

September 2012 Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 16 October 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:

President:	Dave Mercer	(707) 304-3967	<a href="mailto:mcdave@sonic.net">mcdave@sonic.net</a>
Secretary:	Paul Kohlmann	(707) 837-9437	<a href="mailto:Paul.Kohlmann@jdsu.com">Paul.Kohlmann@jdsu.com</a>
Treasurer:	Adam Clement	(707) 322-5318	<a href="mailto:adampclement@gmail.com">adampclement@gmail.com</a>
Safety Officer:	Steve Cole	(707) 481-7989	<a href="mailto:p38extreme@aol.com">p38extreme@aol.com</a>

## 2012 Board Members:

Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557	<a href="mailto:leechstudios@sonic.net">leechstudios@sonic.net</a>
Patrick O'Halloran	(707) 321-0400	<a href="mailto:patrick@tiburon-da.com">patrick@tiburon-da.com</a>
Guy Nicholas	(707) 544-2141	<a href="mailto:guy@gui-soft.com">guy@gui-soft.com</a>
Jerry Leister	(707) 836-8853	<a href="mailto:jliest@comcast.net">jliest@comcast.net</a>
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Newsletter Team: Guy Nicholas, Phil Leech

Website: Patrick O'Halloran



## ***Presidents Report***

By: Dave Mercer

Greetings everyone,

Another year of exciting flying is winding down with the Wine Country Flyers. There are only two club meetings left before our annual Christmas Dinner with pylon racing awards, payouts, huge raffle table prizes, and other enticements. The Trentadue Winery is a beautiful venue. Anyone who has attended in the last few years knows what I mean, and for those of you who have been unable to make it, I strongly suggest that you adjust your holiday commitments accordingly and participate in the festivities. It's a great chance to meet with and socialize with members you haven't seen all year. It's certainly one of the highlights of the year for me. Mark your calendar for Dec. 8th, a Saturday evening this year, and be sure to be there.

About a month ago all of you should have received an e-mail with a link to participate in a survey. It was a simple two question survey to try and get feedback from the club members on how to re-ignite interest in attending the club's general meetings. Attendance has been dropping over the last several years and the Board is striving to counteract that. We need YOUR feedback. After all, it's YOUR club, or perhaps I should say that it's a club for ALL OF US who share a common interest -- our interest in aviation and flying model aircraft. For the last two years I've been privileged to serve as an elected officer and I've been able to witness the behind-the-scenes details that keep our club viable and sustainable. There's a lot that needs to be done to keep everything running smoothly. It's not hard work, it just takes time and commitment. Back to the survey....the survey had 42 members responding.

Question number one: Do you generally attend the monthly meeting?

14 yes

28 no

Question number two: Would you attend if we moved the meetings to Round Table Pizza and used the \$80 we normally pay for the room at the Vets to provide some free pizza?

27 yes

15 no

The results seem pretty obvious to me. The turnout would be almost twice as great if we met at a place that offered food, beverages, and a less sterile -- just a room -- environment. Based on these results Phil has been working diligently on finding the best location for trying out the Round Table experience. Out of the several possibilities the Montgomery Village Round Table seems to be the best choice. He was able to reserve the "big room" for us for the 20th of November. This will be like a trial run. For our next meeting on Oct. 16 nothing will change and we will meet at the Vets building. For our last and final meeting before the Christmas Party we would really like to see how well the change in venue goes. Please show up if you can. Voice your approval or condemnation, nothing has been finalized, we haven't abandoned the Vets building.....yet, and we could very easily re-new the lease with the County if this doesn't pan out. But somehow spending almost a grand a year -- and the cost climbing routinely -- doesn't seem to make much sense. Maybe it's time for a change. But as I said, what do YOU think? You can e-mail me personally or call me on my cell phone, or contact any of the other Board members. We would all like to know whether this is the right direction to go or not. But for now, we are committed to trying this out, at least one time, at the Round Table Pizza in Montgomery Village on Nov. 20th. Show up and voice your opinion, either pro or con, because everyone's opinion has equal merit. No final decision will please everyone, but that's OK. For those of you who have never been there, the address is 2424 Magowan Dr. on the eastern edge of Montgomery Village, right on the corner of Magowan Drive and Hahman Drive. Pizza will be served at 7:00 PM with the meeting starting the usual time at 7:30. Don't be late

