

December 2014 Edition

Wine Country Flyers



**Next meeting: THURSDAY 29 January 2015, 7:00 P.M.
At Round Table Pizza, 2065 Occidental Rd. in Santa Rosa**

**This is a different Round Table Pizza across town
just west of Stony Point Rd in Santa Rosa**

Pizza served at 6:30 PM, meeting starts at 7:00 PM

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) 975-4723	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 Image

**Photo submitted by: Paul Kohlmann
Caption and comments by: Dave Mercer**

**Here's an image from our last Fun Fly of 2014
Ever wonder what a Wingless Pylon Race looks like?
Well here you go.**



Presidents Report

By: Tony McDonald
7 November 2014

The benefits to joining a local modeling club may not be totally apparent at first thought. Years ago I flew where ever I could find enough room to takeoff and land. It seemed silly to me that there were at the time four RC airplane clubs in Sonoma County. When I found out there was also a national association called the AMA, I was a little more interested in what these organizations were all about.

The most important benefit from of all of these clubs was the social connections that I have made through the years. I would have most likely never have known all of the people I've met. Doctor's, Lawyers, Judges, Policemen, Cal OSHA employees, and all kinds of tradesman, NASA and Aeronautical engineers, business owners, have all become members of our club and great friends to the modeling community here in Sonoma County. The knowledge that all our members have pooled together as a whole is tremendous. I have been amazed at what can be done by the Wine Country Flyers club with all the

various professions being represented by its members.

So as my RC airplane hobby has progressed through the years I can look back on all the benefits I have enjoyed from the nine clubs I've been apart of, and know that it was not so silly to be part of a club after all. If you find yourself not yet a member of a club I encourage you to do so. You will find it pays you back a lot more than the membership dues you pay. The friendships you make will last a lifetime and most likely extend past the hobby that you share. Join us at the Wine Country Flyers and help us continue to build our model airplane club into a wholesome community based club that has a future in Sonoma County!

Happy Holidays!

Tony McDonald (2014 President of the WCFlyers)

P.S. See you on the pylon courses of California and possibly the NATS in 2015!

Vice Presidents Report Safety Officer Report

By: Wylie Walters
29 December 2014

It looks like winter is finally here. Since there were very few non flyable weekends the last 2 years I have a stack of winter projects to work on. It is also a good time to learn some new skills. Weathering is a great skill to learn that brings that added cool factor to warbirds and scale plane. It is much easier than people think, it just takes a little practice. There are many different ways to get the same effects and comes down to which technique you prefer. You can find a few articles on RC Universe and RC Groups but the place for step by step instructions is on the many plastic model sites. I have gotten a lot of information from:

finescale.com,
tamiyamodelmagazine.com,
swannysmodels.com
and aircraftresourcecenter.com
has some great galleries as well. There are also some great videos on youtube.

If you're not into scale stuff its already time to get your race planes ready as we are starting the race season in January to take advantage of the time we have left at the Trentadue site.

Wylie

Editors Update

By: Dave Mercer

Here it is, the last newsletter of 2014. Content is a little light this month, with no December Board Meeting minutes to report, or General Meeting minutes (since our Christmas Party takes its place.) I've run out of photos to use for our monthly Guess This Mess feature, and with the hectic nature of the holiday season I was unable to pester and coerce anyone to submit one. Maybe next month.

I do have a recap of the December Fun Fly, submitted by Tony McDonald that evening after the event. It was done in a festive, holiday style so I'm not sure if Kelly's been spiking the eggnog, or if Tony was "in his cups"—as they say across the pond—that night. Check it out below and enjoy.

As always the most noteworthy event in December was our Christmas Party. Returning the event to Cattleman's was a rousing success. Richard, George, Phil, John Reade, and others deserve a hearty two-thumbs-up for their efforts. The turnout was good, and the relaxed atmosphere was even better. Best of all, no one had to stick around and clean a kitchen when it was done. John Reade did his usual stellar job with the raffle and I think it's safe to say that all who attended went home well satisfied.

What's new with the newsletter? I'm glad you asked. One of our members sent me some pictures that he had taken from his quadcopter. They are absolutely stunning. I will have to shrink them down to fit the newsletter, but I'm hoping the clarity will still shine through. Check out what Dan Golden has accomplished with a DJI Phantom 2 sporting a Hero 3+ camera. With the popularity of quadcopters, multirotors, etc. on the rise I would like to start a monthly column highlighting aerial photography and videos. I know that Jon Stychno, Jim Swanson, Mike Cracchiolo and others have taken the plunge in a serious way. Maybe I can get folks to submit photos (with captions of what they are flying and where) and make this a regular monthly feature of the newsletter. Or even videos, I know Jon's been often posting links to his videos on our website forum. I may include those links in the newsletter (with Jon's permission.) The technology keeps getting better and better. I would like to showcase some of that.

Another feature I'm adding this month is a good old fashioned Letters to the Editor column. Here's your chance to interact, offer suggestions, criticism, point out errors I've made, or simply open up a dialog. Vent, if that's what you'd like to do. No gun permit required, just fire away. Put Letters to the Editor in the title field and I'll print it. If you wish to remain anonymous that's fine too.

It's the start of a new year and I'd like to try a few new features in our newsletter. Maybe they will take root and blossom into something good, maybe they won't. I feel it's worth a shot.

Dave Mercer
WCF Newsletter Editor

Guess This Mess!!

