

February 2015 Edition

Wine Country Flyers



Next meeting: THURSDAY 26 March 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
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2015 Board Members:

Buzz Russell	(707) 537-5299	brmaruss@sbcglobal.net
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Newsletter Team: Dave Mercer, Phil Leech
 Website: Patrick O'Halloran

Cover Image

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

Below is an image I took with my small E-flite QX 180 quadcopter out at the field.
 It can't compare to the images taken by professional high-end platforms, but it does
 show what can be done with small, cheap, out-of-the-box offerings.
 It may not be fancy, but it sure is fun! Give it a try.



Presidents Report

By: Adam Clement
20 January 2015

Well another month has blown by like a Gold Class Reno Racer. Fast. When the club is looking for a new field time seems to go even faster. We are diligently looking for a new home. One of the possible sites is Lytton Springs. We have turned in the proposal and are waiting for a response. One of the other avenues that we have gone down, as you should know by now, is we have asked the county for assistance in providing a possible flying site. So far the county has been very helpful in giving us info on which people to talk to. Paul Kohlmann, Paul Gibson, and the man who set up the meeting, George Leap, had a meeting with county supervisor Efren Carrillo. He gave the guys a lot of good intel and who else to contact. The same guys are meeting

with County Open Space Dept. to see what property could work for us. This doesn't mean to stop looking. Please keep your eyes and ears open for possible sites. George Leap has been a hound dog when it comes to setting up meetings with people to talk to. Next time you see George tell him thanks for all the hard work he has put in so far in this endeavor.

We had our second pylon race of the season last week and again it turned out to be a blast. By far the biggest class is the Roc Hobbies Class with 10 guys. Racing in this class has reignited pylon racing for me. I had put in two first place finishes and was on my 3rd race of the day when my motor mount decided to take a break and told the motor to bail out. Luckily the plane landed right side up in a patch of grass. Took about fifteen minutes of me looking for the motor and I could not find it. Steve Cole finally came to the rescue and

spotted it in 2 minutes. Wylie Walters let me use his plane for the 4th race so I could salvage at least a few more points. Every point counts! I wish every class was as fun and cheap as The Roc Hobby planes.

I was At Jakes Performance Hobbies the other day and a gentleman walks in with his son. As I was poking around the shop I over heard the boy talking about rockets. He was so excited to be looking at all the rocket kits and the motors. He wanted to know if they still made the one with a video camera on it and many other questions. As most of you know I have a soft spot for rockets. It was the hobby I was into before I started flying. I decided that I was going to give this excited kid some of my rocket kits and motors. I then walked up and introduced myself to the boy's father and started to talk to him about rockets and RC planes. The boy then joined in the conversation and was asking question after question about planes and how big are they and how fast are they. I answered as fast as he could ask them. I was actually quite proud of myself. So I then went even further and invited them up to watch the planes fly at the field. He could then see how high and how fast they could go for himself. His dad Eric said he might be able to make it up in the morning but has to work in the afternoon. I told him about the website and to check it out. He could get directions to the field and see some cool planes. I told them I would see them soon and would bring him some rocket stuff. In our talking I thought he said it would be Sunday if they came up so on Saturday I did not bring the rocket stuff. Well they actually came up to the field on Saturday. Not only did Eric and his son come up he brought a friend with him. The two boys were then stuck to my side like glue. Asking question after question about the airplanes. He was still as excited about it as the day I met him. A couple hours later and Eric had to leave but no worries, mom showed up so the boys could stay longer while dad went off to work. In fact the boys stayed right up till around 1:30. By then I could see they were getting pretty hungry after running all over the pits and the train tracks. We said our

goodbyes and he said he would for sure be coming back. I told him he better, how else was I supposed to give him his rocket goody bag. On my way home I started thinking back on the day and how much fun I had showing some people I just met one of my only passions in life. Thank you Eric Gardon for bringing your son and his friend up to the flying field today and letting me show you something I love to do. I hope I have put the flying bug in the boy's ear.

