

March 2014 Edition

# Wine Country Flyers



Next meeting: **Monday**, 21 April 2014, 7:00 P.M.  
 Round Table Pizza, 2424 Magowan Drive  
 Show up at 6:30 P.M. for the free Pizza!!  
**Starting Monday, January 20, membership meetings**  
**will be the third MONDAY of each month**  
[www.wcflyers.com](http://www.wcflyers.com)

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

## 2014 Club Officers:

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Vice President:	Wylie Walters	(707) 235-6383	<a href="mailto:raidery73@yahoo.com">raidery73@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary:	Paul Kohlmann	(707) 837-9437	<a href="mailto:Paul.Kohlmann@jdsu.com">Paul.Kohlmann@jdsu.com</a>
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## 2014 Board Members:

Merle McGregor	(707) 585-1061	<a href="mailto:merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com">merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com</a>
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Newsletter Team: Dave Mercer, Phil Leech  
 Website: Patrick O'Halloran

## Cover Photo

Photo by: Jon Stychno  
 Caption/Comments by: Dave Mercer

**It's that time of year again folks. Our first Float Fly is set for Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.  
 Don't miss it!!**

**Below is an image from the April 2012 Float Fly of Red Jensen launching his  
 Fun Cub converted to a float plane.**



## ***Presidents Report***

By: Tony McDonald

It's been good to see that we have had new members taking advantage of the decision made by our club to abolish the one time initiation fee in order to join. I personally have enjoyed getting to know some of the new faces. Ken Mackensen, Buzz Russell, Richard Skaff, Mark Crowley, Bill Wellisch have all turned in applications to our club treasurer Phil Leech. This is encouraging to see! After years of no or little new members joining I was beginning to wonder about the future of The Wine Country Flyers. The Trentadue family has been very gracious in letting us enjoy our hobby at their beautiful vineyard. It would have been a shame to see the club continue to

dwindle in membership, and our flying site go unused. We as members should take any opportunity to thank Victor anytime we get to see him. On that note I have started to discuss the idea of replacing our runway at the membership meetings. I think by keeping the appearance of our club as pristine as possible this is the least we can do for the Winery. The old and decomposing AstroTurf runway does the opposite. Vineyard workers and some of the membership have been picking up tattered windblown pieces of it in, and out of the vineyard for the last couple of years now. I believe we have a responsibility to take care of the problem and improve the environment of our club. This is a long term goal of mine which I think everyone will benefit from.

I would like to challenge all of the membership to volunteer any expertise that you may possess in order to improve our club. With a gathering of as many diverse people that we have in this club we should be able to continue being the premiere RC club in the county. Bring any and all ideas to any officer or board member of your club. We would love the help!

Over and out,

Tony

### *Vice Presidents Report*

### *Safety Officer Report*

By: Wylie Walters

I've been waiting all winter and finally pylon racing is back. We even had great weather, last year we were racing in between sprinkles and 15 mph winds. We had a great turn out and some new pilots trying their hand at racing around the poles. There was fast paced action all day and a few aircraft met the vines. If you have never tried it come on out, and if you just watch I'm sure you will want to give it a try. Thanks to Jake McDonald for all the work he put in to redo the pylons; they look great.

**Update:** The work party will be on Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>. So mark the day on your calendar. As we get closer I will update everyone on what tools to bring. It should only take a few hours to get the field looking great. If you have any suggestions for the field please let me know. I sprayed all the weeds in the pits and parking lot but, I'm sure we will have more coming, so when you're out there flying and see a weed, please pull it. The Trentadue's are gracious enough to let us have our field on their property, so let's make sure we keep it looking nice for them.

Wylie

### *Editors Update*

By: Dave Mercer

I have only a few things to mention this month. First off, it appears that last month's Guess This Mess photo stumped everyone. I received not **one** reply. I was a little disappointed that no one even submitted a wild guess. As a result, no one earned any free raffle tickets at last month's meeting. My efforts to elicit more responses by sweetening the deal fell flat on its face. Come on people, you can do better than that; take a stab at it, you just might be right.

