

Feb 2009 Edition

Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 17 Feb 2009, 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

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

2009 Club Officers:

President:	Adam Clement	(707) 433-4113	adampclement@comcast.net
Vice President:	Roy Domke	(707) 395-0411	Runabout@aol.com
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Treasurer:	Jeff Penner	(707) 292-4234	sonicjeff@yahoo.com
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Newsletter Team: Guy Nicholas, Phil Leech, Sid Maxwell
Website: Patrick O'Halloran



Presidents Report

By: Adam Clement

Hello everyone,

I hope everybody has been out taking advantage of the new flying field. It is just great to be able to smell the nitro and gas again. Plus the scenery isn't too shabby either. We have got permission from Victor Trentadue to put up two more of the shade awnings, so when we get a chance those will go up. Also the board has approved the new ADA toilet, it will cost the club about \$90.00 a month. I think that this is money well spent and is long overdue. There is a new lightweight cable across the gate. This should make it easier to get in and out of the field. Have you tried the new starting tables yet? They do have foam on them now so they won't scratch your planes. They do need to be adjusted and we will get to that a.s.a.p.

The Hobby Expo in Petaluma is happening on Feb 21 at 9:30a.m. We will have a booth set up and planes on display. We will also be handing out balsa gliders and lollipops. Everyone is invited to attend and help in the booth. We only have so much room so if you would like to display a plane please let me know although we still have some room. Those that I have talked with are Okay. If the weather permits some of us will be putting on display flights outside with some lightweight foamies. It should be a great time.

Pylon racing is starting on the first so get your planes ready and join us on the 1st of March at the field. More on rules and classes further in this issue. Sid and Merle are thinking of trying combat with foamies also so stay tuned for more about that. Speaking of Sid, the new club to the south, the Liberty field Flyers, are going to store one of our porta-pottys for an indefinite amount of time. The new club has 12 member's already (last I heard), that's great and I'm sure those guys are enjoying not having to drive so far to fly.

I'm sure most of you that have flown at the new field know that it takes a lot of focus to fly where we are supposed to. Some people are having depth perception problems at the new field. I have seen a few crashes already this

year, because the person's involved thought that they were over the runway but in fact were not. In one case I thought the person was over the runway also. Also we had another call about over flying the Winery. We have to be extremely careful at the new field and stay focused as to where you are. If you are at the stick's you should know where your plane is at all times. If you see someone flying where they're not supposed, to say something. We all need to be the field marshals for a while. If someone tells you your flying where your not supposed to be PLEASE don't take it personal. They just want to keep their field, so please be understanding. If you have trouble, ask someone to spot for you. Fly safe, Fly where you supposed to, But above all HAVE FUN while you're at it. I believe that we can follow all of our rules and still have a lot of fun while we do it. Remember, fly the plane, don't let it fly you!!

Adam Clement

Board Meeting Minutes

By: Ian Rickard
3 Feb. 2009

Adam Clement (AC)
Guy Nicholas (GN)
Roy Domke (RD)
Jeff Penner (JP)
Sid Maxwell (SM)
Merle MacGregor (MM)
Phil Leech (PL)
Steve Cole (SC)
Ian Rickard (IR)

Old Business.

- Replacing gate chain at new field. Adam (AC) and Steve (SC) will address tomorrow, 2/4/2009, with a lighter chain.
- New signs "No Trespassing" to be approved by Victor Trentadue (VT) AC & SC to present to VT 02/04/2009.
- Old Site Clean Up. Saturday February 28th scheduled to do the work..
- IR to post Field Rules in laminated form at the flying field.

- Toilets. Jerry Williams has located two bids on handicapped accessible toilets. Both are similar in price. RD motioned to approve the rental of one of these toilets, AC seconded, passed by unanimous approval.
- Old toilets will be loaned to Liberty Flyers. GN proposed motion to rent toilets to Liberty Flyers, RD seconded the motion. Motion was denied, only 2 in favor.
- Safety fence replacement. AC to review the new fence at Ukiah Prop Busters and advise the board.
- Additional awnings. 2 more to be added, pending review by AC and SC with Victor Trentadue.
- Frequency Board relocation to pits area. SC to discuss with VT moving the whole impound shed up to closer to the field.
- Sid's hand...looking good, he is flying but still unable to make certain hand gestures!
- Christmas Party. Saddle Club is available for the Saturday 19th of December. RD to investigate the costs of doing the Christmas Party at the Trentadue facility.
- Hobby Expo. SM to bring Tootsie Pops, SC to bring Balsa wood planes. John Stychno to bring planes and also MM. IR to give Trex 600N to AC for the expo. AC to bring the banner. Board members planning to attend MM, JP, PL, AC, RD, SC.
- Pylon Racing. T-28 class to continue with Corsairs allowed pending review if they out perform the T-28's. Battery size upper limit removed but must be 3 cell Li-po. All other items should be stock. Quickies also to be tried as a class assuming noise levels are OK. Unlimited War Bird class using max 450 size motor from E-Flite or another supplier. With three classes there will be two heats per class. Racing to start at 10am prompt and will be over by 1pm. Adam will make announcement in newsletter and general meeting.

