

May 2014 Edition

# Wine Country Flyers



**Next meeting: Sunday, 1 June 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](http://www.wcflyers.com)**

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

## 2014 Club Officers:

President :	Tony McDonald	(707) 479-2152	<a href="mailto:mcdancing1@yahoo.com">mcdancing1@yahoo.com</a>
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>
Treasurer:	Phil Leech	(707) 538-8557	<a href="mailto:leechstudios@sonic.net">leechstudios@sonic.net</a>
Safety Officer:	Wylie Walters	(707) 235-6383	<a href="mailto:raidery73@yahoo.com">raidery73@yahoo.com</a>

## 2014 Board Members:

Merle McGregor	(707) 585-1061	<a href="mailto:merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com">merle_mcgregor@yahoo.com</a>
Dave Mercer	(707) 304-3967	<a href="mailto:mcdave@sonic.net">mcdave@sonic.net</a>
Jacob McDonald	(707) 327-6627	<a href="mailto:Jmcdracer@yahoo.com">Jmcdracer@yahoo.com</a>
John Reade	(707) 545-9831	<a href="mailto:jqireade3@sonic.net">jqireade3@sonic.net</a>

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

## Cover Photo

Photo by: Tony McDonald  
Caption/Comments by: Dave Mercer

***Below is a photo submitted by Tony McDonald of a vintage Reno Racing aircraft.  
Anybody up to researching what aircraft? What year? And who might be the pilot?  
Correct answers will be published in next month's newsletter.***



## ***Presidents Report***

By: Tony McDonald  
10 May 2014

This month I would like to take some time to tell everyone about a member of our club that has been volunteering his time and talents back to the club for years now.

Dave Mercer has been hard at work planning, purchasing, fabricating, and installing a new and improved charging table at the flying field. Most of us use the charging table every time we come to the field nowadays. The club has been blessed with a member such as Dave that has the ingenuity and desire to provide the club with this convenience. John Reade, Jacob, and myself stayed late after the work party on May 10th to help Dave assemble and install the solar panels at the field. I can tell you Dave has a lot of time invested in just the fabrication of the frames that hold the panels. Not to mention that he has been a board member, Vice President, and now Newsletter editor for the club.

If you ever get the chance to help Dave with anything, do it. You will find him to be a friendly ambassador of the club, and generally a good person.

Thanks again Dave,  
Tony

## ***Vice Presidents Report*** ***Safety Officer Report***

By: Wylie Walters

Thank you to all that showed up to the work party. The place looks better than ever. We had about 20 people there to help and a lot of new faces which was great to see. A lot of

work was done. We replaced many table tops and recovered 9 of the tables, replaced worn sections of turf in the pits and tacked down the runway.

Thanks go out to the crew of guys that pulled all the weeds, got the weed eater going and then blew off the pits, runway, and heli pad. Thanks again to everyone who was there; I wish I could name you all but don't want to forget anyone. A special thanks to Dave Mercer whose daughter's graduation from SSU was that morning but still came out after and got the new solar panels mounted.

We were hoping for good weather for the fun fly after the work party so we could get a big group in the air, unfortunately the wind was a gusting crosswind at 15mph+. With that weather there were only 5 pilots crazy enough to fly, but I think those that chose to watch had a good time watching the excitement, especially the landings.

Thanks again and hope we see all of you again for the fall work party.

Wylie

## ***Editors Update***

By: Dave Mercer

First of all, I feel I should mention that this month's President's report (that you just read up above) was by no means solicited or encouraged by me. My initial thought when I opened his e-mail attachment containing the Prez Report was "I can't print this....I don't want, or need, any praise or recognition...that's not why I'm doing all this." But after I settled down a bit I realized that I'm serving as Editor, and NOT censor. If that's Tony's President Report for this month, so be it, I'll print 'em as I get 'em, with minor spelling and punctuation corrections, if needed (fulfilling my editorial duties) and leave the main content as is.

Not that I'm disputing what he wrote. Yes, I have spent a lot of time deciding what solar panels to buy, acquiring them, deciding what materials to use for the frames, doing a lot of careful measurements, and fabricating it all together so that it all works. I'm thinking he was mainly impressed by the fact that it did all fall together so seamlessly. I dragged an assortment of solar panels, frames, a bag of bolts, nuts and washers from the back of my truck and it all fell together like it was meant to be, with no grief at all. But that was the whole point. I had taken the time to make sure that everything would work BEFORE I dragged it all up there. I've been doing this kind of stuff for a long, long time, so it's nothing new to me.