and miss out on the pizza !!! Beverages are up to you, whether it's simply a glass of water or you can buy an ....ahem...."adult beverage" if you wish. We are also tossing around ideas for having monthly auctions along with the raffle -- if interest is great enough -- at the monthly general meetings. It all depends on YOU the members.

Aside from all that, there is another important topic that needs to be addressed before the end of the year. The upcoming election for next year's club officers. Several current club officers are either stepping down for various personal reasons or have agreed to submit their nomination for a different position. We need other club members to fill in the vacant positions. A slate will be presented at the Oct. 16th meeting but that doesn't prevent ANYONE from stepping up and throwing their name into the ring for potential electoral consideration. Have a friend nominate you and you're on the ballot. Voting will be done at the Nov. 20th meeting. This ain't Russia during the Stalin regime folks. No jack-booted thugs, no secret police will show up at your door and drag away your wife and children if you have the audacity to question the current leadership. The meager level of politics at the Wine Country Flyers is a lot more low-key and painless. We actually encourage other members to agree to serve in the various official duties. The challenge is to find enough members who are willing to step it up and take on those responsibilities. It's much easier to just pay your dues and fly. Yet every year issues come up, decisions have to be made, field maintenance....expenses going out versus income trickling in....maintaining the appearance of the tables and parking area....the list goes on and on. Someone....well actually Some Group, the Board has to deal with all that. Step up and become part of that process. You will be glad you did.

That's all for now,  
Dave Mercer

## ***General Meeting***

By: Paul Kohlmann  
18 September 2012

- Door Prize: Jeff Penner won the \$25 gift card for Jake's Performance Hobbies.
- Paul Stychno: club member Paul Stychno, known to many as Jon's dad, passed away on September 6<sup>th</sup>. He will be missed.
- Monthly Meeting Questionnaire: a two question survey was sent out to gauge interest in moving the Membership Meeting from the Vet's Hall to Round Table Pizza. The reasoning is that it costs \$80 to rent the hall and the attendance is typically pretty low. Spending the rental fee on pizza might be a better use of funds and might attract more members. 42 of the 76 current members responded and the response was positive at a rate of 2 to 1. The topic was discussed at the Membership Meeting. A number of people told us that other clubs that they are involved in, like SAM and Liberty, meet at Round Table and that it works well. There was also dialog on moving the meeting time up from 7:30 to 7:00 or earlier. Phil canvassed several Round Tables and determined that the one on Occidental Road had the best facilities. The question of whether the door prize should be eliminated and the \$25 added to the pizza fund but this went down in flames. Phil also proposed the possibility of encouraging members to bring in RC gear that they would like to unload by bringing it in to club meetings for auction. The seller would have a market, members could pick up some deals, and the club would share in the profits. This generated quite a bit of talk and is also an activity that other clubs like Liberty often do. Ultimately the members voted overwhelmingly to move the Membership Meeting to Round Table beginning in January 2013.
- Indoor Flying: Chuck Green informed that his church has a warehouse that might be suitable for indoor flying. Its roughly the size of a basketball court. Several members expressed interest.
- Labor Day Float Fly: we got 16 people signed up this time for another beautiful day. Bunches of family members attended as well. If you haven't seen Jim Swanson's hexcopter

video of the event, it is now available on the Club's website. He did an awesome job on it! Reno Air Races: Jeff Penner shared his experience. He was there just for a day but he caught the F22 demo and was amazed but the vectored thrust performance. He also saw the Patriots demo team, multiple heritage flights, and caught some good racing.

