

May 2012 Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 15 May 2012, 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

## 2012 Club Officers:

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## ***Presidents Report***

By: Jon Stychno

Greetings members! Flying season is in full swing! The weather is warm and there seems to be an RC event somewhere in the bay area every weekend. The club held its second race of the 4 race Spring Series on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The turnout was great, and so was the weather! The racers are getting a bit more comfortable with the new course, and there were less pylon cuts overall compared to round 1. I've had a rough season so far, with an unexplained crash occurring at each round. I recently discovered the cause to be my transmitter. I've relied on my JR 9303 for at least 7 years, and it's finally having issues. The aileron goes to full deflection randomly without any stick input, and it took losing two planes before I saw it happen to another model while on the ground. The radio has been on for hundreds of hours in its lifetime. I've been advised to send it in to JR for a check up, and will be doing so soon. In the meantime, Jerry Leister has been nice enough to let me use his 12x. Thanks Jerry!

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, few club members attended a Cub Scout pack meeting in Santa Rosa, bringing along a number of model aircraft to display and talk about. Jerry Leister, Adam Clement, Gabriel Black and I went over the basics of model airplanes and helicopters, and I took a few laps around the facility with an Ultra Micro 4Site. The Scouts and parents were then invited to our Opening Day Airshow, where I did see a few in attendance.

The Wine Country Flyers had the first float fly of the year on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Merle and Paul did a great job prepping the area with the lawnmower. The lake level was high, allowing easy access to the water. A good number of pilots showed up, and most of the aircraft were electric. That made for a lot less trips in the boat to receive models with a dead engine. However, the theme song of the day should have been "Smoke on the Water", as a few models had issues with their ESC's, resulting in a fair share of melted foam.

Thanks to all who helped make the event happen.

Our annual "Opening Day Airshow was a success, held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. There were a ton of spectators, and nice selection of models were flown throughout the day. After the barbeque lunch organized by Glenn Binkley and his wife Donelle, it was on to the highlight of the show for many, the paintball shootout! A few planes were donated, including an Easy 2 trainer and a foam EDF A-10 Warthog that Wylie Walters finished with a great "target drone" paint scheme. Steve Cole and Red Jensen handled piloting duties. The Easy 2 took over a hundred hits before a rudder shot took it down, but the A-10 had a shorter lifespan, and after 6 passes or so a fan unit took a hit and down it went. The club raised over \$100 and had some fun in the process. Thanks to Adam Clement for handling this part of the show, as well as bringing a number of rockets to launch. Also, thanks to Phil Leech, all of the pilots who flew, and to Fil Lowe for laying down a couple of awesome 3D flights with his Mikado giant electric helicopter. A great time was had by all! Looking forward, there a couple events in the area worth noting. The first is a Warbird event at the Kingdon Airport in Lodi, held by the Delta Valley Modelers on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

More info at [www.deltaflyingclub.com/](http://www.deltaflyingclub.com/) . Another event that many WCF members will be attending is the E-F1 Pylon Races hosted by the Woodland Davis Aeromodelers on May 19<sup>th</sup>. This is an AMA sanctioned event, and it will be on a 3 pylon course. More info at [www.wdarc.org](http://www.wdarc.org) . Of course the club will be holding round 3 of the Spring Pylon Racing Series the following day on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>, so it will be a long weekend for some.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the club will be hosting its first night flying event. It will start at sunset and go until 11 pm or so. The event is restricted to electric aircraft and helicopters, and it is open to members and guests with an AMA membership. So get out in the shop and start working on your night flyer, and I'll see you at the field.

-Jon Stychno

## ***Vice Presidents Report***

By: Dave Mercer

Greetings everyone,

Here we are, at the end of the first week of May. I'm writing this shortly after returning home from our Opening Day Airshow, on May 6th. The event was a huge success. The weather was great, bright sunshine, some gusty winds early in the day, but it actually seemed to calm down as the day wore on. The first official flight of the day--with gusting winds, perpendicular to the runway--resulted in a spectacular save by Brian Germone, as he was taking off and his bi-plane got a little out of control. He managed to clear the vines by inches, with the crowd roaring in approval, got it under control and continued the flight with calm steady nerves. The rest of the day progressed with no carnage, and impressive performances were put in by all the pilots. A few stood out in my mind. Phil Lowe put on a heli demonstration with his Mikado Extreme that has to be seen to be believed, trying to describe in words doesn't really do it any justice. It was spectacular!! Gabriel Black also put on a very impressive (as usual) heli demo. Anyone who has seen him fly, with calm cool motions and raw talent, always in control and making it look so easy, can't help but feel that here is a future RC factory sponsored pilot. That's right, I'm predicting it, when it happens you read it here first. All he needs is a lucky break, a chance to get noticed by the major manufacturers, and he can be a home grown RC star. He already has the talent and the smarts--but I don't want to place any undue pressure on the young man-- so if you happen to read this Gabe, just ignore it and fly like you always do. Another pilot who displayed impressive skills is young Ben Mackles, who I believe is only nine years old but flies like a seasoned veteran. He also has the poise and skills to be a future star. Let's face it , the industry is eager to embrace young talent, and showcase that talent. Nobody is looking for a middle-aged codger with mediocre talent--like

me--who can fly, but with limited skills. I think it's awesome that our club has such talented members. I haven't mentioned Phil Lowe (again) since he's already reached that pinnacle and is sponsored by Mikado.

