

January 2015 Edition

Wine Country Flyers



**Next meeting: THURSDAY 26 February 2015, 7:00 P.M.
At Round Table Pizza, 2065 Occidental Rd. in Santa Rosa**

**This is a different Round Table Pizza (from last year) across town
just west of Stony Point Rd in Santa Rosa**

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

Meetings this year will be the FOURTH Thursday of each month

www.woflyers.com

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

2015 Club Officers:

President:	Adam Clement	(707) 322-5318	adampclement@gmail.com
Vice President:	Paul Gibson	(707) 318-5926	paul@4gibson.us
Secretary:	Dave Mercer	(707) 975-4723	mcdave@sonic.net
Treasurer:	George Leap	(208) 232-4762	g@gwleap.com
Safety Officer:	Jake Boatman	(707) 318-2497	charcoal.boatman7@gmail.com

2015 Board Members:

Buzz Russell	(707) 537-5299	brmaruss@sbcglobal.net
Mike Cracchiolo	(707) 537-5198	mcrackman@hotmail.com
John Reade	(707) 545-9831	jjireade3@sonic.net
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Newsletter Team: Dave Mercer, Phil Leech
Website: Patrick O'Halloran

Cover Image

Photo submitted by: Julio Alvarez
Caption and comments by: Dave Mercer

**Anybody recognize the person at the podium?
That's right, Red Jensen. He was one of the featured speakers at the recent AMA Expo
Discussing some of NASA's latest design and engineering efforts
The crowd is watching the big screen display out of view on the right**



Presidents Report

By: Adam Clement
20 January 2015

Well can you guys believe it's 2015 already. I swear time goes by faster the older you get. I hope everyone's holidays were filled with family and friends. As you all know by now the main goal for the year is to find a new home for the club. We've been flying at Trentadue for 7 years now. Wow!! It's been that long? Anyway, there are a couple of things in the works. We are looking at possibly flying at Lytton Springs. Right now we are looking into how and where on the property it could work out. Then the club would need to come up with a proposal and let them know what we want to do. So that is one avenue we are looking down. We also have a meeting set up with a member of the county on the 28th of

January. So we will need to get together a proposal for them as well as get a few guys together to head up the meeting. I cannot stress to the members how much we need everyone's help. Finding the perfect field will not just fall in our laps. It will take all our help keeping our eyes open and then taking note where that spot was so we can look into it. As George Leap said " it's gonna take some cold calls". I agree 100 Percent. To find the Perfect field and by Perfect I mean a place where we can fly all type's of aircraft; Nitro, Gas, Ducted Fans, Heli's, FPV, Turbines, Control Line, and Electric. And to have a field that members are comfortable flying at. You know. Open space with nothing to fly over, no trees to dodge on landing or take off, a place where if you have

a dead stick you're not going to be worried about shredding your plane on a bunch, or wires from the grapes. And last but not least a place we can conduct Pylon races. I know this sounds like a lot but I think we can do it.

On to a few more items. Due to a foul up at Round Table in Montgomery Village we have had to move our meeting location and day we normally have it. The new Location is 2065 Occidental Road, still in Santa Rosa. The nearest cross street is Stony Point road. Also the meetings will be on the Fourth Thursday of the month. I think you'll like the new location as the rooms are bigger and it's fairly easy to get to.

We just held our first pylon race of the season and let me tell you. The new Roc Hobby's class Rocks. Even with a cast on my arm I had a blast flying this new class. We had 10 people show up for this class and I think it will grow. I'll let you read more about the racing from Jake McDonald our race director.

I'd Like to thank last year's officers and board members for the fine job they did running the club last year. Special thanks to Paul Kohlmann for heading up the Airshow. I know this is a ton of work and time. I would also like to give Phil Leech a special thanks for all the work and extra effort he put into everything he did. With Phil taking a well deserved break this year there seems to be a hole in the board. Yes, Phil did that much. I would also like to thank Patrick O'Halloran for the years of running the website. Dave Mercer for doing the monthly newsletter. And lastly Bill Walters for hauling his riding lawnmower to the field and cutting the grass for the last 7 years. It takes a lot off dedicated people to run a club smoothly.

