

March 2009 Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 17 Mar. 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](http://www.wcflyers.com)

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

## 2009 Club Officers:

|                 |                |                |  |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| President:      | Adam Clement   | (707) 433-4113 | <a href="mailto:adampclement@comcast.net">adampclement@comcast.net</a> |
| Vice President: | Roy Domke      | (707) 395-0411 | <a href="mailto:Runabout@aol.com">Runabout@aol.com</a>                 |
| Secretary:      | Ian Rickard    | (707) 975-2916 | <a href="mailto:ian@americantartaric.com">ian@americantartaric.com</a> |
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| Safety Officer: | Merle McGregor | (707) 585-1061 | <a href="mailto:merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com">merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com</a> |

## 2009 Board Members:

|                    |                |  |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Phil Leech         | (707) 538-8557 | <a href="mailto:leechstudios@sonic.net">leechstudios@sonic.net</a>             |
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Newsletter Team: Guy Nicholas, Phil Leech, Sid Maxwell  
Website: Patrick O'Halloran



## ***Presidents Report***

By: Adam Clement

Hello All,

Well we just had the Hobby expo in Petaluma that was sponsored by Hobbytown. The event showcases all of the hobby clubs in the area. There were some stunning plastic scale models on display. There was a rock crawling course, a Battlebot arena, lots of RC and free flight aircraft. Jon Stychno and I braved the wind and did some demo flying over the lake. Mine were a little on the light side so Jon did most of the flying. A young lady from Rohnert Park won the super cub in the Free raffle the we did. She was the only girl to enter and she won. Not a lot of kid's this year, but we had a great time anyway. I would like to thank Sid , Merle, Patrick, Roy, Bryon, Jon, Bob, and anybody I missed for helping out and answering questions.

The first Pylon Race of the season was postponed due to bad weather. By the time you read this the make up race should have happened and I will keep everybody up to date with the scores.

We do have our first event scheduled in May. We are having a Family and Friends Day at the field. We will have a BBQ for those of you who would like a fat burger from Chef Bob and Crew. This is a day to bring out your family and friends and show them what we do all year long. You can bring a plane or just Hang Out. There will be some demo flights around 12:30. If you would like to participate in a demo flight contact me at [adampclement@comcast.net](mailto:adampclement@comcast.net).

There were about 30 members present for the field orientation. We went over some of the new rules and showed people where the new fly zone is. There were also some training and test flights. In general it was just a really nice relaxing day at the field.

Last thing I have to talk about is the Gate. Somebody smashed or broke the lock at the field. So, for now we are going back to the old combo lock. If you don't know it ask someone. I can't state it here for obvious reasons, but every board member will know it.

Remember to fly safe and Have FUN!!!

Adam Clement

## ***Board Meeting Minutes***

By: Ian Rickard  
3 Mar. 2009

Adam Clement (AC)  
Guy Nicholas (GN)  
Roy Domke (RD)  
Sid Maxwell (SM)  
Merle MacGregor (MM)  
Phil Leech (PL)  
Ian Rickard (IR)  
Patrick O'Halloran (PO)

Old Business.

Hobby expo appeared to have lower attendance than in previous years. Thanks to PO for bringing his flight simulator. Plenty of photos are up on the web site.

"No Trespassing" signs coming soon. AC.

Old Site Clean Up. Saturday February 28th proceeded as planned. Of the five canopies that were left two were relocated to the new field the only remaining items are three canopies, two of which may already have a buyer (Brian Young) plus there is the old impound shed that needs a home. Board agreed to give Brian a decent price of \$300 for the two canopies. The third one is still up for grabs if anyone wants to buy it.

New Frequency Board needs to be build and located under the new canopies. RD will work on this.

Start up table posts need opening up from 24 inches to 32 inches on the two outer tables. IR.

New handicapped accessible Porta-Potty needs camouflage, as it is very bright in color, will use bamboo matting.

SM will take the men's toilet and the women's will be located at the float fly site.

Impound shed at new field may not need painting as previously thought. Victor

Trentadue seems to be liking it more and more the way it is.

Parking. On days when many members are at the flying field it was agreed that no parking will be allowed over the railway lines on the west side and definitely no parking on the Geyserville Avenue. Over flow parking will be within the available space of the field outside the regular parking lot or possibly at Trentadue winery to be confirmed with VT.

Spectator Line needs to be placed at the new field in preparation for coming events.

Flight line fence needs replacing with a material that is more "plane friendly". AC still reviewing material choices.

Petition Signatures. After 2 weeks we have approximately 70-100 names. The petition will remain out in circulation for many more weeks to come before being submitted.

Other Business.

Pylon Racing. As the first race was rained off the day will be rescheduled for the Sunday 15th. Email sent to all members. IR.

Instructor Day rescheduled for the Sunday March 22nd.

Christmas Party. Trentadue Winery not available at the price needed to make the event financially practical on a Saturday night but is more affordable on a Friday night but 60 plus attendees are needed to make it work. Concerns rose about attendance on Friday versus Saturday. RD to determine final costs of Friday versus Saturday with Trentadue. Members to be asked about their views on paying the extra needed to secure a Saturday event.

