

February 2014 Edition

Wine Country Flyers



Next meeting: **Monday**, 17 March 2014, 7:00 P.M.

Round Table Pizza, 2424 Magowan Drive

Show up at 6:45 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

2014 Club Officers:

President :	Tony McDonald	(707) 479-2152	mcdancing1@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Wylie Walters	(707) 235-6383	raidery73@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Paul Kohlmann	(707) 837-9437	Paul.Kohlmann@jdsu.com
Treasurer:	Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557	leechstudios@sonic.net
Safety Officer:	Wylie Walters	(707) 235-6383	raidery73@yahoo.com

2014 Board Members:

Merle McGregor	(707) 585-1061	merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com
Dave Mercer	(707) 304-3967	mcdave@sonic.net
Jacob McDonald	(707) 327-6627	Jmcdracer@yahoo.com
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Newsletter Team: Dave Mercer, Phil Leech

Website: Patrick O'Halloran

Cover Photo

Image taken from Wine Country Flyers website

Caption/Comments by: Dave Mercer

**Pylon Racing is just around the corner. First race: March 16, don't miss it.
The image below I snagged off our website. I believe Tony McDonald posted it,
but I can't say for sure.**

Wine Country Flyers Pylon Racing

***For more info, check the web
www.WCFlyers.com***



***Races are usually
the 3rd Sunday of the month:
March 16th
April 27th
May 18th
June 15th
July 20th
August 17th
September 21st
October 19th
November 16th***



***Classes:
T-28
Parkzone Warbird
DogFighter
EF -1***

***Spectators are
always welcome***

Presidents Report

By: Tony McDonald

The wine country Flyers kicked off the start of February with our first fun fly event of the year. More about the event and the video are posted on the clubs website. (Editors note: I've included the Fun Fly Recap from our website down below, go to the website to catch Julio's videos.) After abolishing our one time field assessment fee we've seen two new members join this month. Our first new member is Ken Mackensen. Ken has visited our club after moving here from Marin. He has recently started learning to fly on a simulator. Ken has been bitten by the RC bug badly, and has purchased a fleet of micro electric airplanes from JPH. Our second new member is Buzz Russell. Most of us already know Buzz from his years working for Toy and Model. The board members and myself recently have talked a lot about upgrading our electric charging station at the field. We discussed it at the membership meeting again, and the membership voted to give Dave Mercer a budget of \$1200 to make the upgrades that are needed. I'm sure we will get many more years from the hard work Dave puts into these stations. Thanks Dave for taking the lead on this! It's members like Dave Mercer that make our club a great place to fly and enjoy our hobby.

See you at the March races!

Tony

Vice Presidents Report

Safety Officer Report

By: Wylie Walters

Hope you have all been enjoying the beautiful weather we have been enjoying. I know I have seen a lot of you on the weekends, and have

seen cars down at the field many days during the week; the place has been as busy as summer. With all the use over the last year it's getting about time to have another work party to spruce the place up before the busy season. The current plans are to re-cover the tables that did not get re-covered last year, fix a few tables that need some bracing or top replacement, patch a few spots in the pits where the turf has worn through, re-stake the runway and try to smooth out some of the seams, install a starting area for the gassers and just a general cleanup of weeds and blowing off the runway and pits. I am also checking with one of our members about some additional tables for the pits as we are already running out of space on the weekends. If you have any additional suggestions I would love to hear it so shoot me an email or come talk to me at the field. I am looking to do it sometime in April and will send out an email as soon as I get the date locked down.

Wylie

Editors Update

By: Dave Mercer

Here it is, close to the end of another month....and another newsletter that needs to get finished. Where does the time go? I realize that time is supposed to be a relentless, steady, consistent aspect of our lives that keeps marching forward, but the older I get the more it seems that the days, weeks, months just stream together in a faster and faster procession. I've managed to finish a few projects, both flying related and otherwise, yet my poor T-28 resurrection effort still remains un-finished. I need to get on the ball and complete it. Time is running out.

My efforts have resulted in some valuable lessons. I've learned a few things, gained some knowledge as it were, during these past few months. I've listened intently and followed

the advice of other club members who are superb “builders” and designers of RC aircraft, or expert scale builders, or simply long-time hobbyists with a wealth of knowledge. I suggest that each and every one of you do the same and take advantage of the vast amount of collective wisdom that exists in our club. That’s one of the benefits of being a Wine Country Flyers member; helpful advice and guidance when you’re attempting something new.

