

April 2007 Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 17 April, 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

## 2007 Club Officers:

President:	Jon Stychno	(707) 888-6885	<a href="mailto:jon@epsinsurance.com">jon@epsinsurance.com</a>
Vice President:	Guy Nicholas	(707) 544-2141	<a href="mailto:Guy@Gui-Soft.com">Guy@Gui-Soft.com</a>
Secretary:	Brooks Robertson		<a href="mailto:Dr.lector@comcast.net">Dr.lector@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer:	Brian Blackburn	(707) 527-9645	<a href="mailto:bblackburn@santarosa.edu">bblackburn@santarosa.edu</a>
Member @ Large	Adam Clement	(707) 433-4113	<a href="mailto:adampclement@comcast.net">adampclement@comcast.net</a>

## 2007 Board Members:

Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557	<a href="mailto:leechstudios@sonic.net">leechstudios@sonic.net</a>
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>
Roy Domke	(707) 395-0411	<a href="mailto:Runabouter@aol.com">Runabouter@aol.com</a>
Merle McGregor	(707) 585-1061	<a href="mailto:m.mcgregor@sbcglobal.net">m.mcgregor@sbcglobal.net</a>

## Newsletter and Website

Newsletter Team: Guy Nicholas, Phil Leech, Brooks Robertson, Sid Maxwell

Website: Patrick O'Halloran



## ***Presidents Report***

By: Jon Stychno

Spring has sprung! The weather has been fantastic, allowing WCF members to spend lots of time at the flying field, as well as kick off the pylon racing season,( more on that later in the newsletter).With the increase of flying activities, I would like to remind club members of a few important rules. Recently, an airplane was lost because a frequency pin was not removed from the impound shed. When you arrive at the field, even if you are alone, please put your radio in the impound shed, and attach your AMA card to the appropriate channel on the frequency board. When you are ready to fly, grab your radio, and corresponding frequency clip from the board. If you radio is not in the impound shed, you must have the frequency clip, period. Also, be aware of where you are flying, and avoid the no-fly zone at the north end of the field.

The new website is up and running and it is awesome! A big thank you to member Patrick O'Halloran for his hard work in getting it updated. WCF members are able to have their own photo gallery, communicate via online forum, keep track of upcoming events, and have a place to list items for sale. If you see Patrick, be sure to thank him for his efforts!

A new era has dawned in radio control modeling. Spektrum radio systems are available for all types of aircraft. Until recently, the technology was limited to only "parkflyer" type aircraft. Now, systems are available for any size helicopter or airplane. Spektrum radio systems find their own frequency when turned on, eliminating the possibility of frequency conflicts with other flyers. You can turn on 40 Spektrum transmitters at the same time, and they would each find their own secure channel to operate on. They transmit in the 2.4 GHz range, well above 72 MHz zone, where "glitches" caused by ignition systems, pushrods, and other "noise" generating items have caused problems in the past. Spektrum had initially released entire systems including transmitter and receiver, but this spring they

are offering Spektrum "modules" that plug in to late model Futaba and JR radios, allowing modelers to keep using transmitters they are used to (and paid a lot of money for). Spektrum frequency clips will soon be available on the frequency board, follow the same procedure as 72 MHz systems. If you would like to upgrade to a Spektrum system, call Awesome Hobbies (433-4888) and they will set you up.

See you at the field !  
Jon Stychno

## ***Cover Photo***

By Guy Nicholas

Yeah, that's me in the drivers seat of the Pitts S-2C! How many of you can say that? For my birthday present my wife got me a flight on this beauty via [skythrills.com](http://skythrills.com). This wasn't a ride in a plane, but an aerobatic flight instruction.

When I arrived I met Mike "Rocket" Blackstone, the owner of SkyThills, and a really nice guy. We started off with a quick briefing of the maneuvers we were going to fly, loops, rolls, hammerheads, spins and inverted flight. Then we moved into a three minute talk about how to bail out of the plane and cut the parachute off of myself once I hit the water. I am glad I didn't need to use this part of the lesson.