Newsletter material. GN to organize more material always needed.

Combat. SM proposes up to 40 inch electric maximum, war birds preferred but not obligatory. 480 motor max. Minimum plane size to be determined. Max battery up to 3 cell.

Various suggestions made for plane types. SM to give more information on standardizing of plane types and AMA rules on such events.

Events for 2009.

Suggestions for a Friends and Family Day on May 16th. Club to organize food, members will be asked to pay \$6 each for food and drink.

Float fly dates are in the calendar on the website. First dates are April 11th and May 25th, more to come.

Still need to develop and post the designated flying area at the new field as was the case at the old field. RD to send diagram to the board via email and IR will develop the final version.

MM. Gate improvements to be done to give us a real gate rather than a cable. Needs final approval from VT. Motion to discuss with VT and if he says OK then MM will build the gate. Motion passed.

PO reviewed changes to the website which are making it very useful as a membership tool. All members will be asked at the next General Meeting and also via email to register on the website. WCF will be using the website as the central collection point for members information and all members will be responsible for keeping their data up to date.

IR to bring laptop, projector and data card to present this to the members at the next general meeting.

Motion by AC seconded by IR. Passed by all. Members need to notify the club if they want to host a personal event at the field.

Meeting concluded at 9.00pm

***General Meeting Minutes***

By: Patrick O'Halloran  
17 Feb. 2009

#### Introduction:

22 members present, 3 guests. Door prize won by Richard Maddock. Guests were Larry Gustafson – flew back in the '70's, Marin R/C group now having lots of fun with electrics; Glenn Binkley – new to the sport, also enjoying electrics; Ted Cummins – having lots of fun experimenting with foam electrics. Ted builds from plans, experimenting with outrunner motors rewound from old CD-ROM motors. Injuries – Sid and Julio are on the mend, Brian (Young) suffered broken ribs and a punctured a lung in co-ed soccer - holy smokes!

#### Treasurers report:

We are now at 83 members. No new income in January, \$500 spent.

#### Old business:

Clean up of the old field is set for 28th Feb, 10 am. After the old field clean-up the crew will then go to Trentadue and do some cleanup there. There are some lakes on the runway, things are getting soggy.

We have a new wheelchair accessible toilet. Do not use the old toilets. Adam says we cannot paint it (we're renting it) but he thinks he'll be able to come up with something reasonable to camouflage it.

Lightweight gate cable is up. Merle is working on a metal gate, Brian/Steve will provide a post. Victor is ok with a gate.

Jon reminded people to piggyback the locks so that Victor can always open the gate.

Adam reported we had a report of a winery overfly. This should never happen. The winery is >1500 ft from the runway. Flying should happen no further than 500-700 ft from the runway.

Orientation day, March 8th 10am, will emphasize the fly zone. Steve Cole mentioned the main goal of orientation day will be keeping people in the zone. We'll have people monitoring where you will be flying and you'll get an idea of visually where you should be. We'll also do Solos and general checkout for beginners.

#### New Business:

Adam mentioned Pylon racing will start on March 1st.

## ***WINE COUNTRY FLYERS A BRIEF HISTORY THE TRANSFER STATION - THE GOOD YEARS***

By: Phil Leech

Last month we left off on April 20, 1992 with the opening of our new field at the Healdsburg Transfer Station which is managed by the Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works. It really seemed like the perfect use for the site which was a capped landfill that couldn't be used for much because of the constantly settling mass of decomposing trash beneath the top layer of clay and gravel. The view from the top of the landfill was amazing – 360 degree panoramic views of rolling California hills as far as the eye could see. What a site for a condo project! But that wasn't possible because of the impossibility of building anything permanent on it. So, it seemed like the perfect use to have a bunch of guys flying their innocent little model airplanes. And it was, for a while, until the County started getting complaints about noise from our planes. The complaints began as early as June, 1992 and the club did what they could to resolve the noise problem including relocating the runway from a more or less east – west orientation to a north – south one. The wrangling over noise continued on as we tested noise levels with db meters but the neighbors were never completely mollified. They put up with us for over 16 years and we are grateful for their patience and just wish it could have gone on longer because it was a great site. During this period Wine Country Flyers grew and developed into an organization that has provided training for kids and guys from all walks of life. Let's look at some of the highlights.

## ASTRO TURF RUNWAY

Our Astroturf runway didn't happen until 1996. It was purchased from a club in the East Bay Area for \$5,000.00 and that was a lot of money for the club at that time. That material was used to "pave" out runway at 60' wide x 425' long. Later, in 2005 the same club offered to let us have more of the Astro Turf and this time the price was right. FREE! We had a major work party to retrieve the Astro Turf and we used to cover our pit area.

## THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party has long been a tradition at WCF. The first ones were at member's homes on a pot luck basis and were very informal. The last one of these was hosted by Larry and Dorothy Frank at their home. This event was catered and the cost to members was \$12.50 (how times have changed). In 1996 the event was held at Cattlemen's Restaurant in Santa Rosa and that continued for '97, '98, and '99 but we tried a Restaurant at Los Robles (on Cleveland Ave. and now scheduled for demo) in 2000 and 2001. We returned to Cattlemen's for '03 thru '07 but held the Party at the Wild Oak Saddle Club in Oakmont this past year.