Thank you for letting me serve as your President this year. I hope I can do just as well as all Presidents before me.

Adam Clement

Vice Presidents Report

By: Paul Gibson
26 January 2015

I attended my first AMA convention and Expo in December held at the Ontario Convention Center in Southern California. It was a wonderful 2 day escape into a world of everything RC Model aeronautics has to offer surrounded by lots of people with the same mindset. I am going to share my observations about a few of the products, two of the meetings / presentation I attended and a thought about the quadcopter presence.

Walking around the hall you can find and see virtually anything related to our hobby much of it very familiar. At the Horizon booth with planes, radios etc it struck me how much I have invested in that company! The most striking thing I saw there was a collection of new radial engines for sale, 7 and 9 cylinder both glow and 4-stroke, from \$1,900 to \$3,400. I have not flown gas for a long time but admiring these beautiful pieces of engineering art started my re-thinking the gas world.

No surprise at the incredible number of models and kits on display, a few that caught my eye were: Cyberplanes that offered electric flying forms like the Starship Enterprise, Klingon D7 ship, a Dragon, a Bird, UFO, etc (BUT no Snoopy's doghouse) You really have to see them to believe them; SebArt International has an amazing collection of large fully built jets and propeller planes. Their top end is the AvantiS with 79" wingspan, 9 channel radio, 23.1 lbs AND optional thrust vectoring. Did not see the price for that model but the planes were all stunning. If you are not as talented as Paul K you can get beautiful pilot figures from warbirdpilots.com and if you are not into building your own electronic gadgets like me lots of lighting system vendors were on display. I visited Maxford USA several times, well to be honest quite a few times. They had on display a wide variety of built up balsa planes covered and at varying readiness for

flight. The plane that really caught my attention was a 38" wingspan Curtis Jenny complete with servos, esc and motor/prop. I chose the version covered in translucent yellow so all the structure shows through. A screaming 'show deal' including a carrying case finally was too much to resist. I am slowly getting her ready while still begging for forgiveness.

In the less traditional category I'll share two companies I spent some time exploring. The Boomerang Balloon Altitude Control System is a system designed for controlled high altitude balloon flight. Capable of carrying 2 lbs of payload into the jet stream with a combination of ballast and venting it can go up and down to ride the air currents by remote or programmed control. I can't say exactly why I was so fascinated with this project. Maybe I'll design a small glider and see how far I can glide it from 18,000'. I also spent quite a bit of time at the Precision Hawk booth where they offer a remote autonomous drone for collecting data over fields and towns. The plane itself looks like a flying circuit board, is capable of carrying 2 lbs. of sensors for over 45 minutes. From an RC perspective the amount of self checking built into the system (Battery, engine performance, servo monitoring, GPS, etc) was impressive. It is pretty clear though that the future of this technology is really focused on how the data is collected, aggregated and analyzed.

The first presentation I will describe was conducted by none other than our own Red Jensen now working for NASA. They had on display and were describing their work on a scale modeled aerial launch system. The full scale version is intended for rockets up to 6,000 lbs. The idea is a great reminder of how solid engineering and analysis goes far beyond intuition when it comes to aeronautics. In this case taking the Virgin Galactic 'White Knight' aerial launch vehicle concept to another level of increased efficiency. The idea of launching from an aircraft is demonstrably more efficient than ground launch. The NASA team is designing an unmanned launch glider

that can be towed by a Gulfstream sized jet. Their analysis shows that the two plane towing design is even more efficient than a dedicated aircraft. Red and his team have designed a scaled down version being towed by a second RC aircraft. They have already conducted initial test flights and will be adding a 'sustainer' rocket motor to the glider later this year. Even better than the presentation was getting a chance to talk with Red Friday morning. If you look up the term 'Dream Job' in the dictionary don't be surprised if you see Red in the description.

