

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 19 July, 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

Well, another month has come and gone and I think we are finally into the flying season. It hasn't rained in what...a week or two with the temperature nearing 100 this week. We have a fun fly coming up, we have racing coming up, and I know you all have lots of cool stuff now that we had the swap meet...so get out there and fly!

As for recent events, we had our annual, "Learn to Fly" day. It was a great success; I don't have the actual numbers of signed up people, but there were quite a few. I was there for most of the day and it seemed everyone had a great time.

We had some fun racing, and I was cringing at all the points I was missing out on. I only had six weeks since the last race to assemble my ARF racer. I mean come on, I had to glue the hinges in, bolt on the tail and mount the 4 servos! I'm not Superman! Of course, there were others that were joining me on the sidelines.

CrackerJack (AKA Mike Cracchiolo) now has a plethora of parts.



Which way was it going? Right, or left?



Joe found out that even though the pylons (PVC pipe with a flag on top) sway in the breeze, they can be feisty!



We also had a very successful float fly. (Editors note: We actually had about 6 people write articles about the event. I included a couple and I apologize to those that wrote something that didn't appear here)

The blimp on the cover flew over me while I was flying near work and then moored over at the Snoopy Airport. Nice paint job, no?

## ***WCF Board Meeting***

7/5/05

-Members present were Chairman Guy Nicholas, Treasurer Brian Blackburn, Secretary Larry Miller, Brody Carlson, Phil Leech, John Reade, Steve Cole, and Rob Jensen. Also in attendance was Bob Film.

-Bob filled us in on an opportunity for WCF members to enjoy a low cost weekend getaway at the Point Arena Lighthouse 3 bedroom home. Call Bob for more information.

-Steve told us that Sid Maxwell had talked to some county correctional officers at the field and asked that since they use prisoners to cut grass in the area if they could cut the weeds at our field. Since they're always looking for things for them to do, they thought it was a great idea. So we shouldn't have to worry about the weeds anymore.

-Last month, while he was mowing the grass at the field, Bob Film's mower was damaged so the board voted to pay for the repairs. A check for \$80.00 was given to Bob even though he tried to refuse it.

-Brody presented some maps and photos of a potential flying site near Healdsburg.

-We reviewed some plans for some new tables for the field that were drawn up by James Coleman.

-John brought up the fact that some of our picnic tables are in need of repair. He volunteered to head up the repair party.

-Steve presented a critique of the recent Learn to Fly Day. It was a very successful event again this year.

-Rob reminded us of the pylon races coming up on July 17th.

-We were also reminded of the swap meeting coming up on the 9th.

-We also have a fun fly coming up on Saturday, July 23rd, put together by Sid and Kurt Hiner. Should be a flyer coming out on this soon.

-Phil filled us in on the PCAM tentative program he has planned.

-It was brought up that we need to place a little more emphasis on safety at future float flys. There have been no problems but you can never be too safe.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

## ***WCF General Meeting***

6/21/05

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

-We had 31 members present and 1 guest.

-The free door prize drawing was held with Ralph Grella winning the gallon of fuel.

-Treasurer Brian Blackburn gave his monthly financial report and informed us that we have 110 members so far this year.

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

-It was noted that the two new windsocks flying at the field were donated by John Stoufer. Since he declined any monetary reimbursement, it was decided to give him and his wife, Melissa, a certificate for dinner for two at the Hunter Steak House.

-Rob gave us a review of the pylon races held earlier this month. The current standings will be posted on the web site and E-mailed out so that the competitors will know their points total so far this year.

-Phil gave us an update on the plans for the upcoming PCAM air show.

-Sid said that he would like to purchase a portable canopy for use at the field and at the float fly site. He presented his facts and figures and was granted permission to proceed.

-It was noted that Bob Film and Sid spent a lot of time mowing and weed wacking the field prior to the Learn to Fly Day event and they were thanked profusely.

-Sid also reminded us of the upcoming float fly scheduled for the 4th of July.

-Patrick told us that plans were complete for the July swap meet at the Vets Memorial Building parking lot.

-Ralph filled us in on the private airshow that was attended by himself, Mike Cingari, Guy Nicholas, Eddie Garcia, Steve Cole, and John Stoufer. These guys were invited to put on a R/C helicopter demonstration for the crowd. The real excitement of the trip came on their return to Santa Rosa when the landing gear on the Beech D-18 aircraft they were passengers in failed to extend for landing. Eventually, they got it down and safely landed. But on the roll out, it collapsed and gave them all a thrill they won't soon forget. Fortunately, the pilot had shut down the engines so there was no major engine damage except for a couple of bent propellers. This was all captured on video tape that Guy brought for us all to see.