For me it was all about painting. My painting efforts have spanned the spectrum from pathetically poor, to mediocre, to barely presentable. I always seem to botch it; runs, drips and errors are my specialty. I never could get it right. But things have changed. My T-28 resurrection project has given me the opportunity to attempt a lot of painting on all the repaired wreckage. I had no luck finding water-based Krylon rattle-can paint, plus the colors available were rather limited. So I asked Paul Kohlmann what he used on his foam airplanes. I was surprised to learn that it was simply latex house paint. Latex?...how could that be? That stuff is like molasses, straight from the can. Yet after following Wylie’s advice and thinning it with cheap dollar-store glass cleaner (Windex), it sprayed on there superbly with my new cheapo Harbor Freight mini detail gun. This little gun is awesome!!! It has a small 4-ounce gravity feed cup (with lid), only needs 40-50 psi, and best of all only cost me 13 bucks on sale. I highly recommend it.

Of course, none of my recent achievements have suddenly turned me into a master painter or builder. I have a long way to go before my airplanes match what Paul K. or Wylie, or Jon, Brian Young, Jake Rosen, or many others bring to the field. The important thing—for me—is that I’m making progress. That metaphorical mountain, the “learning curve”

can be steep and treacherous, strewn with loose rock and rubble and difficult to climb. Sometimes I find myself gaining a few steps, only to back-slide later from inactivity or forgetfulness. Perseverance is the key. Never stop learning!! Perhaps some of you can relate to that philosophy; it’s served me well over the years.

Moving on to true newsletter topics....it has recently been brought to my attention that my Cover Photos that I’ve included in the newsletter might imply that I was the one who took the photo. Not so!! My photography skills are even worse than my (former) painting skills. I don’t do photography. I couldn’t come up with a photo to add if my life depended on it. Starting this month I will be including an attribution to whoever took the photo that I’ve...ahem...”borrowed.” They deserve the credit; I certainly don’t.

And last but not least....I’ve gotten the approval to spice up the “Guess This Mess” part of the newsletter—shamelessly trying to drum up more responses—by announcing that starting this month all correct guesses will entitle that club member to receive not one but **three** raffle tickets to win something at the next club meeting at Round Table Pizza. Provided you show up to receive them. All respondents with the correct guess will receive an e-mail from your faithful editor within a day or two of your submittal, so you’ll have plenty of time to ensure that you can make it to the next meeting. Don’t miss out, it could be the chance of a lifetime.

Until next month,
Dave Mercer
WCF Newsletter Scribbler

Guess This Mess!!

By: Dave Mercer

Last month’s shop: Paul Kohlmann
Winning Guess: Tony McDonald



Whose shop is this? Anybody care to guess?

February Fun Fly

By: Tony McDonald

Wow it was cold as everyone started showing up for the first Wine Country Flyers fun fly of 2014! There was also a five mile an hour head wind that added an extra chilling effect. We had ten pilots sign up to compete by ten o'clock.

Julio Alvarez
Wylie Walters
Jacob McDonald
Merle McGregor
Steve Koll
Adam Clement
Paul Eason
Doug Moore
Larry Gustafson
Bill Walters

The first event "The dice roll" had an interesting element of chance built in to it. Steve lucked out and rolled a one. That indicated the amount of loops Steve had to perform then land. With a low time of 15.6 seconds he won sixteen dollars. Adam came in second with a time of 16.22 seconds. Julio, third with 18.8 seconds.

The second event was the "Taxiway drag race". The object was to start at the designated area then to taxi as fast as you could and pop a balloon tethered to the runway at ground level. Simple right? Half of the pilots did not finish. Then came Wylie and he made it look simple with a time of 5.9 seconds he won the sixteen dollar pot for the event. Adam came in a close second with a time of 6.8 seconds. Jacob, third with 10.0 seconds.

The final event of the day was "Limbo". This was our only judged event in the contest. Charles McDonald and myself made it clear to all the contestants that we were looking to be impressed with style, flair, and a element of danger. Special consideration would be given for an inverted or knife edge pass. Three pilots

opted to try the inverted pass. Only Jacob pulled it off but was too high to win it. Jacob ended up one point behind the eventual winner. Our winner decided to climb to thirty thousand feet upwind. Then put it in a speed dive heading downhill and downwind and at the last second skimming inches off the runway under the pole with authority. It had all the elements we asked for. Style: who would have thought of heading upwind and speed diving downwind! Flair: the last minute skimming inches off the runway. Danger: threading the needle in between and under the poles! Congratulations Doug! Don't spend all of the sixteen dollars at the taco truck. I can see that all those strafing passes paid off! Bill Walters came in third only four points behind the leader and three points behind Jacob. Not bad Bill for your first fun fly.

