

November 2013 Edition

Wine Country Flyers



Next meeting: 20 January 2014, 7:30 P.M.
 Round Table Pizza, 2424 Magowan Drive
 Show up at 7:00 P.M. for the free Pizza!!

www.wcflyers.com

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

2013 Club Officers:

President :	Paul Kohlmann	(707) 837-9437	Paul.Kohlmann@jdsu.com
Vice President:	Dave Mercer	(707) 304-3967	mcdave@sonic.net
Secretary:	Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557	leechstudios@sonic.net
Treasurer:	Patrick O'Halloran	(707) 321-0400	admin@wcflyers.com
Safety Officer:	Wylie Walters	(707) 235-6383	raidery73@yahoo.com

2013 Board Members:

Merle McGregor	(707) 585-1061	merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com
Tony McDonald	(707) 479-2152	mcd racing1@yahoo.com
Jeff Penner	(707) 292-4234	SonicJeff@yahoo.com
Jacob McDonald	(707)-327-6627	Jmcd racer@yahoo.com
Steve Cole	(707) 481-7989	p38extreme@aol.com

Newsletter Team: Dave Mercer, Phil Leech

Website: Patrick O'Halloran

Cover Photo

By: Dave Mercer

Below is a great shot of Drew Kohlmann showing off the cargo carrying airplane he chose to compete with at the November Fun Fly. It had a unique servo operated door in the rear that hinged down to allow his "Egg Drop" projectile to roll out the back. He carefully placed the Dixie cup, popsicle stick and rubber band in there to comply with the rules. Nothing in the rules hindered his creativity!! His foam constructed plane was also capable of floating along at near zero speed, enhancing his chances during the "Spot Landing" portion of the event. More info on the Fun Fly event can be found further down.



Presidents Report

By: Paul Kohlmann

. YOUR PRESIDENT IS LAME

And I don't mean lame because I'm a lame duck president. I mean lame because I am making our newsletter editor look bad by writing the November President's Report on December 1, 2013.

Some months just click and others, well, like this one, just don't. Like most of us, the Thanksgiving holiday took up some time. Ours was fantastic but busier than the norm as it was the first time that we hosted the whole family. Hopefully yours was as enjoyable.

Ironically, all of this stellar flying weather hasn't helped, either. Lots of sunny, calm days have had me on the run abalone diving, crabbing, and enjoying the convertible before she gets stowed for the winter—if it ever comes. Drew and I have been so busy that we haven't flown or built since the Fun Fly early this month.

But I expect two things to bring RC back into the forefront for me. The first is that this gorgeous weather can't last much longer, regardless of your thoughts on Global Warming. Once the weather turns, I'll be back to the workbench finishing up a project and making way for two new ones.

The second driver of change is that Santa will be coming soon. Christmas is always a good time to pick up some new toys. And this year there are a whole crop of ultramicros,

lightweight cameras, and other cool stuff to put on my list. And I've been told that I've been pretty good this year.

SLOPE SOARING

A couple of the thoughts mentioned above fit together. 1) I have been spending quite a bit of time on our beautiful coast, and 2) the best time for designing and building will soon be upon us. Combining these two concepts has sparked an interest in Slope Soaring with me.

In an effort to learn a little more, I searched RCGroups for threads on the topic. One of my favorites is this one that includes lots of free plans, building instructions, and discussion:

<http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=1445391>

The videos at the beginning of the thread are fantastic. The thread was started by an American guy that was transferred to South Africa for a work assignment. He fell in with a local club that specializes in slope soarers made from Corroplast (that weird plastic that has a corrugated center with sheet on the outsides). These guys are having tons of fun sharing designs, helping one another build these low-cost wonders, and then flying them like there is no tomorrow. After watching the action, Drew and I quickly became hooked.

I personally have zero experience with slopers, but I am eager to learn. I recently reached out to veteran sloper Jake Chichilitti to pick his brain, and he pointed out that the season doesn't really get going until March or April, but that he would be interested in working together to build up some aircraft. Perfect.

Rumor has it that there are some other slope guys in our club, too. If you are one, or you would like to become one, please let me know. It would be great to pull some slope soaring outings together for 2014.

2014 OFFICERS AND BOARD

On the business side of things, I'd like to announce a change that we discussed at the last Members Meeting. In light of the fact that the Club has gotten a little smaller than in its heyday, the Board voted in November to reduce the number of officers and board members from 5 of each to 4 of each. The main driver is that it has been difficult to find enough volunteers to staff 10 positions with only ~75 members.

A Special Meeting will be held to amend the bylaws in order to make this change. We will still have all of the same functions as before.