-John Reade also had a video for us of the recent float fly he had attended in Red Bluff. Flying off water is becoming very popular. It's different and fun, and you have a large runway that anyone should be able to land on.

-Mike Cracchiolo gave us a rundown on the raffle prizes for the evening which he picked up at Red's Hanger One hobby shop.

-The last thing for the evening was the raffle. The first ticket drawn belonged to Ken Milani who chose the Lanier 3-D Lazer kit. Mike had the next ticket and picked out the Great Plains Combat Corsair. Brian got an electric drill and James Coleman picked up a C. G. Machine. Richard Coleman got an Accu Throw, Ralph got a an electric foam aircraft manufactured by Rob called a King Kit-E, Julio picked out a Goldberg tail wheel assembly, and Sid got a nice aluminum spinner. Lucky John Reade picked up a nice package of lead. A number of other members also picked up some nice prizes before the evening was over.

-There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm at which time we all went out to the parking lot to watch Rob fly his picklefork hydroplane. You had to see it to believe it. Hopefully, he will bring it out to the float fly on the 4th.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

### *Sid's Float Fly Madness July 4<sup>th</sup>*

By Larry Miller

On the 4th of July, since the flying field was closed, Sid put on a Float Fly at the Salvation Army pond. Since this was only the second time I had ever tried to fly off water, (the first time I had engine problems and my plane spent a good deal of time floating aimlessly in the middle of the lake), I was a little apprehensive about trying it again. I worked on my engine and put in a new fuel tank and lines that I hoped would solve the problem and decided I would give it another try. I'm sure glad I did. What a blast. With a reliable engine I never had to paddle out into the lake to retrieve it and I could just taxi it back to the beach. I never even got my toes wet. (John Lehtio spend the entire day in the rowboat rescuing stalled aircraft for those not as fortunate as me; we owe him a huge 'Thank You')

Flying off water is not any more difficult than flying off land with wheels. And you can bring the wife and kids (or not) and spend the day at the beach. Floats can be put on almost any aircraft you can think of or there are flying boats available so you can be on the water in no time. If I had realized it was so much fun, I would have tried it a long time ago. Now I'm hooked. Thanks, Sid.

As usual, Sid had the event well planned and organized. We don't have to sign in at the main office anymore and the CDF let's us park in their parking lot so it's only about a 50' walk to the waters edge. He even had a deli lunch available and soft drinks for a buck. As usual, there were a few crashes. The water is a little forgiving but if you hit hard ground, well, you know. John Stoufer got a little too much water in his fuselage (making it difficult to fly) and his plane flew off over the hills. He recovered it but it was pretty trashed. I watched Kurt Hiner's plane spiral in from about 20' but he hit the water

and only suffered minor damage, but it was enough for Kurt, so now Julio has another plane for his collection. Both of these guys will, I'm sure, be back for the next float fly with new planes. Ralph let Mike Cingari give it a try with his float plane but I'll bet he doesn't do that again. After some minor repair, it'll be good as new again. Phil Leech was out there doing his best to get his plane off the water (without success) after some instruction from Mike. Rob put on a demonstration with his boat/airplane. You have to see it to believe it. He's the only one I know of who has won an airplane contest with a boat.

The last I heard, we had over 50 people in attendance and at least 20 aircraft, all of which flew. Some of them were electric powered and they flew great off water. Rich Larson brought out his twin engine PBY which Rob test flew for him. It looked great in the air. Rob said it flew pretty good but wasn't for a novice.

I had a great time and I will be there for the next one.

### ***Float Fly***

John Reade

The "Day on the Pond" was a great success AND lot of fun. If you missed it, you definitely missed a good time. Flying off the water is really a blast. I could do "splash & dash" (touch & go) all day long. From what I heard we had 26 planes there getting wet. Some only got wet on the outside, while a few got wet on the inside, too. Not good on the radio gear. As John Stoufer found out. When your receiver gets wet it doesn't do what ya tell it to do.

And many many thanks to Capt. John Lehtio for never getting tired of his "Rescue Missions" one after another. He only flew two times because WE kept him busy retrieving planes all day. He never complained, just said "I'll go get it." Time after time.

And then the big surprise, to a few, came when Robbie put his little electric boat in the water. After a few pictures (brand new

& looking great) he buzzed around in circles and figure 8's, going like hell for a little foam boat, then to the surprise of a few, it took to the air and flew like an airplane !! Some of us saw one like it at the last general meeting, so we knew what to expect. But to the few that hadn't seen it before, well it just blew them away. I'll bet there will be a few of them out there for the next float fly. That little flying boat even took home the First Place trophy.