General Meeting Minutes

January Meeting

By: Paul Kohlmann
20 January 2014

Membership Meeting

Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village
Called to order by Tony McDonald at 7:05pm
19 members were present

Introduction of officers for 2014

(Tony)—Tony McDonald President, Wylie VP/safety, Paul Kohlmann Sec., Phil Leech treasurer, Dave Mercer, John Reade, Jacob McDonald, and Merle McGregor are board members

V.P/Safety Officer's Report

(Wylie)—the old rotten safety ropes have been replaced with new chains. We also discussed the complaint from Victor Trentadue regarding airplanes flown over the Winery.

Treasurers Report

(Phil)—52 members, but still a bunch to get up to date. Account balances are \$7395.26 for the CD, \$6480.83 at Exchange Bank, and \$300 on hand in cash totaling \$14,176.09

Secretary's Report (Paul)—none

Newsletter (Dave)—Tony McDonald guessed the mess last month within minutes. The answer will be revealed in the next newsletter. Pylon Update (Jacob)—racing starts on March 16th thru November. The 2014 rules are up on the website. Brian proposed that Dogfighter return to a 10x10 prop to speed it up a bit. The other Dogfighter pilots from last year agree. This discussion is currently open.

Float fly Update (Merle)—first FF coming up April 13th. Flyers are being distributed now (Thanks John Reade.) Water level is high and Merle will be working with Salvation Army again. There are still \$64 in donations left that will be turned in to the SA. We decided to hold this over until we had a bigger pot to present.

WW1 Combat (Tony)—Charles McD proposed this and the first informal event was kicked off last weekend. Wylie and Jake McD jumped in, too, and cut a number of streamers.

Fun Fly Update (Tony)—scheduled for February 1st, this year winners from each event will split the pot rather than have receive plaques.

CD's Needed for:

- Larry Frank Scale Competition
- Christmas Party
- Swap Meet (Adam announced that he is shooting for March 29th)
- Night Fly

Hobby Expo February 15th in Petaluma—Merle has the lead and is looking for members to staff the booth and bring demo planes. We also need the banner and are looking for it.

Abolish the \$100 Initiation Fee (membership vote) (Tony)—Tony pointed out that our dues plus initiation is much higher than other local clubs. A good discussion was had regarding lowering the barrier to entering the club. Ideas included lowering but not abolishing the fee, adjusting the dues to match the annual budget, and concerns about growing the

membership too fast. A motion was made to abolish and this passed overwhelmingly with two dissenting votes.

Show and Tell (Brian Young)—Brian Young showed off the new Invictus from HobbyKing. This is the EF1 racer designed by Red Jensen. The airplane looked great but Brian had quite a tale about HK's customer service.

Auction (John Reade)

- John bought some Z-poxy for \$5
- Larry bought a parts bin for \$10
- Dave bought an unloved tool box for \$1
- Julio bought a box of nitro race motors for \$29
- Adam bought a sweet little jig saw for \$20
- and a grab bag went to Doug Moore for \$6.

Raffle (John Reade) \$110 in tickets were sold

- Dave—LiPo
- Joe—Rx
- Brian—tools
- Larry—Xacto blades
- Phil—programmng card
- Adam—CF rod collection
- John—fuel tube
- Jake McD—fuel tube
- Wylie—ball cap
- Drew--fiberglass
- Buzz—ammo box
- Bill—ball cap

Board Meeting Minutes ***February Meeting***

By: Paul Kohlmann
3 February 2014

February Board Meeting

Convened at 6:30pm at the offices of JDSU

Membership Meetings—we evaluated the economics of holding our Membership Meetings at Round Table. We determined

that attendance is up ~25% over what we had at the Vet's Hall, and that the savings on room rent, door prize, and insurance (~\$105/mo at the Vet's Hall) is roughly covering what we spend now on pizza (\$102 in January.)

