

June 2007 Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 19 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

## 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>
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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***

(ed note: Presidents report was not received in time to make it to the printers)

## ***Board Meeting Minutes***

5 June, 07

By: Brooks Robertson

The club's board meeting started at 7:05pm. The model air show was first on the list. Sid gave an overview of the day. We also had report on total income for the day from ticket sales. Also included were sales figures from food and clothing. This year we had a large amount of club member participation. Board members would also like to thank everyone who donated prizes for the raffle.

Next at 7:20, club president Jon Stychno gave a detailed summary of the pylon races. There were 5 quickie 500's, and 4 foamy Reno racers. The results of the race will be posted on the web site.

The second float fly event of the year went well. Sid gave a report. There were lots of boats and some interesting planes. There were no devastating crashes from either boats or planes. The turnout to the event was great. Thanks for everyone that came. Also thanks to Sid for always getting the sandwiches.

At 7:40pm we discussed the idea of putting up a "No AMA No Fly" sign. This will be a large sign that will be posted on the shed. Also some signs will be posted near the exit to the field that reminds club members to close the gate. In addition to the signs the next learn to fly day is just around the corner. On June 23rd we will be having our first learn to fly day of 2007! All instructors with planes and buddy boxes are welcome and needed for this event. So far we have a few volunteers for the event. Sid has invited Jason Wilcox, a local neighbor to join the event. Also a work party has been scheduled to prep the field for the event.

Next Sid gave a brief report on the prospect of a new field. There are 19000 acres of fairly useless land on Mt. Hood. This land could possibly be used for slope planes. Sid will

pursue this further in addition to another possible flying site in Petaluma.

8:00pm "The Larry Frank Memorial Scale Fly In", was our next topic. This event is coming up on July 14th. Special thanks to Brooks Robertson for organizing the event, with help from Sid Maxwell and Phil Leech. There will be 2 classes, ARF's and kit built planes. They will be judged by a panel of judges. Awards will be given out on static display and scale flying.

We wrapped up the meeting with a brief discussion about PCAM. Jon Stychno will be organizing a committee to work on arranging the event. PCAM of 2007 will be on August 18th and 19th.

Your 2007 Secretary Brooks Robertson

## ***GENERAL MEETING***

15 May, 07

By: Brooks Robertson

Wayne Frederick was the lucky winner of the nitro fuel door prize at 7:27pm when the meeting started. Brett Bellew introduced himself as a new member of the club. Hope to see you at the field Brett!

First order of business was the treasure's report. Brian Blackburn gave figures of bank information and club member payment amounts. Also Jon Stychno gave a brief Presidents report regarding some issues. At 7:42 Sid gave a report on our first float fly of the year. On April 28th we had a great turnout, and an almost record number of 15 sandwiches. Thanks Sid.

Pylon racing overview was next. Steve Cole was the champion pilot for the day, winning it both classes. In the trainer class, last years winner Joey Giddings, folded the wing on his plane in a brutal turn.

Sid gave a report on a proposal to change the runway and pilot stations. Some questions were asked by general members to Sid regarding this issue. Unfortunately Roy was

not available for comments on new field proposals.

The Healdsburg Tribune will feature an article in their news paper. The article will be about the WCF.

The meeting ended with some website updates and the "No AMA No Fly" signs for the shed. The meeting ended at 8:45pm

Brooks Robertson, 07 Secretary

### ***One Flew Over the Spectrum Nest***

By: Sid Maxwell

I was at the field last week talking to Steve Murphy about the new Spectrum frequency pins Wayne Fredrick made for the club. I told Steve, "now that we have 5 frequency pins, we need a small frequency board. We should make one". Steve gave me a working man's look and said, "Let's do it". I said, "We need tools, paint, nails and wood". He said, "I have everything we need in my truck". He sawed, painted, nailed and when he was finished, we had a great little frequency board.

Thanks Steve,

Sid Maxwell

### ***Wine Country Aerobatics***

By: Sid Maxwell

It's been talked about, it's been printed, and it's been practiced; now it's time. On July 7 the Wine Country Aerobatics will be held at Alexander Valley Field. We will fly the IMAC Basic 10 Maneuvers which we will fly 4 times then keep the best 3. There will be awards to 4th Place. We will have 2 judges. You can enter any type of plane, any size. Anyone can enter. We will start at 10am.