But enough about me....if we're gonna mention people who have gone that extra mile for the club, we need to broaden the field...considerably. Just thinking off the top of my head there's more than a few that come to mind.

Adam Clement has served as President, and is actively involved in almost every event we've held for as many years as I've been part of the club—since '05. Doesn't matter if it's a Fun Fly, Pylon Race, Opening Day, PCAM....whatever, we can count on Adam to be out there, putting on a show. He's a damn good pilot, if you haven't already noticed. He's also the main person behind our successful Swap Meets.

Jon Stychno has served as President for two years, took a brief hiatus and then served again. He's also served as CD and announcer for many of our club events. Jon also developed our relationship with the PCAM /Airshow folks over several years, acting as both coordinator and announcer, with stellar results. And let's not forget that we wouldn't even HAVE a charging table if it weren't for Jon tossing that idea out there during a club meeting when he was President. I often get credit for putting the charging table together—though I will readily admit that I had help—but it was Jon's idea that set it all in motion.

Merle McGregor is another member who has worked tirelessly for the club. Anyone who has enjoyed one of our Float Fly events needs to thank Merle. He's been dealing with the CDF Fire people, and the Salvation Army folks, and all else that goes on behind the scenes—the mowing and preparation, etc.—for at least a decade now. Year after year we've been able to count on Merle to devote a lot of his time and efforts towards club activities.

Phil Leech is another member who doesn't seek the spotlight, yet works tirelessly to deal with all the details and minutiae that keep the club, and club events sustainable. Believe me, nobody stresses over the details like Phil. A lot goes on behind the scenes to keep the club functioning, and Phil has a major role in getting all that done. Our recent success at self-catering our Christmas Party is largely due to Phil's efforts—though a lot of other members also contribute, as I'm sure Phil would readily agree-- the fact still remains that he chooses to carry a heavy burden on his shoulders and always comes through in the end.

The list goes on and on....The more I write, the more I'm reminded of others to include. I may need to give much briefer reasons for including these next members—which shouldn't be taken as lessening their contributions. At some point I'm gonna have to stop; which means I will surely neglect to mention some worthy folks. I apologize for that in advance.

Other members that need mentioning.....

John Reade has been a long time member, always willing to lend a hand and get things done.

Patrick O'Halloran has devoted countless hours keeping our website up and running.

Brian Young has always been willing to step up and provide his construction expertise towards club improvements and projects.

Wylie Walters and his father Bill have both dedicated many hours to helping the club.

I won't even begin to list all the past and present club Presidents and Officers that have served the club. Their extra level of commitment and contribution is too obvious.

But I would like to mention those members who have stepped up and filled roles—important roles—when others have stepped down.

When Jon Stychno decided to step down from announcing at the PCAM Airshow, Roy Berg stepped in and did a superb job.

Glenn and Dawnelle Binkley stepped in and took over the “Kitchen Crew” duties for our catered field events, and have provided delicious cuisine.

Larry Gustafson should be recognized for providing first-rate barbeque/social events at his own home during PCAM, or at the Float Flys.

Some of our newest members have quickly stepped up to provide needed service to the club. Richard Skaff and George Leap being two of the latest. Doug Moore, Jake Chichilitti and others have proven to be valuable additions also. I applaud the efforts of all of you.

The overall reality of the situation remains quite clear. Our club is blessed to have a multitude of members that are willing to put in the extra effort necessary to keep everything running smoothly, or improve things. Very few RC flying clubs can boast of having the talent level that we possess in our membership. County-wide, state-wide, or even on a national level the Wine Country Flyers can stand proud against anyone. How many other clubs have a member who designs and builds from scratch unique models, and then gets recognized in our national AMA magazine with an article that

he wrote—Paul Kohlmann. How many clubs have a member (now former member) who gets lured away by NASA to oversee and conduct their model development—Red Jensen. How many clubs have people like Steve Cole, former hobby store owner, longtime aviation enthusiast, superb pilot, and a wealth of knowledge, willing to help the rest of us. Jake Rosen has similar credentials, only difference being that he's still a hobby store owner—Jakes Performance Hobbies—support your local hobby store!!! When our WCFlyer pylon racing die-hards venture to other areas to compete they often put the local boys to shame—Tony McDonald, Jacob McDonald, Steve Cole, and others can compete with anyone. Some of our younger members are equally impressive—Gabriel Black has insane helicopter flying skills, Ben Mackles is another impressive pilot, flying like a seasoned veteran—which he is—regardless of his age.