The slate of officers that was unanimously approved at the November Members Meeting is as follows:

President	Tony McDonald
Vice President	Wylie Walters
Secretary	Paul Kohlmann
Treasurer	Phil Leech

In order to support our new president, we also agreed at the Members Meeting to move that meeting from the third Tues of each month to the third Monday. This did not present a hardship to any of the members present at that meeting, and it is possible that it will be a better day for some members who have not been attending.

Vice Presidents Report *Editors Update*

By: Dave Mercer

2013 is rapidly coming to a close. About the only event left on our schedule is the annual Christmas dinner/party coming up on December 6th. I hope that all of you have already sent in your RSVP's and will be attending. I haven't missed one yet, during my tenure as a club member and you shouldn't miss it either. It's always a great way to cap off the year, reflecting on what transpired over the past year, socializing, and trading stories of what passed and what's up to come. Those of

you who have never been able to make it are truly missing out on something special.

Winter has set in, and now's the time to focus on completing those long dormant projects. I plan on finally getting my float fly plane back in working order, and also making a final decision on either fixing my T-28 or replacing it. I'm looking forward to next year's pylon racing, hoping that my luck might be a little better. You never know, maybe I'll win my next season's pylon racer at the Christmas party's raffle.

No matter what, I'll be back out there, at the field having a good time, and possibly even improving my flying skills. I hope to see all of you out there also. All of you should have received your renewal form with your Christmas dinner invitation. Don't delay too long to send that back in. A 20 dollar late fee gets imposed after Jan 31st for those stragglers who wait too long. It's not meant to be some punitive punishment; it's just there to encourage folks to renew on time. A logistical nightmare arises from renewals slowly trickling in, over the course of many months. It should be a no-brainer. We are privileged to have the best AMA sanctioned flying site in Sonoma County. Along with that, there's the opportunity to share our hobby with a great group of club members, all willing to lend a helping hand. Who wouldn't want to be a part of that?

I can't wait to see all of you out at our field next year.

Moving on to newsletter topics....as noted below, John Reade nailed the first "Guess This Mess" shop photo. Those of you that submitted a guess and got it wrong, don't despair. You may nail it this month or in months to come. Keep sending me those guesses !! I was hoping to receive responses from more club members, but it was the first installment, and maybe some folks are a little hesitant. This is still a work in progress and time will tell whether this takes off or fizzles

out. I have other photos waiting in the wings, but I could still use more. Help me out here.

I will be continuing my newsletter duties, though I have decided to step down as club Vice President. I have had the privilege to serve as VP under Jeff Penner, Jon Stychno and Paul Kohlmann. Mostly I was there as backup—sort of like the backup quarterback, waiting on the sidelines, clipboard in hand, ready to step in and take over if the true QB went down. That rarely happened. I thought Paul did a great job serving as President this past year. In fact I was hoping he would serve again next year. For the record, I would like it to be known that I did not title the article above—his Presidents Report for this month. I would never consider him to be "lame." Sure enough he submitted his Prez Report late, after some gentle e-mail prodding by me. But Hey....it was Thanksgiving week, we were all busy with family and holiday obligations. Myself included. I just don't want anyone to think that I threw him under the bus....and then backed up and drove over him. He came up with that title...I didn't.

Personally I thought he was being overly harsh on himself. He's done a fine job as president and I'm sure he'll continue doing a fine job as secretary. It's hard to come up with articles for the newsletter month after month. I've been struggling with that for three years now, with my rambling VP reports. I know what it's like.

I look forward to seeing what our new president, Tony McDonald, sends me each month. If it's anything like his racing updates it should be some really good stuff !!

Fly often and fly safe
Dave

Guess This Mess!!

By: Dave Mercer

Below is the second installment of what I had in mind months ago: a submission of photos of our club member's shops or work areas. Take a close look and see if you can guess whose shop this might be. E-mail me your best guess, or if you catch me at the field just toss me

a guess verbally and I'll make a note of it. Last month we had one winner!! John Reade correctly guessed the answer---it was Tony McDonald's shop. Maybe it was all the dirt bike helmets that gave it away....maybe it was the airplanes....whatever it was, way to go John.



Whose shop is this? Anybody care to guess?

October Pylon Report

By: Jacob McDonald
21 October 2013

Pylon race #8 had yet another short turn out. There was seven racers in total and Brian Young raced in every class . Every hand was needed for either counting or judging the pylons. Jim Swanson and Charles McDonald kindly helped fill those positions. We raced two rounds with no wind but the last two rounds had a slight breeze. With such good conditions there were no lost airplanes.