Let's fly  
Sid Maxwell

(ed. Speaking of aerobatics, this pilot got extra points for the three point landing)



### ***FAST***

By: Sid Maxwell

The FAST (Find A Site Today) committee was formed last year with the express desire to find a new flying site for the Wine Country Flyers. We were told by the County to vacate our present site by April 14, 2008.

So we must:

- A. find a new site and move
- B. receive another one year extension
- C. vacate with no new site

So what do we do? Start searching. Search everywhere; Real Estate Offices, Real Estate Brokers, Acreage Brokers, Farm owners, Ranch owners, Company Officials, friends, relatives, anyone, anywhere and everywhere. The time to start is today, we need to find a site FAST. We only have 10 months left.

This FAST article will run every month giving updates for sites and a progress report. Every time you check out a site let me know and I will report it and document all searches to compile a report for the County in our effort to receive another year extension just in case we are un-successful in finding a new site.

#### **FAST Report**

Salvation Army: The SA is in the process of leasing their land to Ranchers for grazing cattle. It does not look too good for us.

Mt. Hood: There is a Park on Mt. Hood run by the Park & Rec. Dept How would you like to fly on Mt. Hood ? There are 19,000 acres up there. It would probably only be for Sail Planes.

Sal Lake: It looks like we will keep Sal Lake for now for float planes. But we do have a narrow runway across the Dam which is 15 ft. wide and 300 ft long. It might be all we will have later. How would that be? What a good pilot you would become.

Keep me posted and I'll keep you posted.  
Find A Site Today.

Sid Maxwell  
FAST

### ***Again and Again***

By: Sid Maxwell

Welcome to the water. Fly on water again. That's what happened on June 2 at Sal Lake. The day started out gloomy and the sun didn't come out until 11am. The wind started blowing at 9:30am and never let up. It didn't matter because 34 people came, 5 from Ft. Bragg. We had 10 float planes, 9 boats and one sail boat. We had a couple of crashes but none were a total. We almost had one total when Sid was spinning donuts, headed for the dock and at the last second turned and missed the dock with only a tiny scratch. That was a close call. And how could any float fly be complete without a BIG thank you to our relentless float plane retriever John Lehtio. Everyone is thankful and we kept him busy all day.

So now we are preparing for the BIG float fly of the year, "Day on the Pond", on the 4th of July at Sal Lake. The field will be closed that day so I will have a Frequency Board at the Lake. As usual we will have our Deli Lunch and cold drinks.

Let's think Positive, raise our energy level, think of that day as hot, with full sun and no wind. I can see it now, a perfect day.

See you at the Lake

Sid Maxwell

### ***Red Sox***

By: Sid Maxwell

The Red Sox, not the Boston Red Sox, it's the Wine Country Red Sox. Has anyone noticed the new bright red wind sox at the field. They are not brand new just our old wind sox re-dyed. But they sure look good. John Stoufer is the guy who originally installed the Wind Sox. Now he has re-dyed them for a couple of more years of service.

Thanks John!

Sid Maxwell

### ***Bob Rose Recovering From Major Heart Surgery***

By: Phil Leech

(ed. Bob seen here enjoying a little pole dancing)



Bob Rose has undergone major heart surgery in Indianapolis, Indiana. Why Indianapolis? Bob's son, Erich lives there and Erich's wife is a nurse who is associated with the Heart Center of St. Vincent's Hospital and apparently it is one of the best hospitals for heart surgery in the nation. Bob had told me

that he was going to have a valve in his heart replaced and thought that the surgery should be pretty routine but as it turned out things were quite a bit different. When the doctors had Bob's chest open they determined that he needed a quadruple bypass and that one of the main arteries had calcified to a point that the doctor thought that Bob would have had only six months to live. The operation took 8.5 hours to complete and Bob was on a ventilator for 50 hours. He is still in recovery but it looks like he is out of the woods as he gains strength and his vital signs are stabilizing. Complete convalescence may take a while and Bob will be staying with Erich and his wife 'til he is back on his feet. I can't imagine having a better medical advocate than Bob's Daughter-in-law. Bob is one lucky guy that's for sure.