I could go on and on.....but I won't. The point I would like to stress is that our club is chock full of dedicated, talented, hard-working members. I do what I can to contribute, but so do many others. If some of you are thinking to yourselves “heck, I've never done anything for the club, I just show up and fly.....” maybe you should reevaluate your position and make a greater effort to get involved in all the vital tasks that our club needs to fulfill. Your participation may prove to be immensely satisfying, providing personal growth, and the chance to work with other great people. Just give it a thought.....

I think I've rambled on long enough.....  
That's all for now

Dave Mercer  
WCFlyers (currently long-winded) Editor

## *Guess This Mess!!*

By: Dave Mercer

Last month's shop: Wylie Walters

Winning Guess: John Reade, Paul Kohlmann, Jacob McDonald, Larry Gustafson, and Jerry Leister.

Congrats to all of you, well done!!!!



**Whose shop is this? Anybody care to guess?**

## *General Meeting Minutes*

### *May Meeting*

By: Paul Kohlmann  
5 May 2014

#### **May 4, 2014**

Trentadue Field

Called to order by Tony McDonald at 11:00am  
21 members were present

**President's Report**—Tony opened the meeting by inviting the membership to enjoy lovely floral cupcakes that captured the essence of Spring. Despite the numerous gender-challenging comments, they were delicious and rapidly scarfed up.

**VP/Safety Officer's Report**—Work Party on track for Saturday May 10. Wylie expects the table and field clean up to take a couple of hours. Fun Fly #2 will kick off right after the work is done.

Dave Mercer announced that he will be at his daughter's graduation from SSU (congrats) and will need to delay the panel upgrade until after the Fun Fly. Dave got a head start by installing new panel mounts after this meeting.

Mike C. announced that he can get batteries at cost for the upgraded charging station.

**Secretary's Report**—Paul received his Contest Director cert from the AMA. That puts us in conformance with the new AMA rule that RC demos at fullscale airshows must be directed by an AMA CD.

Mike C. has been in contact with a PCAM director and has been keeping the club in the forefront.

**Treasurer's Report**—Phil reported the account balances: Checking \$6,747, and CD \$7,438. 79 members are now in good standing.

**New Members/Guests**—Jay Benbow and his son Tyler were present. They recently arrived from Kansas.

**Float Fly #2**—Scheduled for Memorial Day, May 26th. The opening Float Fly was fantastic and we expect this next one to be at least as good.

**Opening Day**—George Leap and Richard Skaff will be the CD's with help. The date has been set for July 12th. We have ~7 planes lined up for the Paintball Shootdown, including John's Ol' Venerable that has been resurrected from two previous shootdowns.

**Winery Flyover**—Victor reported that yet again someone was overflying the winery. He did not provide much detail, but this remains a serious problem.

**Frequency Pin Board**—the members present were polled to see who is still flying FM. John Reade and Jake Chichilitti responded affirmatively and a couple of members said maybe on occasion. Tony proposed that this small number can easily self-regulate, so that the frequency board can be removed. The board is looking ratty and has become an eyesore.

**Trash**—please be aware that there is no trash service at the field. Anything that goes in the can has to be hauled off by a member. This is particularly true of crashed aircraft which fill the cans very quickly. Continue to feel free to crash, but please take the evidence with you.

**Show and Tell**—Glen brought in his 8' Telemaster. It is ready for covering and he plans to fly it at our field once it is completed. He made a few mods, mainly to make it more transportable.

#### **Auction/Raffle**

The Raffle pulled in \$236

Brian—3S 2250

Paul—Albatros BNF

Adam—Zipper  
George—ESC  
Larry—foam stand

No Auction this month.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

## ***Board Meeting Minutes*** ***May Meeting***

By: Paul Kohlmann  
5 May 2014

Convened by Tony MacDonald at 6:30pm at the offices of JDSU

**Vice President/Safety Officer's Report** (Wylie)—Coming up Saturday, May 10th. Wylie ID'd the tables that need to be recovered. He expects to get the work done in an hour or two.

Tony will be managing the Fun Fly afterward. Wylie has a bunch of golfballs for the drop event.

Merle called out a conflict with the Makers' Faire in Yountville. Merle, Jake Chichilitti, and Larry Gustafson will be doing some RC and possibly control line demos there.

**Secretary's Report** (Paul)—Paul has received his Contest Director certification from the AMA. A note has been sent to last year's PCAM director to check in. Tony is interested—Paul will hand over the materials.

**Treasurer's Report** (Phil)—Account balances were reported as Savings \$6,747, CD \$7,438. We have \$230.36 available for the June raffle.