The second presentation was the AMA District 10 meeting on Saturday. The meeting room was packed for a well prepared PowerPoint plus Q&A. I have requested a copy of the presentation for us and will provide more detailed information at our club meeting or newsletter. Most of the time was spent describing the AMA's activities related to UAV's and the FAA. My high level summary of that part is that the AMA has been very actively involved with the FAA and congress. This includes spending almost \$1 million on outside firms and more importantly thousands of member writing to the government about the subject. There has been a LOT of activity and engagement on our behalf. Unfortunately there is still quite a ways to go before the laws are settled. At this point the AMA is hoping that the government will implement two tiers of UAV/Drone enforcement. One will be significantly less impactful to 'organized clubs' like ours. A second tier will likely be very restrictive for those not affiliated with appropriate clubs. It's seems pretty clear that there will be some sort of regulation or specifications from the FAA with respect to UAV's / drones. If they do establish less restrictive conditions for sanctioned clubs like ours that could end up being beneficial for clubs. The idea is that a club can do a better job communicating the laws and guidelines hopefully improving safety and public perception. If that is the case then it is likely to introduce a new population to the benefits of joining clubs like ours. The rest of the presentation covered a variety of benefits

available to our club from the AMA to help with field improvements and membership events. If I get the presentation from the AMA I will provide more details.

If you are a member who flies Quadcopters / UAV's but did not attend the expo then I have GOOD news and BAD news for you. First the bad news: You missed an amazing array of the latest in not only flying machines but controllers, cameras, goggles and cases. In fact the biggest booths (yes, there was more than one vendor) were companies that sell custom cases for the copters and support gear. You could see the advancements in the small end with those micro quads now sporting FPV cameras and screens on the transmitter. The larger camera platform fliers and getting more sophisticated structures that retract the engine pods out of the way of the camera and automatically detect the ground prior to landing. My personal favorite was the InvertiX 400. This is a quad at around 18" is capable of flying full 3D helicopter maneuvers. It can do this by enabling the motors to turn in both directions. I watch several flight demonstrations where the pilot could flip and turn the copter over and sustain inverted flight. The sales guy pointed out that it is a cheap (in relative sales speak) way to learn 3D helicopter moves. It seems pretty sturdy and clearly is highly acrobatic. NO I did not buy one (Barely got away with the Jenny, I knew bringing home two aircraft would be pushing it at home...). What's the GOOD news for those that did not attend?? Simple, you probably saved a TON of money by not being down there in the middle of so much temptation!!

As I mentioned this was my first expo so I can't compare it to any prior experiences, however I have to imagine that the QUAD presence was a major difference from prior years. I plan on attending the next expo as well and if I had to speculate here is what I expect to see then: Obviously more quads and support gear. I also expect increased autonomous capabilities, maybe even some acrobatic autonomous behavior. I did not see too many FPV video/goggle systems at the

show. There has been a very recent expansion of these system and I expect that at next years expo there will be a lot more systems and capabilities on display. I am a huge advocate for progress and I am sure there will be more surprises and technology, with that said I also hope there are still some radial gas engines to admire as well!

Editors Update

By: Dave Mercer

Welcome back everyone. The 2015 Officers and Board members are listed above. You will notice quite a few fresh faces filling these positions. It's great to see new people stepping up to fulfill these roles. Some of you reading the list carefully may be inclined to pause and think "Hey wait a minute. I thought Richard Skaff was elected Secretary?" You are correct. Richard was elected Secretary for 2015 back in November and then a family situation arose that obliged him to step down, and I got roped into filling that spot. I wasn't exactly eager to do it, but I figured what the heck, I need the board and general meeting minutes for the newsletter anyway. Now I won't have to pester someone else for submittal of the meeting minutes for each month's newsletter. (Though I honestly never had that problem in the past with the previous Secretaries.) It just means I will have to take more notes at the meetings, and more typing for the newsletter and less copying and pasting. It sure was nice to simply copy and paste those meeting minutes. Oh well. Its been years since I've had to do any serious note-taking, so if my meeting minutes get published in the newsletter as a garbled mess, with errors, omissions, and other flaws, that will give you the perfect opportunity to send me a "Letter to the Editor" and point out my mistakes. It may take me a few months to get up to speed on this new responsibility.

