

April 2014 Edition

Wine Country Flyers



**Next meeting: Sunday, 4 May 2014, 11:00 A.M.
At the Trentadue field**

**Show up early and fly, or fly after the meeting!!!
Starting Sunday, May 4th, membership meetings will be the
FIRST SUNDAY of each month and held at the flying field at 11:00 A.M.
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
John Reade	(707) 545-9831	jqireade3@sonic.net

Newsletter Team: Dave Mercer, Phil Leech
Website: Patrick O'Halloran

Cover Photo

Photo by: John Reade
Caption/Comments by: Dave Mercer

Below is a photo of what you could possibly win at the raffle of our recently relocated and rescheduled Club Meeting. Come on out to the Trentadue field on Sunday May 4th. The Club Meeting starts at 11:00 A.M. Show up early and fly before the meeting, or stick around later and fly after. Either way it's bound to be fun!!!



Presidents Report

By: Tony McDonald
25 March 2014

As we enjoy our beautiful flying field this summer I need to take a moment to remind all club members that each and every one of us has the responsibility to protect the environment of the Trentadue families Winery. Keep in mind that this is their home and place of business. They have invited us to be their guests, and to enjoy our hobby on their land. There are very few families in California that would grant us such a gift. That being said I want to encourage all of us to fly in the designated area that we have been given. I cannot stress enough that the Winery buildings that sit directly east of the runway shall never be overflowed! The Winery holds

events and conducts their business in these buildings. They have employees and guests visiting these premises daily. If you have an AMA insured guest with you, make sure they are aware of this simple request from our host. You are an ambassador of the club the moment you enter the property. Your conduct reflects upon the entire membership, board members and officers of The Wine Country Flyers.

Thank you,

Tony McDonald WCF President.

McDRacing1@yahoo.com or call 707-479-2152.

Vice Presidents Report Safety Officer Report

By: Wylie Walters

With the wonderful weather it has been great seeing many of you out at the field and lake in the last month. The first pylon race of the year was a blast and it was nice to see some new faces flying around the pylons. The first float fly of the year had great weather and an equally great turn out.

As we are coming up on the work party just a reminder that we had to change the date from Sunday May 11 to Saturday May 10 as we noticed May 11 is Mothers Day. To liven things up this year Tony is having another Fun Fly as soon as the work is done. We will start the work at 10am and should not take but a couple of hours and the more people that show up the sooner we will be done as there will be no flying until the work has been completed.

The work schedule includes: re-covering the tables that were not done last year, weeding, runway maintenance and helping Dave install the new solar panels. So bring your gloves and hammer, and we need gas powered blowers, if you have one or can get your hands on one. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. Hope to see a lot of you there.

Wylie

Editors Update

By: Dave Mercer

I'm happy to report that last month's Guess This Mess photo was correctly identified by two members. Both Merle McGregor and Patrick O'Halloran recognized Jon Stychno's garage/workshop from back in 2007. Both earned three free raffle tickets at our club meeting on April 21st. Merle was there to claim them but Patrick was unable to attend so he squandered his chance to win valuable prizes.

Anyone who sends me a correct Guess This Mess answer will receive prompt confirmation of your answer so you can try to attend the club meeting and take advantage of the free tickets. Don't miss out on this opportunity!!!

Our first float fly of the year, back on April 13th was a rousing success. Merle did a great job putting it all together; prepping the site, dealing with the Salvation Army, the CDF, and dealing with all the small details that make our Float Fly events possible. He deserves all the accolades and appreciation for stepping up and putting in the extra time and effort to make it all happen. For me, it was my best float fly experience yet. The weather was perfect; virtually no wind, glass smooth water, and it stayed that way all day. It was my first chance to fly my micro Icon A5 (that I won at our last Christmas Party) off water. It flew superbly. It has the same three-axis gyro system that enables micro helicopters to fly like much larger aircraft. And it provides the same benefits to a micro airplane. My waterproofing efforts (applying Corrosion X to all the critical electrical components) also worked flawlessly. I had no issues whatsoever with water intrusion or any of the problems that plagued me in the past. Ya gotta love that Corrosion X, it just simply works.