Next I was fitted with a flight suit, and parachute and after some goodbye photos from the wife we started up and taxied out. After a brief takeoff roll and a quick climb out to about a thousand feet Mike gave me the airplane! I flew the airplane from that moment until just before we landed. Well there was the brief interlude where I was dry heaving...but I am trying to forget that part ☺.

My only other full scale flying experience had been a C-5 flight simulator, and a harrowing experience where Mike Cingari let me fly Ian's dads Maule. Let me tell you, the Pitts is no Maule! This was really like flying, the plane was incredibly responsive, you barely move

the stick and the plane moves; this is what flying is supposed to be.

Being in the airplane and trying to do something as simple as a loop is a lot different than flying one in an RC plane. From the outside you can see the wings rotating or whatever, but when you are inside, it is harder to tell...or at least you have to know where to look to figure out what is going on. Another example was the hammerhead. As you approach zero forward speed the engine torque starts to roll one way and turn another. The G forces were also something to get used to. In my flight I went from +5 to -1. The -1 was when we were hanging around flying upside down (pun intended).

Contact Mike Blackstone at either 1-866-4-thrill, or [rocket@skythrills.com](mailto:rocket@skythrills.com) to get your "lesson", you won't be disappointed!

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

4 April, 07  
By: Phil Leech

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President, Jon Stychno. Members present were: Brian Blackburn, Adam Clement, Roy Domke, Merle McGregor, Sid Maxwell, Jon Stychno, Jerry Williams, Guy Nicholas and Phil Leech.

- Jon initiated the meeting with a review of last weekend's Pylon Races. The races were flown on the new course layout and with hardhats as per AMA regs. The general assessment of the new layout was positive by all who have flown it. Takes some getting used to but was generally thought to be safer. Results of the races will be posted on the WCF website and Adam Clement will be writing an article about the races in the April Newsletter. Adam's mother sewed the flags for the pylons and Sid was designated to send a card of appreciation to Adam's Mom.

- The new Website was discussed including the incorporation of pictures of all Officers and members of the Board. Current events are planned to be highlighted on the Opening Page.

- Roy Domke gave us a rundown on his efforts to chase down a new site. Roy told us that sites on Knights Valley Road have not panned out. He has some interest in a site at Lake Sonoma that is the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers but is more interested in the possibilities at the Salvation Army. Discussions with Capt. Ralph Jimenez look promising and Roy plans to pursue options there. Roy told us that Susan Klassen has called him about a complaint from Jason Wilcox regarding overflying his property. Sid and Roy plan to meet with Jason to try to resolve any problems. Susan told Roy that our one year extension could be in jeopardy if any more complaints are registered.

- Adam Clement reported that he hasn't located a wireless mike for our P/A system but that we won't need it until our Opening Day event on May 19.

- Sid Maxwell has been in contact with AMA regarding our field insurance and had downloaded the forms for the insurance. The insurance costs \$80 for the field, \$80 for the North Room at the Veteran's Bldg and \$60 for the Salvation Army site and there is a \$30 Charter fee for the AMA that is due. Sid will call them tomorrow morning to pay for this insurance by credit card.

- Jon Stychno reported on the Cub Scout meeting that he and Guy attended Wed. March 21. About 30 Cub Scouts were in attendance and Jon and Guy told the Scouts about RC airplanes and helis. Steve Cole donated a bunch of rubber powered balsa planes for each Scout that were well received.

- Brian Blackburn was asked to develop a schedule of annual operating costs for WCF. The basic monthly costs are \$105 for field rent, \$50 for the North Room and \$65 for the portable toilet. There are additional one time charges that Brian will detail for us to get an idea of our total annual expenses.

- Jon Stychno will order a new sign to be posted at the field that will state "No AMA no fly". Sid asked him to also order a sign to be attached to the chain at the gate.

- Sid related the need to have the field mowed before the Ukiah Trek to WCF and for the Opening Day Event. Adam related that potential new member, Jeff Sykes has offered

to mow the field if we will present him with a free membership in WCF. It was agreed to accept Jeff's offer unanimously.