Speaking of Letters to the Editor, I did not receive even one response. Maybe that's a good thing or maybe it's not. Sometimes I

wonder if anybody even reads the newsletter. Am I a fool for spending the time to put out a newsletter? Are newsletters obsolete?

On a positive note, I did receive more content for the Multicopter Fun, Photos and Videos column. Be sure to check out the links and photos below. If the photo file is small enough I will include it in the newsletter. If not I will post it as a link. Videos will always be published as a link. Great work is being done

by Dan Golden, Jon Stychno, Jim Swanson and others. Keep it coming! I may have to spread it out over several months, so if you send me something and you don't see it in that month's newsletter, don't despair. I will publish it.

Dave

Guess This Mess!!

By: Dave Mercer

Last month's shop: none

Winning Guess: none

Whose shop is this? Anybody care to guess?



General Meeting Minutes ***January Meeting***

By: Dave Mercer
24 January 2015

Meeting brought to order at 7:01 by our new President Adam Clement. 21 members were in attendance. No guests.

Safety Officers Report—no report

Treasurers Report—George informed the group that we are at 54 members. The financials stand at: Checking account \$7926.62 and CD \$7527.62

Work Party—a work party (mainly field clean-up and weeding) is scheduled for Sunday February 8th, starting at 9:00 AM with open flying after. It goes real quick if enough people show up.

Hobby Expo—the Hobby Expo event has been rescheduled and relocated. This year it will be held at the Wells Fargo Center on June 13th. Lots more room but no lake for float flying.

Pylon Report—Jacob mentioned that all the rules will remain the same as last year. The Dogfighter class has been dropped and a Roc Hobby class will take its place. Attendance at the first Pylon Race was good with the Roc Hobby class already showing a lot of promise. More pilots signed up for that class than any other. Only one pilot piled his airplane into the vineyard, after a mid-air collision, but he was able to glue his T-28 back together in time to race in the next heat.

Field Search—extensive discussion on our efforts to locate a new flying field. George Leap, Paul Kohlmann and Paul Gibson have volunteered to attend a Sonoma County Supervisor meeting on January 28th to present our needs and promote our club. Contact has

already been made with the Salvation Army at Lytton Springs about expanding our presence there. We have been using the lake out there for many years for our float flies, so we already have a favorable track record with them. The idea is to gain permission to establish a field north of the lake on another portion of the property. Lt. Alvarez of the Salvation Army is seeking a written proposal formalizing our request. Paul Kohlmann is working on that. It was acknowledged that utilizing a portion (perhaps a sizable portion) of our membership dues as compensation to whoever allows us to establish a field on their property is the only realistic way to acquire a new field. A motion was made, and passed, to allow a 5K per year cap as “rent” or “payment” to potential property owners. If our negotiating team can work out a deal for less, even better yet. Membership dues (that haven’t changed in many years) may have to rise as a result, so we can cover our other expenses. That is simply the reality of the situation.

Raffle--\$125.00 was taken in. The winners include:

T-28 fuse---George Leap
Graupner Taxi Cup---Paul Eason
Spinner---Drew Kohlmann
6-ch. Spektrum receiver---Paul Kohlmann
Covering---Julio Alvarez
Ultra Micro Quad---John Reade
Control throw meter---Adam Clement
Digital tach---Buzz Russell

Meeting adjourned at 8:14

Board Meeting Minutes ***January Meeting***

By: Dave Mercer
24 January 2015

Meeting convened at 6:30. In attendance were Adam Clement, George Leap, Jake Boatman,

John Reade, Mike Cracchiolo, Buzz Russell, and Dave Mercer.