We also discussed ways we might increase attendance and agreed to send a meeting reminder with agenda and raffle/auction items to all members via email just before the meeting in February. We also considered increasing the club's funding of the raffle but elected to hold off on this for now.

Lastly, it was recognized that the treasure trove of auction items that we enjoyed from member donations last year is nearly depleted. We would like to encourage members to unload excess gear at our Membership Meetings. Proceeds can be split any way the contributor sees fit.

We considered moving the meeting start time from 7:30 to 7pm, but elected to bring this up as a topic at the February meeting.

Charging Table Repairs—rapid increases in the load applied to the charging station has made it clear that we are in need of upgrades. Dave suggested that we do some maintenance on the existing system and add additional higher output panels. Dave has the lead on this.

Bank Balance—members have recently asked the question “why do we have so much money in the bank?” Those that were around after the Club was evicted from the dumps will recall how difficult and costly it was to create a new field at Trentadue from scratch. We are still in good standing at our Trentadue site, but we need to be prepared for the unthinkable. Our current balances put us in fairly good shape but would not cover the full cost of relocation.

Web-Page—our website is a bit dated and our webmaster is very busy with other responsibilities. We attempted to identify other resources and are also considering farming a website upgrade out.

Event CD—Phil stepped up to cover the Opening Day but the Larry Frank still needs a lead. There is a possibility that this event will be cancelled without a volunteer.

Replacement of Runway and Pit Area—the astroturf material at our field is disintegrating in the sun after many years of service. Rotten astroturf is beginning to turn up in the vineyard and there are a lot of hazardous loose spots that are chewing up smaller models. We took a quick look at some new runway coverings and are beginning to scope out the project.

V.P./Safety Officer's Report (Wylie)—Julio is building more tables as the field has been getting busier on weekends (Thanks!) Wylie will be organizing a work party in April. Emphasis placed on bracing up some of the tables, recovering tables that didn't get done last year, charging table clean up, and weeding.

Treasurer's Report (Phil)--\$7514 checking, \$7395 CD, \$302 to deposit, and 65 members in good standing. Phil will present the 2013 report to Jake Rosen for independent review.

Secretary's Report (Paul)—two email addresses updated.

Newsletter Update (Dave)—Guess the Mess is only getting 2-3 responses per month. Dave is thinking about sweetening the pot with raffle tickets to the winner or . . . ?

Float Fly (Merle)—Merle dropped by the pond and found the lake very low and no grass. He also dropped off an event flyer to the Salvation Army. Merle also pointed out that we need a new recovery boat. Our canoe is really tippy. Wylie believes that he can line up a better boat.

Pylon Race and WW1 Combat Report (Jacob)—Jake may not be available for first race or two but will delegate to Wylie. Jake pointed out that the folding pylons are in need of repair. Jake, Tony, and Wylie have been having a blast with the WWI combat. Several

members are grabbing bipes to join in the fun. Watch the website for more opportunities for a Dawn Patrol!

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Info From Other Clubs

By: Dave Mercer

Editor's note: the following was forwarded to me from Tony McDonald concerning a racing series some club members may be interested in.

This is a reprint of last month's article since all of the event dates are still in the future, and some new or returning members may not be aware of this opportunity. If you're interested, mark it down on your calendar as I can't say for sure how long I'll keep it on the newsletter.

I (Tony) met Joe DeLater at the Woodland/Davis races. He is interested in getting some of our members to join in on some racing this year. I'm going to try and make it to a lot of these races. It is addicting. The following is an e-mail I received from him:

Below you will find the schedule for 2014. The Oakdale club is going to be bringing back racing so we'll have 5 events this year (another may still be added to mid/late October).

Also, the Oakdale event will be a two day event with Saturday our normal 2 pole line up of T-34, Warbird and Electric Formula 1. Sunday will be 3 pole racing with 2 classes. Electric Formula 1 and slow Q500 (stock TT .40's).

Treasurers Report February 2014

By: Phil Leech

Membership:
Total: 70

So great chance to try some 3 pole racing for those of you with EF1's for the 2 pole racing. For those wanting to try or get back into Q500 here is a chance to do it without having to travel far.

