

April-May 2011 Edition

Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 17 May 2011, 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

2011 Club Officers:

President:	Jeff Penner	(707) 292-4234	sonicjeff@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Dave Mercer	(707) 235-8340	mcdave@sonic.net
Secretary:	Paul Kohlmann	(707) 837-9437	ptkohlmann@aol.com
Treasurer:	Adam Clement	(707) 322-5318	adampclement@gmail.com
Safety Officer:	Merle McGregor	(707) 585-1061	merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com

2011 Board Members:

Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557	leechstudios@sonic.net
Red Jensen	(707) 481-9504	rjensen@arcturus-uav.com
Patrick O'Halloran	(707) 321-0400	patrick@tiburon-da.com
Steve Cole	(707) 481-7989	stevecole@awesomehobbies.com
Guy Nicholas	(707) 544-2141	guy@gui-soft.com

Newsletter Team: Guy Nicholas, Phil Leech
Website: Patrick O'Halloran



Presidents Report

By: Jeff Penner

Spring is definitely in the air and the flying has been great. All the nice weather that has come to Sonoma County lately has been wonderful. The field has been active on the weekends and other than some wind the time to fly is now. We have been seeing some new faces at the field, please say hi and welcome them if you notice someone new at the field. I can remember when I first came up to the field when I was starting out, it was very nice when someone would offer their help, as I did not always feel comfortable asking.

In fact I can remember my first crash, I was hovering a Raptor 50 with the training gear on. It was bouncing up and down a bit as I did not have good control over the collective. It had come down and bounced off the ground a couple of times during the flight, but the training gear had just bounced it back up in the air. Then it moved a little higher and this time when it came down to bounce off the ground, it made this loud noise and exploded as the blades tried to chop off the tail. I was stunned and could not see how this could happen. My new, (new to me) helicopter was sitting in a big ball in the middle of the runway. I was not sure what had happened or what to do. As I was standing there in silence, up walks Guy. He marched straight out and started picking up the pieces. He hauled them back to the table and started to look through them to assess the damage. As he was checking servos and looking at the different parts he was saying "this isn't that bad, boom, blades, main shaft and a few links for the head and you'll be back in the air." I asked him what had happened. I could not see how such a small bounce had caused that. He said "Oh I saw that coming a mile away, I thought it was going to do that on several of the bounces." He also told me that crashing was just a part of the hobby and as crashes go mine was about average. He was just so matter of fact about it, I thought maybe this wasn't a big deal after all. We made a list of the parts and off I went to Steve's hobby shop, and I was back in the air in no time.

It makes a big difference when you have the help of someone more experienced. Their perspective and insight can guide you through what might have been a traumatic event. From my perspective I thought I had destroyed everything, but from Guy's perspective it was just a small bump in the road. I decided to go with his view, and just move forward. I think that was one of the turning points in the hobby for me, learning that you are going to have setbacks, there not a big deal, just try again. So next time you are at the field and you see a new face, say hello and ask if they need any help, I know that they will appreciate it. But even more important, the next time you see someone crash, walk out with them and help pick up the pieces, encourage them to put it back together and give it another try. Remind them that if this hobby came easy, it would not be as rewarding.

Board Meeting Minutes

By: Paul Kohlmann
5 May 2011

- Float Fly: a pretty good turnout was had at the last event. Discussed providing a donation to the site to show the Club's appreciation. Also some discussion around hosting a BBQ at the CDF parking lot in conjunction with the next Float Fly.
- Opening Day: the schedule is locked down for 5/15. Some concern whether there will be enough racers and demo pilots: quite a few members will be out of town. Also need to construct blinds for the paintball shootout to limit cone of fire! Adam and Guy can supply the paintball guns and gas tanks, but Adam's tanks need to be hydro'd. The Board agreed to pick up the cost of the hydro if necessary. Worked out quite a bit of the logistics for the event.
- Show and Tell: the Membership Meetings have had a good long streak of quality Show and Tell presentations from a diverse group of members on an equally diverse range of topics. These have made the meetings much more interesting. Any member having an interesting project, skill, or experience is strongly encouraged to discuss it with the Club at a Membership Meeting. Just let the Board

know in advance so that you can be added to the agenda.

- Swap Meet: Adam has gotten an extremely positive response. This will be held at the Vet's Hall again.
- Pylon Race: this month's race (#3) was moved to May 22nd.

Meeting convened at 8:40pm.

General Meeting Minutes

19 April 2011

The meeting was brought to order by Dave Mercer at 7:30 pm., with 26 members present.

