

June 2008 Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 20 May 2008, 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:	Jeff Penner		<a href="mailto:JeffP@sonic.net">JeffP@sonic.net</a>
Treasurer:	Brian Blackburn	(707) 527-9645	<a href="mailto:bblackburn@santarosa.edu">bblackburn@santarosa.edu</a>
Safety Officer:	Sid Maxwell	(707) 584-4428	<a href="mailto:airmanx@inreach.com">airmanx@inreach.com</a>

## 2007 Board Members:

Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557	<a href="mailto:leechstudios@sonic.net">leechstudios@sonic.net</a>
Steve Cole	(707) ???	<a href="mailto:stevecole@awesomehobbies.com">stevecole@awesomehobbies.com</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 Team: Guy Nicholas, Phil Leech, Jeff Penner, Sid Maxwell  
Website: Patrick O'Halloran



## ***Presidents Report***

By: Jon Stychno

It's nice to have a place to fly again! The field is now open to fly electric powered aircraft, which has allowed us to resume our monthly pylon racing. We were able to squeeze in the May race on the 18th, soon after the field reopened, and hold the June race on schedule. The class with the most pilots has been the T-28 class. The racing has been very close, due to the fact that all airplanes have the same power systems. Never before has it been so easy to get involved in racing, just buy and fly! The Wine Country Flyers also have been continuing to share the hobby with the residents of the North Bay, with many events on the schedule. The 5th graders at Douglas Whited Elementary School in Santa Rosa recently enjoyed a visit by the flying club on the 2nd of June. (more on that later) The residents of Spring Lake Village Retirement Community will be treated to an airplane and helicopter demonstration on the 21st of June, which coincides with their annual train show. Also, the Town of Windsor has invited the Wine Country Flyers to participate in their July 3rd fireworks display at Kaiser Park. The club will put on an air show for thousands of spectators the evening before the fireworks begin. This is an opportunity to promote the club and our flying site search, and the Wings over Wine Country Air Show in August, which we also will be participating in! Whew, what a summer! In the mean time, the board, (and members) have been working to secure a flying site to utilize for years to come. There have been some concerns relating to the environmental impact of the site on Meacham Rd. so we have been exploring other potential sites. The officers recently have been in communication with the Sonoma County Parks Dept. and will be meeting with them soon to explore options. I want to thank the members for their efforts as well. Be sure to attend the monthly meetings to share your ideas! I also would like to thank the club members who have continued to participate in events and meetings, as the mission of the Wine Country Flyers has, and always will be,

to provide an outlet where Sonoma County residents can get together and share their enthusiasm and excitement for flying model aircraft, and your support is appreciated!

## ***Board Meeting Minutes***

3 June 2008

The June Board meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by President Jon Stychno. Officers and Board Members attending were Jon Stychno, Guy Nicholas, Jeff Penner, Sid Maxwell, Merle McGregor, Phil Leech, and Steve Cole.

The first topic of the night was the visit we got from a neighbor this last Sunday. Before the pylon races one of the neighbors to our field came up and accused us of flying a gas powered plane. We told him that no one had been flying gas, and that he was welcome to look around and check all of the planes as there were no gas planes at the field. He made a short pass into the pits and then left with a comment about seeing us in court. Roy then documented all of the planes at the field and has already sent a letter off to the county explaining the incident. We have heard nothing further at this point.

Next we discussed the Wilson Ranch property, we are working on getting the permit process moving, also there is more research needed about the endangered species breeding grounds, Jon and Roy will continue to drive this forward.

The dirt piles at our current site have been moved. The small pile that is left will be used as ground cover after it has had time to dry.

A good bit of time was spent discussing new flying locations, several areas are being checked into, if you know of any area that should be looked into please let the board know.

A recap of the June 1st pylon races was discussed, again we only raced the T-28 class and again we had some very close racing. There were 8 pilots racing, Adam took the day with a brand new plane.

Ken Ribardo has resigned from the board as he has moved from the area. The vacant position should be filled by the next meeting.

We discussed the May 26th float fly, there was a great turn out and much flying was done by all. For the next float fly we will have signs for the dam to help establish a better flight line so that when people need to come in and land there shouldn't be spectators in the way.

Next we discussed the learn to fly day held at Whited Elementary. We were able to buddy box 31 students and teachers. The children really seemed to enjoy the flying, after the lessons we did some demo flights for the school, everyone had a great time.

The June Board Meeting concluded at 8:45pm.

Report prepared and submitted by Jeff Penner, Secretary.

## ***General Meeting Minutes***

13 May 2008  
May general meeting:

The May general meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Jon Stychno with 28 members present. There were no guests or new members in attendance.

The Treasurer reported that for the month of April he made deposits totaling \$1,096 and paid expenses of \$1,245.42. This leaves a checking balance of \$7,906.60, a cash-on-hand balance of \$156.00, and a CD balance of \$6,301.95. He also reported club membership at this time to be 84 members.