Speaking of talent, I should mention that Glenn Binkley and his wife Donelle did a superb job at the barbeque grill, providing a first-rate lunch for all the famished attendees. Additional support was provided by Merle's wife Ann, along with others, and the spread of food offered was plentiful and delicious. A huge thumbs-up to everyone involved in the "kitchen crew." I look forward to the next event with a barbeque lunch, since I'm sure they will do equally well. Overall the event was conducted with crowd pleasing entertainment and went off without a hitch. Jon did his usual great job at the microphone, Adam provided rockets for the crowds enjoyment, along with handling the paintball duties. Speaking of which, it's amazing how much abuse an RC airplane can withstand before it's finally brought to the ground. The paintball shootout is always heartily embraced by the spectators and participants. It's a lot harder than it looks to actually hit the plane, and even then it takes repeated strikes to inflict terminal damage. But the paintball snipers eventually prevailed, and the donor aircraft met their fate. All in all a great time was had by everyone.

That's all for now,  
Dave Mercer

## ***General Meeting***

By: Paul Kohlmann  
17 April 2012

- 17 members present
- Door Prize: Jeff Penner took the gift card for Jake's.
- Treasurer's Report: \$3694 in the bank, \$7096 in the CD, 66 members in good standing and a few more pending.
- Indoor Fly-In: Steve reported that the turn out was a little lower at 40-50 pilots but that the event was a lot of fun and well organized. More helis this time. The next one is scheduled for 4/21 at University of Sports.

- Swap Meet: Adam reported that there were more buyers than sellers, but in the end the Club brought in \$230. 25 tables were sold. A second will be organized for later in the year.
  - Pylon Racing: the second race of the year was well attended and the conditions were great—in contrast to the first windy race. Feedback from the membership regarding the organization and clock control of the racing this year was positive. There were a few crashes worth noting. Jon discussed an event that he experienced where he intermittently interrupted the battery connection on a racer with Spektrum control and he was later locked out while in flight. This led to a discussion of factors that may induce radio problems.
  - Float Fly: the opening water event is coming up this weekend. Merle will be heading these up again. This year he will be checking flyers in and verifying that they are AMA members.
  - Ray Morris Memorial Fly-In and Swap Meet: the Ukiah Propbusters will be holding this event on 4/21-22.
  - Woodland-Davis Aeromodelers: they are hosting a slope fly at Goat Rock April 21-22 (busy weekend!)
  - Opening Day Airshow: this event has been scheduled for Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Phil is organizing it again and the agenda looks great. Pilots are now being solicited for their participation. Glen Binkley will be taking on the BBQ responsibilities and we are looking forward to seeing him in action!
  - Ukiah Propbusters Scale Masters: UPB will be hosting the Dan Sullivan event this year on June 9-10.
  - Jerry Leister Solo: Jerry was awarded a solo certificate in recognition of his recent solo flying a PZ T28. Good work!
  - Show and Tell: Gabe kicked it off by giving a primer on nitro helis vs. electric. He explained that nitro is a bit cheaper but tends to have less sustained power.
- Jon and Jerry showed off the Banana Hobbies Mig 29 that they have been building up. It's a foam model that is loaded with retracts, flaps and slats, and telemetry data broadcasted live to Jerry's iPad. Originally it even had a feature that ejected the canopy and pilot, the latter of which would come down on his own

parachute. Don't forget the drag chute and the vectored thrust!

- Paul showed a new style of servoless retracts, DSR30's for a developing scratchbuilt project.
- Raffle: \$72 taken in. Jon took the gift card from Jake's. Adam took the hinge tape. Jerry passed. Dave took the wheels.
- Adjourned at 8:50