## NEIL TAYLOR DAY



The Neil Taylor Day has become a tradition with WCF to honor the memory of Neil Taylor who was one of the founders of the club. The event has always

featured a free BBQ for friends and families of members. Guys were encouraged to invite their wives and girlfriends as an opportunity to let them share what we do on weekends when we are away from home. The first event was held in 1997 and has continued until 2006 when it was incorporated as a part of the Larry Frank Scale Fun Fly.

## LARRY FRANK SCALE FUN FLY



The first Larry Frank Scale Fun Fly was held in 2006 when Larry was still alive. Larry attended and was the honoree for the day. The theme of the event was centered on scale aircraft because that was Larry's main interest in modeling. Larry was a true "scratch builder" and I don't mean just building stick type kits. Larry truly started "from scratch" by doing research from the Smithsonian for accurate drawings of the aircraft to be modeled. He would then engineer and draw the model creating true "one of a kind" models, often modeling little known planes that were out of the mainstream of most models. The event centers around demonstration flights of scale models including scale ARF's and for the last two years it has included the Neil Taylor Day with the free BBQ.

## PYLON RACING

The first Pylon Races were created by Red Jensen in '95, but were dormant for a while and then were re-started in 2005 with Quickie 500 glo powered planes. The format has varied from time to time but in recent years it has centered on electric planes and has proved to be



a popular event usually scheduled for the first Sunday of each month for 9 to 10 months of the year. A small fee is collected from each participant for each month and the "kitty" is split into three prizes that are awarded to the top three contestants at the Christmas Party.

## FLOAT FLYS

Sid Maxwell has been instrumental in creating



our Float Fly events on Sal Lake that is a part of the Salvation Army Complex near the Alexander Valley Road Exit with access from the California Fire Fighters Station. Sid got permission to fly on the Lake in 2004 and has hosted events on the Lake each year. Float

Planes and Planes equipped with pontoons are the order of the day.



A retrieve boat is on duty usually with John Lehtio doing the paddling. It is always an exciting event usually with a number of models "taking a dunk" Sid normally schedules 5 events per year.

## OPENING DAY EVENT

Starting in 2004 and hosted by Doug Boucher, WCF produced a major event that was open to the public. Scheduled in late May this series of events featured swap meets, aerobatic



demonstration flights, warbird formations, helicopter demos, control line demos and sometimes paintball free for alls. These



events lasted through 2007 and were highly popular public events with attendance of over 150 people. When the field was limited to "electric only" in 2008

we couldn't field a display like that again. Jon Stychno did manage a "Warbirds Over Wine Country" that was really an Opening Day Event with another name. He got it in under the wire just before the field was limited to

electric only. It was well attended and it was the last major event for the public at the Transfer Station. Don't know when we will have another one like that.

## LEARN TO FLY DAYS

WCF has nearly always scheduled a "Learn to Fly Day" when the public is invited to the field and we have provided planes, instructors and buddy boxes for the public to get a chance to fly an RC plane. These events have usually been accompanied with a BBQ available for everyone. This has been important to us because it gives us a chance to open our doors to the surrounding community with an invitation to all to come and see what fun we have to offer. It is a good, clean hobby that has appeal to our youngsters who might have an interest in aviation or some other tech oriented career.



for about 30 minutes of flight time. Our Model Airshow is the first scheduled event on the PCAM program that usually starts with our flying around 10:30 AM. We still have our static display but it is now located right off the main flight line and we get a lot of interest from the public in our models and flying. We typically have a free raffle for the kids and provide a free RC trainer to a lucky winner. It's always a great weekend.

## PACIFIC COAST AIR MUSEUM AIRSHOW (PCAM)

The Pacific Coast Air Museum has sponsored an Airshow at the Sonoma County Airport since about 1992. The first Airshows were pretty small affairs with just a few planes on display and a minimal



aerobatic performance but recent Airshows with attendance between 30,000 and 40,000 have become a major local summer event. The Airshow is always scheduled for the third weekend in August. In the late 90's, WCF was invited to display our models as a static display. Larry Miller hosted these early events

that were similar to the displays that we had at the Coddington Mall shows in the 90's. In 2005 we were invited to perform an active model flying show that has developed into our most effective way to show the public what we are about. We have developed a Model Airshow format usually centered around Warbirds but with Aerobatic displays, Heli demos and an all around show that we plan



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## THE NEXT CHAPTER – TRENTADUE



This past November, with a massive Work Party (over two weekends) we moved our field equipment including all of the Astro Turf, picnic tables, safety fence, and most of the

canopies to our current location 1.5 miles down the road to Trentadue Wineries. We are the guests of Victor Trentadue and as guests we are all conscious of the need for noise control, good flight procedures and safety. We are all deeply grateful for Victor's generosity and look forward to another "happy time".