- Sid reported that Kerry Russel of the Healdsburg Tribune plans to write an article about the Ukiah Trek event on April 21.

- Jon Stychno described ideas he had to develop a flier about WCF for our PCAM event.

- Sid Maxwell presented an event schedule he has developed for the Opening Day event. He has 20 flying events planned and will also have a raffle similar to the one we had last year with many nice ARF kits that will be donated by local Hobby Shops and businesses.

- Merle McGregor presented sample decals and it was unanimously voted for Merle to order 100 decals to be offered to the membership for \$3 to \$4 each.

- Sid reviewed our inventory of shirts and hats and suggested that it was time to order hats. A unanimous vote was received for Sid to buy 24 hats. A review of an order for shirts was scheduled for the next Board Meeting.

The Meeting was brought to a close at 9:00pm

Report respectfully submitted for Secretary, Brooks Robertson by Phil Leech.

## ***GENERAL MEETING***

20 March 07

By: Phil Leech

There were 30 members present when Jon Stychno brought the meeting to order at 7:35pm. The gallon fuel door prize was won by Bill van Asdian. A guest for the evening, Pete Proctor, was introduced.

- Treasurer's report: Current assets: \$13,950 with 102 paid members for 2007. Ralph Grella and John Stoufer are working on the audit that is still in progress....maybe next month?

Secretary's Report - as published in the Newsletter

- Sick and injured: Merle McGregor displayed his prop finger that appears to be healing nicely. Sorry about that Merle.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Jon Stychno thanked all of those who participated in the BMW 8 Fest and Steve Cohen got a round of applause for the \$500 check that he presented to the club from the Bimmers. That was a win win for everyone!

- Adam Clement explained why the first scheduled Pylon Race was cancelled and a discussion developed about safety and the new course layout that is being test flown and evaluated. Steve Cole has flown the course and likes it. The next race is scheduled for April 1 and will include Electric Reno racers, Trainers and Quickie 500 classes. What's this about a rattlesnake that Steve Cole ran into when he was setting up the pylon pole out in the northeast corner? Rattlesnakes? Help. Don't like to hear about that!

- Jon told us about the need to claim your frequency pin even though there is no one else at the field and John Stoufer told us that is exactly what happened to him as a new arrival at the field claimed the pin that John was flying on and turned on his radio causing John to crash. John hadn't seen the need to retrieve the pin but found out the hard way. A tough lesson but one that John won't forget.

- Merle McGregor has had some decals of the Wine Country Flyers logo made up and had them for sale to anyone interested. Merle will proceed with ordering more as demand develops.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Jon Stychno and Guy Nicholas are scheduled to meet with a Cub Scout Pack in the Montgomery Village neighborhood tomorrow night to introduce the Scouts to RC airplanes and helicopters. They plan to explain basic principles of flight and demonstrate how the models are set up. They will have some balsa gliders to pass out to the Scouts

- Sid Maxwell presented some full color fliers that he has created for the Learn to Fly series. In the past we have had these printed with black ink on colored paper but Sid wondered if anyone had access to a color printer. Several guys volunteered to print the fliers on their home computer printers and will bring the fliers to the next meeting.

- Patrick O'Halloran gave us an update on the new Website and explained that members should register on the site.

- Jon told us that Merle McGregor has accepted a position on the WCF Board and received an enthusiastic round of applause. Welcome aboard, Merle.

- Jon told us that Roy Domke has been pursuing contact with the Town of Healdsburg Dept of Parks and Recreation for possible flying sites and he has also been looking at privately owned sites on Pine Flat Road and other Knights Valley sites.

- Jon Stychno completed an application for a grant from AMA to assist with as much as \$5000. Unfortunately, the application didn't make it in time for the 2007 season but can be used for 2008.

- A discussion developed about guests at our field. It was generally accepted that guest flyers would be welcome for two sessions. Guest flyers must be AMA members to fly unassisted but anyone can fly on a buddy box with any of our flyers who have soloed and been approved for flight privileges.