The Club will be auctioning off some Of Gabe Black's Stuff over the next few months. Gabe and his Mom Christy are moving to Hawaii to live the tropical life. What fun. A few months ago Gabe found out it would cost a fortune to ship all of his airplane stuff. So, he sold what he could to whom he could. Well he still had a bunch of stuff to get rid of. I then told him about auctioning his stuff at the meetings. It would make both parties a little money and Gabe would not have to just give his stuff away. I will be putting on the forum what will be sold at that month's meeting till the stuff is gone. There are a few really cool planes, a heli, two giant scale planes and a lot of parts and such. So come out to the meetings and help with getting rid of Gabe's Stuff.

That's really all I have this month. We are working on a swap meet in May but it's not finalized as of yet. I will post on the website when we are a go. So adios until next month.

Adam Clement
Club President

Vice Presidents Report

By: Paul Gibson
23 February 2015

Those of you who see me at the field regularly have figured out that I am a classic 'Gadget Guy'. I love technology and getting under the hood whenever I can to maximize its use or just learn something new. I converted to Spektrum radio gear last year and since I had been using telemetry to monitor the battery voltage on my old system I really depend on having that info available while flying. Unlike the Hitec radio with voltage monitoring built into the receivers to get that info from the Spektrum radios requires a separate telemetry transmitter linked to the receiver. Once you have installed the transmitter you then have access to additional bits of data limited only by your choice of airborne transmitter and amount you want to spend on sensors.

In addition to accessing the telemetry information my DX-9 also provides voice notifications and the ability to record telemetry data onto an SD card plugged into the side of the transmitter. I currently use the voice to announce the current battery voltage on my flight pack every 15 seconds. I was also curious about the logging capabilities so I did some digging to figure out what it does and how to use the information.

Towards the bottom of the model menus on my DX-9 is the Telemetry screens. The main screen allows you to select what sensors you want to monitor, how to set up alerts and voice notifications and finally a FILE section. The FILE page allows you to set up a couple of things. First, you can customize the file name to be stored on the SD card. Secondly you decide how the logging is started, in my case I have the logging begin any time the throttle is above 25%. The system records the data whenever the throttle is above that point. An important thing to note is that if the throttle goes below that point OR the info coming from the aircraft is lost for a period of time a break in the file session is created. For example

when looking at the data I noticed a session that lasted 4.3 seconds and then the next one for over 5 minutes. The 4.3 second session was as I was taxiing out and bumping the throttle up and down. The same thing happens if the aircraft is too far away for a portion of the flight. Looking at the data the systems logs information about 50 times per second.

Spektrum did a great job in designing this system but initially missed the mark in my opinion in how to use the info once you have collected and saved it to the SD card. When I first started researching they had a smartphone app that could view the data. More recently they have released a module that plugs into the iPhone and is a receiver that can be bound to the telemetry transmitter just like the DX-9. I have no experience with this device (yet ;)). What I wanted was a way to view and analyze the data on the SD card plugged into my computer.

I found a piece of software developed by a RC Helicopter enthusiast in England through a thread on Helifreak. It has gone through a number of revisions and is now available for both the MAC and PC (It's written in Java). I have used the software quite a bit, it reads the files created by the DX-9 directly and presents the data in either a graph view or a table listing every data point. You can select what data to display broken into two categories: Flight data like voltage, RPM, temperature etc and Radio data that monitors the data link performance between the transmitter and receiver. In addition to viewing you can export the graphs and tables into separate files to view or import into Excel. The program is very user friendly and exactly what Spektrum should produce in addition to the smart phone systems.

I am using the software to evaluate batteries for racing. While at the AMA Expo in December I purchased some new Thunder Power Lightning series batteries. I have both 4S-2700mAh and 3S-2250mAh batteries rated at 55C. I wanted to compare the performance

of these batteries to the G8 Pro-Force 70C batteries I have been using. I charged the test batteries together, flew them at full power logging the entire flight and then looked only at the graph of voltage over time to see how they compared. The 4S batteries I flew until they reached 14.3 volts in my Critical Mass, the 3S I flew down to 10.5 volts in my Dallas Doll. The 4S batteries in the Critical Mass were almost identical in terms of the voltage performance. The 3S in the Dallas Doll showed a .1 to .2 volt advantage to the G8's. I will be doing some additional testing, so don't draw any conclusions from my first tests.