- The Door Prize of a gallon of fuel was won by Charlie Cox, and he walked off a happy guy.
- For New Members we did have a new member, Tony Hebner, who is an old time RC guy returning to the hobby.
- For the President's Report, Dave told us that Jeff Penner was on vacation in Canada and so there was no President's Report for this meeting.
- The Treasurer's Report was not presented by Adam Clement but we do have 80 current members.
- The Secretary's Report was as published in the Newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

- Dave reviewed Pylon races statistics. We have had two pylon races this season and Steve Cole is leading in both 1/12 scale and 450 Reno. The T-28 races are led by both Tony and Jake McDonald each with 15 points.

NEW BUSINESS

- Merle McGregor outlined the season's first float fly scheduled for Saturday, May 30. He plans for a work party the preceding Saturday, April 23. He will have a dozen doughnuts for whoever shows up to help him.
- I presented the outline for the Opening Day Event scheduled for Sunday, May 15. Jon Stychno will be the emcee for the event complete with our P/A system. Bob Film will

be on board with the BBQ kitchen and we will have a number of demos and pylon races but the most anticipated feature will be the paint ball shootout that has been so popular in the past.

- John Reade told us that he had seen an article in the PD that suggested that the County plans to raise rent rates for the Veteran's Building by 50 to 70%.
- Bob Film told us about his experience with ordering batteries with Hobby King. One of his batteries arrived in a damaged condition and he basically got the run around from Hobby King and the USPS and ended up with the damaged battery and not much else. Support your local Hobby Shop and you won't suffer these problems seemed to be the consensus.

SHOW AND TELL

- Adam presented his new 41" Edge 540 that sells for \$99 at Jakes Performance Hobbies. He has it set up with a 3 cell 1800 mah battery but it could take a 2200 mah battery as well. Construction time was 2.5 hours.
- Steve Cole showed us his "Nemesis", a kit designed and kitted by Red Jensen. Steve sheeted the wings with "Obechi" wood that is 1/20" thick and very smooth and strong. Steve expects to fly it at the next Pylon Race and is predicting speeds of 125 mph.

THE RAFFLE

- Brian Young won the big prize, an electric 4 Site by Ultra Micro. Glenn Binkley was next up taking an assortment of tools. Dick Maddock got some Epoxy glue and Red Jensen liked the Trainer that was donated by Skip Prather. Next was Merle McGregor selecting a twin engine elec airplane donated by John Reade, while Dave Mercer settled for an airplane stand. Adam Clement took the comic pilot and I got a nice pair of scissors. Ollie Burns picked the C/A glue leaving John Reade with a fiberglass cowl. Bob Rose selected a Field Charger that Ollie Burns donated and Brian Germone picked some wheels that were also donated by Ollie, and that ended the Raffle!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55

Report prepared and submitted for Paul Kohlmann, Secretary by Phil Leech.

Board Meeting Minutes

By: Paul Kohlmann
5 April 2011

- Family Memberships: WCF already has a program for admitting kids of members, but there is not a defined program for spouses. The board had some initial discussion on this and there was strong interest in working something up. This will be discussed further in the future.
- Opening Day: the show has been set for May 15 and the preliminary program was reviewed. The plan is to demonstrate all of the pylon race classes but to intersperse them with other presentations like rocketry, a glider tow, and U-control. A lot of interest was raised during a discussion of a paintball shoot activity. A WW2 Flyby is scheduled, but a WWI would be a welcome addition, too. The details of the BBQ were addressed as well. Float Fly: three dates have been set and the new Salvation Army Captain has approved these events.
- Christmas Party: payment to secure the Trentadue site is due by May 30.
- Pylon Races Makeup Dates: in the past it has been difficult to fit in makeup races. We discussed two options: 1) if a race is cancelled it will be moved only one time and if the makeup date is also cancelled then that race will not be made up, or 2) cancelled dates will not be made up. There are pros and cons to each. The Board determined that this should be discussed with the Membership (particularly the racers).

Meeting convened at 7:50pm.

General Meeting

By: Paul Kohlmann
15 March 2011

- Show and Tell: Red Jensen brought in his beautiful Nemesis and discussed the national EF-1 class and its origin.

Paul Kohlmann showed his new scratch built Bf 109D.

