

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 21 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

## 2006 Club Officers:

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:johnereade@earthlink.net">johnereade@earthlink.net</a>

## 2006 Board Members:

Steve Cole	(707) 566-8838	<a href="mailto:stevecole@awesomehobbies.com">stevecole@awesomehobbies.com</a>
Mike Cracchiolo	(707) 291-2739	<a href="mailto:vdubbub@hotmail.com">vdubbub@hotmail.com</a>
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Sid Maxwell	(707) 584-4428	<a href="mailto:airmanx@inreach.com">airmanx@inreach.com</a>
Jerry Williams	(707) 762-5368	<a href="mailto:jerrywilliams99@comcast.net">jerrywilliams99@comcast.net</a>

## Newsletter and Website

Newsletter Team:

Website:

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



## ***Presidents Report***

Guy Nicholas

Greetings all and welcome to February, The weather has been pretty nice lately and I have seen a really nice turnout at the field the last few weekends. I have seen a lot of new faces up there and new blood is always a good sign. The field is looking good with the constant mowing and the trees beginning to fall. Now, if you could just get rid of that giant mound of dirt.

When I was at the field this last weekend I noticed a few minor things that I should probably mention. In the winter time flying tends to be a bit scarcer so when we can get to the field we are all a bit more anxious to get in the air. Consequently there tends to be more people up at any one time. The first thing I would like to mention is spotters. Spotters are not mandatory at the field but are recommended, and this is especially true when there are lots of people in the air. So next time you take to the air and there are five others up there with you, ask somebody to spot for you.

The second thing I would mention is to keep you distance from other people. Again, this last weekend, I saw a new member hovering his heli in the process of setting it up. Another member set his heli down not more than ten feet from this person and took off, then continued to fly within fifteen or twenty feet of the guy.

Flying too close to people is both dangerous and distracting, so please, try to keep your distance from others.

## ***WCF Board Meeting***

2/7/06

By Larry Miller

-The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Vice President Brody Carlson.

-Other members present were Sid Maxwell, Phil Leech, Larry Miller, John Reade, and Jerry Williams.

-Sid handed out a schedule of events for the upcoming year. He also had the pylon racing schedule for the year, reminding us

that the first race is coming up in just a few short weeks, Sunday morning, March 5th to be exact.

-Phil told us that we now have over 90 members paid up so far this year. This includes at least 9 new members. The February 28th deadline for renewals is fast approaching so get your dues in soon to avoid a penalty.

-The board voted to approve a \$40.00 reimbursement to Sid for buying lunch for the county crew that cut up the fallen tree and for cutting the weeds for us.

-New pilots who have not been checked off to solo by Steve need to talk to him before attempting to fly alone. There have been a few incidents lately nearly resulting in injury or property damage by inexperienced pilots.

-"Guest pilots who have never been to our field before must demonstrate their ability to safely fly their aircraft". This rule will be added to our Standing Rules.

-Sid said that he is looking for an indoor flying site for the small electrics. He also told us that he presented the \$100.00 donation to the Major at the Salvation Army facility. They were quite pleased and said that we are welcome to use their lake again this year.

-Sid brought up the fact that some of our tables could use some new covering and he will be taking care of that in the near future. He also said that he would like to see a better spectator fence erected as we only have a rope across the area at the present time.

-It was decided to have Guy pick up a new PA system and to store it at someone's home when not needed at the field.

-A discussion was held on our Opening Day event. Sid will probably CD the event so he will be looking for volunteers and folks to do demonstrations.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

## ***General Meeting***

1/17/06  
By Larry Miller

-The meeting was called order by President Guy Nicholas.

-In spite of the stormy weather outside, we had 33 members and 1 guest present.

-The president welcomed everyone for the start of another great year and introduced the club officers for the year 2006.

-The door prize drawing was held with Jeu Galindo, of the famous Galindo twins, winning the usual gallon of fuel just for coming to the meeting.

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

-The treasurer gave his monthly report and stated that we have over 80 members already signed up for the new year.

-The president reminded everyone to be on their toes and pay attention to safety after another crash in the parking lot by an inexperienced modeler. Safety is of primary importance at the field. We don't want anyone needlessly injured or damage to someone's vehicle due to the carelessness of others.

-The president announced that the big tree to the north of the runway had fallen down during the last storm. Sid said that he would have the county cut it up and haul it away. No one was sad to see it go since it had caught more than it's share of model aircraft.

-The president asked for two volunteers for the annual audit committee. John Stoufer and Ralph Grella stepped forward to accept the job and will report back to the membership on their findings.