If you are interested in more information or help with your systems please don't hesitate to chat with me at the field or send me an e-mail.

INFO AND DISCLAIMER-- Below is a link to the Helifreak thread I found and to the software download links. If you click the software links it does just that, downloads the file to your computer (No download screens). IF you decide to try it out, do so at your own risk!! I cannot vouch for the author or website. As for the battery testing, this is my first round and is not intended as an exhaustive and controlled test.

<http://www.helifreak.com/showthread.php?t=534058&page=5>

Download Windows Version :-

<http://boxhillheliclub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/etryReader.zip>

Download MAC Version :-

<http://boxhillheliclub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/eadr.dmg.zip>

Paul Gibson

Editors note: Scroll down to the bottom of the newsletter for three graphs showing Paul's efforts with this system.

Editors Update

By: Dave Mercer

Lots of great content this month, so I won't subject you to too much of my own ramblings. Both Adam and Paul came through with great reports. Sadly, my gentle nudges to get a Pylon Racing report for the February round has resulted in nothing but silence. I may have to wing it and come up with one myself. I was there, I participated, but I didn't take any notes. But what the heck....somebody's got to do it, and if what I publish is chock full of inaccuracies and errors....well, that just gives you one more reason to shoot me a Letter to the Editor and point out my mistakes. Every month I have to deal with deadlines, and some things just can't wait.

At times, I wish I had taken typing classes way back in high school. Then I could just bang out all this newsletter stuff in record time. But no, I was too busy taking auto shop and metal shop, and chasing girls and kegger parties. Aaahh....if only I had known that one day I would be pretending to be Lou Grant and masquerading as an editor. Maybe I would have done a few things different. Then again, girls and kegger parties are a hell of a lot more fun than typing classes....so maybe not. The only reason I bring this up is to point out that completing this newsletter each month takes me far more time than it should, if someone more qualified than I was doing it. So far I've managed to get it out by the end of the month, but barely.

I can't make any guarantees for this month. With the club meeting held on the 26th and there being only 28 days in February, it's looking kind of sketchy. I will do what I can. If you are reading this in early March, now you know why.

Dave Mercer
WCF Newsletter Scribbler

Guess This Mess!!

By: Dave Mercer

Last month's shop: Paul Eason

Winning Guess: Jacob McDonald and Adam Clement

Whose shop is this? Anybody care to guess?



Board Meeting Minutes ***February Meeting***

By: Dave Mercer
21 February 2015

Meeting convened at 6:30. In attendance were Adam Clement, George Leap, Paul Gibson, Jake Boatman, John Reade, Mike Cracchiolo, Buzz Russell, Merle McGregor, and Dave Mercer. Paul Kohlmann also attended to provide additional info on our field search efforts.

Treasurers Report (George)—Currently at 59 members. Checking account stands at 7896.62, with 7556.13 in the CD. The advantages of establishing electronic banking was discussed, with a motion made and passed to pursue that further. George will follow up.

Non-Profit Status—It was revealed by members of our field search committee that their inquiries were met with a much more favorable response upon hearing our status as a non-profit organization. What remains unclear is whether our club still retains non-profit status with the IRS. Some of the periodic paper filing may have gone neglected over the years, since no one has paid much attention to our club's non-profit status. It didn't seem to matter too much in the recent past. Now it seems to be an important aspect of our search for a new field. Tax benefits exist for a landowner or corporation to provide us with a flying field, provided we can confirm that we're a non-profit organization. The Board decided to take the necessary steps to confirm or reestablish our non-profit status. (**Editors note:** I checked the IRS website myself and we certainly meet all the requirements for a 501C-7 non-profit organization. It's simply a question of paperwork.)

Field Search—Discussed at length was the progress made on our new field search, along with brainstorming other avenues to pursue. Meetings set up for February include:

2-5, with James Gore, Sonoma County Supervisor
2-11, with Charles Schultz Airport Manager
2-23, with Open Space Committee
Our proposal for the Salvation Army is being finalized. Other possibilities include property on Todd Rd., out on Watertrough Rd. in Sebastopol, and several other locations. It's a tedious process, but we are making progress. Stay tuned to your newsletter for further updates.