- Pylon Racing: the September race was postponed to make room for Reno. They will be held this weekend on 9/23.
- Larry Frank: the scale contest and Fun Fly will be held on 9/30. Glenn Binkley will be putting on a BBQ for the modest fee of \$5.
- Canvas Falcon: Liberty will be hosting their WWI scale event on October 13. Merle told us that it's a great show with some nicely detailed aircraft.
- Heli Scale Masters in Davis: Jeff Penner brought our attention to this event which will cover the three days of the 10/6 weekend.
- Sonoma Jet Center: Jeff also told us about the open house and EAA Young Eagles event, also held October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Ukiah Propbusters: Adam told us that the club will be holding their big swap meet on 10/6 as well. Busy weekend!
- Raffle: Chuck Green donated three planes and a boat to the club and Paul donated a damaged Parkzone P47. Adam brought in some good loot from Jakes. \$70 in tickets sold.

Chuck - Alfa P47

Gabe - Chuck's big Cub w/floats

Charlie—Chuck's stunt plane

Merle—Paul's P47

Dick—fuel tank

Bill—Chuck's sailplane

Adam—Jake's t-shirt

Joe—Chuck's twin

Phil (in absentia)—clevis tool

Dave—Chuck's boat

Adjourned at 8:40

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

By: Paul Kohlman  
2 October 2012

- Larry Frank/Neil Taylor: the event was attended by roughly 40 people and 9 pilots

participated in the competition. The pilots that placed in the scale flying event were Adam/Sukhoi first, Tony/Spitfire second, and Wiley/Stuka third, and Merle took People's Choice. Glenn and Donnelle Binkley put on a great BBQ. We The Neil Taylor Award this year was presented to Jeff Penner and Adam Clement. Thanks to both of these gentlemen for their contributions to the Club.

- Pylon Racing: EF1 and T28 continue to do well but Dogfighter and Reno 450 have been slow. A discussion followed regarding combining classes, having sign-ups to determine which classes would be attended on a particular month, and other ideas. We also discussed Adam's decision not to continue as the race director for 2013 and possible replacements. More discussion will follow.

- Membership Meeting: as discussed at the September Membership Meeting the Board is very interested in boosting attendance at this meeting. We discussed moving the November meeting to the Round Table Pizza on Sebastopol Road in Santa Rosa. Phil will make some calls to make sure that the Sebastopol Road location is the best fit for us. Once this is settled, notice will be given on the website and at the October meeting to ensure that no one is surprised by the change.

- 2012 Election: we discussed the slate and generally agreed that we need to get some new blood into our Club's leadership. We also agreed to actively encourage other members to step up as all of the current officers have served multiple and in some cases many years.

- Christmas Party: Guy is willing to manage the BBQ again this year, although this time he'll hire some help so that all members and their guests can enjoy the party. Phil is again doing a great deal of the organizing although he has a trip in early December and he could use some help.

- Jack Collins: the Club received a generous donation from Jack of many nitro airplanes, kits, and a great deal of equipment. This equipment will be raffled or auctioned off at a future Membership Meeting. The board voted

to waive Jack's membership fees for the next two years in return.

Meeting convened at 8:40pm.

### **Upcoming General Meeting**

We realized, far too late to change it, that the next general meeting falls on the night of the second Presidential debate. If you are torn between the two and don't have a DVR (or if you don't know what a DVR is) you can watch the debate, or any of the past debates on this website,

<http://www.2012presidentialelectionnews.com/2012-debate-schedule/2012-presidential-debate-schedule/>

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

By: Guy Nicholas

We were recently visited by this Zeppelin and at the last Board meeting Jeff Penner and I were rapping about it, so I thought it apropos to pop it on the cover. Read more about their ship here:

<http://www.airshipventures.com/about>

## WCF 2012 EVENTS SCHEDULE

October 21<sup>st</sup> - Pylon Race #4

November 18<sup>th</sup> -Pylon Race # 5

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



**P.O. BOX 4198**  
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