Sid's crash, I think, was the best to watch. He was doing the timed touch & go's. (How many can you do in 2 minutes?). He got one done and his plane headed for the bank. He just knew he had enough room to throttle up and get air born before hitting the bank. NOT !!! Didn't hurt it too bad, though.

The next float fly is Monday of Labor Day week-end. Let's see some more planes there. If you haven't flown off the water before, get one ready, you're goin' to love it. And maybe we'll have a practice day before that.

As our President would say—"Be there or be square"

Written by last years "Let's see how hard those rocks are!"—John Reade



### ***FIRST ANNUAL WCF SWAP MEET***

By: Phil Leech

**Patrick O' Halloran** came to me late last year and said something like, "So, Phil what d'ya think about the idea of WCF havin' a Swap Meet? And don't ya think that would

be grand idea?" I had reservations but I agreed to work with Patrick to put the event together by contacting the County Dept of Parks and Recreation to see about renting the Veteran's Building parking lot for a Swap Meet in July 2005. Patrick set about contacting AMA, writing e-mails to all of the Bay Area Clubs, radio stations and local newspapers searching for free media announcements. The result of Patrick's efforts was the turnout of 25 vendors representing a wide range of modelers mostly from Sonoma County but with a couple of guys from out of the County. **Wayne and Darlene Frederick** collected the \$5 entry fee from each vendor who was then given a parking space and a table to display their engines, kits and whatever. **John Stoufer** set up the WCF booth selling hats and shirts and **Sid Maxwell** represented the club with an information booth about WCF.

The day started early with some arrivals before 7:00AM and I knew early on that we were going to have a good day. Meeting with modelers who have been squirreling away kits and engines for years and years was a real treat. I spent some time with an older couple from Sebastopol who were selling out all of their accumulation of balsa, Monokote, wheels and who knows what. By the end of the day they had pretty much liquidated everything. Many of the booths were manned by our own members who sold stuff to our own members constituting a true "swap meet" as we exchanged "my stuff" for "your stuff" and I went home with a few new treasures from **Kurt Hiner** and **John Reade** and a new landing gear from the Sebastopol couple. There was a selling frenzy as **J. T. Williams** arrived with new "in the box" engines and ARF's. He sold three big Saitos before I had a chance to even see them. It was then that we learned that J. T. and his wife are moving to Texas and he was selling his RC favorites. I think he still has a Hangar Nine P-51 and a Focke Wulf for anyone who missed the event. Sorry to lose J. T.

All in all, I had a great day seeing old friends and catching up with what everybody is

doing and planning. Wouldn't miss it for anything and it has got me looking forward to next year. Look what Patrick has started!



## ***FLOAT FLY FUN***

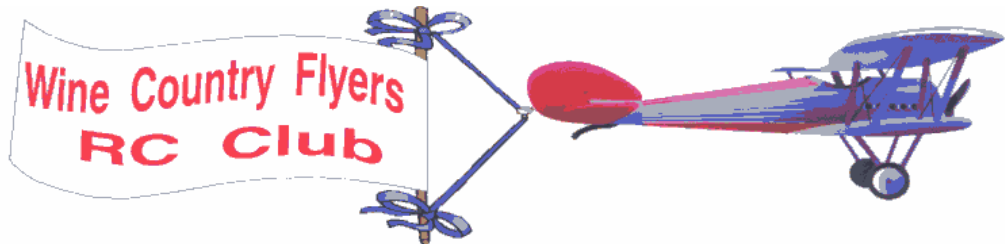
John Stoufer

What a great day, "Day on the Pond", was on the 4th. I was surprised by the number of people that were there and I feel everyone really enjoyed the show. One disappointment was that even though my boats were faster than Robs, no matter how much up elevator I gave them they still wouldn't fly like his!!! I think he's got a winner with that boat? Plane? Thing?

I've already begun work on a Kadet LT 40 with floats, as I lost my Mariner to a wet receiver. I am looking forward to the next float fly on Sept. 5. It's just a lot of fun and we have a great place for it...try it, you'll like it.

## ***For Sale***

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 Real Flight Simulator  
 \$40.00  
 584-7001  
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**PRESENTS**

**Larry Frank Fun-Fly Day**

**10 Am--2 Pm**

FUN FOR ONE

&

FUN FOR ALL

**CONTEST EVENTS**

**OPEN FLYING**

**BBO LUNCH**

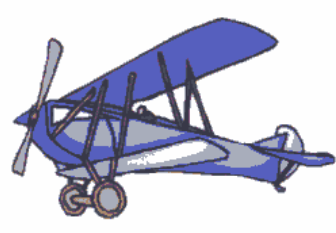
**"DEMOS"**

At the Alexander Valley

Model Airport

Healdsburg, Calif.

**JULY 23, 2005**



## 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  
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