Club Financials—Discussed was the need to conduct our annual audit. Jake from Jake's Performance Hobbies has been gracious enough to perform this task in the past, so it was decided to ask him again. Hopefully he's not too busy. Thanks Jake!!!

Upcoming Club Events—Due to the uncertainties with this coming year, it's been hard to nail down a schedule of club events. Some of the usual events have been shifted to earlier dates in the calendar. Some of it is still tentative.

Opening Day—April 26

Float Flys---April 12, Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day

Swap Meet---May 16

Hobby Expo---June 13

Meeting adjourned at 8:26

General Meeting Minutes ***February Meeting***

By: Dave Mercer
26 February 2015

Meeting brought to order at 7:02 by President Adam Clement. 23 members were in attendance.

Guests, New Members---Two guests attended. Mike Bolger and Barry Harmeson. Welcome to the club!

Safety Officers Report—no report

Treasurers Report—George informed the group that we currently stand at 64 members. The Exchange Bank checking account has been closed and the balance transferred over to the Redwood Credit Union, where our CD has resided for many years. This has consolidated our banking with one institution. Next task is to establish electronic banking with RCU to further simplify things. We currently hold:

Savings Account: 6075.00

Checking Account: 2219.47

CD: 7561.25

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. WCF has been asked to oversee the flying demos at the event, over the small area set aside for RC flight. Park fliers, quads, helis, and 3D foam profile airplanes are potential candidates.

Float Flies---Our first float fly event for 2015 is scheduled for 4-12. After that, float flies are planned for the usual holiday pattern: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.

Opening Day---Opening Day has been scheduled a little earlier than usual this year. Mark your calendar for 4-26 and be sure to attend. Same great lineup as prior years: flying demos, open flying, Glenn handling the barbeque, rockets, paintball shutdown and more!

Field Search—Paul K., George, and Paul G. attended a meeting with the Open Space Committee on 2-26. The results were positive; the committee displayed a serious interest in helping our cause and provided several key contacts to pursue. Our field search team will follow up. Our field proposal with the Salvation Army/Lytton Springs site has been submitted, but the response was not so favorable. Apparently they are bound by environmental constraints to not alter the land there. There is no way we could add a runway, do some

grading, add a parking lot, etc. to establish a new flying field. Our float flies are fine and will continue. A potential site out in Sebastopol was reviewed by Adam and deemed suited for quads and helis, but not suitable for airplanes. No level ground for a runway. Another potential site near the Graton Rancheria Casino was investigated, but more environmental concerns arose. It can seem frustrating at times, but all potential possibilities need to be thoroughly vetted. We need to keep marching forward and not give up.

Auction---Adam brought to the meeting an extensive variety of items for auction. All were obtained from Gabe Black, a club member moving to Hawaii and unable to take all his stuff with him. Fifteen percent of the earnings stay with the club and the rest gets sent to Gabe and Christie.

Heli---Nathan, 100.00
 Tool bag---Dave, 11.00
 E-flite Inverza 280---Mike B., 20.00
 Straps---Jake R., 5.00
 Led lights---George, 11.00
 T-28 in a bag---Dave, 10.00
 Fuel can---Brian Y., 30.00
 Servo leads---John R., 5.00
 Bag of servos---Julio, 16.00
 More servos---Buzz, 5.00
 EP Buddy charging board---Julio, 5.00
 Hangar 9 T-34---Glenn, 11.00
 Lipo charging bag---Brian Y., 11.00
 Bag of switches---John R., 2.00
 3-cell lipo---John R. 5.00
 Trim iron---Mike C., 1.00
 P-51---Mark, 22.00
 Futaba trans./rec.---Doug, 5.00
 Spektrum 6200 rec.---Paul K. 6.00
 Pole-cat in a bag---Paul G. 9.00
 Heli blades---Julio, 20.00
 Case of nitro , six cans @ 10,00 each---
 Julio, one can
 Doug, two cans
 John R., one can
 Larry, one can
 Merle, one can

Raffle---Raffle winners include:

3-cell lipo---Paul K.
 Flight stand---Mike B.
 Gordians knot (puzzle)---Nathan
 Transmitter case---Adam
 Ca glue---Paul G.
 Ca glue---John R.

