

April 2019 Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 25 April 2019, 6:30 P.M.  
 Pizza Gourmet, 1415 Fulton Rd #231, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Get there early for your free pizza!**

[www.wcflyers.com](http://www.wcflyers.com)

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

## 2019 Club Officers:

President:	Guy Nicholas	(707) 291-2781	<a href="mailto:Guy@Gui-Soft.com">Guy@Gui-Soft.com</a>
Vice President:	Buzz Russell	(707) 537-5299	<a href="mailto:brmaruss@sbcglobal.net">brmaruss@sbcglobal.net</a>
Secretary:	Chris Bailey	(707) 490-6206	<a href="mailto:chrishobiecat1985@gmail.com">chrishobiecat1985@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Paul Gibson	(707) 318-5926	<a href="mailto:paul@4gibson.us">paul@4gibson.us</a>
Safety Officer:	Mike Cracchiolo	(707) 537-5198	<a href="mailto:mcrackman@hotmail.com">mcrackman@hotmail.com</a>

## 2019 Board Members:

Adam Clement	(707) 322-5318	<a href="mailto:adampclement@gmail.com">adampclement@gmail.com</a>
Bill Van Aslan		<a href="mailto:Billv@sonic.com">Billv@sonic.com</a>
Steve Koll	(707) 297-0247	<a href="mailto:imatrekki2@gmail.com">imatrekki2@gmail.com</a>
Eric Bergesen	(707) 494 0562	<a href="mailto:ebergesen@gmail.com">ebergesen@gmail.com</a>
Jake Chichilitti	(707) 535-0977	<a href="mailto:jake.chichilitti@yahoo.com">jake.chichilitti@yahoo.com</a>

Newsletter: Guy Nicholas  
 Website: Patrick O'Halloran

## ***Presidents Report***

By: Guy Nicholas

Welcome to April, the month of awesome news. Adam Clement efforts to gain the club a longer field agreement have paid off and we now have a 5 year lease. I would also like to sincerely thank Ya-Ka-Ama for their continued support of our club.

The new lease is great, but this means we now have to get to work and figure out what to do with our runway. Asphalt is a non-starter with Ya-Ka-Ama so we are looking at options like gravel, astro turf, gopher wire, and the like. But just to throw out a couple of quick ball park numbers, to do a 500' by 50' runway with 4" of gravel take on the order of 275 yards of gravel, and one price someone got was around 30/yard delivered. We haven't priced gopher wire yet, but there will be that, then something to top it with. This doesn't include the cost of hiring someone to smooth it out and pack it down. It should be obvious at this point that this is a very significant expense for the club. So, we need EVERYONE to put on their thinking caps, network out for friends, and friends of friends to see what kind of deals we can come up with. The board will be keeping a detailed list of whom we have contacted for what, so if you have someone who you are thinking about reaching out to please let me or another board member know so we can add the information to our list.

A member brought up questions about our guest policy and we discussed it at the board meeting. Going forward our policy will be as such. If you have a friend that wants to come fly at our field, they can fly as your guest. Of course, they must be an AMA member, follow all the rules, and be accompanied by a member, and of course the member is responsible for the actions of their guest. The policy discussion came up in reference to out of town visitors having a place to fly while visiting. After some discussion it was decided to not make any sort of rules or conditions on the guest visits that we would somehow have to police, but instead we would make it more open ended.

Lastly I would like to make note of the contributions to the newsletter by several people, it's very for me to look in my "newsletter materials" folder and find things! I know that members also like to see items from people other than me as well 😊 I encourage EVERYONE to take some pictures, write a note about it, and share with the club. Tips, tricks, flying pictures, whatever, it's all just a way for us all to share what is happening. As I mentioned in my very first president's report, most of us join a club to share our love of aircraft and modeling. So please all, continue the sharing!

### ***Swap Meet Volunteers***

We still need a couple more volunteers to work the entrance table from the 9-noon or so timeframe. Please call Adam if you give a little time. Remember, the more folks that volunteer, the easier the burden on everyone. I think you will probably find it somewhat enjoyable, plus the side benefit is you don't have to pay to go into the show before/after your shift!

## Benches

By: Kent Talcott

*Editors note: Kent Talcott sent me a note suggesting it might be fun to share builds, tips, work areas, etc. I am still trying to work out where the best place would be for conversations could take place, but I thought I would at least share his note here as a first step.*

Most of the photos are things I made to create a nice workspace for working on planes. I started with an inexpensive plastic folding table and two old file cabinets that I use to store specialty tools/materials/etc.



I already had a pin board using foam insulation for a building mat. When I am building,



I like to have everything open and easy to find as opposed to keeping tools/materials inside a drawer or tool box. Hence, I built the peg board organizer using inexpensive peg board accessories to store hardware, materials, etc. I also created the extension from the pegboard to support an overhead light since the room lighting was creating too many shadows. Next, I built the tool organizer allowing me to have all tools within eyesight and easy



reach.

For kicks I had an old 4'X6' solid beam of scrap Doug Fir wood that I cut into the outline of a prop on a bandsaw and then used a belt sander with 36 grit to sculpt the wood into a prop. I used a drill press to create recesses for the faux bolts. Add a little more sanding and some paint and I had a nice decorative prop.



