

July 2011 Edition

Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 16 August 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:

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



Presidents Report

The year is already just a little over half complete, do you have a little over half of your flying in? I don't, feels like I'm behind the curve already, or should I say I wish I was flying a little more. It has been hard to get up to the field lately, between work and family, it seems like I'm lucky to make it twice a month. I always look forward to the latter months of summer, you get the warm weather, long days and big events. The big event for August will be the Wings Over Wine Country Air Show.

There are two practice weekends and then the weekend of the show. Let's get everyone out as much as you can for the event. Two full days of nothing but airplanes, warbirds, stunt planes, jets, along with a huge static display and there are some full-scale aircraft as well. Come out and help in the booth, it is fun to meet the public and answer their questions, sell raffle tickets, invite people up to the club. The best way to get more information about the air show is to come to the next two club meetings. If you're not able to make the meetings, then contact John Stychno and he can give you the latest update.

At the last board meeting we spent a bit of time starting to plan this year's Christmas party. We are trying to make this event a little better and a little cheaper. Let us know soon if you have any feed back about last year's event. Anything thing that you would like to see done a little differently, or something that you might like to help with, all comments are welcome.

I know that this article seems a little short, but as always in life we have to make choices. And as I write this it's Sunday morning on pylon race day. So stay home and figure out a few more things to write for the newsletter, or go to the field and go flying, let me think about that...

Board Meeting Minutes

By: Paul Kohlmann
12 July 2011

- Alternate Board Meeting Site: in order to avoid rescheduling when Guy is away we discussed other venues. The decision was made to stay in Santa Rosa, perhaps a restaurant or Board Member's home.
- PCAM: John Stychno met with the Board to discuss his plans for the airshow. The performance schedule has been slashed from the norm of 45 minutes to 20 minutes. This will necessitate a much tighter coordination, but a backup plan will be made in case extra time is allowed. There will also likely be some opportunity to fill in dead air for the full scale show later in the day. John has identified quite a number of flashy aircraft that are large enough to make an impression on the crowd. Jake's Performance Hobbies will be providing the model kits for the raffles at a reduced cost. An ARF trainer and mCX were identified as good choices for the typical airshow participants. Flyers and acknowledgment of Jake's contributions will be needed. Insurance is taken care of for the event but a Booth Manager will be needed. Tables, chairs, flight simulator, and a generator or power inverter are being run down. A number of the younger Club members are slated to fly at the airshow. Aircraft for static display will be needed as well.
- Shade at Charging Station: several requests have been made by members to get some shade to protect chargers and batteries on the charging table. Several options were discussed including patio umbrellas or an easy-up, but it might be best for concerned members to make accommodations.
- Raffle: the haul from the sale of tickets has declined to ~\$70 as Membership Meeting attendance has fallen off. At this point it is practically impossible to find good raffle prizes. The Board is considering dropping the raffle.
- Swap Meet: had a pretty good turn out and netted \$50 for the Club to boot. A lot of good deals were found. Adam would like to follow up with a second Swap Meet this October. Weather is a concern, though.
- Pylon Racing: some members have requested that Nitro planes be dropped to allow the addition of a different class. The

concern is that the Nitro class is the only venue where builders can compete, but there aren't very many entrants. A discussion of several new classes that would be most likely to attract more competitors followed.

- Christmas Party: Phil and Adam have been working with Trentadue to gauge the feasibility of using the site kitchen and BBQ and improving the quality of the meal while reducing cost. After discussing a lot of good ideas the Board is optimistic that a better event and higher participation will be had.

Meeting convened at 8:25pm.

General Meeting Minutes

17 May 2011

The meeting was brought to order by Jeff Penner at 7:40 pm., with 21 members present.

- The Door Prize of cash in lieu of a gallon of fuel was won by Chuck Greene.

- For New Members and Guests we were introduced to Phil Lowe who is already an accomplished pilot. Welcome Phil!