Jon Stychno would probably not claim that he had his "best float fly experience yet." While filming the float fly with his GoPro equipped airplane he tangled with Adam, sending his airplane into a spiraling dive into the water. Thankfully it crashed close to the shore. One of the cameras broke off and sank to the bottom. After about an hour and a half of intense effort Jacob McDonald managed to recover it. A few days later Jon posted the footage on You Tube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-H3PpHmLUcl&feature=youtu.be>

Check out this footage; it's quite remarkable that the camera kept filming, even under water!!! One moment it's capturing footage of airplanes flying through the sky, and a minute later it's capturing footage of algae and algae covered rocks under water. No mermaids or

sea serpents were spotted, which is kind of a disappointment. But the resiliency of those GoPro cameras is impressive, nonetheless.

Our Pylon Racing season has been going strong for two months now. I started off with high hopes back in March at our first round, only to crash in spectacular fashion during the first heat. During the month long wait between races I managed to resurrect my T-28 from the pile of carnage. Fast forward to the April Pylon Racing event and I'm there with my T-28 looking good, and even though it's not totally dialed in it's flying well, and I'm ready to take on the world and make up some lost ground on my fellow competitors. Things were going well during the first three heats, and

then during the last heat of the day I had a midair collision with a fellow competitor, where I suffered the brunt of it and ended up diving off, out of control, into the vineyard. Now I'm back to patching that poor bird back together AGAIN. I've never had such a disastrous start to a pylon racing season. Usually I last till much later in the season before obliterating my aircrafts. Oh well....that's racing.

WCF Newsletter Scribbler
Dave

Guess This Mess!!

By: Dave Mercer

Last month's shop: Jon Stychno, back in 2007

Winning Guess: Merle McGregor and Patrick O'Halloran



Whose shop is this? Anybody care to guess?

General Meeting Minutes

April Meeting

By: Paul Kohlmann
21 April 2014

Round Table Pizza, Montgomery Village
Called to order by Tony McDonald at 7:00pm
18 members were present

VP/Safety Officer's Report—the Work Party is now scheduled for Saturday, May 10th to avoid Mothers' Day. Seven tables will be recovered, a lot of weeding needs to be done, and some other repairs are needed. The starting station for gassers is already in.

Tony has scheduled Fun Fly #2 to follow immediately after the work party (~12:00). The events will be Golf, Dice Roll, and All Up All Down. A little work will be a prerequisite to entry.

Treasurer's Report—Phil reported the account balances: Checking \$6,474, and CD \$7,438. 79 members are now in good standing! That's up by a hair over the last couple of years with quite a few months left to go.

New T-Shirts!—all white this time, heavy cotton, \$20 each, a variety of sizes.

New Members—Richard Skaff, David Street, and George Leap were all present. Alan Spaeth and Josh Zappa have rejoined as well. Welcome to the Club!

Pylon Racing Update—Jake repeated the new rule for all classes: all racers must stay above the pylons. The purpose is to be more consistent with national rules, but the underlying goal is to make the races a little safer. Warnings will be issued for the short term while racers adjust.

EF1 will be checked for weight beginning this month—the minimum is 3.5lbs with battery installed. Batteries will also be checked for max voltage in the near future.

The Race Director will begin checking for unapproved mods in all classes, particularly clipping wings and reducing weight. Weight gain from additional glue is always allowed;)

Float Fly #1 Update—17 pilots signed up on a beautiful day on April 13th. The Salvation Army donation box received \$74—thanks to all who contributed! Wiley scored a new boat to replace the spindly canoe. It is locked up at the firehouse—combo is the same as for the field gate.

While there wasn't a lot of tragedy at this event, it is worth noting that Jon's giant powered glider with two GoPros collided with Adam's Fun Cub. Jon went into the drink and lost one of his cameras. It was recovered later—check the website for Jon's video in the forum.