In light of all that, this month's Guess This Mess is ridiculously easy. Since I'm all out of photo contributions from current members I had to do some digging around to come up with a photo. Some of you should recognize this one immediately. I found it in an old archive. He's still a member but this is not a current picture. As an added challenge a correct guess will require not just the name of this individual but also the **year** of when the photo was taken. It really shouldn't be that hard to do. Find the photo in the archive and you'll have your answer.

There is one small change to the format of this month's newsletter. In the past the newsletter always contained the Board Meeting Minutes for the current month and the General Meeting Minutes from the previous month. This was due to the intention of completing and sending out the newsletter **before** the third Tuesday of the month. That hasn't happened in a long time. It's often a struggle to get the needed content and finish it up by the **end** of the month. But lately both Paul and Phil have been very punctual with sending me the minutes to both meetings. I've decided to include the General Meeting Minutes for the March meeting here in the March newsletter. This month you'll find both the Feb. and March minutes and from here on out the newsletter will remain more up to date with the latest Board and General Meeting info. The newsletter will always lag behind the website,

as far as the latest news, but there's not much I can do about that.

One final thought. This month marks the one year anniversary of my taking over the newsletter chores. Only nine more years and I'll catch up to Guy's tenure as newsletter editor!! With your continued support and contributions I hope to make this work. Again I would like to remind you that any and all

feedback—good or bad—is helpful. I can handle criticism; I've been married a long, long time so I'm used to it 😊

WCF Newsletter Scribbler  
Dave

### ***Guess This Mess!!***

By: Dave Mercer

Last month's shop: Merle McGregor

Winning Guess: nobody!!!



**Whose shop is this? Anybody care to guess?  
Hint: I found it in an old archive. A correct answer  
(this month) requires both the name AND the year  
this photo was taken. Find the photo and you've  
found the answer. It shouldn't take too long.**

## *General Meeting Minutes*

### *February Meeting*

By: Paul Kohlmann  
17 February 2014

#### **February 17, 2014**

Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village  
Called to order by Tony McDonald at 7:15pm  
18 members were present

**VP/Safety Officer's Report**—Tony spoke in Wylie's absence and called out the need for a work party. One is tentatively scheduled for April—the exact date will be nailed down soon. Julio has volunteered to build one new table.

**Treasurer's Report**—Phil reported the account balances: Checking \$7,716 and CD \$7,395. He also reminded us that we have a Swap Meet scheduled for March 29. The cost to hold this event is \$300, so we will need to sell 30 tables. Adam told us that this has not been a problem in the past. Phil is working on getting the AMA insurance squared away now.

**New Members**—two new members have joined this month. The first is familiar face: Buzz Russell who was present at the meeting. Buzz is well known as a master craftsman of both aircraft and boats. The second is Ken Mackensen who has been flying micros but is moving into bigger things including an Icon.

John and Phil are both working with new prospects met at last weekend's Hobby Expo. That puts us over 70 members.

**Newsletter Editor's Report**—Dave is hoping to get some materials in from our members—particularly cover photos.

**Pylon Racing Update**—Tony spoke for Jake who was away playing baseball. March is shaping up to be a big month for pylon racing. Our first race of 2014 is scheduled for March 16th. Shortly following are races in Fresno on Saturday March 22nd and then Woodland-Davis the weekend after that. Tony is encouraging our membership to come out for the practices at our field and also at these

other events. It might spark your interest and you can always back out;)

**Hobby Expo**—our club was well represented last weekend and quite a few models were flown off of Lucchesi pond. Merle stirred up the seagulls in the morning, but they weren't much of a problem like they were last year when they swarmed anything that lifted off of the water.

Adam pointed out that people would flood out when our planes flew, but that by the time everyone was out the demo would often be ending. Announcing a demo schedule would be appreciated by the attendees.

**General Membership Meeting Start Time**—Phil proposed that we move to a 6:30pm pizza and 7:00pm meeting start. The members present agreed and the change will become effective beginning with the March meeting.

**Charging Table Upgrade**—Dave has begun researching this project by evaluating the system at Liberty. He proposed that rather than make an incremental improvement, we plan to make a much more significant upgrade. As a rough scope, he suggested the addition of 4 large panels totaling ~480W. Adam pointed out that electricians won't be going away anytime soon and a discussion of resources ensued. Brian Young volunteered to help procure the wiring. An estimate of the cost of the project is \$1200.