As usual we are fortunate on the west coast to have a lot of racing to choose from. You will find the complete list (that I know of) at www.rcpylonracing.com

Here is the Triangle series schedule:

- March 29th: Triangle Series T-34, Warbird, Electric Formula 1 Race Fresno, CA
- May 3rd: Triangle Series T-34, Warbird, Electric Formula 1 Morgan Hill, CA
- June 21st/22nd: Saturday -Triangle Series T-34, Warbird, Electric Formula 1 Sunday - 3 pole Electric Formula 1 and 424 Q500 Oakdale, CA
- August 9th: Triangle Series T-34, Warbird, Electric Formula 1 Salinas, CA (no unlimited)
- October 4th: Triangle Series T-34, Warbird, Electric Formula 1 Morgan Hill, CA

As usual, please send me any questions, requests for help or suggestions.

I'll post same info on RCUniverse and RCGroup forums so we can have any thread discussions there. I put everyone's e-mail in bcc (usually if I remember) on these messages to protect privacy).

Regards,
Joe

Returning: 67
2014 New: 3
Youth: 8

Financials:
Checking balance: \$7816.00
CD: \$7,395.00

Links and Contributions

By: Dave Mercer

Below is a great link submitted by John Reade. It's a fascinating look at the largest airplane in the world. Thanks John! Enjoy

<http://gelio.livejournal.com/193025.html>

Upcoming Club Events

By: Dave Mercer

Swap Meet March 29 2014

The first Swap Meet of 2014 is officially on the books. Saturday March 29 at the Santa Rosa Vets Building parking lot. Only 10 bucks per table. Gather up all the un-loved items you have and get out there and earn a few dollars. Or just stop by and score some great items at a ridiculously low price. Either way you can't lose. I believe the event's from 9:00 AM to 12:00, or maybe 1:00 PM.

Contact Adam Clement at:
adampclement@gmail.com
707-322-5418
for more info.

WCF 2014 EVENTS SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>
PYLON RACE #1	SUN MAR 16	JACOB
SWAP MEET	SAT MAR 29	ADAM
FLOAT FLY #1	SUN APR 13	MERLE
PYLON RACE #2	SUN APR 20	JACOB
WORK PARTY	SAT MAY 11	WYLIE
OPENING DAY	SUN MAY 19	PHIL/JON
PYLON RACE #3	SUN MAY 25	JACOB
FLOAT FLY #2	MON MAY 26	MERLE
DAN SULLIVAN – UKIAH	JUN 1-2	PROPBUSTERS
PYLON RACE #4	SUN JUN 15	JACOB
LEARN TO FLY	SUN JUN 22	STEVE/JEFF
FLOAT FLY #3	FRI JUL 4	MERLE
SWAP MEET	SAT JUL 5	ADAM
PYLON RACE #5	SUN JUL 20	JACOB
WINGS & WHEELS	SAT JUL 12	PETALUMA
PYLON RACE #6	SUN AUG 17	JACOB
FLOAT FLY #4	MON SEP 1	MERLE
PYLON RACE #7	SUN SEP ?	JACOB
RENO RACES	SEP 10-14	RENO
PCAM	SEP 20-21	PAUL
LARRY FRANK/NEILTAYLOR	SUN SEP 28	PHIL/JON
PYLON RACE #8	SUN OCT 19	JACOB
PYLON RACE #9	SUN NOV 16	JACOB
CHRISTMAS PARTY	FRI DEC 5	PHIL

EVENTS IN THE PLANNING STAGES, STILL UNSCHEDULED:

2 MORE FUN FLIES
 3D BOWLING
 BBQ NIGHT AT THE FIELD
 NIGHT FLY

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DAN SULLIVAN – UKIAH	JUN 1-2	PROPBUSTERS
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FLOAT FLY #3	FRI JUL 4	MERLE
SWAP MEET	SAT JUL 5	ADAM
PYLON RACE #5	SUN JUL 20	JACOB
WINGS & WHEELS	SAT JUL 12	PETALUMA
PYLON RACE #6	SUN AUG 17	JACOB
FLOAT FLY #4	MON SEP 1	MERLE
PYLON RACE #7	SUN SEP ?	JACOB
RENO RACES	SEP 10-14	RENO
PCAM	SEP 20-21	PAUL
LARRY FRANK/NEILTAYLOR	SUN SEP 28	PHIL/JON
PYLON RACE #8	SUN OCT 19	JACOB
PYLON RACE #9	SUN NOV 16	JACOB
CHRISTMAS PARTY	FRI DEC 5	PHIL

EVENTS IN THE PLANNING STAGES, STILL UNSCHEDULED:

2 MORE FUN FLIES
 3D BOWLING
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