Later on, a guest got his float plane stuck in tree but was recovered intact with help from Merle and others.

Charging Table Upgrade—Dave has the metal framework fabricated for the new charging hardware. He will need some help to install it at the Work Party. Next on his punch list is the wiring and purchase of the additional batteries.

Jake and Tony MacD stripped the covering off of the existing table as it was disintegrating.

Newsletter Editor's Report—Dave needs Guess this Mess photos. Don't be shy: a mess is a sign of productivity. Well, sometimes.

Swap Meet Report—Adam gave us a post-mortem. We made \$20 now that the AMA has rebated part of our insurance cost. Raising

money isn't the purpose of this event, but it's nice to come out slightly ahead.

A second swap meet will be held toward the end of the year. Adam is planning to get an ad posted into Model Aviation.

CD's Needed for Larry Frank and Opening Day—Richard Skaff and George Leap stepped up after Tony's desperate plea for a CD's so that we can keep these events alive. (I'm not sure what to say when our brand new members volunteered while our seasoned members looked at the floor).

Members Experiencing Hardships—Tony extended the offer of waived dues for members who experience extreme hardship. Earlier this month, the Board agreed that we would rather see the Club extend a hand than lose a member. This would be a one-time event that shouldn't be abused, but if a person found themselves in this kind of a bind please consider discussing this with a Board member. This kind of discussion would be discrete.

Summertime General Meetings at the Field—a lot of members have said that they would be very interested in this. Tony pointed out that the \$100 that we spend on pizza could go into the raffle. It would be fun to have Show & Tell at the field, were demos could be flown. If it were moved to the weekend we would expect to get more members than the weeknight meetings.

Doug Moore asked if there was a risk that we would lose our spot at Round Table. Tony envisions that we might move the meeting to the field for the nice season and then reset with Round Table later in the year. Other clubs like Ukiah do this now and it works well.

A motion was made to move the Membership Meetings to the first Sunday at 11am, beginning May 4th, 2014. The approval was unanimous.

Show and Tell—Tony showed off a photo of a Kyosho Macchi flying boat that he just

ordered. He has the bug to get some Schneider-type waterplane/pylon racing going.

Auction/Raffle

The Raffle pulled in \$123

Buzz—Parkzone Albatros BNF
Phil—3S 2250 LiPo
Bill—Parkzone T28 fuse
Paul—T28 prop
Richard—book
Glenn—glue
David S—sim expansion pack
Dave M—eflite hat

No Auction this month.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Board Meeting Minutes

April Meeting

By: Paul Kohlmann
7 April 2014

Convened at 6:30pm at the offices of JDSU

Charging Table Update (Dave)—Dave is ready for some help framing up a new table. He is in the planning stages on the electrical side. He will give Brian Young a call for help with some materials. John passed Brian's number on to Dave.

Members Overflying the Winery (Tony, Wylie, John)—Tony is keeping this in the forefront as any complaint from Trentadue is a serious affair. Victor has Wylie's number so that he can make a quick call if there is another incident. We are all hoping that there will be no need for this.

Work Party (Wylie)—Coming up Sunday, May 11th. Wylie has been working up the expenses for materials for the upcoming work party. The tab is currently at \$285. He will be installing the gas starting station.

Float Fly #1 (Merle)—Merle will be arranging a work party for the pond in preparation for the April Float Fly. John will help him mow the dam on Wednesday. Wylie will be picking up a 12' flat bottom aluminum boat in time for FF#1. This would be a big improvement over the tippy canoe.

Pylon Racing (Jacob, Wylie)—The first race of 2014 had a good turn out. The new rule requiring pilots to fly above the pylons worked ok but was lightly enforced for Race #1. It will be tightened up for the next race.

Secretary's Report (Paul)—Paul has submitted his application to the AMA to be certified as a Contest Director. This is in response to the AMA's new policy that organizers of RC demos at all fullscale airshows must be certified CD's.