Last, for battery safety, I made a small ceramic box with a hole for the charging cord that I use when charging LiPos.



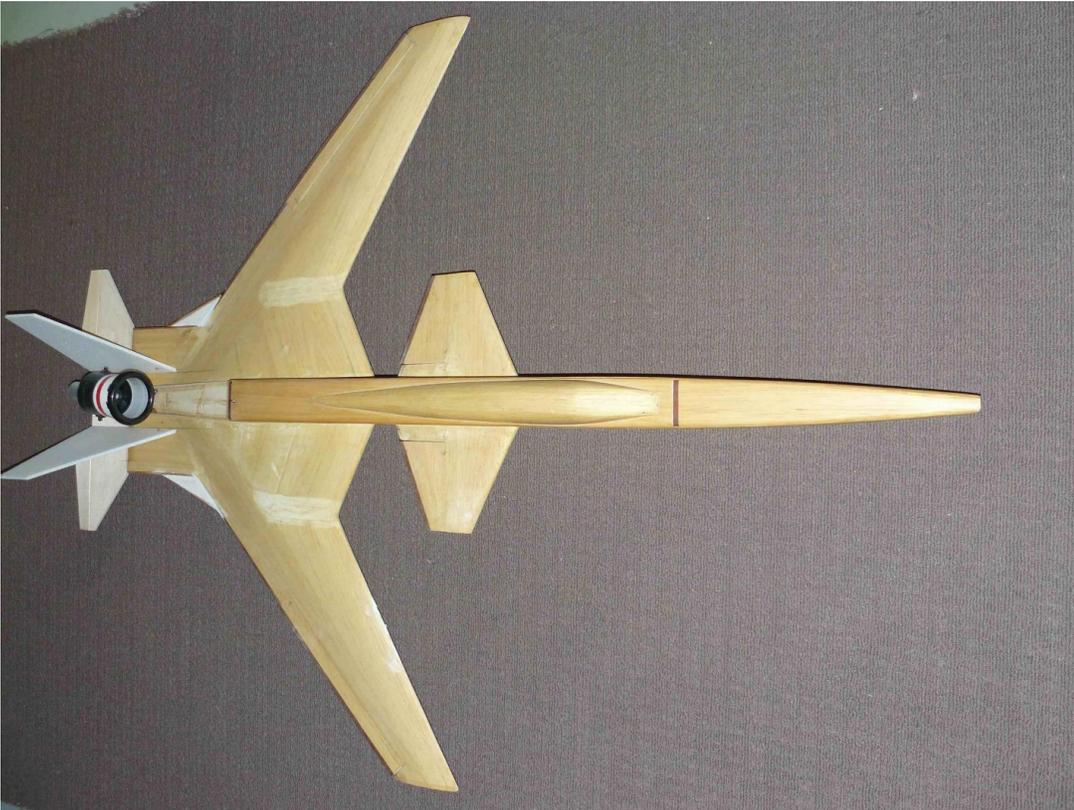
## ***Advanced Jet Scratch-build***

By: Paul Kohlmann

President Guy was twisting my arm the other night to bring one of my airplane designs into a Membership Meeting for Show-n-Tell. I told him that the space at the Pizza Gourmet is a little too small, but that I'd be happy to put an article together for the newsletter.

I'm particularly pleased with my latest project because I got to combine my work and hobby together. By day I'm an engineer who designs pigments and lately we've been working on advanced camouflage coatings. Since I had a little paint left over from our last development, I thought that I'd design something that looked advanced to spray it on.

The result is my own design and it is loosely based on the Grumman X-29. It's mostly balsa with a little ply and some foam here and there. I call it the X-92, mainly because I have no Marketing skill. It's my first EDF, but you can see that I cheated by simply strapping the fan on the top for the first prototype. I'll embed the fan in the fuse for the next build now that the project has been proven to be a good flier.



*Photo 1: The completed X-92 is ready for the paint shop.*

The paint went on surprisingly well, considering that it was in a 3-part epoxy system and the weather was quite cold and damp when I shot it. But after all of the masking came off, the result was really stunning. You can see from the photo below that the 72" wingspan creates quite an impression.



*Photo 2: The author and his son Drew hold up the X-92 for the pre-maiden photo.*

I was a little nervous about the maiden. The layout of the X-92 is a little riskier than the warbirds that I normally design. To be cautious, we did the normal preflight, and then spent a lot of time studying the ground handling of the X-92. It seemed eager to lift off at about half power, so we decided to give it a go.

Once airborne, the X-92 needed some down trim but otherwise it felt surprisingly stable. The EDF unit is a little undersized, but it was still fully aerobatic and did what you'd want a jet to do. Landings are a breeze with the wide track landing gear. Overall, I'd say it was a success.



*Photo 3: Here's a perfect photo-pass of the X-92 doing what it does best.*

If anyone would like to build their own X-92, I'm happy to share the plans. Unfortunately, the paint is not available to the public.