Other Business.

- Complaints at the field. VT complained about over flying the winery.
- Discussion of recent crashes at the field and how we need to avoid flying too far east

towards the winery, plus how difficult it can be to line up for the runway to land.

- Suggestion to appoint of a Field Marshal to enforce club rules at the field while members are flying.
- Suggestion to schedule a Member New Field Orientation day for ALL members especially to insure that new members are proficient and safe and that All members are familiar with the new field including fly zones, safety, emergency action. First day will be Sunday March 8th. Jeff to send IR the list. Members to call or email IR with intended attendance. From 10 to 3 pm. Members will be asked to arrive before 10am.
- Instructors will be contacted and re-certified Steve Cole to manage this for Sunday 15th hopefully. GN will make invitation via email to all members. 9.30 to 1pm.
- Membership 78 enrolled and 12 pending. All pending will be invited to join as membership cap has been removed.
- Discussion of limiting personal information that will be on the site. Agreement to leave all board member's real emails on the site.
- Incoming emails to the website will be sent to Jeff by Patrick and copied to the board.
- Need to develop and post the designated flying area at the new field as was the case at the old field. IR will develop this.
- Donation made to club to be put on back table at next GM.

Meeting concluded at 8:40pm

General Meeting Minutes

By: Patrick O'Halloran
20 Jan. 2009

The door prize (Gallon fuel) won by Wayne Frederick. New member: Brian Young, guests Austin and Colin Rennard. Des Shapiro returns, yeah! Sick and injured – as you all probably know Sid received a bad injury to his hand but we're all happy to hear he's flying again. Julio took 16 stitches in his hand from a firewall failure while testing an engine at home, he's doing well. Things have changed at the field due to Sid's injury. Pole restraints have been added to the tables and it has

opened up a discussion of making a flying buddy mandatory. Also as a result of Sid' experience Adam will post Emergency contact information at the field. Members should be aware that Healdsburg hospital is off of Dry Creek road, follow the hospital signs. Adam has also contacted Healdsburg Fire Dept and Bell's ambulance, they are now aware of where we are. This will help in an emergency. Roy will also post the local emergency numbers as 911 is not always available (as Mike Davis found out while tending to Sid). Treasurer report in brief: \$4500 has been spent so far for the new field and we have \$7600 in the bank. We have now 69 members paid up with 17 on the waiting list. Secretary Ian Rickard absent.

Old business

- We need to clean up the old field, Merle will lead the cleanup but he has some commitments this weekend
- Discussion about the old shed, will we bring it to the new field? Board will discuss what to do with it at the next meetings
- John Reade asked if we can have more awnings at Trentadue field. It's not clear yet if we can add a couple more, Steve will discuss it with Victor. Brian offered to buy two of the awnings if/when they are for sale
- The storage shed will be painted to blend into the landscape at Trentadue. Jon Stychno is taking care of this issue.
- We continue to look into handicap accessible toilets. Search lead by Jerry, cost is ~\$90/month (cleaned once per month). Jerry is also looking at lease/maintain model and also used units (these run \$1500-\$1900. Jerry will report further next month.
- Jeff Penner is now in charge of gate keys – need a key? Talk to Jeff. Only 8 outstanding keys from 2008 right now so we'll save money by reuse our '08 keys.
- Adam mentioned AC - Keep in mind you have to have club membership badge on. Also clarified - gate must be locked at all times.
- Sid will not be organizing float fly, Sid has formed a new club in Petaluma and it's taking some of his free time. The good news is Merle is taking over float flies – Thanks Merle!