- Sid Maxwell had several announcements to make. He told us of the upcoming Float Fly on April 28, the Dan Sullivan Day at Ukiah – June 15- 17, our Opening Day Event – May 19 and the Ukiah Fun Fly May 11- 13. Sid also proposed a motion to ban jets at our field. The motion was seconded by Ralph Grella and the vote was unanimous in favor of the ban. After the vote, it was clarified that the intention of the vote was to ban gas turbine jets not electric jets or ducted fan jets.

- A call for participation in the Opening Day Event was roundly received with many guys ready to sign up to fly. It should be another annual success.

#### THE RAFFLE

Patrick O'Halloran had the winning ticket for first choice of the best prize but Patrick didn't feel right about it because he won the big prize last month. So, he took the second best prize a GWS electric Spitfire. Next up was Merle McGregor and somehow he didn't feel he should take the best prize either. What a bunch of guys! Anyway, Merle settled for a battery. Brian Blackburn didn't have any trouble walking off with the Extra 260. Finally!

Jerry Williams took the Model Stand home and Sid Maxwell retrieved a glo starter, John Reade opted for the Cub floats that may go on the Cub that I gave to John last meeting and Jon Stychno selected the Ball Driver Set. New Member, Pete Proctor liked the centering tool and Joe Olson and Evan Palmerston both thought Merle's Decals looked pretty good and took them. James Page got the ubiquitous Hinges.

We took in \$265 for the evening and the club will add \$125 so we can look forward to \$390 for prizes next month. Don't miss it!

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm

Minutes prepared and submitted for Brooks Robertson

By: Phil Leech

### ***Float Fly Reminder***

By: Sid Maxwell

Coming soon, this month, on April 28 we will go to Sal Lake for our first float fly of the year. Remember to bring your Frequency Pin from the Field with you to the Lake and leave a note with your cell phone number.

We will have a Deli Lunch and cold drinks will be available.....

See you there, on the water.

Sid Maxwell

### ***Trek to Wine Country Reminder***

By: Sid Maxwell

Just a reminder for the, "Trek to Wine Country", on April 21 at our field in Healdsburg. The Ukiah Propbusters will join us for a Fun Fly, Swap Meet, and a FREE hamburger lunch. Don't forget to bring all your Swap Meet Stuff!

Come to Wine Country.

Sid Maxwell

### ***Fearless Flyer, Flying IMAC***

By: Sid Maxwell



We're moving right along, right !!!

With all the IMAC practice you have been doing you must have the first (6) maneuvers humming pretty good.....Now we have two more, #7 the Cuban 8 and #8 the Shark Tooth. So hold on , we only have two more after this. And you know the more times you do these maneuvers the less the amount seems.

#### # 7 Half Cuban 8

This maneuver is performed on the right side(or left side according to the wind). Enter horizontal, pull a 5/8 loop and fly inverted into the down line. Reduce throttle, in the center of the down line do a half roll. Continue on your down line add throttle and exit at the same level as you entered. keep the down line as straight as possible.

#### # 8 Shark Tooth

This maneuver is performed on the left side (or right according to the wind). Enter horizontal, pull a 90 degree angle. At the top of the up line pull a 45 degree down line. Fly inverted to the center of the down line, Reduce throttle and in the center of the down line do a half roll while keeping your down line as straight as possible. Add throttle and exit at the same level as you entered.

Two more maneuvers next month and then we will rest. If you have trouble with any maneuver, one way to learn is to practice different parts of each maneuver separately. Then put them together and it will all fall in place..

Be smooth, be precise, don't rush.....

It's a good idea to go into the IMAC web site and read some of the info: [mini-iac.com](http://mini-iac.com)

Sid Maxwell

### *Opening Day Model Air Show*

By: Sid Maxwell

Our big event of the year, the Opening Day - Model Air Show, is coming on May 19,2007 and it looks like it will be bigger and better than ever. I have 18 events lined up including War Birds, 3-D, Aerobatics, Electrics, Heli Aerobatics, Control Line, and many more. We will have pilots from our club and pilots from the Ukiah Propbusters. Joe Hunt will be there

flying a 35% Yak. We also will have some novelty events so you'll have to come and join us for the," show of shows", to see all the events.