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

By: Paul Kohlmam  
1 May 2012

- Cub Scout Recap: ~25 kids participated and about the same number of parents. Flight demos with a 4Site were shown and there was a great deal of interest.
- Opening Day: flyer is out, paintball shootout details are materializing (heading toward \$5 for 3 passes rather than charge per batch of balls), BBQ firming up, too.
- Float Fly Recap: 22 flyers including 6 nonmembers for the first event of the year on a wonderful day. Jon pointed out that it would be a good idea to follow up with the nonmembers to gauge their interest in joining the club.
- Entrance Road: Steve spoke with Victor to nail down the best way to clean up the road to the flying field. The plan is to fill in a couple of thin spots and then apply dust-off. Victor would prefer that this work be done nearer harvest time to help protect the grapes. The club will supply the rock and the labor and Victor can put down the dust-off. Current estimate on cost for gravel, delivery, and grading is \$700. The board voted and approved this expenditure.
- Treasurer's Report: CD is at \$3700.
- Club T-Shirts and Schwag: a discussion regarding interest in t-shirts was had. A few years ago the club lost money on shirts, jackets, and the like, but if we do this again the order would be limited to t-shirts. One angle on this would be to have a more professional flight team at the Air Show.
- Indoor Fly-In: smaller turnout this year due to the nice weather but another great event was held.

- Pylon Races: there has been a bit of contention regarding the rule allowing one race to be thrown out. The board is soliciting thoughts on this and there has been more discussion at the board meeting. But ultimately the board agreed that the rule can't be changed in the middle of the race series.
- Endurance Race: there is interest in setting up a 100 lap endurance race if there are enough interested pilots to form enough teams. If there are, there are a lot of logistical issues to iron out including how to keep the various lap counts and safety issues related to recovering and launching aircraft.
- Night Fly: first ever scheduled for 6/2 at Trentadue! Non-members with AMA will be welcome. Hours will likely be 8-11pm.
- Meeting convened at 8:15pm.

### **When Epoxy Doesn't Harden Properly**

The Rockland County Radio Control Club, White Plains NY

Epoxy is one of the best modeling materials available. It's useful as an adhesive for wetting out fiberglass cloth, as a filler, and as a finishing material. It can be thinned or thickened for a variety of purposes. Even though it is useful, epoxy can be a pain when it doesn't harden properly.

There are two important issues when dealing with epoxy, proportioning and mixing. Of these two, mixing is the most critical. Misproportioning the hardener to the epoxy generally leads to slow hardening, but lack of proper mixing can lead to permanently sticky epoxy.

One hundred quick, hard strokes are recommended when mixing any amount of epoxy. Count them to make sure that your mixing is adequate. Always mix your epoxy before putting in any additives. Both thinning and thickening agents can keep epoxy from mixing properly. Give the epoxy 100 strokes first and then put in the additive.

**Thinning:** Epoxy can be thinned using acetone or denatured alcohol. Either of these can be added to make it more watery. A mix of up to 50% doesn't seem to have any effect on the final strength of the epoxy. Thinning the epoxy will slow down the curing time and make it wet out fiberglass and carbon fiber better. Thinned epoxy also can be wiped onto balsa or obechi as a finish.

**Thickening:** Epoxy can be thickened by adding almost any inert, fine-grained solid from sand to cotton fiber. Modelers usually use micro balloons for thickening epoxy because they are readily available and add little weight. Thickened epoxy can be used to make fillets or to fill gaps.

Five minutes, 15 minutes, 30 minutes, more? Epoxy comes in formulations for different curing times. The times listed on the packages are strictly nominal and generally refer to curing time. Five-minute epoxy does not give you five minutes of working time. At best, you will get 20 seconds of working time in which to place five-minute epoxy before it starts to "hit." Thirty-minute epoxy gives you around one to three minutes before it starts to hit. These times will vary with temperature, mix proportions, and proper mixing, but they are good reference points. In general, five-minute epoxy is only for spot gluing. It is great for small, quick jobs, but not for involved tasks. A general rule of thumb is the working time for epoxy (after 100 strokes of mixing) is about 10% of the time listed on the package. Keep in mind that epoxy mixed and left in the cup will hit faster than epoxy that is spread out immediately.

### ***On the Cover***

by: Guy Nicholas

[A Convair NC-131H.](#)

## WCF 2012 EVENTS SCHEDULE

April 22<sup>nd</sup> -Float Fly

May 6<sup>th</sup> -Opening Day Air Show

May 20<sup>th</sup> -Pylon Race # 3

May 28<sup>th</sup> – Float Fly

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Night Flying WCF field

June 17<sup>th</sup> -Pylon Race # 4

July 4<sup>th</sup> -Float Fly

July 8<sup>th</sup> -Helicopter Fun Fly

July 15<sup>th</sup> -Pylon Race # 5

July 22<sup>nd</sup> -Club Learn to Fly Day

August 18-19<sup>th</sup> -Wings over Wine Country

August 26<sup>th</sup> - Pylon Race # 6

September 3<sup>rd</sup> -Float Fly

September 12-16 -Reno Air Races

September 23<sup>rd</sup> - Pylon Race # 7

September 30<sup>th</sup> -Larry Frank Scale Fly-In

October 21<sup>st</sup> - Pylon Race #8

November 18<sup>th</sup> -Pylon Race # 9

December 8<sup>th</sup> -Christmas Party



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