-Steve Cole announced that he will be reviewing the list of instructors and asked if anyone would like to be added to the list.

-Phil Leech and Sid Maxwell reported on their tour of the Tolay Lake Park property.

-John Letio was presented with a solo certificate and congratulated by the membership.

-Sid brought in some laminating material so that members could laminate their new membership cards and AMA cards.

-Patrick O'Halloran announced his intention to put on another swap at the Vets Memorial Building parking lot again this year. Last years event was such a great success that he'd like to do it again. The date has been set for June 24th. More info will be put out later.

-Rob Jensen gave us a rundown on last years pylon racing program and he is now working on the schedule for this years events.

-Rob attended the AMA Convention in southern California recently and told us about what he saw and heard there. He picked up a lot of information on the new Spread Spectrum radio systems that are coming out.

-Sid informed us that he had invited Joe Hunt to come up and put on an aerobatic clinic for our members. More will come out on this in the near future.

-For show and tell, Kevin Riecke brought in an 82" P-47 kit he recently purchased. It has a highly detailed fiberglass and carbon fiber fuselage, the same for the wing, and he plans to power it with a gas engine. It will have all the bells and whistles when he finishes it.

-Mike Cracchiolo, who once again will be procuring the prizes for the 2006 raffles, gave us a rundown on what he had picked out for this evening raffle.

-The first ticket drawn for the first raffle of the new year belonged to John Stoufer who picked out the .60 size Aerobatic ARF. James Coleman had the next ticket drawn and he chose a nice battery charger followed by Brian Blackburn who got himself an electric powered stick type model. Gil Delagnes picked out a volt meter, Rich Coleman got a nice set of floats, Mannie Gonzales won a 3D aerobatic ARF, Kurt Hiner got an Angle Pro, Gary Child chose the hinges (he's got enough hinges for about 20 airplanes now), John Lehtio got a set of X-Acto clamps, and Charlie Cox got stuck (no pun intended) with some foam safe CA glue.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Miller, Sec.

### ***Go Fast and Turn Left!***

By Robbie Jensen

Pylon racing for Quickies and Trainers is right around the corner! First race is March 5, 9:30 a.m. This year the only change is that we are breaking the season in half, so there are two points races per year. Hopefully this will help keep interest up giving a chance to start over mid season and still be in the hunt.

I am (very slowly) working on a new scratch built all built up design with all the go fast tricks I know. Should be ready to go right about time for the first race! If anyone would like some speed secrets, bring your plane down to the shop and I would be glad to help.

See ya there!

Red

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### ***FLOAT FLY at SAL LAKE***

By Sid Maxwell

I know it's early in the year to talk about flying on water but I just want to remind everyone about the (5) float fly events we will have at Sal Lake. We will have , Float fly Madness, Day on the Pond and Float fly Aftermath.

There will be plenty of water fun for all of us at Sal Lake and even one at Red Bluff on June 9-10-11.

Our first Float Fly Madness will be on April 29 with another one to follow on May 20. So what does that give us...let's see...hummmmm...2 months, 2 months to get your float plane ready. That's enough time, you can make it. You'll have the time of your life. So let's go to Sal Lake and check out the water.

Water is where it's at.

### ***DUES FOR 2006***

By Sid Maxwell

The dues for 2006 are due by January 1, 2006. The dues are late if paid after the last day of February and there is a \$50 fine for dues paid after that date. The dues amount for 2006 is \$80 unless you are a hard working member and have received a reduced rate. Send all dues to Treasurer Brian Blackburn.

Anyone not paying their dues by March 1 will not receive the WCF newsletter.

### ***PYLON RACES***

By Sid Maxwell

Get out your checked flags guys, the Pylon Races are coming your way. The first pylon race will be held on March 5 .....only 2 weeks away, with another one on April 2. They will continue thru the year on the first Sunday of each month all the way to November. The racing season will be divided into two half so if you stumble in the first half you can pick it up in the second half.

Red Jensen will be the CD and answer all your questions. We will have Trainer Races 40 size and Quickie races.

It was a big success last year and this year promises to be even better.

Come out and get hooked!!!

### ***WANTED***

By Sid Maxwell

We're looking for a few good men. We're looking for (5) pilots to be on the Northern California Cup Team. We need (10) and we have (5). We will have two contests, one at Ukiah on June 3 and one at Healdsburg on July 15. Contact John Reade or Sid Maxwell if you want to win one for the WCF.