Treasurer's Report (Phil)—Jake Rosen has completed the independent audit of the Club's 2013 finances. Phil provided Jake with a neatly organized file. Jake approved the report without any concerns.

Phil has been working with Trentadue's new events coordinator to make sure that we are up to date with the winery's event schedule. He is also working on nailing down the Christmas Party.

Account balances were reported as Savings \$6958.36, CD \$7395.26, \$435 in checks and cash.

Swap Meet Debrief (Phil)—the swap meet cost \$300 in fees and the Club sold \$300 in tables. We are due a \$20 credit from the AMA for insurance, plus the club made \$25 in sales of a couple of odds and ends. Turnout was quite good, despite or perhaps because the weather was wet and windy. A special thanks goes to the Vet's Hall for letting us move indoors! After the fact, Phil learned that the nice big room was actually \$55/hr whereas the parking lot was \$75. This will be considered when we hold the second Swap Meet later in the summer.

Shirts/Hats (Tony)—we agreed to get another order of shirts together in advance of the airshow. We made a bit of money last year even with a very reasonable prices tee. Hats were tougher to unload and are fairly expensive for the club to purchase. This year we'll go with grey.

We decided to hold off on hats for now, despite the fact that we won't have to pay a set up fee the next time around.

Auction/Raffle (John)—John has a budget of \$198 from ticket and auction sales last month.

Newsletter (Dave)—Dave got a number of correct responses to the Guess the Mess. The photo was of Jon Stychno's shop. Merle and Patrick both earned 3 raffle tickets for the April Members' meeting. Dave would love to get a few more photos for coming editions!

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

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

April 2014

By: Phil Leech

Membership:

Total: 79

Returning: 70

2014 New: 9

Youth: 8

Financials:

Checking balance: \$6474.00

CD: \$7438.00

Links and Contributions

By: Dave Mercer

Below is an article submitted by Jake Chichilitti, first published in the Peninsula Channel Commanders' Newsletter and forwarded to me by Jake. As an avid longtime modeler he's involved in several clubs and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience.

2014 OCEANA INTERIM OR WHAT I DID FOR EASTER BREAK

By: Jake Chichilitti, Wine Country Flyers

The Peninsula Channel Commanders spearheaded by Dennis Lowry and Ken Martinez set up a program to teach High School students the basics of aerodynamics, building and flying simple rubber powered free flight models, operating and flying nitro powered control line models and flying radio controlled trainers. The interim took place from Monday March 24 through Friday March 28.

The club has done this for the past five years with the help and support of the club members and J&M Hobby House who have donated their time and materials to make this program a success. Thanks also to the staff of Oceana High School for allowing us to participate in the Interim Program. In addition to the modeling activities, we were able to arrange a field trip to the NASA Ames facility in Mountain View. The tour was lead by Dr. William Warmbrodt, NASA Ames Aeromechanics Branch Chief, who was as enthusiastic to give the tour, as we were to be there. Speaking for myself it was the most interesting and educational part of the program. We were given a tour of the giant wind tunnel, a simulated control tower where our air traffic controllers can train in a realistic environment. We also saw full-scale helicopters that are used for research and small quad copters that NASA is developing. The students and adults were suitably impressed.

Our club members gave the students lectures on aerodynamics, internal combustion engines

and foam cutting wings. There may have been other lectures, but I missed the first day of classes. This year there were seven students who signed up for the class and as a group they were attentive and showed good skills in building and flying models. I personally like to help them learn to fly control line models, as that is what really got me hooked on modeling. I designed a small 1/2A control line model for training and I'm happy to say it lasted through many mishaps and will fly again at next year's interim. All of the students mastered the art of control line flying from take off to landing. On one of the days, the Vice Principal visited the flying field and we asked him if he would like to try his hand at control line flying. Although he does fly RC models he had a few crashes before he got the hang of it, to the delight of the class.

