

MAY 2010 Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 18 May 2010, 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

## 2010 Club Officers:

President:	Red	(707) 481-9504	<a href="mailto:rjensen@arcturus-uav.com">rjensen@arcturus-uav.com</a>
Vice President:	Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557	<a href="mailto:leechstudios@sonic.net">leechstudios@sonic.net</a>
Secretary:	Ian Rickard	(707) 975-2916	<a href="mailto:ian@americantartaric.com">ian@americantartaric.com</a>
Treasurer:	Jeff Penner	(707) 292-4234	<a href="mailto:sonicjeff@yahoo.com">sonicjeff@yahoo.com</a>
Safety Officer:	Merle McGregor	(707) 585-1061	<a href="mailto:merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com">merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com</a>

## 2009 Board Members:

Roy Domke	(707) 395-0411	<a href="mailto:Runabouter@aol.com">Runabouter@aol.com</a>
Steve Cole	(707) 433-4888	<a href="mailto:stevecole@awesomehobbies.com">stevecole@awesomehobbies.com</a>
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Newsletter Team: Guy Nicholas, Phil Leech  
Website: Patrick O'Halloran



## ***Presidents Report***

By: Red Jensen

I sure am enjoying this Spring weather! Along with all that nice weather seems to come all of the maintenance items that go along with having a nice flying facility. Thanks to a core group of volunteers, the rest of us get to continue to have a nice place to fly. A great example of that is the work party on May 14 in advance of our Opening Day event. Jon Stychno has been advocating a solar charging system and it has come together in spectacular fashion! Many thanks to Jon & crew for putting the extra effort required to get this up and running. If you haven't seen it yet, you are in for quite a treat. Take a look at [www.wcflyers.com](http://www.wcflyers.com) <<http://www.wcflyers.com>> for some great pics. Along with the Solar project, we also covered some tables that needed it, and sunk 9 4x4 posts that will make up our fence to surround the toilet and shed to make it a bit nicer for the winery patrons on the gondola tours. Thanks to Guy Nicolas and crew for putting in the extra effort here as well.

I know it gets said several times a year, but it bears repeating. Whenever there is a work party the same people show up each time. Don't get me wrong, I am very grateful to see these guys because without them nothing would get done. I would really like to see some new faces participate however. This entire organization runs on volunteer effort. Without that effort we have no organization and our club will suffer. So please, when the next work party rolls around, or next time there is a task at hand, give some thought to lending a hand. It can be as simple as making phone calls to secure more help. Anything is better than nothing.

In racing news, this season is starting out wonderfully. I seem to have come out of my slump, and while only winning one heat I consider that a great success. Why? Well because the last four races have taken out 4 planes, I made it through this last race unscathed! The new 1/12 Scale class is going strong as well. We had 4 planes to make a full

heat. These planes are a bit, but not much faster and look oh so cool going around the new 3 pylon course. Mini Reno! The course needs to be tweaked a bit still, but it's a great effort. I know of at least 4 other planes done or close to it, so the class is filling up nicely.

Opening Day should have happened by the time you read this. I hope all who came had a great time.

That's all for this month. Keep an eye out for next month's column, I'm going to start a series of tech articles aimed at everyone.

## ***Board Meeting Minutes***

13 April 2010

Members in attendance: Adam Clement, Merle MacGregor, Phil Leech, Ian Rickard, Steve Cole, Jon Stychno, Jeff Penner, Guy Nicholas

Guests: Dave Mercer

### • Solar Power Setup

Interstate Batteries have given us the batteries at their cost so by saving WCF a significant amount. Harbor Freight had a 20% off coupon which WCF was able to use for the Solar Kit. Dave Mercer and Jon Stychno have worked hard on this and the system will be installed this weekend.

### • Toilet and Shed fencing.

Robbie and Guy have worked on setting this up, Brian Young needs to be contacted to bring an auger if possible, which Guy will do. Ian suggested that we re-install the RV hand washing setup that we had at the old field. This is to provide a hand washing facility by the toilets.

### • Open Day May 15th.

Robbie's program for the day will be sent out by Guy via email. Adam is working on the sound system. Bob Film is catering for approx 50.

- Christmas party contract has been drawn up for the 2010 party already. Reservation is Friday December 10th.
- Donna Lehtio donated a P-51. This will be sold off to interested members. Proceeds will go to the family.
- July 10th Swap meet at Veteran's Building in Santa Rosa from 9am to noon. \$10 per table. Tables will be provided by the Veteran's Building. Adam is doing the flyer. It will be targeted at all hobbies not just RC. We have a quarter of the parking lot at our disposal.
- Roster Progress, nothing to report.
- Pylon Race. Start time will be 9am.
- Need to put in place fire extinguisher and bucket of sand.
- Meeting ended at 8:10pm

## ***General Meeting Minutes***

20 April 2010  
By: Ian Rickard

- Meeting started at 7:28pm.
- Guests none.
- New member Glenn Binkley from Santa Rosa was welcomed to the club.
- Ian Rickard won the fuel prize and subsequently re donated it to the raffle.....not enough nitro, ungrateful swine!
- President's Report: (Robbie, not present)
- Treasurer's Report: 73 members, Received \$1155.00, Spent \$208
- Secretary's report: motion to accept as presented on website proposed by Phil Leech, seconded by Jon Stychno. Motion passed by all in attendance.
- Passing of John Lehtio: Phil, Merle and Roy and several other WCF members attended the funeral service which was very moving. John was given full military honors at his service.

### Other business.

- Float fly scheduled this weekend at Sal Lake, plus it is electric only at the field on the same day.
- There will be a frequency board at the lake. If the number you want is not at Trentadue you

cannot fly that day unless you retrieve that number from Sid at Sal lake.