### ***Safety in the Workshop***

[www.safety-council.org](http://www.safety-council.org)

It's winter and the building season is in full swing. Just as the safety coordinator focus

on flight safety during the flying season, he should not forget about shop safety during the building season. Below are some general tips to share with your club:

#### Keep it Clean

Many injuries result from poor housekeeping in the shop. Trips, slips, and falls account for the bulk of these mishaps.

Scrap material and wrappings, loose parts, scattered tools and equipment, or oil spills can cause injury. Debris should be swept up and disposed of. Parts should be kept on work benches. Tools should be placed where they cannot fall and cause damage or injury. Oil spills should be covered with absorbent material and cleaned up.

#### Lighting, Heating, and Ventilation

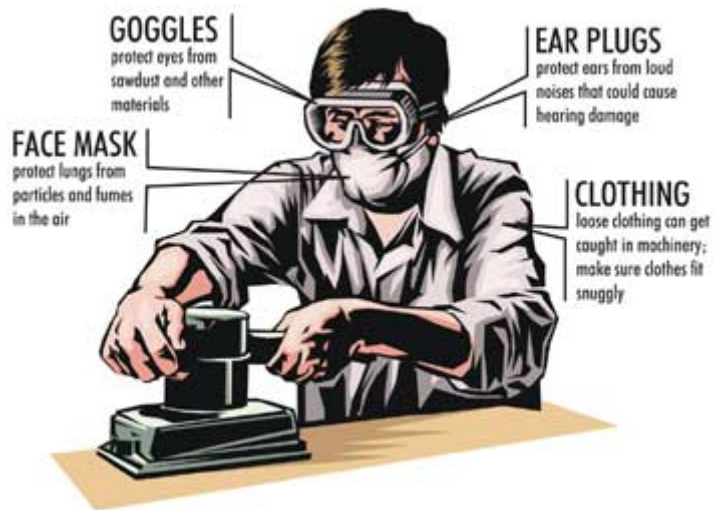
Enough windows and overhead lights are required for a good level of overall illumination. Additional lighting should be available over benches and stationary tools.

When supplemental heating is required for winter workshop operations, the heating unit should be located to provide an adequate, even distribution of heat; but should not cause a fire hazard.

Adequate systems are needed to vent smoke, fumes and exhaust gases. Open windows and doors may provide enough ventilation in the summer. Special systems may be needed to remove exhaust fumes and other gases during the cold-weather months.

#### Little Things Can Make a Big difference

When working on your next building project do not forget the safety precautions below:



### ***EVENT CALENDAR for 2006***

By Sid Maxwell

The event calendar for 2006 is complete and posted on the back of this newsletter with 24 club events.

It looks like a very active schedule for our club. With so many different events, there should be something for everyone. There is one Pylon Race each month on the first Sunday from March to November. Five Float Fly's at Sal Lake to test your skill on water. Our regular four monthly events as usual and PCAM at the Santa Rosa Airport. The Northern California Cup being held for the first time, will feature the WCF team against the Ukiah Propbusters team, with one contest in Ukiah on June 3 and one contest in Healdsburg on July 15.

A Swap Meet, an Aerobatic Clinic and a Christmas Party fill the bill for a year full of fun and good flying!!!

Check it out.

see you there...

### ***ParkZone Electric Models from Horizon Hobbies***

by Dr. Alexander Szemere, AVP AMA District II  
John Donnelly, editor

Here is some information for all of you who may be worried about the influx of park flyers and their impact on our channels—especially after the holidays. As an aside, almost all of the models sold at toy and department stores operate on the 27 and 49

MHz frequencies—far from our 72 MHz channel frequencies.

Horizon Hobbies is marketing a series of electric park-flyer-type models under the brand ParkZone. These models come complete with a radio system installed. Some models in this line operate on 72 MHz. It's possible (expected) that some who purchase these models may be operating them at places other than what we think of as traditional model flying fields. Horizon recognizes this, and in an effort to minimize the potential of radio interference they have limited the channels these models operate on to six: 17, 19, 21, 50, 52, and 54.