- For Members Sick or Injured, I told everyone about the passing of Steve Jensen, Red's Dad. Steve was just 63 when he passed in his sleep probably from heart failure. Steve was a well known and respected modeler who many of us knew when he was behind the counter at Hangar One Hobbies in Rohnert Park. He will be missed by all of us.
- The Treasurer's Report was not available. Adam promised to have one next month.

- The Secretary's Report was as published in the Newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

- Tony and Jake McDonald missed Pylon Race #4 and now we know why. That Sunday morning Tony was rushing to charge his batteries for the race and he left the batteries unattended while he was off doing something else. The batteries caught fire and caused about \$1000 worth of damage to some of his RC stuff! Sorry that this happened but let it be a warning to the rest of us.

- The Float Fly held on Memorial Day was memorable for John Reade and for everybody else that witnessed John fall out of the canoe that we use to retrieve our planes. The canoe has an outrigger that is supposed to stabilize things but it didn't turn out that way. So, John was in the water, fully clothed, the boat was upright and his plane was in the boat. The only trouble was that he was in 50 feet of water and about 100 yards from shore. He did have a life jacket on and that was probably critical because making it back to shore was an ordeal. Several of us were beginning to really worry about John as he struggled to swim pulling the canoe with him, but he made it, and Merle came up with a dry change of clothes for him. John dried out and continued to fly later in the day. What a guy!

- John Reade, Adam Clement, Jeff Penner and Jon Stychno were on board as instructors for the Learn To Fly Day, June 19. It was windy and it took some coaching to get Jerry Leister to give it a try but they were finally successful and Jerry had a good day after all. Ben Mackles and Gabriel Black were also on hand for some advanced training.

NEW BUSINESS

- The annual Dan Sullivan Day hosted by the Propbusters of Ukiah will be held June 24-26. This is the Scale Masters qualifier for Expert Class but they also have a Fun Scale class that has been popular in the past. ARF's are legal in this class and all are encouraged to participate. Dan Sciacca is the contact person at Propbusters.

- July 4 is the date for the next Float Fly and Merle will have his usual supply of donuts for early attendees.

- Adam is hosting a Swap Meet for Saturday, July 9 at the Veteran's Building, 9:00am. Tables will be available for a \$10 fee.

- A preliminary meeting regarding the PCAM air show was held this evening. All those interested in participating need to let Jon Stychno know by July 10. There will be a July 31 practice session and a mandatory rehearsal on August 7. The format for the show will be the same as last year. We are

looking forward to our younger participants, Ben Mackles and Gabriel Black for this year's performance.

- It was announced that Jeff Penner has successfully completed his pilot training and has received his pilot's license. Congratulations, Jeff.

SHOW AND TELL

- Unfortunately, we didn't have anyone for this month. Maybe next month.

THE RAFFLE

- Adam Clement won the big prize, an Alfa P-39. Larry Gustafson selected some donated covering materials and Brian Young took some Hobby Pox paint. Dave Mercer also picked up paint and Jon Stychno went with a Hi-Start leaving Joe Kagan with a couple of motor mounts. At this point there were some small items left and we realized that everyone who bought tickets had won something so we decided to let the remaining items go to anyone who wanted them.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35

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

Propeller Tracking

By: By Jim Tiller, Insider Safety Column Editor

We all know it is imperative to balance a propeller before installing it on your airplane. It is also important to check propeller tracking whenever installing a new propeller. A propeller that is not tracking properly will cause vibration similar to that of an out-of-balance propeller.

Propellers can be out of alignment by manufacture, or from over tightening—especially with wood propellers. The problem is exacerbated in large propellers with multiple holes. Each bolt should be tightened the same amount to prevent a tracking problem.

Once your propeller is installed, it is quite simple to check the tracking by setting up an

indicator, such as a square next to the propeller blade. Tie down the airplane if necessary to prevent it moving as you turn the propeller through a couple of revolutions. Each side of the propeller should show the same gap as you turn (see the picture). If your propeller is not tracking correctly, you can try sanding the hub a little on the high side and then retesting. With wooden propellers, sometimes just loosening the propeller, moving it a quarter turn, and retightening can solve the problem.