John Reade moved for a vote to authorize spending this amount on the charging system and the result was a unanimous approval. Dave has the lead.

**Runway Replacement**—Tony brought attention to the condition of the astroturf on our runway. Tony requested that members take a good look at the runway and get prepared for its replacement. It is degrading badly and there are a lot of gaps that are tough for smaller models to negotiate.

A discussion followed regarding options for replacement. Of particular interest is the Geotextile like Woodland-Davis and other clubs are using. Brian Young put a field in like this and was generally positive. This will need more research before any action is taken.

**Show and Tell**—Merle brought his Hog Wild coroplast combat plane. Very simple but it looks like a lot of fun. Sid brought several and is trying to get a quorum flying at Liberty.

### **Auction/Raffle**

John collected \$57.50 in the Auction:

Parts bin, full	Merle
Parts bin, full	Julio
Tool kit	Dave
Monokote, 4 rolls	Doug
Floats	Tony

The Raffle pulled in \$80.

Joe	3S 2200 LiPo
John	3S 2200 LiPo
Merle	spinner
Tony	JPHR shirt
Steve	Spektrum Rx
Julio	36A ESC
Phil	hand tools
Adam	JPHR shirt
Bill	hand tools
Paul G.	hand tools
Dave	hand tools
Buzz	X-Acto blades
Paul K.	LiPo balance
Phil	props

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

## ***Board Meeting Minutes***

### ***March Meeting***

By: Paul Kohlmann  
10 March 2014

Convened at 6:30pm at the offices of JDSU

**V.P./Safety Officer's Report**—Wylie was absent

**Secretary's Report**—at the last General Meeting, Doug Moore reported that the AMA has imposed a new rule that requires that an AMA sanctioned Contest Director oversee any RC airshow that is part of a full-scale airshow. Paul researched and confirmed this, but the process does not appear to be too onerous. He has downloaded the AMA CD application and will order the regulations required for the test. Any member interested in getting a CD rating is welcome to join in on the fun.

**Treasurer's Report**—Phil has been very busy and reported on the following topics:

**Account Balances:** checking is at \$7720.17 and CD is at \$7395.26

**Headcount:** we are already up to 75 members, a bit ahead of the norm. New additions include:

David Street

Richard Skaff

William Wellisch

Please keep an eye out for these guys at the field to welcome them if you get a chance.

**3/29 Swap Meet**—Vet's Hall has been paid and insurance app submitted to AMA

**Trentadue:** Phil is working with the new winery event coordinator

**Christmas Party**—Fri 12/5 is the likely date, but Phil will see if he can get a Sat.

**General Meetings**—Tony polled a group at the field about holding a Members Meeting at the field when the evenings warm up. The overwhelming response was positive with that group and mostly with the Board as well. This will be proposed at the next General Meeting next week.

**Runway Replacement**—Tony contacted Woodland-Davis to discuss the runway that they installed there. He came away with plenty of info. Additionally, Merle told us that Liberty will be installing the same material on their field in April.

**Charging Table**—Dave has been working with a solar wholesaler regarding equipment to upgrade our field. He has identified a

system that puts out 220W for \$266 plus a charge controller for \$90. He's looking at installing two of these systems for ~10x increase in capacity over what we have now. Phil will cut Dave a check for this. Dave's next focus will be on batteries. He may go a bit over the \$1200 budget that was granted at the February General Meeting.

**Pylon Racing Update**—Race #1 this Saturday!

**Float Fly Update**—Merle will be contacting Lt. Alvarez soon. Phil is working on getting the insurance squared away to cover the pond site.

**Newsletter Editor's Report**—it appears that Dave stumped the entire membership with the February Guess the Mess photo. He sweetened the pot with raffle tickets for a correct guess, but has received 0 takers. As always, he could use content from our members—please help him out and send a photo of a flying buddy or a new toy, something interesting you read on the internet. Anything goes!

**Raffle/Auction Report**—John has the prizes all ready to go, including a Parkzone Albatros.

## *General Meeting Minutes*

### *March Meeting*

17 March 2014  
By: Phil Leech

The meeting was held at Round Table Pizza in Montgomery Village. Pizza was served at 6:30PM with the meeting brought to order by Tony McDonald at 7:00 pm. 18 members were present.