## ***NOW THAT'S GIANT SCALE!***

By Phil Leech

This story starts in 1974 when Ralph Grella (then a 20 something) bought a 1969 Citabria for 10,000 bucks. This was quite an outlay for a young guy like Ralph and it meant the world to him. The Citabria was fully aerobatic but it was basically an Aeronca Champ that had been structurally upgraded and it sported a 150 hp Lycoming up front. It could do Loops, Rolls, Immelmans and Split Esses, it just couldn't go inverted because it retained the standard crankcase. Ralph kept the Citabria in Southern California where he lived until his job at Flying Tigers Airlines required him to move to the San Francisco area and that's how he came to live in Santa Rosa. Some years passed by with the Citabria hangared at Sonoma County Airport. Then, three years ago Ralph was in an auto accident and suffered injuries to his hand that eventually caused him to lose his medical rating with the FAA. You can imagine the stress all of this has caused him as he has had to step down from his commercial flying. His enthusiasm for aviation has not been diminished as you can find Ralph at our field flying both airplanes and helis. The Citabria languished in it's hangar because Ralph couldn't legally fly it. Enter Mike Cingari, a fellow commercial airline pilot and of course a Wine Country Flyer pilot as well. Mike

expressed an interest in the Citabria and it wasn't long before a deal was struck to buy the airplane from Ralph. Mike is a licensed Airframe and Powerplant mechanic and for the past several months Mike has been actively rebuilding and restoring the Citabria with most of the effort being spent on the engine. The engine has been completely rebuilt with new pistons and cylinders, new camshaft and all new valve train. A couple of weeks ago, Mike asked some of his Wine Country Flyer buddies to help him install the rebuilt engine on the Citabria and that's what the pictures in this article are about.



We all had a great time spending several hours with Mike and the Citabria for a job that only took the better part of an hour or so. Mike plans to have the Citabria airworthy by the first part of March and he has promised to do a flyby at our Opening Day Airshow. We'll all be watching!



As a postscript, Ralph has told me that Mike is acting as a general partner in the ownership of the Citabria and has sold two

“limited partnerships” to Eddie Garcia and Steve Cole.

Sounds like Wine Country Flyers are really getting aboard with this “Giant Scale” project. Happy Landings, Guys!

### ***Flying With a Plan***

by Bill Coombes

One of the benefits of flying Pattern competition (as it was called in the olden days) was that it forced you to fly a predictable, recognizable sequence of maneuvers on every flight. In other words, it imposed some discipline in your flying, and it made you a better pilot.

Although I have not flown in competition in many years, I still try to remember the lessons I learned when I did compete. Every time I fly, I have a mental plan of what I want to accomplish during the flight.

When instructing school children, I’ve found that making them do repeated maneuvers allows them to move more quickly toward their first solo. They become disciplined fliers.

Planning Prevents the Airplane from Flying the Pilot

Watching pilots at our field and at my electric field of choice, I have seen guys who could be skilled fliers constantly chasing their

airplanes through the sky until they find themselves disoriented and their airplanes at risk. They aren’t flying with a plan, but rather the airplane is flying them.

With the Commemorative Air Force, I have participated in the hardest kind of flying to learn—formation. Believe me, discipline and a plan are the only things that prevent catastrophic accidents (besides a thorough briefing and an understanding of the flight formation rules). Guys who can fly an airplane well enough when alone suddenly discover a whole new set of skills necessary to master before they are safe in a formation.

I’m not advocating that all of us in the RC world rush out and become International Miniature Aerobatic Club (IMAC) pilots, but I am saying that flying each flight with a specific plan (like really round loops, or skillfully centering maneuvers in front of you, or a perfect landing pattern) will impose some meaning to your flying and you will become a safer, better pilot (and your airplane will last longer as well). With the high price of these Alfa warbirds that I am into right now, economy forces me to always fly with a plan.

## EVENTS CALENDAR 2006

April	29	Float Fly Madness - Sal Lake
May	6	Aerobatic Clinic by Joe Hunt at Healdsburg
May	20	Open House-Model Air Show
May	27	Float Fly Madness
June	3	Northern California Cup at Ukiah
June	9-11	Float Fly at Red Bluff
June	17	Learn to Fly Day
June	17-18	Dan Sullivan Memorial at Ukiah - Scale Masters
June	24	Swap Meet - Vets Hall Santa Rosa
July	4	Day on the Pond - Sal Lake
July	15	Northern California Cup at Healdsburg
July	22	Larry Frank Fun Fly
July	22-24	Down on the Deck at Ukiah - Open flying and Demos
Aug.	19-20	PCAM - Santa Rosa Airport
Sept.	3	Pylon Races
Sept.	4	Day on the Pond - Sal Lake
Sept.	9	Neil Taylor
Sept.	14-17	Reno Air Races
Oct.	14	Float Fly Aftermath - Sal Lake
Dec.	16	Christmas Party at Santa Rosa



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