- All weather flight line frequency board will be going up.
- No trespassing signs also going up. It's unfortunate but we cannot currently have spectators at the field

Pylon Races Start March 1st

By: Adam Clement

Pylon season is here again. And the first race is in a couple of weeks. We are adding a class this year in addition to the T-28 class. The T-28 class has an addition to the class also. Some of you own the Park Zone F4U Corsair, and since it comes with the same power set up and prop we have decided to let them race as well. So now it's the T-28/F4U class. Same rules apply as last year, no more than a 2200mah battery and now modifications other than decals or paint. To the newcomers, try to make your plane different from everyone else. That makes it easier for the counters and corner people to tell one plane from the next.

The other class we are trying this year is called 450 size warbird class. You can Race any foam warbird 40" and under. Thunder Tiger makes one of the strongest but there are other company's that have them as well. We are running e-flite 450 sized outrunner with either a 8x8, or 9x9. The props are undecided as yet but I will let you know at the next general meeting. Batteries are no more than 11.1volts, but you can run any size mah you want. Just remember the bigger the battery the slower you plane goes. So chose wisely. Speed control is also up to you but the motor's run just fine on 20-25amp controllers. This should be a fun class, about 10-15 mph faster than the T-28/F4U class but not too fast. I did some testing and the plane was going around 60mph. It was fast but very controllable. For those that need more speed this is your class!!!

We are going to try 3 rounds per class and if it takes too long we will knock it down to 2. So if you race both classes make sure you have 6 packs or can charge at the field. Since we're going faster in the other class (fast enough to do some damage) helmets will be

mandatory this year. Sorry. It should be a lot of fun so come out and play the first Sunday of the month. Or just come and watch the fun, we always need spotters and corner marshals so please come and enjoy the fun. 5\$ per class. Pilots meeting 9:40. Racing start's 10:00 sharp. So be on time. Late racer's can still fly they will just miss 1 round. Any questions contact myself or Steve Cole. See you at the races.

Adam Clement

WINE COUNTRY FLYERS- A BRIEF HISTORY

By: Phil Leech

Our Fearless Newsletter Editor has asked me to pen a short history of the club and that is something that you can't just Google and hope to find much. I did Google and came up with a video of Joe Hunt at the Transfer Station Field and of course, our Web Site. So much for that.

IN THE BEGINNING 1986-89

So, if you really want to know something about the history of the club you need to talk with Doug Boucher. Doug told me that for years, RC modelers flew wherever they could, out in the country, in a farmer's field until someone would run them off. Not a very satisfactory situation, Doug and his fellow modelers were always searching for some place to fly. Doug was one of the original five founders of WCF and the first President as well. He is the only founder still living, all of the other guys are in Model Heaven. The year was 1986 and Doug and these four other guys each put up \$250 and got a charter from AMA. The four other founders were, Fred Jameson (who owned Windsor Propeller, the same outfit that makes those black plastic props that you keep breaking), Sam Taber, Kent Cooper

and guess what, Neil Taylor who we honor at our Neil Taylor Fun Flies. Fred Jameson came up with the Wine Country Flyers name and Doug's wife Angela, conceived the logo and with that Doug silk-screened some shirts and jackets - they had a club! They originally flew from a field that is now a shopping center with a Raley's and a Safeway in Windsor. With a new flying field and an AMA Charter the club quickly expanded to 40 members almost overnight. They flew there for a couple of years until the shopping center was built and that was that – no more field.

FULTON ROAD 1989

A search for a new field found them at 2365 Fulton Road in the Spring of '89 where a couple of agreeable ranchers, John Hess and Andrew Matteri allowed them to fly and for about 6 months every thing was rolling again until October 1989 when a neighbor declared war because of noise and got the County to shut us down – no more field.

THE IN BETWEEN YEARS 1990-92

The membership started to dwindle and efforts to maintain interest in the Club included sponsoring the first Neil Taylor Memorial Fun Fly that was held at Ukiah at the PropBuster's field in October 1990. Another activity that was developed was a "Model Mall Show" that was held on the Coddington Mall. The shows were conducted in conjunction with the local hobby shop at the time, "Toy and Model" which was located in the Mall.

There were serious attempts to find a new field including a site on Llano Road called The Brown Farm that went nowhere.

We got a boost when Sonoma County Supervisor, Nick Esposti, who was an aviation enthusiast, began to try to find a way to help us. We had information that other RC clubs across the nation were built on Landfill sites and there were even two in California, one in Shasta County and one in Novato. We were shortly invited to work with the Department of Public Works with the goal of being able to locate at the Healdsburg Transfer Station.

