

December 2012 Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 15 January 2013, 7:30 P.M.  
Round Table Pizza, 2424 Magowan Drive

***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>
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Merle McGregor	(707) 585•1061	<a href="mailto:merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com">merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com</a>

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



## ***Presidents Report***

By: Dave Mercer

Greetings everyone,

Another exciting year of flying is rapidly coming to an end. This past year seemed to go by really quick. I had so many work-related and other obligations going on, that I had a hard time coming up with opportunities to go flying. One of my goals for next year is to get out there and fly more often. This is the time of year when all of us can step back for a moment and reflect on what we accomplished, or didn't accomplish, during the past year. And then focus on what to do different to make things better. Personally I don't get swept up in the whole "New Years Resolution" thing, with grand unrealistic proclamations. Most of that never gets done, and the resolve fizzles out after about a week. I'm talking about the simple stuff....set a goal to fly more often, get a float plane and enjoy the float fly events, maybe devote your efforts towards pattern flying, or aerobatics.....whatever, it doesn't matter as long as you stick with it. There are so many different aspects to this hobby that it's simply impossible to have done it all, or tried it all, without a chance for more learning or growth. Pick something of interest and re-awaken the enthusiasm we all had when we first started.

It was really great to see all of you last week at our Christmas dinner and awards ceremony. For those of you who could not attend, you're missing out on a special night of camaraderie, fine food, impressive raffle prizes, awards, and so on. It's a superb venue there at the Trentadue Winery and a great time is universally had by all who attend. Don't miss out next year!! Guy and his wife Wendy did an outstanding job--again--with preparing the food and making it all happen without a hitch. Other club members also contributed, in various ways to the event, but I won't even try to list them all since I'll be sure to leave someone out. They know who they are.

Overall it was a huge success and a perfect way to cap off the 2012 flying season.

Our first-ever general club meeting at the Montgomery Village Round Table Pizza, last month, was well attended and we plan to continue. A few minor details might need to be tweaked but overall I think we are committed to make this work. While there is no general meeting scheduled for December--as usual--mark your calendars for Jan. 15th and show up for the first meeting of 2013. Be sure to have your wallets stuffed with cash to take advantage of our monthly auction. Don't let Patrick walk away with everything for dirt cheap--he's been cleaning up at the auction with hardly any fellow bidders--(no offense Patrick, just trying to level the playing field). We are working on posting a list of the next month's auction items so that you'll know ahead of time what's up for bid. Don't miss out on the deals by not attending !!

As a final note, I would like to wish all of you a happy Holiday Season and hope that all is well with you and your loved ones. As hectic as things get this time of year I feel it's important to step back, take a deep breath or two, and reflect on what's really important in our lives. Family, friends, good health, and so on. Oh, and it's always good to be involved in a challenging and rewarding hobby (big grin) so don't hesitate to renew you membership. We have--by far--the best flying site in Sonoma county and a great group of members to fly with, or solicit help from. I look forward to seeing you again next year.

Dave Mercer,  
President of Wine Country Flyers

## ***WCF Christmas Parties A Brief History 2000-2012***

By: Phil Leech

The Wine Country Christmas Party has always been one of the best events of the year as it concludes activity for the club each

year. Let me present a picture of the event over the past decade plus. The first Party I attended was in 2000 and it was held at the Los Robles Motel/Restaurant on Cleveland Avenue that is now a gravel site for the future, as the old Motel has been torn down. The price of the party was \$25 twelve years ago and that remained the price for the next five years when we moved the party to Cattlemen's restaurant in Montgomery Village. We were there for the next six years and there are many fond memories of parties there. It was crowded and boisterous but we all had a good time and the price was right. Attendance was always about 60 or so.

When Jeff Penner joined us we were able to have the facilities of the Wild Oak Saddle Club available to us at Oakmont in 2008 but the price had to go up to \$35.

We had moved our field to Trentadue in November 2008 and the idea to have parties at Trentadue hadn't formed yet but we did move the Party to Trentadue for 2009.

The facilities at Trentadue. were first rate and much better than we were accustomed to but they did require that we hire a caterer and that was new to us. In the past we engaged a restaurant that provided everything we needed and things were much simpler then. We found out that having a catered event was more costly and we had to increase the amount we had to charge to \$40 and that began to have an effect on some of our members. So for 2009 and 2010 we went with the caterer and the \$40 charge but last year we tried something else. The idea was to do the catering job "in house" with some of our own guys and their wives. The idea was spearheaded by Guy Nicholas who drafted his wife, Wendy to join in. I drafted my wife, Ann and we recruited help from Suzanne Cole, Merle McGregor, John Reade and others to do the BBQ and serving. It went OK but there were glitches in the serving and the timing of the meal. Still, we were able to pull it off for \$30 with kids at half price. This year we managed to hold the \$30 price and Guy got

his son Chris and a friend to help with the serving and everything went much smoother.