The,"Big Raffle", using donations from our sponsors:

Awesome Hobbies - Healdsburg

Sonoma Hobbies - Sonoma

Hobbytown - Petaluma

Jake's Performance Hobbies - Rohnert Park

Mendocino Hobbies - Ukiah

Rotary Club - Healdsburg

will be better than last year. The big raffle will feature all large size ARF airplanes, just waiting for you to buy a raffle ticket and take one home. What a deal!!!

Also we will have a Hamburger Lunch featuring our famous, "fat burgers", expertly prepared by our," Kitchen Commander". So come join us on May 19 for a good show, good food and good people.....

See you at the Air Show

Sid Maxwell

### *2007 Pylon Races*

By: Adam Clement



Well, One things for sure. The new course has really leveled the playing field. A lot of the pilot's where having a hard time judging the distance now that the coarse has been moved out 300 feet. The racing started off with the new foamy war bird class. Only three pilot's Merle, Steve C, and myself had planes ready. Well Merle bit the dust on the second lap, with

much amusement to Guy Nicholas who could not stop laughing.

(Ed. Note. I am telling you it was hilarious)



That left only two planes. We decided to start the points next month because we should have a few more racer's in this class next month.

Trainer only had three planes as well but Merle managed to keep that in the air, with John Reade and Joey racing with him. John had a brush with the far, far tree's to the east but managed to keep his plane in the air. After some exciting racing Merle has the lead with 13 points, John R, 12 points and Joey 8.

Quickie had the most Pilots with 8 John Reade, Steve Cole, John Stychno, Bobby Gregoire, Anthony Lee, Patrick O'Halloran, Merle McGregor, And myself.. Lot's of cut's happened which resulted in a lot of DQ's. The first heat race had only one out of four finishes due to cuts. Poor Merle had his plane go around the south turn heading north only to have his plane keep going way into the jungle. John Stychno continued were he left off last year flying great. Anthony Lee also put in a solid performance. As for myself, well, thanks to some bent landing gear, "thanks Anthony" With Karlo desperately helping I couldn't even get it the air. Next Time I'll get 'em. After some confusion with the points Steve Cole is

in the lead with 13 points, Anthony Lee in second with 10 points and our Fearless leader in third with 9 Points.

See you at the races next month. Until then keep the wheel side down.



### *For Sale*

Scale WW I Bi-Plane 1918 Fokker D-VII  
 Red with Scale German markings  
 ZDZ 40cc Gas engine  
 Wing: upper 74"  
       lower 64"  
 Fuse: 60"  
 \$ 600 with standard servos  
 \$ 1000 with high torque servos

Sid Maxwell  
 584-4428  
 530-233-0263

## EVENTS CALENDAR 2007

April	21	Trek to WCF - Healdsburg	Aug	5	Pylon Races
April	28	Float Fly Madness - Sal Lake	Aug	18-19	PCAM -Santa Rosa Airport
May	6	Pylon Races	Aug	25	Learn to Fly Day
May	12	Work Party at Alexander Valley Field	Sep	2	Pylon Races
May	19	Opening Day - Model Air Show	Sep	3	Day on the Pond - Sal Lake
May	25-27	Ukiah Propbusters Fun Fly & Exhibition	Sep	8	Neil Taylor Fun Fly
June	2	Float Fly Madness - Sal Lake	Sept	12-16	Reno Air Races-Reno
June	3	Pylon Races	Sept	22	Wine County Aerobatics
June	7-10	Float Fly at Red Bluff	Sept	29	Trek to Ukiah
June	16-17	Dan Sullivan Memorial at Ukiah	Oct	6-7	Red Bull Air Races, SF Bay
June	23	Learn to Fly Day	Oct	7	Pylon Races
July	1	Pylon Races	Oct	13	Learn to Fly Day
July	4	Day on the Pond - Sal Lake	Oct	20	Float Fly Aftermath - Sal Lake
July	7	Wine County Aerobatics	Nov	4	Pylon Races
July	14	Larry Frank Fun Fly	Dec	15	Christmas Party



**P.O. BOX 4198  
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