Phil projects the Christmas Party budget to run ~\$3,200. Dave forecasts that he will spend ~\$1,600 for the charging station update. Wylie expects to spend ~\$300 on the work party. The rest of the expenditures for the year are expected to be modest.

**Runway Replacement**—Tony presented info on the geotextile material that quite a few clubs are using, including Woodland-Davis. Tony was quoted \$3,470 for materials and shipping, with some incidentals that would bring it to just about \$4,000. He has also done quite a bit of research on how to install it for maximum lifespan. The runway would need to be graded, rolled, and for best performance fine gravel should be applied below it.

**Charging Table Update** (Dave)—Dave and John predrilled the holes for the new solar panels. Dave's goal is to get the new panels installed at the Work Party, but the wiring and other install tasks will follow later. Some trenching and conduit will be required. Dave will be working with Brian Young on the wiring.

**Winery Schedule**—Phil has received the current winery event schedule. Most of the events are on Saturdays and in the afternoon, so there won't be a lot of conflict. It isn't clear yet if we can return to Electric Only vs. Field Closed for those events that are during prime flying hours.

**Opening Day**—Richard Skaff proposed to hold this event on June 29th. He is working with George Leap and Phil to pull this together. Thanks Richard and George!

**Larry Frank**—Phil proposed that we hold this event on August 24th.

**Pylon Race Update**—the Board discussed the last race where some members ran out onto the field to clean up crashes while the heats were still on. This was discussed at the Members Meeting and has to stop. We also discussed whether the rule should be enforced requiring racers to drop out of a heat after making contact. This will probably be enforced in the future but the plan is meter in the changes.

**Float Fly #2**—Coming up May 26th. Merle will manage the event again. He reminded us how important it is to remove every trace but the footprints from the Sal Lake property.

Merle also suggested that we have a BBQ at the July 4th Float Fly. Larry did one for us awhile back and it was very well received.

**Training Program**—Tony presented a training plan from another club and proposed that we adopt something similar. A discussion followed regarding getting something similar on our website as well as getting an instruction program going again. We agreed that this needs to be a priority, and that we have plenty of competent instructors.

Paul took the assignment of adjusting the training plan for our use. The next step will be for the group to sign up instructors.

**Newsletter** (Dave)—Dave got five correct responses to last month's Guess the Mess. The photo was of Wylie's shop—including his well-known Red Bull T28. The correct guessers received raffle tickets for the May 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](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***

***May 2014***

By: Phil Leech

### Membership:

Total: 80

Returning: 70

2014 New: 10

Youth: 8

### Financials:

Checking balance: \$6561.65

CD: \$7438.

## ***Pylon Racing Update***

By: Tony McDonald  
19 May 2014

High winds blowing down the pylons on both ends of the course greeted the racers early in the morning Sunday May 18Th.

After the usual Pilots meeting the racing started shortly after ten o'clock. Paul Gibson and Doug Moore got the T-28/Corsair class under way with a mid-air collision on the back stretch of the short course. Paul only lost his canopy, while Doug went down in the vineyard hard. Looks like Doug will be able to repair his racer with a little tender loving care!

The Parkzone Warbird class saw it's first crash early. Paul Kohlmann's beautifully painted Swiss ME-109 spun into the grapes. The only FW-190 to compete this year was damaged on final approach after hitting a metal stake at the end of the runway. Both Paul and Wylie should have their planes repaired by next mouths race.

The Dogfighter class had three pilots compete this race! Jon Stychno, Brian Young, and Adam Clement were burning up the pylons. There were a lot of close calls, but no collisions.

EF-1 racing was rather un-eventful. A lot of clean racing and only one damaged Miss Dara on landing.

Due to the windy conditions there was a lot of precision flying demonstrated in all of the four different racing classes this month. Some carnage was on display also allowing some spectators to see the inner most details of model airplanes. As always it was a great show. With a little ruffled feathers, bruised egos, some heckling and a lot of fun. Special thanks to the race Director for keeping everything as fair and even as possible.

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## WCF 2014 EVENTS SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>
DAN SULLIVAN – UKIAH	JUN 7-8	PROPBUSTERS
PYLON RACE #4	SUN JUN 22	JACOB
OPEN HOUSE	SUN JUN 29	RICHARD SKAFF
FLOAT FLY #3	FRI JUL 4	MERLE
PYLON RACE #5	SUN JUL 20	JACOB
PYLON RACE #6	SUN AUG 17	JACOB
LARRY FRANK/NEIL TAYLOR	SUN AUG 24	RICHARD SKAFF
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