Bob has been a regular with the Kitchen Crew for our BBQ's at the field for several years but I think we will have to find a stand-in for him for some of our upcoming events. You could always find Bob with us at PCAM helping out with whatever was needed. Maybe he will be able to join us for PCAM 2007 in August. Sure hope so.

## ***MAS Results***

By: Sid Maxwell

What a great time it was. The Model Air Show - Opening Day was a total success. We had 24 events and finished with 22. I would like to thank the 27 pilots who flew so great even with the 15mph winds. You guys made all of us feel proud. I would like to thank the 10 workers who worked their tails off to make the show complete. Also I would like to thank the 5 Kitchen crew guys who really made our show complete with those great," fat burgers". I would name everyone but you know who you are and we know who you are, there were so many. Many thanks to all the sponsors of the Raffle Prizes:

Awesome Hobbies, [AwesomeHobbies.com](http://AwesomeHobbies.com),  
Hobbytown USA, [Hobbytown.com](http://Hobbytown.com),  
Jake's Hobbies [jphracing.com](http://jphracing.com),

Mendocino Hobbies [mendocinohobbies.com](http://mendocinohobbies.com),  
Sonoma Hobbies [sonomarchobbies.com](http://sonomarchobbies.com),  
Roy Domke [runaboutreflections.com](http://runaboutreflections.com),  
and Merle McGregor (Sorry Merle, nothing showed up when I google'd you).

Thanks, it was a fun Raffle.

The total cooperation and all the enjoyment of the 200 people attending made for a complete and fun day.

Let's do it again,  
Sid Maxwell

## ***Grella Event***

The Bay Area Engine Modelers, BAEM, is hosting The Western Engine and Model Exhibition on July 29, 2007 in Vallejo, Ca. We are showing a large number of running model steam and gas engines. There may also be planes, tanks, boats and cars on display. You can check out the flyer at [wemeshow.com](http://wemeshow.com) or by contacting Pat O'Connor (408) 733-3710 or [opoconnor@aol.com](mailto:opoconnor@aol.com)

## ***Li-Poly Battery Basics***

by Paul Gentile

From the Monmouth Model Airplane Club, Inc. Keansburg, New Jersey

The popularity of electric-powered aircraft has soared (pun intended) over the past few years. Part of the reason behind the recent popularity has been the advent of Lithium Polymer or Li-Poly batteries.

Li-Poly batteries pack a high energy-to-weight ratio when compared to their Ni-Cad and NiMH battery cousins. This stored energy has good and bad potential, and we will touch on both here.

Li-Poly battery cells are 3.7 volts, as compared to Ni-Cad and NiMH batteries which are 1.5 volts per cell.

When Li-Poly batteries are wired in parallel, they do not discharge like other batteries. In addition, when you wire cells in parallel, each cell only sees half the total current, or amp draw.

Total current is very important for Li-Poly batteries and is identified with a C rating. You may see Li-Poly batteries advertised as 3C, 6C, 8C, 10C.

This means that a 3C 1500 mAh (1.5 amp) Li-Poly battery pack should never be discharged at a rate higher than 3 x1500 mAh or 4500 mAh (4.5 amps).

Discharging a Li-Poly beyond this rating could cause damage to the cells or even fire. A very serious concern.

Changing a propeller on your airplane can change the current draw and cause higher than expected discharge rates. So it is beneficial to have a current meter on hand. The manufacturer's specifications for the motor, speed control, and propeller combination you are running also come in very handy.

The other letters on Li-Poly packs refer to S for serial wiring of cells and P for parallel wiring of cells.

A 3S pack would be 3.7 volts x 3 cells = 11.1 volts. A 3P pack would mean three parallel cells, or 3.7 volts and a higher C rating. A 3S 3P pack would have 3 cells in serial (11.1 volts) and 3 cells in parallel.

Li-Poly batteries also do not require cycling, or discharging like other batteries. In fact, you never want to cycle down Li-Poly batteries. You should always leave a partial charge, to avoid damage.