- Treasurer's Report: 73 members and ~\$12k (an approximation).
- Hobby Expo: well-attended event (a little smaller than last year?). Several members flew during the event. Larry had his quadcopter flying from his iPhone: a crowd pleaser. There was also a naval battle on Lucchesi pond that resulted in the loss of one warship with all hands.
- Clean Up Day: last Sunday. Got a good crew to weed the pit and clean up the runway. Victor will be spraying the area for weeds soon: the field will be closed briefly afterward. Please don't forget to help keep the Trentadue site clean! Take a look around and pick up what you can as you leave from a flying session.
- IT Upgrades: Patrick has the electronic roster in place and has added mass-mailing capability to improve communication to the Membership.
- Membership Cards, new gate code, and year tags have been distributed to all members.
- Field Weather: Paul Eason pointed out that Google Weather has a camera near the field: may save you a trip when the weather isn't cooperating.
- FAA Regulation Update: Red explained how RC has gotten pulled into more stringent FAA regulation. The AMA has been working vigorously to oppose any change. FAA proposed regulation is due out in the next month or two, but it is uncertain what it will look like because the FAA is restricted from releasing preliminary information on its content. Red's opinion based on his position in the UAV industry and as a hobbyist is that there will not be a significant impact once the dust settles.
- Indoor Fly: Jake is hosting another event on Saturday April 9, 6-9. The previous two have been a lot of fun.
- JPHRacing: Jake has a mailing list announcing events, sales, and new products. Float Fly: April 30 but insurance for Sal Lake has not yet been transferred from Liberty.

- Control Line Flying: discussion of whether there is enough interest in making a dedicated area. May bring in more members?

- Raffle: \$143 collected. Bryan Germone brought in another great pile of planes and tools:

Patrick O'Halloran: Gemini ARF

Dick Maddock: ultramicro Sukhoi

Paul Kohlmann: epoxy

Red Jensen: tools

Merle McGregor: dremel bits

Adam Clement: velcro

Joe Kagan—airplane stand

Paul Eason: ?

Bill VanAsdian: plane stand

Propeller Safety

From the Rouge Eagles R.C. Club, Medford, Oregon

Respect and alertness are mandatory if you want to keep all your fingers. If you continually ignore safety, you or someone close to you will be injured eventually. By adopting good safety practices we can minimize risk and enjoy our wonderful sport for many years.

The most destructive type of propeller injury, aside from being struck by a flying aircraft, is when the engine is operating at or near full throttle. At full speed, a .40-size, two-stroke engine with an 11 x 6 propeller can generate as much power as a 10-inch table saw. Just as a table saw demands your respect and attention, so does an aircraft propeller.

Before you mount your propeller or even start your engine, you should take a moment to review some basic pre-flight recommendations for propeller safety.

General Propeller/Rotor Blade Inspection and Preparation:

1. Look over for obvious nicks or gouges.
2. Flex it gently back and forth along its length and look for cracks.

3. If you find any damage, other than some minor scuffs at the tip, discard/destroy immediately.

4. Wood propellers cause less damage than composite propellers.

5. Remove the sharp edges from composite propellers using fine sandpaper. Just take off the edge. Do not alter airfoil.

6. Always use a balanced propeller. Vibration is the enemy.

7. Make sure the propeller arc is visible by painting the tips a contrasting color.

Ground Safety:

1. Always have someone hold the airplane while starting.

2. Use some form of eye protection, like safety glasses.

3. After starting, move around behind the propeller to remove the glow plug igniter and to make other engine adjustments.

4. Never ever reach over a spinning propeller.

5. Be conscious of the propeller arc. Do not let spectators stand in line with, or in front of, the spinning propeller and don't you stand there any longer than necessary.

6. If starting by hand, use a thick glove or chicken stick.

7. Use an approved spinner or propeller hub.

8. Before starting, be sure the propeller is on tight. If the engine came with backup safety nuts, use them.

9. Have a first aid kit stocked and available.

It's easy to forget these safety items when at the field and some say it's just too much trouble. But safety is everyone's responsibility!

On the Cover

By: Guy Nicholas

Sukhoi Su-47:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sukhoi_Su-47

WCF 2011 EVENTS SCHEDULE

OPENING DAY	SUN MAY 15	Phil/Jon/Adam/Red/Steve
PYLON RACE #3	SUN MAY 22	Adam
FLOAT FLY #2	MON MAY 30	Merle
PYLON RACE #4	SUN JUN 12	Adam
LEARN TO FLY	SAT JUN 19	Adam /Jeff
DAN SULLIVAN – UKIAH	SAT JUN 26	Propbuster
FLOAT FLY #4	MON JUL 4	Merle
SWAP MEET	SAT JUL 9	Adam
PYLON RACE #5	SUN JUL 17	Adam
WINGS & WHEELS	SAT JUL 16	Petaluma
PYLON RACE #6	SUN AUG 14	Adam
PCAM	AUG 20-21	Jon
FLOAT FLY #4	MON SEP 5	Merle
PYLON RACE #7	SUN SEP 11	Adam
LARRY FRANK/NEILTAYLOR	SUN SEP 25	Phil /Jon
PYLON RACE #8	SUN OCT 16	Adam
PYLON RACE #9	SUN NOV 20	Adam
CHRISTMAS PARTY	FRI DEC	Phil/Guy



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