- There will be a John Lehtio Memorial Float Fly on the 31st of May.
- Opening Day on May 15th is coming up. Red will be CD and Jon will be the MC. Red is going all out for this event with jets and all kinds of good stuff. Members, family and friends only for free food and what should be a great event. There will also be an informal swap meet on this day.
- Work party is scheduled for the weekend prior weekend of May 8th. We are going to recover tables and screen off the toilets. PLEASE MAKE SOME TIME TO HELP US OUT IF YOU CAN.
- Website and mailing list issues: Patrick and Guy will be contacting all WCF members who are not signed up for the WCF website, contact will be via email. If you do not receive any contact within a few weeks please contact the Guy with your correct email (guy@gui-soft.com)
- Swap meet: Adam is organizing a swap meet for July. It will be held at the Vets Building in Santa Rosa and will be advertised to all local clubs.
- Solar Power Project: Victor has approved the idea of installing solar power at the WCF field. The major cost of the installation will be the batteries and also the solar kit. Installation should be easy hopefully. Dave Mercer was strong armed into helping with this as he is an electrician....at least I think that is why we asked him!
- Review of Morgan Hill Swap Meet a few weeks ago. Jon Stychno attended and said the event was attended very very well and had great stuff. Well worth the trip next time if you are interested.
- Tony and Jacob brought their show and tell Great Planes Mustang that he has modified by adding a custom canopy and clipped wings which has flown well so far and will be competing in the next pylon races.
- Video presentation of Larry Frank fun fly filmed by Julio, excellent as usual. Video from the last show that Julio did which was the first Pylon races of 2010 is now online at the following address:

<http://www.vimeo.com/10756590> for the first half & <http://www.vimeo.com/10757497> for the second half.

• Ian has now finally figured out how to make it all in one file so the Larry Frank Fun Fly 2009, PCAM 2009 and Sal Lake Float Fly September 2009 should all be appearing soon. Check the WCF forum for details.

Raffle.

Bill Van Asdian took the Piper Cub

Joe Kagen took the Multiplex Xeno.

Glenn Binkley took the LA 40 motor.

Merle McGregor took the Tap and Die set.

Jon Stychno took the Power Supply.

Dick Maddock took the Epoxy.

Larry Gustafson took the fuel.

Dave Mercer took the prop reamer.

Julio got the hinges.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm.

### ***A Lesson in How to Crash***

From the newsletter of the Silent Electric Flyers, San Diego

I recently destroyed a very nice aerobatic 49-inch Yak. Not really a great thing to do, but it happened and I hope by telling my story I can save at least one other pilot from doing the same.

I had just finished putting some very detailed cockpit work in a very nice Cermark 49-inch Yak 54 so I could enter it in to the 2010 Spring Fling Scale contest. I had earlier increased the power to 4S and had to beef up the motor mount with added carbon fiber along the top and sides to hold the now nearly 1,000 watts it could develop, so I was confident it would perform very nicely.

In full-scale aviation, we always say it takes two or three problems to make a crash, as we are trained to recover from one problem at a time. I think this story bears that axiom out. It took three distinct errors on the pilot's part to create an unrecoverable situation.

It started with my desire to fly one afternoon after I had just finished the above modifications and checked the balance and

control throws in my shop. Because of all the things needing to be done, it got later and later in the day before I got out to the field. By the time I got settled in and ready for takeoff the sun was very low on the horizon, but the wind had calmed down a lot (error one).

I did my preflight and noticed that I had a little extra throw in the surfaces, but that's okay, I wanted to be sure I could recover from any attitude I got into during the trim flight (error two).

I took off and climbed out to the west, noticing I needed to adjust the elevator a little for smooth, level flight. While doing this, I let the airplane get a long ways downwind to the east (error three). As I started to turn toward me to come back to the center of the field, I over rotated due to the larger-than-needed throws of the ailerons, and due to the low sun angle I lost orientation of how far I'd banked and in my attempt to recover I must have thought I was inverted and zipped when I should have zagged.

End result was a near full-power dive into the ground instead of pulling up smartly.

So how could I have avoided this unnecessary loss of a very nice and near new airplane?

1. Don't get in a hurry to go do a flight. If it's 3:30 p.m. when you leave for the field in the winter, it will be dark in only 1.5-2 hours.
2. A headwind is a good thing, dead calm requires more roll out and longer takeoffs.
3. Larger surface throws are inherently bad for control. Use small, reasonable throws and check that the surfaces are in line with the wing or tail fixed surface for easier flight control.
4. Keep your situational awareness! Don't let one aspect of flying (ex. trimming) get in the way of overall flight path control. If you get too far away with an "active" model, you'll have more problems keeping it under control.

They had to go to the bathroom together? Are they girls?



Everyone has their own throwing style. This one is called lean forward and lift a leg.



"I don't know, one minute she was up, next one, she down"



Hey look, it's 'Funny Hat' day!



## WCF 2010 EVENTS SCHEDULE

SID'S FLOAT FLY	MON MAY 31
PYLON RACE	SUN JUN 6
LEARN TO FLY	SAT JUN 12
SID'S FLOAT FLY	SUN JUL 4
SWAP MEET	SAT JUL 10
PYLON RACE	SUN JUL 11
WINGS & WHEELS	SAT JUL 17
FUN FLY	SAT JUL 24
PYLON RACE	SUN AUG 1
PCAM	AUG 21-22
SID'S FLOAT FLY	MON SEP 6
PYLON RACE	SUN SEP 12
LARRY FRANK/NEIL TAYLOR DAY	SUN SEP 19
SID'S FLOAT FLY	SAT SEP 18
PYLON RACE	SUN OCT 3
PYLON RACE	SUN NOV 7
PYLON RACE	SUN DEC 5
CHRISTMAS PARTY	FRI DEC 10



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