Field Search—the main topic of the meeting was the search for a new flying field. Efforts are ongoing, and now with the passing of the holiday season greater efforts can be implemented. Possible locations were discussed at length. Property at the Sonoma County Airport, Lytton Springs (Salvation Army), dairy ranches off Stony Point Road or Llano Road, open fields on the Wastewater Treatment facility on Llano Road, or near the Graton Casino in Rohnert Park, along with other sites, were all mentioned. Much more work needs to be done, but the process is moving forward.

General Meeting—the change in location and date of our monthly meeting was confirmed. An incorrect date was published in the December newsletter and Dave will send out a mass e-mailing to all members to correct that. It's the FOURTH Thursday each month, held at Round Table Pizza at 2065 Occidental Rd. in Santa Rosa, if you were not already aware.

Field Maintenance—a work party was proposed by Adam, with the specific date to

be established at the January general meeting.

Raffle—it was decided to not subsidize the monthly raffle fund this year in order to conserve our funds for future expenses needed for our new field.

Event Calendar—finalizing the event calendar for 2015 was postponed till next month due to the lengthy discussion concerning the field search.

Safety Issues—On a recent weekend several spectators were at the field and wandered off towards the north end while an EF1 Pylon Racing practice run was going on. They were enjoying the action in a potentially dangerous location. Discussed was the need to remain vigilant about spectators and pilots engaged in unsafe actions. All of us at the field need to stay aware of risky behavior, and intervene when necessary. Don't be afraid to speak up. It's crucial that we maintain our safety standards and don't suffer any injuries to spectators or pilots; especially now, as we seek a new location. We certainly don't need any bad publicity.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20

Treasurers Report

January 2015

By: George Leap

Membership:

Total: 54

Returning: 53

2015 New: 1

Youth: 4

Financials:

Checking balance: \$7926.62

CD balance: \$7527.62

Letters to the Editor

None received. Maybe next month.

Pylon Racing Update

By: Tony McDonald

The 2015 pylon season got off to great start. The weather was beautiful and believe it or not no wind! Thirteen pilots signed up to compete in four different classes. Many of whom flew in two or three different classes.

The T-28/Corsair class had the only crash of the races. What started off as a mid air collision, then almost a save, ended with the eventual plunge into the grape stakes. But by the next race the plane was glued back together and racing for the lead! Drew

Kohlmann dominated the class with four straight wins.

The Parkzone Warbird class had four entries. A Spitfire, P-47, Corsair, and a Mustang. There was a lot of close calls every race but no crashes. Brian Germone was the winner of the day, with two wins and a second.

The Roc-Hobbies class had ten planes. Again there was a lot of close racing. Adam Clement won three races and a second for the day.

EF-1 racing was won by Steve Cole with three wins and a third.

Multicopter Fun Photos and Videos



Photo by: Jon Stychno

Location: San Francisco

Equipment: E-Flite Blade 350 QX3 AP with CGO2 camera

Above is an image that Jon Stychno submitted. The clarity was much better before I shrunk it down to fit the newsletter. Below are links to videos he also submitted. Great stuff! Check it out.

The first is titled Cruise ship:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjDLZzkqKBw>

The next is titled Motocross:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhaRJn4JD74>

Dan Golden also submitted more great stuff.

Check out this link to his video:

<https://vimeo.com/116454230>

**Jim Swanson has been doing aerial photography and videos
for quite some time now and provided me this link:**

<https://vimeo.com/52857197>

**Keep scrolling down for the (tentative) 2015 Event Schedule
Perhaps next month's newsletter will be able to offer a more
locked-in schedule.**

WCF 2015 EVENTS SCHEDULE

**Everything still tentative. 2015 Event Schedule has NOT been finalized
Hopefully next month's newsletter will have a final schedule. Stay tuned.**

Pylon Race	Sun Jan 18	Jacob
Work Party	Sun Feb 8	Adam
Pylon Race #2	Sun Feb 15	Jacob
Pylon Race #3	Sun March 15	Jacob
Pylon Race #4	Sun April 19	Jacob
Pylon Race #5	Sun May 17	Jacob
Pylon Race #6	Sun June 21	Jacob
Pylon Race #7	Sun July 19	Jacob
Pylon Race #8	Sun August 16	Jacob