Chargers and speed controls should always be rated for Li-Poly use. Do not attempt to use your Ni-Cad or NiMH equipment. An improper charge rate could cause a Li-Poly pack to explode and burn at over 2000 degrees. A non Li-Poly rated speed control could cause over discharge and cell damage.

Here is a list of dos and dont's for your Li-Poly packs:

- Never put your Li-Poly packs in water and never put water on the packs.
- Don't leave your Li-Poly batteries unattended while charging. See [www.modelaircraft.org](http://www.modelaircraft.org) for this year's list of people whose cars and houses have burned down while leaving packs unattended during charging.
- Don't puncture or short out Li-Poly batteries.
- Don't fully discharge your Li-Poly packs, this will damage the cells.
- Don't put the Li-Poly battery in your car, or leave it in your airplane after a crash. If the battery is damaged internally, you may not notice. According to the AMA, several members' cars have already burned up this year due to this scenario.
- Do use common sense and respect the energy that is stored in that little package.
- Do follow all manufacturer ratings and specifications for use and storage.
- Do store your Li-Poly packs in a fire-proof container.

Li-Poly batteries are used everyday safely in cell phones, laptops, consumer electronics, and iPods. In our hobby, we are pushing these batteries to their limits, charging and discharging them at high rates and sometimes smashing them into the ground at high speeds. We need to respect their potential and keep it safe.

Enjoy the power and convenience of electric flight with Li-Poly batteries; I do. Just respect the energy stored in that little Li-Poly package and it will reward you with some of the fastest, 3-Dest (if that is a word), most fun flying you will have.

#### Li-Poly Quick Reference

C = Current

S = Serial

P = Parallel

#### Li-Poly Cell Voltage

Cells x 3.7 = voltage

1 cell = 3.7 volts

2 cells in series = 7.4 volts

3 cells in series = 11.1 volts

mAh = milliamp hour rating of a battery's capacity under load. 1000mAh = 1 Amp

### ***Table of Excuses***

From the D.C. Radio Control Club, Montgomery County, Maryland

Please give excuse by the number in order to save time

1. I didn't know you were waiting for the pin.
2. Did you see my airplane get glitched?
3. I ain't got it.
4. I have more crashed because of bad radios.
5. That airplane was always squirrely.
6. I don't know who did it, but someone must have turned on their transmitter and shot me down.
7. I just lost control; everything went dead.
8. I thought I was on the field.
9. That's that only time I ever left my transmitter on. Can you help me pick up the pieces?
10. I didn't know you were in the landing pattern, next time I'll look before I taxi out. Do you think it can be repaired?

Optional- I didn't realize I was that low when I flew over the pit area. Is three models a record?

### ***For Sale***

### ***Sea Fury***



Brand new in the box with scale pilot. A steal at \$400!

Contact Brooks Robertson at  
[Dr.lector@comcast.net](mailto:Dr.lector@comcast.net)

### ***Scale WWI Bi-Plane 1918 Fokker D-VII***

Red and white with Scale German markings

ZDZ 40cc Gas engine

Wing : upper 74"  
lower 64"

Fuse : 60"

\$ 950 with high torque servos

Sid Maxwell  
584-4428  
530-233-0263

To place an ad here email [guy@gui-soft.com](mailto:guy@gui-soft.com) and to keep it here you have to "renew" it every month, that way there are no stale ads.

## EVENTS CALENDAR 2007

June	16-17	Dan Sullivan Memorial at Ukiah
June	23	Learn to Fly Day
July	1	Pylon Races
July	4	Day on the Pond - Sal Lake
July	7	Wine County Aerobatics
July	14	Larry Frank Fun Fly
Aug	5	Pylon Races
Aug	18-19	PCAM -Santa Rosa Airport
Aug	25	Learn to Fly Day
Sep	2	Pylon Races
Sep	3	Day on the Pond - Sal Lake

Sept	8	Neil Taylor Fun Fly
Sept	12-16	Reno Air Races-Reno
Sept	21-22	Red Bull Air Races, San Diego
Sept	22	Wine County Aerobatics
Sept	29	Trek to Ukiah
Oct	7	Pylon Races
Oct	13	Learn to Fly Day
Oct	20	Float Fly Aftermath - Sal Lake
Nov	4	Pylon Races
Dec	15	Christmas Party



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