

December 2013 Edition

Wine Country Flyers



Next meeting: **Monday**, 20 January 2014, 7:30 P.M.
 Round Table Pizza, 2424 Magowan Drive
 Show up at 7:00 P.M. for the free Pizza!!
Starting Monday, January 20, membership meetings
will be the third MONDAY of each month
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

The passing of the gavel:

Another year, another transfer of leadership from one President to the next. Taken December 6, 2013 at our Christmas party. Check it out below.....



Presidents Report

By: Paul Kohlmann

It's Been a Great Year!

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president for 2013. Overall it has been a very productive year. Working backwards, I would like to highlight the following:

Christmas Party

This was the third year that we did our own catering, and the general consensus is that we are getting better each year. Phil managed this event, and he did a great job of spreading the workload across more volunteers. Adam took the lead on the BBQ with Wylie's help, Glen and Donnelle had the vegetables, Merle the spuds, Larry the salad, and Kelly McDonald made the tables look beautiful. As for dessert, there were too many treats to list. There was an army pulling it together in the kitchen who made it all come together just as the last guests signed in. Phil hired my son Drew and his sis Sami to bus tables. We also opted for a hosted bar this year so that we wouldn't have to mess with drink tickets and staffing during dinner. These last two items were well worth it, as all of our members but Drew were able to enjoy their dinner in peace.

Of course, the main event was the raffle which maintained the same decadent proportions of recent years. There were stacks of kits, cash, tools, and supplies that would make Santa Claus blush. But what I use to gauge the success of the Christmas party is how long folks stay after the last raffle prize has been taken. In previous years, it has been minutes but this year our guests stayed and chatted for over an hour before the evening faded to a close.

2013 Events

I tried to set a good precedent as president by participating in more events this year. That was easy to do, as we had more to choose from and they were so well organized. We opened with the Hobby Expo in Petaluma—btw this is coming up soon in February! As my first year pylon racing, I hit all of the races but one including all of the shockingly windy spring sessions. The gales added plenty of challenge but turned out to be a lot of fun, too.

But my favorite events of the year were Merle's Float Flies. In contrast to the pylon races, we had outstanding weather at all of them. This brought out more flyers than past years, turning these events into meet and greets with other clubs and potential new members.

As usual, PCAM was easily our biggest event of 2013. After many years at the helm, Jon requested some relief from organizing this event. With effort, we were able to fill his shoes but his impact was felt when many of the airshow organizers asked where he was! The club pulled together a larger demo team this year that displayed a tremendous range of aircraft types and showcased the skills of our youngest to our most seasoned pilots. We were rewarded with a much longer flying window and clear weather on Saturday. An airshow scheduling glitch shortened the show on Sunday but the team adapted well.

Lastly, a Fun Fly was added at the end of the year by Tony McDonald. This was easily the best event of 2013, in my humble opinion. The turnout of pilots and spectators alike was excellent and the tasks were a lot of fun. It's safe to say that this will return in 2014.

Charitable Efforts

At the beginning of the year I made a pitch to the Club that we needed to step up our efforts to connect to our community. Our membership stepped up in a number of ways.

The first was that Merle began collecting donations for the Salvation Army at our Float Flys. This was a natural fit as SA is providing us with a beautiful flying pond at no charge. Over the course of the year, we donated \$285 to Lt. Alvarez directly to the Men's Recovery Center that operates from the Lytton Springs site.

Our charitable efforts coordinated well with those of the AMA, when the 1st Annual Model Aviation Day was scheduled on the same weekend as PCAM. The AMA challenged all sanctioned clubs to raise funds for Wounded Warriors Project. Our board agreed to donate all profits from our raffle to WWP. Along the way, Steve Koll pulled in a much greater haul by taking the initiative to sell cold water in the sweltering heat. All together, AMA sanctioned clubs collected \$76,000 for WWP!

We also participated in an educational event when we staffed a booth at Sonoma Jet Center's Aviation Day again this year. This event is focused on introducing kids to all things aviation.

Membership Stable

We lost a few members this year, as is the norm, but we gained some really good replacements. Overall our headcount was the same this year as last. It would be great to see a little growth, though, so tell a friend!

Vice Presidents Report

Editors Update

By: Dave Mercer

Greetings everyone,

Paul did such a good job summarizing our latest Christmas party that I don't have much more to add to that. I agree whole-heartedly that we have taken the self-catered concept and made it work—with the help of many dedicated club members. Each year there are unique challenges, but we always find a way to get it done. This year I arrived to witness Adam and Wylie barbequing out in the rain.