On Friday afternoon we adjourned to the school gymnasium to have a contest with the rubber-powered models they built. After a bit of final testing we lined up the class and had them do a mass launch. The first one down had to sit down. All had a good time and we had two indoor micro RC models for the first and second place winners. At the end of the class I felt that the students had a great time and took away knowledge that they didn't have when we started. But the feeling of satisfaction that I and the other club members felt can't be measured. I have been in modeling many years and it is in all honesty the most satisfying feeling a person can experience.

Thanks for letting me join you,
Jake

Beside Dennis and Ken, the following members also took part in the Interim; Richard Symmons, Eric Einarsson, Mark Heckman, Ken Adlawen, and Mike Solaegui. Thank you for participating in the Interim.

Upcoming Club Events

WCF Work Party and Fun Fly

May 10 2014

By: Dave Mercer

As mentioned above, our club has scheduled our annual work party / field maintenance day for May 10th (a Saturday.) As an added enticement Tony has scheduled a Fun Fly to begin immediately following the work party. With one important condition; only those people who showed up earlier and participated in the work party will earn the right to participate in the fun fly. Don't show up after all the work's been done and expect to have all the fun. That only seems fair to all those members that truly helped out. I will be out there, intent on getting our new solar panels installed, as soon as I can get up to the field after my daughter's Sonoma State University graduation ceremony is finished (which I just learned starts at 9:00 A.M. on May 10th.) See you there!!!

Dave

Pylon Racing Update

By: Jacob McDonald
28 April 2014

Aprils Pylon racing started out with a wet runway as well as overcast skies. The overcast didn't last long before the sun came out and the field dried up. In the EF-1 class the airplanes were weighed and most people passed the first time but some people had to break out the quarters and tape to add some weight. All and all it was a fun and exciting race day with tons of carnage!

The T-28/Corsair class had six entries. The pilots were John Reade, Paul Gibson, Phil Leech, Jake Boatman, Paul Kohlman, and Dave Mercer. This class had the most carnage of the day with multiple mid-air! The first mid-air of the day was Phil Leech and John Reade, when they got together Phil's Corsair lost its wings while the fuselage kept going! John broke the wing spar in his T-28

but skillfully made it back onto the ground safely. The next mid-air in this class was between Dave Mercer and Paul Gibson. When these two got together Dave lost half of his wing and spiraled into the vineyard. Paul appearing to have minimal or no damage continued to race. When Paul landed and we looked for damage on his T-28 it appeared to have no damage!

The Warbird class had five entries, there was also a lot of close combat racing happening in this class as well which made it interesting to watch. This classes pilots were Tony McDonald, Jacob McDonald, Jon Stychno, Wylie Walters, and Brian Germone. The first two races of this class all the battles were happening up front while the racers in the back flew the course safely and waited for the leaders to cut. The last two races everybody was in a big pack trying to beat one another out while trying not to take out another fellow racer! The last race of the day for this class Jon and Jacob mid-aired! Jon's Spitfire took off Jacob's Mosquito wingtip and half of the flap. The Mosquito did make a mayday belly landing making it back safely while the Spitfire continued to race and got the victory!

The Dogfighter class had two pilots, Adam Clement and Jon Stychno. This class was the only class to not have any injured airplanes. But the pilots still put on good exciting races to watch.

EF-1 had six entries. The racers were Tony McDonald, Jacob McDonald, Jon Stychno, Brian Germone, Wylie Walters, and Steve Cole. This class had some exciting battles as well as all of the other classes but what usually comes with good battles is mid-air. Jacob and Jon got together again and Jacob's Miss Dara had Jon's Shoestring put the prop through the wing but both continued to race. Jon's Shoestring suffered a prop ding

-Jacob McDonald

WCF 2014 EVENTS SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>
WORK PARTY	SAT MAY 10	WYLIE
PYLON RACE #3	SUN MAY 18	JACOB
FLOAT FLY #2	MON MAY 26	MERLE
DAN SULLIVAN – UKIAH	JUN 7-8	PROPBUSTERS
OPENING DAY	SUN JUN 15	RICHARD SKAFF
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