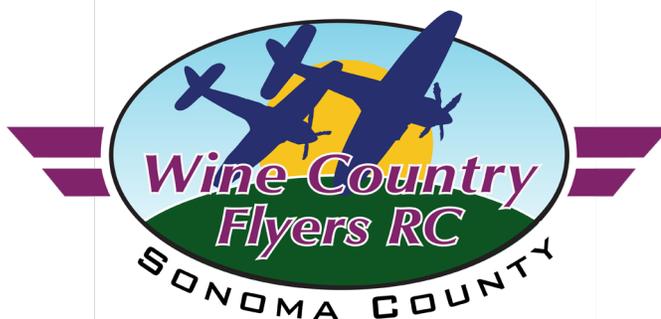


May 2019 Edition

Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 23 May 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

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

2019 Club Officers:

President:	Guy Nicholas	(707) 291-2781	guy@gui-soft.com
Vice President:	Buzz Russell	(707) 537-5299	brmaruss@sbcglobal.net
Secretary:	Chris Bailey	(707) 490-6206	chrishobiecat1985@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Paul Gibson	(707) 318-5926	paul@4gibson.us
Safety Officer:	Mike Cracchiolo	(707) 537-5198	mcrackman@hotmail.com

2019 Board Members:

Adam Clement	(707) 322-5318	adampclement@gmail.com
Bill Van Aslan		billv@sonic.com
Steve Koll	(707) 297-0247	imatrekkiwo@gmail.com
Eric Bergesen	(707) 494 0562	ebergesen@gmail.com
Jake Chichilitti	(707) 535-0977	jake.chichilitti@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Guy Nicholas
 Website: Patrick O'Halloran

Presidents Report

By: Guy Nicholas

Greetings all and welcome to the end of May, and speaking of May, do you know we had an opening day celebration on the 4th of May? Well, we did, and though it was fun, there wasn't as big of a turnout as I thought there would be. I was called out for not having sent out an email reminder, but really I thought I had given ample notice. We had a work party the week before, an email went out about that, I had brought up both the work party and the opening day event at the April general meeting, and there is of course the schedule of events at the end of each newsletter. I really thought it was covered.

I am a bit of a procrastinator and hadn't yet sent out the survey I said I was going to send out, but the low turnout prompted me to get it done. The survey went to approximately 80 people, 43 responded and the results can be seen here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-8KD3BQNPV/>

The results were mostly as I suspected, some folks use Facebook, some don't. This question was just an aid in determining where club information should go. Some members participate in forums but a much higher percent would participate in a more club centric one. For sale/trade was something a few members wanted to see. Of the items people want to see on a website, most were as I suspected, events, for sale, pictures. All this information was just really a good validation for what I had suspected.

One item I really didn't expect was that nearly a third of the members were not aware of our opening day event. I take full responsibility for that and I promise to ensure future events are more publicized.

One other number that is unsettling to me is the 43 respondents, which is only about half of our membership. I am a realist and I understand that there will a certain percentage of folks that just won't respond, but one half seems high, and it makes me wonder if some of them are not getting the club emails. I need to investigate this to ensure that everyone that wants to get emails is getting them.

Opening Day Grillin'



I would really like to throw a solid thank you out to Dawnell and Glenn for doing an outstanding job with the food. I know a lot of effort goes into the cooking there at the field plus all the pre-gaming, like baking a cake, cooking chilly, and of course all the shopping. It should also be noted they donate a number of items themselves. So, next time you see them, be sure to say, "Thank you!"

Safety

By Guy Nicholas

The other day a fellow member came by my house to pick something up and I was out flying my quad in my court. I landed and picked it up and we were rapping about it as he is considering getting one. I was holding the quad in my hand and we were looking at it and talking and all of a sudden there was the whir of the motors. It twisted in my hand a bit, rotating enough to get one of my fingers, but I was able to hold on. Mike reached over and moved my throttle back to idle. I was then left with my bruised ego and a bleeding hand. Idiot! I am not sure how I bumped the throttle stick but apparently, I did. My current RC career started with helicopters and on them "Throttle Hold" was a standard flight mode. In that mode the only thing that really happens is that the throttle is locked in the idle or off position and it was mainly used for auto rotations. I would also use it for starting up the helicopter as a good way to ensure the throttle is at idle and that an accidental stick bump doesn't end up ruining your day as you carry it out to the runway. I have hold setup on the quad I just didn't flip the switch before picking it up. I was careless, and honestly, I consider it more of a toy than something dangerous and deserving of the respect I would have given a .90 size helicopter with a 5' blade span. I will from now on! The moral of this story is setup a switch to force your throttle off...and use it!

My second piece of advice comes after someone mentioned parallel charging to me. For those who aren't familiar with the practice it is where you connect more than one battery to a balancing connector and charge them both at once. Done correctly it means you can charge multiple batteries from a single port on a charger in the same time it takes you to

charge a single battery. I will warn you however it does come with risk. If you connect a fully charged and a fully discharged battery to a single balancing board, you are making a direct connection between individual cells of one battery to another, and as soon as you do that, the batteries will begin to self-balance across the paired cells. The problem here is this isn't the same controlled balancing your charger would do. Rather the speed they try to balance will be dependent on the difference in voltage between paired cells. If the cell voltage difference is high enough the batteries can catch fire. I am not going to try to tell you what a safe delta voltage is, but what I will say is that if you want to do parallel charging, make sure you read up on it and understand what you are doing.

Field Work

By Guy Nicholas

The field was a weedy mess and a number of us gathered on a cool and dreary Saturday morning in April. There was weed wackers, mowers, rakes, and blowers a plenty. We went from this:

To this!