This is the point that Larry Frank, who we dedicate an event each year, the Larry Frank Scale Fly In, became instrumental in negotiating with the County and working with them to develop a Site Plan for the new field. He created several proposals to locate and plan the new field and eventually the engineering and a grading plan were completed to the satisfaction of the Public Works Department. The County had to secure funds for the work and this all took time. It was hard to hold the Club together without a flying field but there was a light at the end of the tunnel because of the prospect of a new field at Healdsburg.

THE TRANSFER STATION 1992- 2007

April 20, 1992 was the official date for the opening of the new field for WCF at the Healdsburg Transfer Station and it ushered in a new era for the club.

ON THE SAFE SIDE In the Blink of an Eye

From AMA District VIII
by Don Nix, Insider Safety Column Editor

“There's a reason I'm alive for a blink of an eye.”

—In the Blink of an Eye by Mercyme

More often than not, that's about all the time it takes for most accidents to happen. I can think of one personal incident where the quick blink of my eyes saved me from more serious problems.

A couple of decades or so ago while living in Southern California, my wife and I decided to spend a long weekend at a cabin we rented occasionally in a small village up near Big Bear in the San Bernardino mountains.

Being born lazy and losing ground ever since, I'm usually quite content to do as little as possible; especially if it requires exerting any physical effort. This time, though, I had an

idea about how to both relax and do something productive at the same time. I'd just acquired a new RC kit I was anxious to get started, and since it was of the type that goes together rather quickly with a minimum of tools or accoutrements, I took it along to build.

Fortunately, the cabin was equipped with a rather large, long table perfect for laying out plans and materials. While my wife lingered over coffee the first morning, I got everything ready to go; punched out all the die-cut parts (pre-laser), identified everything, made sure nothing was missing (even read the instructions!), and reached for the thin CA.

I had been especially careful to bring along a brand new, unopened bottle of the stuff so I wouldn't be stuck without enough to finish or have old material. (Remember that word “stuck.”) The container was one where you snap off the top to open, and then reverse it to become the cap to seal it back.

Looking at it carefully to be sure I snapped it cleanly, I did so and instantly got a face shower of CA.

That's where the blink of my eyes saved me. Amazing how fast our body can spontaneously and involuntarily react when attacked. Not a drop got into my eyes, although one lid was partially glued shut. That stuff does set instantly under the right conditions!

Surprisingly, I immediately knew what had happened. The material was packaged at near sea level, and I was up about 7,500 feet in the mountains. You can figure out the rest. The higher pressure inherent in the package at the lower altitude combined with the considerably reduced pressure at a much higher altitude outside effectively converted it to aerosol form for a split second.

This would compare to sudden depressurization in an airliner at altitude, and works exactly the same way. Everything inside

responds to an urgent need to go out until the pressure is equalized.

(Brief digression: Don't you die laughing at those disaster movies that show an airliner decompressing with everything and everyone being sucked outside for several minutes? No way, no how.)

I got the model ready to cover by the end of the long weekend, but spent a good deal of time peeling CA from various locations on my face and neck. Incidentally, just plain soap and water will loosen the stuff in most cases so it can be more easily peeled. There are commercial debonders available, of course, but I don't think I'd use them on my face or near my eyes.

Later, in telling the above story to a friend in the CA business, he told me about an experience his company had when installing a new CA filling machine. They got everything—electrical, pipes, hoses, etc.—all hooked up and flipped the switch to give it a trial run. When they did, a hose connection failed and all in the area were pretty well showered with CA ... the thin type that sets instantly.

Point: Most accidents do happen in the blink of an eye, and sometimes it's difficult to anticipate them. Fortunately, most are preventable with a little caution, good sense and forethought, and we'll deal with some of those in future columns.

In the meantime, if you've had an experience you'd like to pass on for the benefit of others, I'd be happy to hear from you: FLYERDON@aol.com.

Happy modeling and flying ... safely. Q

Next Month...

Stay tuned for next month's continuation of, WCF – A Brief History with **THE TRANSFER STATION – THE GOOD YEARS**

For Sale

I have a large list of airplanes, radios, engines and a ton of accessories that go with it. For example a Jr XP8103 Radio, Ultra Stick 60 plane (slightly damaged) OS FX .91 engine, Hobico Avistar Trainer and tons of other engines servos and receivers, starters, chargers, amp meters, tool boxes and on and on. I want to sell everything complete for \$400.00. If interested please e-mail me at kpirmar@comcast.net, or call my cell, 415-302-6760. I live in Novato.

Thanks, Ken

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



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