First was the T-28/Corsair class with only three pilots. The pilots were Brian Young with 18 points, Jeff Penner with 10 points, and Paul Kohlmann with 9 points. The winner of the day and points leader is Brian Young.

Next was Reno 450 with pilots Steve Cole and Brian Young. Steve finished the day with 18 points and Brian finished with 18,, There was no winner of the day and Steve is still current points leader.

Dogfighter had two pilots which were Jon Stychno and Brian Young. This class was very entertaining to watch whether it was close calls or prop strikes on airplanes it kept the crowd and the pilots on their toes. Brian finished with 5 points and Jon finished with 4. Brian was the winner of the day but Jon is still the current points leader.

EF-1 had six pilots with Brian Young stepping up and racing a different class. The pilots were Tony McDonald with 19 points, Steve Cole with 18 points, Jon Stychno with 14 points, Jeff Penner with 14 points, Brian Young with 9 points, and Jacob McDonald with 7 points. The winner of the day was Tony McDonald with 19 points and stepping up to third place but Steve is still current points leader.

General Meeting Minutes October Meeting

By: Phil Leech
26 October 2013

The meeting was held at Round Table Pizza in Montgomery Village. Pizza was served at 7PM with the meeting brought to order by Paul Kohlmann at 7:30 pm. 24 members were present.

INTRODUCTION

- Brian Young introduced his guest Kyle, who is Brian's cousin.

BUSINESS

- The Secretary reported that the membership is at 76 members.
- The Treasurer reported that the checking account is at \$4767.16 and the CD is at \$7351.19.

FIELD MAINTENANCE

- Dave Mercer discussed how we might upgrade the field charging station. We currently have 4- 6 volt golf cart batteries that are connected to a 45 watt solar panel. Both the solar panel and the batteries could be increased in capacity.

EVENTS

- The Neil Taylor Awards portion of the Larry Frank Scale Fly In had to be postponed because the two recipients couldn't make the event. The Neil Taylor Award plaques were presented to Paul Kohlmann and Dave Mercer. Both Dave and Paul have made significant contributions to our club and their efforts are much appreciated by all of us.
- The Woodland Davis Scale Event held recently saw two of our members win awards. Dylan Baltazar won a flying award and Wayne Fredericks won with his Fokker D-7.

- Christmas Party planning is progressing with a format similar to the past two years with a DIY strategy. We have several members volunteering to prepare the banquet. Hats are off to Larry Gustafson, Glenn and Dawnelle Binkley, Merle and Ann McGregor, and Adam Clement for food preparation. John Reade, Dave Mercer and Paul Kohlmann will be on hand for set up and support.
- Tony McDonald is planning a Fun Fly for Sunday, Nov 10. We haven't had a Fun Fly for a while and this should be fun for all.

SHOW AND TELL

- Jake McDonald presented an Extra 260 powered by a 480 electric motor.
- Paul Kohlmann displayed a scratch built Me 109. Paul developed CAD plans that the kit was cut from. He covered the plane with Poly Span and painted it with a water based urethane. A very nice traditional sitck and tissue model.

AUCTION

- Chuck Green donated a K & B 40 powered Bipe and other R/C gear to the auction.
- Chuck's OS 61 with a tuned pipe went to Charlie Cox for \$20.
- The K & B 40 Bipe went to Julio -\$20.
- A Love Machine kit went to Ollie Burns for \$12.
- A heavy duty starter went to Julio for \$5.
- Julio again for a Futaba radio - \$10.
- Wayne Frederick got a Century 7 collector transmitter for \$10.
- Roy Berg got several servos for \$10

THE RAFFLE

- The main prize for the raffle was a Mig 15 Electric Jet that was won by Julio
- Adam got the \$25 gift certificate at Jake's Hobbies and Brian Yound took a hat while Bill Van Asdlan got the other hat.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Report prepared and submitted by Secretary Phil Leech.

Board Meeting Minutes November Meeting

By: Phil Leech
16 November 2013

The meeting was brought to order by Paul Kohlmann at 6:30 pm. at the JDSU Offices 1402 Mariner Dr. Members attending were Paul Kohlmann, Merle McGregor, Dave Mercer, Jeff Penner, Wylie Walters, Tony McDonald, and myself, Phil Leech.