With large wooden propellers, you may want to retest the tracking when taking the airplane out of storage for the winter. Humidity and temperature changes sometimes cause warps.

If you cannot correct the tracking problem, it is better to set it aside than risk suffering some vibration related catastrophe

Cheap Model Airplanes From Builders' Cast-Offs

From Wings R/C Club, Les Mars, Iowa

Once you have mastered the basics of building a model airplane and have a few spare bits lying around your workshop it becomes very easy to produce your very own design of plastic model airplane. Simple Plastic Airplane Design (SPAD) is a really cheap and fun alternative to constructing expensive remote-controlled model airplanes kits.

The concept of SPAD started in the late 1990's and has evolved into a highly detailed and solid method for building RC model airplanes. While using traditional building materials and techniques can take weeks or months to put an airplane together, applying the SPAD concept can reduce the build time down to days, or even hours. SPAD materials are widely available and are less expensive than those used in standard model airplane kits. Plans and help for building a SPAD can be found online and are completely free. The best part about flying a SPAD is its survivability when it comes to the inevitable crashes as your enthusiasm gets away from you!

The basic RC model airplane SPAD concept revolves around using inexpensive building materials that can be found at local hardware stores and sign shops—or even picked up for nothing from builders’ cast-offs. While the materials required for constructing a SPAD vary from one design to another, the basic materials used include PCV downspout pipe for the fuselage, Coro-Plast (corrugated plastic) sign material for the wings and controls surfaces, HDPE cutting boards for firewalls and landing gear blocks, and CA (superglue) to hold everything together.

Because of the simplicity involved in putting a SPAD RC model airplane together, even an inexperienced modeler can complete the job in a single weekend. A basic fuselage made from PVC downspout can be made in a matter of minutes, CoroPlast wings and control surfaces in just a few hours, and all the miscellaneous parts to complete the project in just a few hours more. Acquiring the materials needed for a RC model airplane SPAD project may require no more than a trip to the local hardware store and a few phone calls to local sign shops.

Aside from these readily available materials, there are a few other items that you will need: self-tapping sheet metal screws, zip ties, a utility knife, and a few wood sticks (4mm x 27mm x 1m pine lathing/lattice). Other items needed to complete your RC model airplane, such as wheels, landing gear, and control arms, will need to be fabricated or purchased from your favorite hobby store.

Plans for building a SPAD RC model airplane are available online, free of charge, from many different sources. SpadToTheBone.com, the original home for the RC model airplane SPAD concept, has plans to suit just about anyone. From the ever popular trainer called the Debonair, to the more sophisticated Coro Edge 540 sport/fun-fly model. A community has been built around the RC model airplane SPAD concept at www.SpadWorld.net where model builders from all over the globe help

each other learn better and more exciting ways to make SPADs.

One of the greatest benefits to building with the RC model airplane SPAD materials is just how tough they are. Whether you’re trying a new aerobatic maneuver and just can’t seem to pull out of it, or just learning to take off for the first time and cartwheel your airplane down the runway, the chances that your airplane will survive are good. Compared to easily breakable balsa, plastic is a forgiving material that can survive higher impact speeds without damage—and is easily fixed when broken.

Ease of construction, low cost, and survivability all add up to a package that encourages modelers to experiment with design concepts and methods that extend the envelope of their experience and knowledge. Why not give it a go yourself?

On the Cover

By: Guy Nicholas

I posted these to our web site but in case you haven’t seen them...the cover photo is a plane just getting hit with a paint ball, look closely below the plane and you can see the splatter.

And here is a shot of a [Fokker Dr.I](#) just for fun.



WCF 2011 EVENTS SCHEDULE

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 9	Phil/Guy/Roy/Adam/Jon



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