### **Old Business:**

Jon reviewed what happened at the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 22nd. (For a more detailed description of the BOS meeting see the minutes from the May Board meeting in our last news letter.) Next we discussed the reopening of our field as an electric only field. There were some strong opinions expressed on this topic. In order to fly at our current site you must sign the electric only pledge, you will receive your key to the gate when you sign the pledge.

Jon then went over the progress on the Wilson Ranch proposal, it seems to have run into some snags. As of right now it looks like we would have to purchase open space at a rate of \$134,000 per acre in order to use the site. We will continue to follow up on this and see what can be done.

The dirt piles at our current site are scheduled to be moved this week, so if you see workers out on the field please be safe and wait to fly.

Steve gave a recap of the pylon races; it ended up that we only raced the T-28 class, we had 7 racers with some close racing. At the end of the day Jon came in with 1st place, Steve was 2nd, Jeff and Roy tied for 3rd, followed by Sid, Merle and Patrick in 4th – 6th.

Sid gave a recap of the float fly; there were 47 people with 22 float planes, we had another successful float fly.

### **New Business:**

There will be some new signs at the field talking about the electric only rules, please look for them.

The next float fly will be held May 26th, the field is open so you must get your frequency pin before you come down and fly. The next pylon races will be held on June 1st, just two classes foamy warbirds and the T-28 class. The IMAC event is coming up on June 28th and will be electric only, so get those batteries charged.

We have 3 upcoming demos to perform at; first we will be hosting a learn to fly day for the 5th grade class at Whited elementary. There will be a short demo on June 21st at the Spring Lake Village train show, check with Jon for more details. Also there is a chance that we will get to fly at the July 3rd fireworks display in Windsor, the details for this one still need to be worked out.

### **Raffle:**

Julio Alvarez was the big winner picking up the T-28 plug and play. Ray Peterson was up next choosing the Super Sportster. Roy Domke went home with the E-Box field tote. Sid Maxwell picked the Castle Creations speed control. Dick Maddock took the brushless motor. John Reade went with the HS 55 servos. Dave Mercer took the CA. Merle McGregor chose the hinges. Joe Kagen picked up a couple of props.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. This report prepared by Jeff Penner, Secretary.

### ***TREK***

By: Sid Maxwell

On July 12, 2008 the Wine Country Flyers and the Ukiah Propbusters will all come together at the Propbusters flying field in Ukiah. This will be our annual, "TREK". We will have a FREE Hamburger Lunch, a FREE Swap Meet and FREE Flying. Usually we have (2) Treks each year, one at each field but because of the inconvenient interruption which caused a disturbance at the flying field in Healdsburg, this year we will have both Treks at the Ukiah field. So if you have something to sell or you are looking for that real good deal or you have a new plane to show off or you just want a good Free Hamburger Lunch, join us at the Trek. After you arrive and become part of the green grass surroundings you will enjoy the spirit of the feeling of being part of it all.

Sid Maxwell

### ***Day on the Pond I***

By: Sid Maxwell

The next float fly will be on the 4th of July at Sal Lake in Healdsburg across the Freeway from the flying field. That day will be a Holiday so our flying field will be closed. Enter thru the CDF parking lot. The CDF will be in operation so we will have use of their Restrooms. I will have a Frequency Board at the Lake for us and AMA insurance is required. John Lehtio will be there with his ever reliable canoe.....standing by. A Deli Lunch will be served at Noon and cold drinks will be available on ice because the day will be a HOT one with little wind.

Fly on water.

Fly off water.

Sid Maxwell

### ***Learn to Fly at Douglas Whited***

Jeff Penner setup a LTF day at Douglas Whited Elementary School. The following is a letter from the school PTA:

Douglas L. Whited P.T.A. would like to extend a sky high thank you to the Wine Country Flyers. In conjunction with the Paper Airplane Olympics, Jeff Penner, a WCF member, presented a science unit on aerodynamics, using a RC plane as a visual aid. The principles of aerodynamics were then applied to paper airplanes which the youth entered in contests of distance, accuracy, and duration aloft.



Mr. Penner also flew his plane in a demonstration of remote control aeronautics and acrobatics. The demonstration was in preparation for a 'fun-fly' day at Whited. Combined with the demo, fifth graders from Whited were taught ground school, during which they were given the basics in regard to safety, use of the radio controls and how to execute basic maneuvers. The 'fun-fly' day would be a time for the fifth graders to fly linked through a buddy box to an experienced pilot. The buddy box links two radios together so that the instructor pilot can regain control instantly if the student needs help.



For the 'fun-fly' day, WCF members Jon Stychno (president), Adam Clement, Sid Maxwell (safety officer), Merle McGregor (board member), Ray Peterson, Bob Rose, Jeff Penner (treasurer), arrived at Douglas L. Whited Elementary School with planes, helicopters and buddy boxes. The fifth graders got to fly for approximately 5 minutes each. After the students rotated through, a helicopter demo, a foamie plane demo highlighting precision aerobatics and 3-D flying was presented to the entire school. The demos were met with 'awesome', 'cool' and 'wow', high praise from elementary school students.