Rain?...are you kidding me? What's rain? I have a dim recollection of water that falls from the sky—supposedly called rain. But we haven't had any in so long it's but a vague memory. But no, on the one evening of our Christmas party the sky decides to cloud over and rain finally falls. Thankfully it wasn't a torrential downpour, putting the fire out and rendering them looking like drowned sailors and ruining the whole affair. It was more like a steady drizzle, or light rainfall. Still, it wasn't a pleasant or anticipated occurrence. Yet they soldiered on and got it done. The tri-tip was excellent. My hat's off to both of them for persevering.

The raffle this year was again chock full of great prizes. I scored big time when my ticket was the second or third one called. As I shuffled up to make my choice, Adam made some crack as I was fumbling with my reading glasses. He may have more sympathy in ten, fifteen years when his eyes need them. His comments were right on the mark, though. I had perused the offerings on the table earlier and was waffling between the Icon A5 and a warbird plane that was a potential pylon racer. In the end I decided I would rather go with another float fly plane. I had watched Tony and Jacob fly their Icons at recent float flys—and aside from their tail wagging tendencies—they flew great. What I didn't realize was that the one offered at the raffle was a micro version. I had no idea there even was a micro version!! In the end, I chose it and shuffled back to my table, expecting that I had chosen the full size version. I could have put on my reading glasses and actually read the boxes more carefully, but I didn't want to drag things on and waste everyone's time.

Later, when I got home, opened the box, charged the battery, binded the receiver to my DX-7, and had a chance to check her out, I realized that this is one sweet little airplane. What it lacks in overall size it makes up for in versatility. Take off from water, add the three tiny wheels that came with it and take off from hard surfaces, leave the wheels off it and hand launch it; it doesn't really matter. It's all

good. Transporting it couldn't be easier. Plus all the tiny two-cell lipos I already have for my brushless mcpx heli will work just fine; and I have six of those. I really have no regrets, it just wasn't what I was initially expecting. This little jewel of an airplane may end up being my favorite carry anywhere, fly anywhere airplane. Time will tell. I'll keep you posted.

During these cold winter months, I'm determined to get my T-28 repaired or replaced, finish the minor work needed on my Seawind, and devote as much time as I can to flying my helis and this little Icon. I'm sure the rest of you have similar goals and projects, waiting for completion. Now's the time to do it. I finally managed to get a can of genuine Corrosion X so I can waterproof the electronics on both my Seawind and Icon. My lack of any waterproofing efforts is what resulted in the problems that occurred with my Seawind months ago. In my haste to dive in to the float fly aspect of our hobby, I ignored or overlooked some sound advice regarding aircraft preparation; the result being that one bouncing landing on the lake—it was certainly not worthy of earning a "crash" status—was sufficient to splash enough water inside to cause my ESC to go haywire and smoke my motor. I mention my failings—not for sympathy, since none is deserved—but solely that others may avoid the same mistakes. If you're flying anywhere near water, waterproof EVERYTHING you can—esc, receiver, servos, motor, etc. At some point in the future you'll be glad you did. Trust me on this. I had to learn these lessons the hard way.

This will be my last Vice Presidents Report, since Wylie Walters is our new VP for 2014. I will continue to provide an Editors Update portion to the newsletter. Some of you may be disappointed, some of you may be glad. Either way, if my inane musings prove to be intolerable you can always scroll right past them. That's the beauty of the digital format. Leap ahead to whatever strikes your fancy. I won't be offended. If anything about YOUR newsletter you find lacking, or disagreeable, or needs to be changed....let me know, so I can deal with it. Feedback from each and every one of you is crucial. Without suggestions and constructive criticism from YOU—the club members—I have no way to know whether I'm moving forward or plunging towards a train wreck. Help me out here.

Happy Holidays,

Dave Mercer
Wine Country Flyers Newsletter Scribbler

Guess This Mess!!

By: Dave Mercer

Last month's shop: Phil Leech

Winning Guess: Tony McDonald



Whose shop is this? Anybody care to guess?

2013 Pylon Racing Final Standings

Monday, 25 November 2013

Report by Tony McDonald; video Jon Stychno

The weather turned out to be beautiful for the Wine Country Flyers last pylon event of 2013! Ten pilots took part of the championship finale. Brian Young, Wylie Walters, John Reade, Ben Mackles, Phil Leech, Jake Boatman, Jon Stychno, Steve Cole, Jacob McDonald, and Tony McDonald.

T-28/Corsair class:

2013 Champion Brian Young
2nd place Wylie Walters
3rd place Paul Kohlmann

Reno 450 Class:

2013 Champion Steve Cole
2nd place Brian Young
3rd place Tony McDonald

Dogfighter class:

2013 Champion Jon Stychno
2nd place Brian Young
3rd place Ben Mackles

EF-1 class:

2013 Champion Steve Cole
2nd place Jon Stychno
3rd place Jacob McDonald

Here's a link to Jon's video.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=isa3czyggcs

General Meeting Minutes

November Meeting

By: Phil Leech
20 November 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. 20 members were present.