Ca glue---George
 Ca glue---Brian Y.
 Ammo box---Dave

Meeting adjourned at 8:36

Treasurers Report ***February 2015***

By: George Leap

Membership:

Total: 64
 Returning: 61
 2015 New: 3
 Youth: 4

Financials:

Checking Account: \$2219.47
 Savings Account: \$6075.00
 CD balance: \$7561.25

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Maybe the reason you haven't gotten any "letters to the editor" is because you are doing such a fantastic job as a scribe. I, John Reade think you are doing a wonderful job with the monthly "Newsletter"!! Soooooooo....Keep up the great work. Thank You Very Much.

Sincerely,
 Tall 'n Skinny

Editor: Thanks John for the kind words. When I agreed to take over the Newsletter, just shy of two years ago, I figured "How hard could it be? Cut out the old stuff and copy and paste new content each month." Little did I know. I was clueless about fonts, columns, spacing, captions, and all the rest. It has been a learning experience. But I have learned a thing or two and I've tried to live up to my lifelong motto that "Anything worth doing is worth doing well." This is still a work in progress, but I'm getting more comfortable with it as time goes on. I appreciate the feedback. Without feedback I have no way to gauge whether the changes, additions, etc. to the newsletter are a step forward or a step back. This ain't my own personal blog, it's the

club's newsletter. Any suggestions or comments from club members are greatly appreciated.

Pylon Racing Update

By: Dave Mercer

Round two of the 2015 pylon racing season was attended by fourteen pilots. Once again the weather was remarkable for this time of year; little to no winds, sunny skies and pleasant temps.

Each year, in the T-28 class, one or two pilots seem to outshine everyone else. This year Drew Kohlmann is the pilot that has raised the bar for everyone else. He's been on a tear, collecting wins relentlessly. Though the season is just starting and things could change. Someone else could dial in their T-28 a little better, or gain some confidence and start flying better and give Drew a run for his money. That's one of the great things about a long pylon racing season; it ain't over till it's over. Time will tell.

In the Warbird class Drew Kohlmann is also making a name for himself. He swept the field, taking four first place finishes. Here he's competing against his father Paul and beating him handily. Paul is either really proud or really pissed, though I don't know which. The competition is fierce, so we need to wait and see how this plays out.

The Roc Hobby class has been the biggest surprise this season. This is the first year racing these planes and the interest and action has been outstanding. More pilots have shown up to race this class than any other. Pushing these planes to their limit has shown a few weaknesses. Elevator servos are being upgraded to eliminate flutter, and Adam was the first to experience prop, and or, motor mount failure—as mentioned above in his Presidents Report. It's still unclear what happened first; did the prop lose a blade and the vibration wipe out the motor mount, or did the motor mount simply fail? All I know for sure is that it was spectacular, with the debris field stretching a long ways. All in all, the Roc Hobby planes fly great, any shortcomings will be addressed, and this class should prosper as a great addition to our pylon racing format.

The EF-1 class is being fought tooth and nail, as always. It's still early, but only TWO points separate the top five contestants at this point in the season. Steve Cole and Jon Stychno are tied for the lead, with a lot of great racing still to come. Show up and enjoy the action,

even if you're not participating. Next pylon race is March 15th. Be there.