## ***Field Work***

We really needed the rain this year, but with all that rain comes lots of grass and weeds. Our safety officer Mike Cracchiolo sprayed the pits and mowed our alternate landing strip. Nice work Mike! We also have a field mowing in the works.



## *The Joy of Slope Soaring*

By: Jake Chichilitti

On Sunday April 14th Jim Wolfe, Mike Newman and I took a ride out to the Sonoma County Coast for an afternoon of slope soaring. I checked the weather and the winds were coming in from the West North West and predicted to reach 14 MPH by late afternoon. Nearly perfect for our models. As it turned out the wind



reached 20 MPH with gusts up to 25 MPH around 3:30 PM. The flying was great, but it made the take offs and landings a bit of an adventure.



Mike and Jim were flying gliders with electric motors which helped keep them out of trouble. I flew an oldie but goodie built from a SIG kit called the Ninja and an ARF called the Banana.

I'm hoping the winds will continue to cooperate and we'll be able to enjoy the free lift at the coast. Here are some pictures I took of the while we were there.

Jake

## *Donations*

I would like to thank Don Judson for his generous donation of airplanes, radios, and building materials. The items are currently being stored in the shed at the field and we will be deciding what to do with it all in the near future. Thanks Don!



## *Board Meeting Minutes*

18 April 2019  
By: Chris Bailey

- Meeting started 6:30 pm
- Present: Guy, Chris, Bill, Eric, Mike C., Buzz, Jake C., Steve K., Adam, Paul (by phone)
- New Flying Field lease, 5 years, thank you Adam for all your work on this!
- Eric: bid for base rock for new runway: approx. \$ 7300 for existing runway, approx. \$9000 for base rock for 500ft X 45ft runway surface
- Adam suggested that we might reuse the existing geotex runway material in the pit area
- Steve K. had a bid for used AstroTurf for runway surface, approx. \$6000, 500ft X 60ft
- Group discussion about possibly pursuing Nonprofit status for club, then asking for donations of labor and or materials from local businesses

- WCF Swap Meet, Sunday, April 28, 2019 @ Santa Rosa Vet's Building, will have 120 tables available, \$15 advanced/\$20 day of event, \$3 entry fee, still need volunteers! WCF will offer special \$80 membership for new members at the swap meet, approx. 50 tables are presold
- RC Country Swap Meet, Saturday, April 27, 2019, Sacramento
- WCF Flying Field maintenance party, Saturday, April 27, 2019
- Opening Day at flying field, Saturday, May 4, 2019
- Adam will contact Bill Lantz about mowing grass at flying field
- Guy was contacted by Josh Bernstein about club member guest policy at flying field, board member group discussion
- Dan Sullivan U.S. Scale Qualifier Event, Aug or Sept, WCF might host this year, discussion ongoing with Ukiah Propbusters club
- Jake C. suggested that we survey the club membership at the next general meeting, ask about support for a Runway Improvement Assessment to support runway renewal project, Guy suggested that he could build an online survey using Survey Monkey to survey the club membership, currently have 78 club members
- Meeting adjourned: 8pm

### ***General Meeting Minutes***

28 March 2019  
By: Chris Bailey

- Meeting started 7pm
- 25 members present
- Guest: David Ford, President PCAM
- Treasurer's report: Paul: Slightly positive financial trend, 76 members currently
- Secretary's report: Guy motioned to accept Feb meeting, March board meeting minutes as published, Paul seconded motion, all in favor, minutes approved
- Safety: Guy reminded everyone, if you lose control or think you have lost control of your model in the air, call out " I don't have it", so everyone is aware there is a problem
- Swap Meet, Sunday, April 28, 2019, we still need volunteers, Contact Adam
- Paul K pointed out that the copy of the club bylaws that is posted on the club website were approved when he was president of the club
- Guy checked into "mowing" the grass at the flying field by hiring goat or sheep herders, all he contacted used herding dogs, dogs are prohibited on the property, therefore, can't use sheep/goats
- Chili has been added back to the menu at the Larry Frank Event
- Adam: Label maker has been purchased by club and is stored in the shed at the field, all aircraft must be labelled by the end of March, in order to fly at the field
- Adam: weeds in pit area at field have been sprayed

- Adam/Eric: Windssock pole will be buried in ground at field, Eric has a new windsock
- Jake C. has T-shirt printed with the new club logo, shirt was passed around for members present to look at
- Auction: Sailplane Kit, Wingtote bag
- Raffle: 2 Plane kits, 5 Jake's Performance Hobbies gift cards
- David Ford, President of the Pacific Coast Air Museum spoke about the upcoming Wings Over Wine Country air show
- Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm

### **WCF 2019 EVENTS SCHEDULE**

- **Work Party:** Sat, April 27
- **WCF Swap Meet:** Sun, April 28 (Adam)
- **Opening Day:** Sat, May 4
- **Warbird Fly Day** (all military style aircraft): Sat, July 6
- **Larry Frank Scale Event:** Sat, Sept 7
- **PCAM:** Sat, Sept 28, and Sun, Sept 29 (Adam, Mike C., and Guy)
- **Christmas Party:** Sun, Dec 8, or Sun, Dec 15
- **Proposed New Year's Day Fly,** Wed, Jan 1, 2020