### **NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

- We had three new members attending, David Street, Mark Langhofer and Richard Skaff. David and Mark tell me that they are experienced flyers and just need to be

oriented and certified by Wiley at the field. Richard is a student flyer currently being taught and coached by Julio Alvarez. The trio were welcomed by everybody.

### **BUSINESS**

- Secretary's Report – Paul Kohlmann was out of town on business so there was no report.

- Treasurer's Report -The checking account stands at \$6819.55 with the C/D at \$7395.26. We have \$110 on deposit for the Pylon Racers and we have 75 members

- Dave Mercer reported that he is planning to upgrade the charging station by replacing the existing solar panels with 4 new panels (2'x5'each) for a 480 watt system. He will add 4 new storage batteries as well. The upgrade will require revision and re-wiring to the charging station.

- At Pylon Race #1 there were 15 pilots participating, 7 in T-28, 5 in Warbird, 3 in Dogfighter and 7 in EF-1. Weather was good with calm winds and the racing was spirited.

- Tony told us about a serious situation at the field that is causing great concern. Victor Trentadue has reported that there have been overflying incidents at the Winery Offices. He won't tolerate any overflying and has given us warning to control our members' flying. Tony spent quite a bit of time relating how important it is to monitor members' flying and to emphasize the need to stay well clear of the Winery buildings.

- A Swap Meet is scheduled for March 29 at the Veteran's Building parking lot starting at 8:00am Saturday. Tables will rent for \$10 each.

-Chris Seppeler brought in a Hangar 9 P-51 that he offered for sale for \$130. The plane looked to be in perfect condition and Chris said that it had been flown only one time. No one at the meeting appeared to be interested so Chris withdrew the offer.

### **SHOW AND TELL**

- Glenn Binkley brought in the wing from an 8 foot Telemaster that he has modified to include Fowler type flaps. Very clever installation.

- Jake Chichilliti brought in a copy of Model Aviation from 1960. He had it in a plastic bag that he didn't want opened but we could see that the 1960 edition was a very junior example of what we have today. Times have changed.

## THE AUCTION

- There was only one item for the auction, a field box complete with starter and glo starter. Bill Van Asdian bought the box for \$10.

## THE RAFFLE

- Roy Berg got the main prize, an Albatross ARF, John Reade was next taking a Spektrum receiver while Dave Mercer collected a T-28 wing with Paul Gibson opting for a T-28 Canopy section. I got a nice set of Metric wrenches and that left Chris Seppeler with a bag of props.

- Looks like we should have \$188 in the kitty for next month's raffle. Go for it John Reade, who has been selecting and buying for the club for each month's raffle.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05

Report prepared and submitted by Phil Leech for Paul Kohlmann who is out of town on business..

## *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 most 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 in 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).

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](http://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

## ***Treasurers Report March 2014***

By: Phil Leech

Membership:  
Total: 75

Returning: 70  
2014 New: 5  
Youth: 8  
Financials:  
Checking balance: \$6819.55  
CD: \$7,395.26

## ***Links and Contributions***

By: Dave Mercer

**Below are some great links submitted by Tony McDonald. Check them out.**

**Here's one about a 500 MPH super-plane that Buggati had to hide from the Nazis**

<http://gizmodo.com/the-500-mph-superplane-that-buggati-had-to-hide-from-th-1535579524>

**Here's a great one filming a Navy drone**

<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=UduEZaOaonU>

**Here's another one, submitted by Tony, filming an F-18, great stuff, thanks Tony!!**

<http://americanmilitarynews.com/2014/03/video-f-18-action/>

**And here's a short one of a Navy laser taking out a drone**

<http://americanmilitarynews.com/2014/02/navy-laser-takes-drone/>

## ***Upcoming Club Events***

### ***Float Fly***

By: Merle McGregor

It's that time again, to dust off the old float planes and water toys and have some fun.

Our first one is Sunday April 13th. The water level is up, everything looks good. This year we are encouraging people to use the area on the left, as you come in the gate. It's easier access with less rocks to stumble over.

I'm working on an idea for a ramp to go over the rocks if the water level gets low. It involves a sheet of plywood with non-skid strips. If anyone has a good idea, we would like to hear it. It is daunting sometimes getting your plane in the water.