Contributions

Editor: Below is a link that Tony McDonald sent me. It's a YouTube video from the AMA, taken during the recent AMA Expo. It's from their Featured Speaker Series. Remember last month when Red Jensen was shown in the newsletter cover photo at the AMA Expo? Well here's a video of what that was all about. Red and his cohorts at NASA are doing some amazing work. Check it out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3oV10EDLyk>

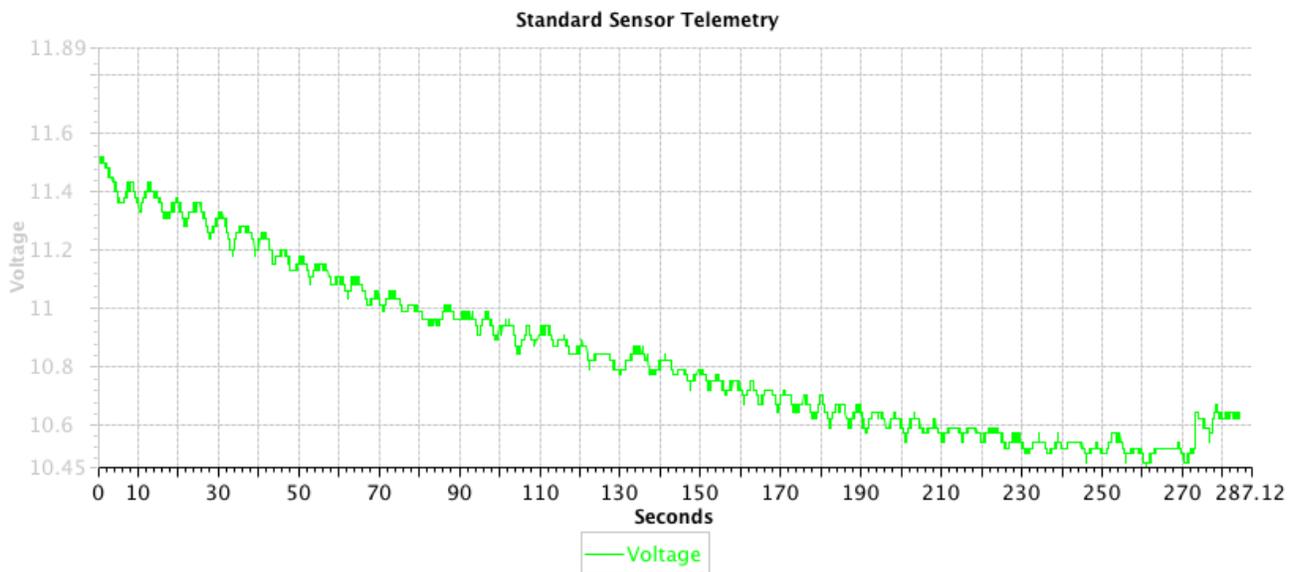
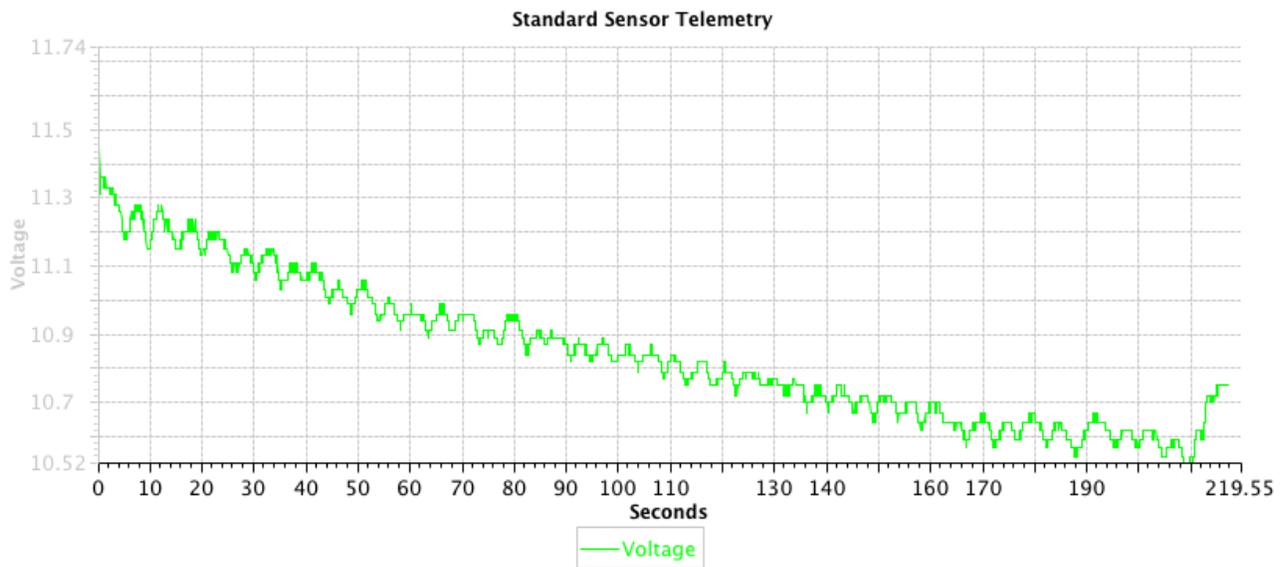
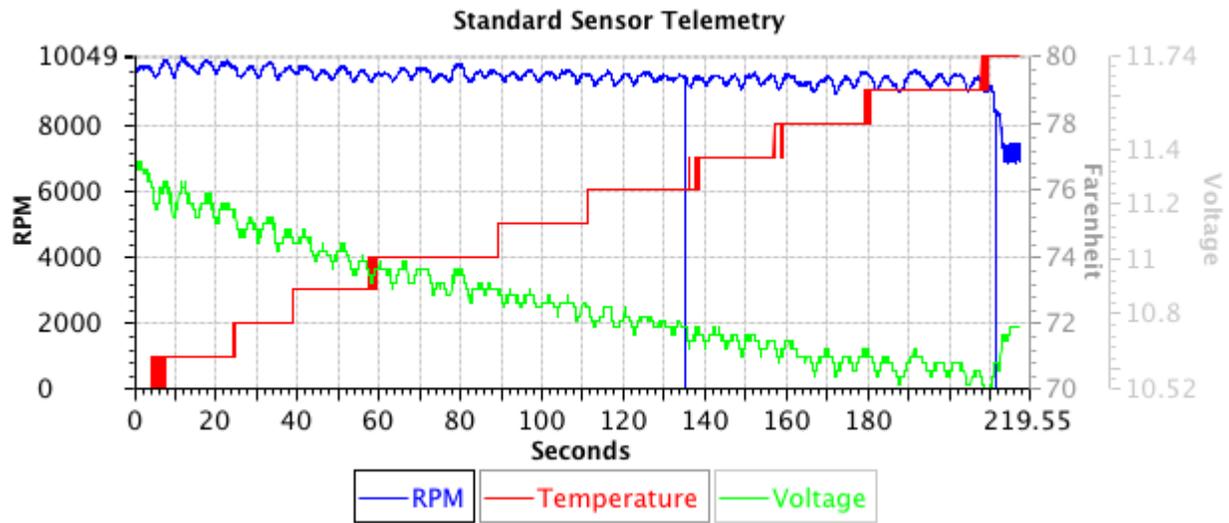
Next is a link that John Reade sent me. It links to a series of spectacular photos taken at the National Museum of the Air Force at Wright-Patterson. Click on it and enjoy.

<http://www.cdsg.org/forums/viewtopic.php?t=381>

Here is another link John sent me (He's been on a roll this past month.) It's a video showing some highlights of an Air Show in Cameron, Missouri. Them mid-west boys get a little zanier than us out here on the West Coast.

<http://vimeo.com/100670266>

Editors note: Below are several graphs from Paul Gibson's article. The one with the most lines is from the Dallas Doll showing Voltage, RPM and temperature (from under the ESC). The other two show voltage only on the two test flights of the 3S batteries in his Dallas Doll.



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 #3	Sun March 15	Jacob
Float Fly #1	Sun April 12	Merle
Pylon Race #4	Sun April 19	Jacob
Opening Day	Sun April 26	Adam
Pylon Race #5	Sun May 17	Jacob
Float Fly #2	Mon May 25	Merle
Pylon Race #6	Sun June 21	Jacob
Float Fly #3	Sat July 4	Merle
Pylon Race #7	Sun July 19	Jacob
Pylon Race #8	Sun August 16	Jacob
Float Fly #4	Mon September 7	Merle