Steve Cole (board member) and Richard Maddock were instrumental in providing planes and batteries without which 'fun-fly' day could not have happened. The WCF have been invited back for next year's paper airplane Olympics as well as for the science

fair in the fall. Some of the comments from fifth grade thank you notes are as follows:

Thank you so much for coming to our school to show how to fly. It was really fun and cool. I liked when the helicopter flew upside down and all the other cool airplanes. Thanks again for coming. T.O.

You guys are so cool and flying an RC plane was one of the best things I've done. I hope you guys come back and thanks. K.B.

I would never have had the experience to fly a R.C. plane if it was not for you. Thank you Sid for helping me fly. Also teaching me flips and loops. Thank you Mr. Penner for teaching us how to make different airplanes. N.A.-S.

Once again, Whited P.T.A. extends thanks and hopes the WCF continues outreach efforts to the youth in our community. The youth seemed excited about the invitation to join the WCF for more buddy box flying. The WCF provides a lovely site for enjoyment of this hobby and our young people are looking forward to more learn to fly days at the field in Healdsburg.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Racelle LaMar, Whited P.T.A.

### ***KEYS***

By: Sid Maxwell

We now have a new lock for the gate at the flying field. The new lock is a key lock and I have a key for each member.

Contact:  
Sid Maxwell at 584-4428

### ***Covering Idea***

by Vic Welland

From the Caldwell Aeromodelers, Hildebran, North Carolina

Have you ever wanted a graphic or picture for your model but didn't want to spend a ton of money to have a custom sticker made? This

technique, developed by Brian Ireland from the Frontier Fun Flyers of Alaska, allows you to have a detailed image made of several pieces, keeping them in their proper location to each other, while cutting them out and transferring them to your model.

Using your covering of choice, a piece of glass, Windex, razor or X-Acto blades, Glad Press'n Seal Wrap, and your normal covering tools, you can have the image you want with a steady hand and some time.

Let's begin by printing your image in the size you want on a regular piece of printer/copier paper. This is assuming your image will fit on a standard sheet of paper, of course. I recommend you start simple the first time out.

Spray some Windex onto the surface of the glass, be sure the glass is free of dust and debris to keep things clean and bump free. Remove the backing from your covering and lay it down on top of the Windex and glass. Squeegee the excess Windex out so you have a good bump/bubble free piece of covering to work on.

Do not let the Windex dry completely as it sits on the glass. This can be very bad as it sticks to the glass very well and you will not be able to peel it off.

Tape the piece of paper with your image directly over the covering and glass while being careful to not move things around and wrinkle the covering.

Here is where a steady hand and time come in. Carefully cut out the image with your razor or X-Acto blade. It's a bit easier if you start at the top and work down while working on the small fiddly bits that need to be removed first.

Once you are satisfied that you have the image cut out you should be able to see what your piece(s) will look like as they are located on the glass plate.

Here is the cool part. Using a piece of Press'n Seal, cover your image completely and press it down with some form of straight edge (credit cards work great). Gently peel the whole thing off the glass. The Press'n Seal will hold your covering in location and allow you to move it to your model.

Again apply Windex to your clean, dust-free model followed by placing your Press'n Seal/image assembly in the desired location. Squeegee the excess Windex and bubbles out as you did when you put the covering on the glass sheet.

After a reasonable period of time (overnight is recommended) using your heat gun on low

heat, gently play the heat onto the Press'n Seal to get it to release from your model's covering and the covering your image is made of. You should now have your image securely located on your model and looking great! It's recommended that you go back over the edges with some trim solvent or acetone to ensure a good bond.

### *On the Cover*

A De Havilland D.H.4 replica

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## Events 2008

June 12-15 ----- Float Fly Red Bluff  
 June 21 - 22 ----- Dan Sullivan Scale Masters at Ukiah  
 June 28 ----- IMAC  
 July 4 ----- Day on the Pond I Float Fly  
 July 6 ----- Pylon Races  
 July 12 ----- Trek to Wine Country at Ukiah  
 July 19 ----- Heli Fly In  
 August 2 ----- Outlaw Float Fly  
 August 3 ----- Pylon Races  
 August 9 ----- PCAM Practice at Ukiah  
 August 16 -17 ----- PCAM  
 August 24 ----- Learn to Fly  
 September 1 ----- Day on the Pond II Float Fly  
 September 7 ----- Pylon Races  
 September 10 - 14 ----- Reno Air Races  
 September 21 ----- Larry Frank Scale Fly In  
 September 27 ----- Trek to Ukiah  
 October 5 ----- Pylon Races  
 October 19 ----- IMAC



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