BUSINESS

- Secretary's Report – Phil reported that the 2014 Dues Letters have been sent to the membership. There will be a \$20 late fee for dues received after Jan 31, 2014.
- Treasurer's Report -The checking account stands at \$2362 with the C/D at \$7351

EVENTS

- The 2013 Pylon Race season is over and planning for the 2014 season is open for discussion. It is anticipated that the T-28 , Dogfighter and EF-1 classes will continue next year. Tony discussed the new Parkzone warbird series as a possible new class.
- Jake McDonald will be the Race Director for 2014.
- The recent Fun Fly was a great success with 16 pilots participating and a number of spectators present. We will plan for at least one Fun Fly for the 2014 season.
- The Christmas Party planning is proceeding with Adam Clement as the BBQ chef, Larry Gustafson providing the Caesar Salad, Glenn and Dawnell preparing the veggie dish, Merle and Ann McGregor doing the baked potatoes.

2014 SLATE

- Paul proposed that the club should reduce the number of officers and board members to 4 officers and 4 board members to be more proportionate to the size of the club.
- Paul presented the 2014 slate for acceptance by the membership. The slate was presented as:

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

- A motion was passed to accept the slate unanimously. The motion carried.

SHOW AND TELL

- Jake and Tony presented a new ARF kit for the EF-1 class, a World Models Scarlet Screamer that retails for \$170.

AUCTION

- Mike Cracchiolo brought in a number of items for the auction with the agreement that he would donate 50% of the revenue to the club.
- First item was a OS Max 46 that went to Merle for \$15.
- Next was a Tower Hobbies 75 two stroke that Charlie Cox got for \$5
- Then a Zenoah 38 to Paul Eason for \$29
- A Saito 100 went to John Reade for \$21
- That was a total of \$70 for Mike's stuff and he received \$35 with \$35 going to WCF.
- An Astro 25 electric motor with accessories went to Buzz for \$5.
- Mike also brought a twin engine "Dual Ace" ARF kit (NIB) that nobody bid on, so Mike donated the kit to be included in the free raffle at the Christmas Party.

THE RAFFLE

- The raffle was for a \$50 gift card from Jake's Hobbies and that was won by Mike Cracchiolo. It was good to see Mike win the raffle after the generous donations he made to the club tonight.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55

Report prepared and submitted by Secretary Phil Leech.

Board Meeting Minutes December Meeting

By: Phil Leech
2 December 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, Tony McDonald, and myself, Phil Leech.

- I presented the Treasurer's Report that included \$2,362.52 in the checking account and \$7,351 in the Certificate of Deposit at Redwood Credit Union. I also told everyone that we had 27 members who have paid their 2014 dues and 36 reservations for the Christmas Party to date.

- We will have vinyl tablecloths this year for \$3 each instead of pricey cloth ones.

- The drinks will be supplied by Trentadue this year for the fixed price of \$400 to include wine, beer and soft drinks. We added \$5 to the ticket price to cover this.

- Merle will bring the coffee and Phil will supply cream, sugar and coffee cups.

- Adam Clement and Wylie Walters will do the BBQ of the Tri Tip and chicken.

- Larry Gustafson and his wife Elizabeth will bring the Caesar salad and dessert.

- Phil and Ann will bring the hors d' oeuvres, dinner rolls and butter pats.

- Glenn Binkley and Dawnelle will provide a special cauliflower veggie dish.

- Merle and Ann McGregor will do the baked potatoes as they have done the past two years.

- Kellie McDonald will prepare the dinner table centerpieces.

- Tony and Jake McDonald will be the greeters handling the nametags and accepting checks and cash at the door.

- Paul will bring the raffle tickets and Jeff Penner will assist Adam with the raffle.

- Mike Cracchiolo has donated a twin engine ARF for the raffle.

- Paul will order the plaques for the pylon race awards and will also prepare the award for the season's most crashes winner.

- Julio will bring DVD's of the season's memorable events.

- Drew and Sam Kohlmann will be servers and will assist with clean up in the kitchen.

- It looks like we have the bases covered here and look forward to the Christmas Party this coming Friday. What a group effort!

And that wrapped it up!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Report prepared and submitted by Phil Leech.

Treasurers Report December 2013

By: Patrick O'Halloran

Membership:
Total: 76

Returning: 65
2013 New: 11
Youth: 9

Financials:
Checking balance: \$2362.00
CD: \$7,351.00

WCF 2013 EVENTS SCHEDULE

Event

Date

Contact

None left!!