I will be donating 2 dozen doughnuts to the first comers. The donation box will be back for the Salvation Army in appreciation for the use of their lake, but as always it's strictly voluntary.

There will be 3 more float flies:

**Monday May 26 (Memorial day)**

**Friday July 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday September 1st (Labor day)**

Mark your calendars and join us for some fun on the lake. Bring your chairs, shade, lunch, and also your AMA card (number) is required to fly.

SEE YOU ON THE LAKE.

### ***Pylon Racing Update***

By: Tony McDonald  
16 March 2014

Sunny skies finally greeted the Wine Country Flyers pylon races this year. After last years windy and rainy season it was a nice change.

The warm weather brought out fifteen pilots! Paul Gibson, John Reade, Doug Moore, Julio Alvarez, Wylie Walters, Jake Boatman, Dave Mercer, Brian Young, Bryan Germone, Steve Cole, Mark Crowley, Jon Stychno, Paul Kohlmann, Phil Leech, and Myself. And six pilots competed in multiple classes.

**The T-28/Corsair** class had the most entries. Seven in total. Paul Kohlmann and Jake Boatman are tied in the points race with three wins and one cut-out for each pilot.

**The Parkzone Warbird** class had five competitors. We saw our new class with equal speeds with the four different aircraft designs. Two Spitfires, one P-47, one Fw-190, and two Mosquito's raced. Jon Stychno won the points battle for the day.

**The Dogfighter** class had three competitors. Jon Stychno dominated the class with three victories.

**The EF-1** class had seven pilots signed up to compete but one dropped out with equipment malfunctions. Steve Cole won the day with a victory in every race he ran!

### ***Wine Country Flyers Swap Meet***

By: Jake Rosen  
29 March 2014

There are many events that the WC Flyers Club hosts, but few bring so many different people together as their Swap Meets. We are all used to seeing other airplane and helicopter enthusiasts at the field, or club meetings. But, at the Swap Meets you'll rub elbows with enthusiasts who are into airplanes, heli's, cars, trucks, boats, trains, electric, nitro, gas, etc .... Everyone is invited!

Considering the weather, the March 29th Swap was well attended with both sellers and buyers. Club members Adam and Phil worked hard in the last minute to get the event switched indoors at the Vets Hall. While other members worked hard to spread the word and ensure a good turnout.

It appeared that all the available tables were rented out. And it looked like most all the tables were full at the beginning of the day and rather empty towards the end (always a good sign). As with any Swap Meet, some people sold a lot and some people sold a little. Pricing plays the largest factor, and motivated sellers motivated the buyers.

Even though the Swap Meets are not big money making events for the WCF Club, they sure are good for the local RC economy. Swap Meets give everyone a chance at grabbing some good deals, thus stretching their hobby budget. New comers get a chance to see a lot of equipment and purchase items at a great price. And, for those of us who have been into rc for a while, it's a great opportunity to convert older items into cash for future hobby needs. I believe that's what's called a win/win situation!

## WCF 2014 EVENTS SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>
FLOAT FLY #1	SUN APR 13	MERLE
PYLON RACE #2	SUN APR 27	JACOB
WORK PARTY	SAT MAY 11	WYLIE
PYLON RACE #3	SUN MAY 19	JACOB
FLOAT FLY #2	MON MAY 26	MERLE
DAN SULLIVAN – UKIAH	JUN 7-8	PROPBUSTERS
OPENING DAY	SUN JUN 8	(TO BE DETERMINED)
LEARN TO FLY	SUN JUN 15	STEVE/JEFF
PYLON RACE #4	SUN JUN 22	JACOB
FLOAT FLY #3	FRI JUL 4	MERLE
SWAP MEET	SAT JUL 5	ADAM
PYLON RACE #5	SUN JUL 20	JACOB
PYLON RACE #6	SUN AUG 17	JACOB
FLOAT FLY #4	MON SEP 1	MERLE
RENO RACES	SEP 10-14	RENO
PCAM	SEP 20-21	PAUL
PYLON RACE #7	SUN SEP 28	JACOB
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  
 LARRY FRANK/NEIL TAYLOR