- I presented the Treasurer's Report that included \$3,842 in the checking account and \$7,351 in the Certificate of Deposit at Redwood Credit Union. I also told everyone that Patrick and I are scheduled to prepare the dues notices and the Christmas Party Invitations on Saturday, Nov 9 and mail them out soon.
- The Christmas Party plans were discussed and it was decided to go with Trentadue's offer to provide complete bar service with a bar tender for \$400. We have added \$5 to the ticket price to cover these costs.
- Paul would like to be the emcee for this year's party and will also be planning events for the evening.
- Adam Clement will be buying the raffle prizes and it was decided to spend the same amount as last year - \$1500 which includes \$200 for cash prizes.
- Paul will take care of plaques this year.
- It was decided to reduce the size of the Officers and Board for 2014. We currently have 5 Officers and 5 Board members which will be reduced to 4 each. The Vice President's slot will include the Safety Officer as well. This decision was based on the fact that the club is smaller than in the past. We will need to revise the By Laws to reflect this change. The election will be held at the next

General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 19.

The slate is:

President: Tony McDonald

Vice President: Wylie Walters

Treasurer: Phil Leech

Secretary: Paul Kohlmann

- Patrick O'Halloran will continue with the website and Dave Mercer will also produce the Newsletter.

- Dave Mercer published the first of his "Who's Workshop is this" series and plans to continue with future newsletters

And that wrapped it up!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Report prepared and submitted by Phil Leech.

Treasurers Report November 2013

By: Patrick O'Halloran

Membership:
Total: 76

Returning: 65

2013 New: 11

Youth: 9

Financials:

Checking balance: \$2362.00

CD: \$7,351.00

Club Events

Fun Fly Recap Sunday Nov. 10th

27 November 2013
By: Dave Mercer

The November Fun Fly, organized by Tony McDonald, was acclaimed by all to be a rousing success. It certainly lived up to its billing as a "fun" event. Sixteen pilots came out to participate and a fun, challenging, entertaining time was had by all. Quite a few people were there just as spectators—myself included, with my notepad and pen diligently writing down as fast as I could the events that transpired. It was hard to keep up with all that was going on.

Tony kept the program moving along at a steady pace, which was a good thing. There was a lot to be done.

Each of the events he set up for the participants had their own challenges. I had never been to a true "Fun Fly" so I didn't know what to expect. It was both entertaining and enlightening to watch the different methods people employed during the egg drop. Different ways to mount the cup on their aircraft, different flying techniques to launch the egg out of that cup....subtle differences

that impacted the final score. It was not as easy as it looked.

Same thing with the other events. The One Minute Deadstick event was equally impressive. I felt for sure that nobody would be able to nail that one and land in precisely one minute. I thought the times would be all over the map. But no.....several pilots almost nailed it to perfection. Merle nailed it in one minute one second, even with a crash into one of the trees at the north end of the runway. Paul nailed it in 59 seconds. Adam managed to do it in 58 seconds. I was stunned. What?...do these people have a silent metronome in their heads, constantly counting off the seconds? Other pilots did almost as well. It was hard to keep track of it all.

The Spot Landing also had an impressive outcome. Wylie landed within one foot of the target!! Ben Mackles landed within two feet, and Larry Gustafson managed an impressive three foot score. I lost track of the other scores since nobody else equaled or bettered these results.

I got up to the field a bit after the official start of the event, so I missed out on witnessing the Balloon Bust portion of the festivities. From what I heard that was also quite entertaining. I just don't have any first hand comments to offer.

All in all it was a great day. The weather was never an issue. For November it was actually surprising; calm, clear and better than many of the Pylon Racing days earlier in the year. Many of us are trying to encourage Tony to organize more Fun Fly events for next year. He seems open to doing that, provided he gets some help, though he mentioned that the

events—or challenges—for the next one will certainly change. New challenges, different format—just to keep a level playing field.

Below is a rundown of the final results:

1st place Mike Cracchiolo 53 points
 2nd Ben Mackles 44 points
 3rd Jon Stychno 43.1 points
 4th Adam Clement 43 points
 5th Wylie Walters 39 points
 6th Larry Gustafson 35.2 points
 7th Paul Kohlmann 35.1 points
 8th Jacob McDonald 35 points
 9th Julio Alvarez 34.1 points
 10th Jake Chichillti 34 points
 11th Drew Kohlmann 31 points
 12th Phil Leech 29 points
 13th Jake Boatman 26 points
 14th John Reade 24 points
 15th Merle McGregor 21 points
 16th Doug Moore 14 points

If you look at the results closely you'll notice that many of the positions were separated by a very thin margin. The competition was fierce with many pilots doing well in one area and not so well in others. Tony's choice of challenging events created a great equalizer. I look forward to what he comes up with next time.

Here's a link to a video that Jon Stychno created at the event.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=vlssBzMjdU

WCF 2013 EVENTS SCHEDULE

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Christmas Party	Fri Dec 6	Phil