I brought a few donuts out to provide some fuel and we did some flying when it was all over. I want to thank the following for their participation in the work party on 27 April. Adam Clement, Eric Bergesen, Paul Gibson, Bilal Maqsood, Mike Cracchiolo, Jim Swanson, Jim Wolfe, Boyd Dyer, Chris Bailey, and David Harris. (If I missed someone please let me know and I will give them a shout next month)

JR is no more!

Apparently, JR has had financial issues and is calling it quits.

http://www.jramericas.com/news_feed.php?#newsid69

Unfortunately this is somewhat of a trend and I am sure we will see more of this as time goes on.

Slope Soaring at Los Banos Creek Resivoir

By: Jake Chichilitti

The South Bay Soaring Society sponsors a Scale Glider event every year one week after Easter and this year's event was scheduled for April 27 and 28. My friend Ken Martinez and I have attended this event for at least the last 10 years. We schedule our arrival at the flying site three days before the official event begins in order to fly our non-scale gliders without interfering with the scale event.

This year the conditions at the site were not great, but o.k. It got up to 96 degrees on Thursday and the wind direction and wind speed didn't really kick in until later in the afternoon. So, we wound up doing a lot of hanger flying. Generally, we can fly when the winds are from anywhere near west to northwest. And when the wind doesn't blow, we fire up our nitro/electric powered models.

Between Ken and I we had twenty-five models stuffed into his big Dodge cargo van. We bring gliders that will fly in light wind, medium wind and heavy wind conditions. We had all those conditions at one time or another during our three day stay.

I had a new model to fly and it was successfully flown and landed in one piece. It is a rare occurrence when I fly the slope and come home with all models intact. This year's Los Banos event was no exception. I managed to dork two models, both repairable thank goodness.

Because I only get to go to Los Banos once a year, I get pretty rusty. I have tried flying at Goat Rock, but usually wind up crashing a model on landing. My neighbor Mike Newman scouted the Sonoma County coast and found a spot a few miles south of Goat Rock that offers good flying and a decent landing area. The only downside is the wind must hit the coast in a WNW direction. Due west would be ideal. It was nice to fly there earlier in April as a tune up for the Los Banos affair.

I'm keeping an eye on the wind conditions and will try to make it out to the coast a few more times.

If you are interested in giving this type of flying a try, email me at:
jake.chichilitti@yahoo.com and I'll let you know when we will be heading out again.



Ken Martinez with the back of his van open showing his collection of slope soarers.



I'm flying my Bird of Time in light wind conditions.



My Thermal Eagle (in foreground) and my Bird of Time.



Large scale glider. This is the type of glider that the event features.



The same glider being towed aloft.

Jake

A few more photos Jake sent in from his trip to the coast with Jim Wolfe and Michael Newman.





Board Meeting Minutes

16 May 2019
By: Chris Bailey

- Meeting started at 6:35 pm
- Members in attendance: Guy, Chris, Adam, Buzz, Bill
- Runway project update, Eric will get his bid broken down into parts, with pricing for each part, Guy asked the Woodland RC jet club about construction method used on their runway, gypsum and soil mix, compacted, with Geotex surface, Steve will get a written bid from his friend
- Web site, group discussion, what we like, what we would change, how we use it, suggestion by Guy to visit the web sites of some of the other AMA clubs, see what they are like, features we like and might bring to our website
- Opening day event at our flying field: not a large attendance, suggestion by Guy to post signage to clarify what is included in purchased meal, group discussion on how to increase attendance
- Swap meet wrap-up by Adam: same amount of advertising, fewer tables sold, fewer attendees, less revenue, group discussion about how to increase attendance, Jake Rosen has offered to send out a survey to those on his email list
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

General Meeting Minutes

25 April 2019
By: Chris Bailey

- Meeting started at 7pm
- Number of members present: 17
- Treasurer's report, Paul: 78 members, no significant changes, will update after swap meet
- Flying field lease update, Adam: 5 year lease term, no increase in rent
- Safety report, Mike C: If you lose a battery at the flying field, especially if fully charged, you must search until you find that battery, notify Mike if you have lost a battery and were unable to find it, Mike plans to maintain the grass runway beside the fabric runway
- Swap meet news: opens at 8am, hall open at 7am to WCF members, currently 54 tables sold
- Work party at the flying field: Saturday, April 27, starts at 8am
- Opening Day: May 4 at the flying field, Glen is doing food; Burgers, Hotdogs, salads, and dessert
- Night Fly update: event went well, wet but fun, approximately 20 members attended
- Guy: several people have submitted items for newsletter, Thank you!, continue submitting your pictures, info, articles, etc.
- Website, Guy: Forum for club members? How many members would use? Open up access to website?
- Guy: In February newsletter, published picture, Guess who's Hanger? Answer: Steve Koll

- Runway Discussion: Adam has done some research into materials and cost to renew runway surface, Adam suggested possibly using existing fabric as gopher barrier, as cost to purchase gopher wire appears to be nearly \$7000; Steve Cole has a friend, Mike M, who is an excavation contractor, he has offer to donate use of equipment, time, materials to renew runway, would be available in July; Adam suggested that members might want to consider pre-paying club membership fees, to generate capital for runway project; Paul will look at proposed budget, look at various strategies for funding runway project, investigate 501c(non-profit) status, Guy will track all offers of labor and materials for project, members please check with friends and business contacts for labor and materials bids and or donations
- Adam: We have been asked to host the next Dan Sullivan event, due to loss of Ukiah Propbuster's flying field
- Auction: aircraft parts grab bag, donated by Bilal
- Raffle: field box kit, 5 gift cards to Jake's Performance Hobbies
- Meeting adjourned, 7:50 pm

WCF 2019 EVENTS SCHEDULE

- **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