By: Dave Mercer

Last month's shop: George Leap

Winning Guess: Jacob McDonald, Paul Kohlmann

Whose shop is this? Anybody care to guess?

***No Photo Available
Maybe Next Month***

***General Meeting Minutes
December Meeting***

Editors Note: No General Meeting in December. The annual Christmas Party serves as the General Meeting.

***Board Meeting Minutes
December Meeting***

Editors note: No Board Meeting in December

***Treasurers Report
December 2014***

By: Phil Leech

Membership:
Total: 87
Returning: 72
2014 New: 15
Youth: 9

Financials:
Checking balance: \$4963.73
CD balance: \$7527.00

Letters to the Editor

Editors note: Since this is a brand new feature and I don't have any letters submitted, I'm going to wing it and create two examples of my own. Think of the following as simply two ends of the spectrum of possibilities. I would prefer to receive tirades closer to the second example; I think the entertainment value would be greater. But fire away....whatever you got.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Ordinarily I don't bother to write in to publications. However, in this instance I felt

compelled to mention that receiving the Wine Country Flyer newsletter each month has been the greatest source of joy and happiness that I have felt in many years. Such eloquent prose! Such insightful knowledge of our beloved hobby! The articles are breathtaking in their scope, diversity and sheer brilliance! You sir, I strongly feel, are destined for a Pulitzer Prize.

Most sincerely yours,
Bartholemew Wadsworth, Esq.
AMA #: 99912999349956999

Aaahhh, a satisfied reader offering praise. It's always nice to know that people ARE actually reading this and perhaps finding some enjoyment within. But I'm not doing this for a pat on the back.

Far more enlightening (and entertaining) are those people who are compelled by outrage or disgust to offer suggestions, criticism, or future article topics.

Such as:

Hey Rube,

This sorry excuse for a newsletter I keep readin' ain't worth a lick. Cain't you write like ord'nary folks? Sentences that keep draggin' on and on.....High-fallutin' words. What the heck is wrong wit' you? I cain't get halfway down a page 'fore my eye-balls start a-swimmin' round and round like two acorns inna whirlpool. Then my chin drops down on my chest and my whiskey tumbler slips out my fingers and crashes on the floor. The Missus been gittin' right ornery 'bout moppin' up all the whiskey spilt 'round the ol' Lay-Z-Boy. Just last month she starts a-ragin' like a Pole-cat and chucks my P-38 in the wood stove to stoke the fire!! I had to fetch me 'nuther log off the wood-pile to whittle me down a new one. Much as I luv a gal wit' spirit, I don't dare agitate her too much or she's liable to brain me wit' a fryin' pan!

But enough 'bout her. What I really wanna know is how you fellas keep them aeroplanes up there in the air so long. Cain't seem to get none of mine to do that. I got a T-28 I whittled outta hick'ry. Got a P-51 I whittled outta maple. Gotta bunch more too and none of 'em fly better'n tossin' a brick! What's you fella's secret? Why don't you write an article 'bout that?

Uh oh, I cain't be wastin' more time ponderin' life's deeper mysteries. Gotta run! I'm a-hearin' my whiskey still out back a-creakin' and a-groanin' like she's gonna bust her seams!

Signed,
Festus McGee

Fun Fly Recap *7 December 2014*

By: Tony McDonald

Twas the fun fly before Christmas when all through the flying field not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The fog was hanging around without any care. Eight pilots signed up to compete in three different events. At ten o'clock I whistled and called them by name. Now John Reade, now Drew Kohlmann! On Jacob McDonald, on Paul Gibson! Now Paul Kohlmann, now Jon Stychno! On George Leap, on Dave Lovitt! With jittery nerves and sweat in their palms, they lined up their planes to begin the wingless pylon race. After the debris settled it became clear, the only one left was the plane they all feared. With his three bladed propeller, and nose brake a glow. There stood Dave Lovitt with his Ugly Stick in tow.

Then in a twinkling, I heard the sounds of contestants strategizing how best to play golf. As I drew in my head, and was turning around. Out of the fog appeared John Reade's red sled! With the tall-n-skinny driver at the controls. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, but John's golf ball twenty eight feet near the hole!

I knew in a moment it must be time for All-Up-Last-Down. More rapid than eagles the pilots took off. But wait George Leap yelled I can't get my plane up! With tears in his eyes Paul Kohlmann's plane augured in, he hung his head low, and muttered there she goes. In the end with his eyes a twinkling, his dimples how merry. His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow. With twenty six bucks in hand there again was Dave Lovitt. The winner! He spoke not a word, but went straight to his car. As he filled his pockets with his winnings. He laid a finger aside of his nose, and giving a nod, up the 101 he went! But I heard him exclaim as he dove away Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Multicopter Fun Photos and Videos

Submitted by: Dan Golden
Captions by: Dave Mercer and Dan Golden



**Photo by: Dan Golden
Location: Bodega Head
Equipment: DJI Phantom 2 with Hero 3+**

**I tried to include more of his great photos here but the file sizes were too large.
So I created a flickr.com account called WCF Newsletter Storage**

Here's the link:

www.flickr.com/photos/128617248@N03/?details=1

**Now, if I can get other club members who are involved in aerial photography
to send me some examples of their fine work, I will print what I can here in the newsletter
and post the rest on the flickr.com account.**

WCF 2014 EVENTS SCHEDULE

Event	Date	Contact
None Left	See you next year	

WCF 2015 EVENTS SCHEDULE

Everything still tentative. First event that seems confirmed:

Pylon Race	Sun Jan 18	Jacob
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