL Lake for several months. He had met with the Salvation Army commander to let him know that we were planning an event and he had taken the initiative to talk to the Fire Chief at the CDF station that is located just south of the Salvation Army facility. Sid had realized that if we could get permission to access the float site through the CDF station that it would be much easier to get to our flying site. I’m not sure how many of you have had the experience of navigating the road to the lake from the Salvation Army side but it is pretty rough and some months of the year you might not make it without a AWD vehicle. At any rate, Sid was successful in gaining approval from the Fire Chief and it turned out to be much better than I had expected. There are several buildings at the CDF site and as you drive around them you find a large, gravel parking lot that is directing adjacent to the dam that creates SAL Lake. We have flown from the west side of the lake last season but with access from the CDF side it became apparent that we would be better off on the east side. There must have been about 15 of us or so with float planes and seaplanes and our flying gear. John Stoufer had brought a rowboat (just in case) along with an EZ UP canopy complete with folding chairs.



It wasn't long until many of our guys were logging successful flights and enjoying near perfect weather (OK, it was a little windy). Around Noon, Sid came around taking orders for deli sandwiches that he ordered from Papa John's Grocery in Healdsburg with his cell phone. Bob Film then proceeded to make the run to Papa John's to get the sandwiches and soon we were enjoying a great lunch under John Stoufer's canopy watching guys taking off and having a great time. Sid has planned the season's first formal float fly event for July 4 when the Dump will be closed. It will be a fun fly type of event with "most loops", "most touch and goes" etc. I'm sure he will arrange for a deli lunch and we'll hope for weather as good as we had on May 21. Hope to see as many of you as can make it.

## **NEW WIND SOCKS AT THE FIELD**

Don't know how many of you have noticed the new wind socks located on the north and south ends of the flight line. These aren't the home made numbers that we have had in the past. The new wind socks are commercial quality with unique aluminum swiveling devices that enable them to move in two axes. So where did these come from? Credit **John Stoufer** for this one. John and his wife Melissa hand sewed some replacements last year but this year John decided we needed first class equipment and he's correct that one of the most important observations that flyers need to make is to get the wind direction right. John bought the new wind socks and installed

them a couple of months ago. Brian Blackburn has been after John to reimburse him but John is having none of it and claims that he wants to donate them to the club. We could use a few more guys like John, couldn't we?

## **WCF FIRST ANNUAL SWAP MEET – JULY 9, 2005**

Mark your Calendars! Patrick O' Halloran is putting the finishing touches on our plans for an R/C swap meet to be held in the parking lot just outside the door from the entrance to our monthly meeting spot at the Veteran's Building. The official hours are 9:00AM til Noon on that Saturday but guys can start setting up their booths at 8:00 or so. We have arranged to have tables available to put your stuff on and there will be a minimal \$5 fee collected. We have contacted all of the R/C clubs in the Bay Area and have had numerous responses from guys that plan to participate. So, pick through all of those kits that you will never build and those radios and assorted gear that you don't need anymore and haul all of that stuff down to the Vet's Bldg. Or, if you are new to the hobby...what a chance to pick up some bargain priced good R/C stuff!

## ***Sal Lake Notice***

By Sid Maxwell

From now on when you come to Sal Lake you do not have to sign in or out at the Salvation Army Main Bldg. I will sign us in and out as a group. You can drive out to the frontage road, go through the firefighters gate (the gate will be open). Then go through the parking lot and park near the back gate to the lake. Set up just inside the gate, as we did last month at the northeast corner of the lake, close the gate behind you and you'll have the sun at your back and the wind in your face.

## ***Learn to Fly Day***

By Sid Maxwell

On June 25 we will have our annual, "Learn to Fly Day". This is our chance to give back to the community our free time and effort to anyone interested in learning to fly Radio Control Airplanes and Helicopters. Invite everyone you know to join us in this fun filled day of action and enjoyment. It starts at 10 am and will go until 2 pm. We will have a Hamburger and Hot Dog lunch around noon and we will have nothing but friendly faces everywhere, all day long. Let's fly with a buddy!

### ***Flying at the Sal Lake Practice***

By Sid Maxwell

The Practice days at Sal Lake turned out to be more fun than expected. We had two days of practice May 21 and June 4. There were 20 members attending and the smiles on their faces told the whole story of how much fun we were having.

We set up at the north end of the Lake on the east side right on the road that goes over the dam. I set things up with the Forestry Capt. so we could come thru their Parking Lot an park in the lot and go thru the back gate to the Lake. This arrangement turned out to be an ideal situation for all of us. You could not ask for anything better.

We had a few crashes, a couple ended up in a tree but over all it was nothing like last year, It was really great. We all had such a good time. You really know we had a good time when everyone wants to come back for more as soon as possible. As for myself, I'm ready right now. Let's go!

So now we have the," Day on the Pond", on the 4th of July. Another great day on he water and we'll have a contest for anyone ready to enter with awards to three places. You'll find the rules for the contest elsewhere in this newsletter. There will be 4 events, so check them out; it's going to be fun for all of us.

Come on out on the 4th of July, be in the contest or just come out and fly or just come out and watch.

We'll have a Deli lunch served for \$6.00,

cold drinks available and all the fun you want, for free.

You don't have to pick up a frequency pin at the Field because the Field will be closed that day. I will have a Frequency Board at the Lake. So come on out and we'll see you there. The wetter the better.

### ***For Sale***

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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

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Real Flight Simulator  
\$40.00  
584-7001

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## EVENTS CALENDAR 2005



April 10	Pylon Races
May 1	Pylon Races
May 14	Model Air Show
May 21	Float Fly Practice at Sal Lake
May 28	Castle Air Base Fun Fly Atwater, Ca.
June 4	Float Fly Practice at Sal Lake
June 11	Float Fly at Redding, Ca.
June 19	Pylon Races
June 25	Learn to Fly Day
July 4	Day on the Pond
July 9	WCF Swap Meet at Santa Rosa, Ca.
July 17	Pylon Races
July 23	Larry Frank Fun Fly
Aug 14	Pylon Races
Aug 20-21	PCAM Santa Rosa Airport
Sept 5	Day on the Pond
Sept 11	Neil Taylor Fun Fly
Sept 14 – 18	Reno Air Races, Reno, Nev.
Oct 2	Pylon Races
Nov 16	Pylon Races
Dec 10	WCF Christmas Party Santa Rosa



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