After the party was over and we were cleaning up, Guy told me that he wanted to take a breather from the club for a while. Guy has been Past President, Vice President and has edited the Newsletter for the past nine years. He has been a Board Member for all of that time and has been a guiding force for the club. His presence and contribution to the club is hard to measure but it has been vital at times that's for sure.

I feel like we need to do something for Guy, some kind of recognition some kind of thanks. It's not quite right to let him just slip away without saying something. (ed: No, it isn't necessary, and I give most of the credit to my wife, Wendy ☺)

Anyway, the party for 2013 is up for grabs. I hope we can find someone to fill Guy's shoes.

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

By: Guy Nicholas  
4 Dec. 2012

- Attendees, Dave Mercer, Jeff Penner, Merle McGregor, Adam Clement, and Guy Nicholas.
- Discussed the new pizza venue and the response seemed positive. Decided it should be continued.
- Auction. discussed how to best sell the items we have. So far, we made about \$150. The lesser items will be brought to our next swap meet. In order to generate more awareness and interest we will post on our website the items we are bringing to the next meeting so people will know what is going to be there.
- Ideas on how to raise membership. A number of potential or ex members have expressed the drive is a hinderance (field is too far North). More learn to fly days might help, and we should consider having some during the week as we have a lot of weekday flyers. Having business cards could be a better thing to pass out. Flyers are large and probably just get tossed, whereas business cards would get nicely stashed in a wallet.

- Financials are looking OK, detailed report will follow. Need to make sure the mandatory audit gets taken care of.
- Discussed the final items for the Christmas party.
- Discussed next years racing. Steve Cole will be next year's race 'point man'.
- Still need a bit of field maintenance as a result of the weather anomaly. Some tables need new covering and electrical connectors in charge station need a cleaning.
- meeting adjourned at 8:15

## ***2012 Christmas party wrap-up***

By: Guy Nicholas

Last year we decided to do the Christmas party catering ourselves for two reasons, to cut costs, and to provide a better meal than we had at the 2010 event (not hard to do since TV dinners would have been a step up from that one). In doing this we were able to lower the price we charged and get a pretty decent meal out of it. The first time we did it, Phil and I spent a good deal of time trying to come up with a reasonable menu. We had to go to the store a few times to price out the possible items, narrow it down to our eventual menu, then do our final trips to the store, purchasing all necessary items. We learned a number of lessons that first year, like make sure you hire some help. This year I hired my son and one of his friends to help out, and this was a huge improvement over the year before. My wife, Wendy made the salad, and the hors d'oeuvres, and then worked the kitchen. We had another friend of ours, Pascal, show up and he was a great help back stage as well. Again, we learned a few things this year (get more Asparagus), that will be passed on to next years crew.

Costs for the event went something like this:

Food:	\$420
Help:	\$100
Serving items:	\$323
Table Cloths:	\$217
BBQ rental:	\$100
Decorations:	\$ 58

We had a total of 47 paid attendees, which works out to about \$26/per person. We consumed about \$150 in wine and sodas and took in \$347 in ticket sales. We charged \$30 per adult, half price for youngsters, and super minis got in free.

I would like to take a moment and personally thank Paul Kohlmann for donating his home made beer, I thought it went down very nicely. Well done sir!

I would also like to thank Adam Clement for donating the Starbucks coffee (and taking the time during dinner to go get it). Merle and his wife Ann also came through by bringing the Potatoes.

In summary, I think we had a very nice event for a very reasonable price and the club didn't lose money doing it. I hope the club continues to do their own dinner.

## ***Newsletter Editor Needed***

By: Guy Nicholas

As mentioned earlier, I am going to take a bit of a hiatus. When I announced my resignation, I did state I would continue to do it until the club found someone to take it over (but that offer won't last forever ☺). So, let me describe what is entailed and what I really think someone needs to bring to the table.

The newsletter editor is not required to create content for the newsletter. Instead, they are required to gather the materials from the various individuals, and then assemble and format the data, get it proofread, and then distribute it via the email. It really isn't very difficult or time consuming.

I would really like to see someone with some artistic creativity take over and give it some pizzazz. The newsletter of today looks almost exactly as the one of 10 years ago when I started doing it, primarily because I have ZERO artistic ability. I have trouble drawing stick figures. I have seen some other clubs newsletters that look really nice and I would like to see ours head in that direction.

So let's go! Don't wait for someone else to do it, step up and help out the club! Your fellow members will thank you.

## ***On the Cover***

By: Guy Nicholas

Ah, the [X-15](#), when I was a kid I thought this was the coolest thing ever.

WCF 2012 EVENTS SCHEDULE



**P.O. BOX 4198**  
**SANTA ROSA, CA 95402**