

June 2019 Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 25 July 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:imatrekki2two@gmail.com">imatrekki2two@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

It seems summer is upon us! Did we have spring? It seemed we went straight from an extended winter into the heat of summer. Don't forget to stay hydrated out there and protect yourself from the sun.

Nothing is set in stone yet, but our new runway may be going in around the first week or so of July! Our Warbird event which was scheduled for 6 July was moved to ensure it wouldn't be in the way of possible runway work. When the work happens, we will need people to help out. Normally we would schedule a work party well in advance, but in this case, we don't yet have a firm commitment so as of today we will just keep our fingers crossed and keep your schedules open. As soon as we get word on a firm date I will send out an email to let you all know.

I went out to the field a couple weeks ago. There were a couple of members, along with what looked to be a family, a child, a couple of parental units, and a grandpa. I hadn't seen them before and the members there indicated they didn't know them, so I went over and said, "hi". As it turns out, grandpa was an R.C. guy from SoCal visiting his daughter and son. Grandpa had brought a plane up with him to give to his grandson and so mom headed over to the AMA website to find a local field. They found us and just showed up. I explained to them that it was a private field and about insurance and what not, but that they could stay and fly as my guest. I also told them about the junior membership and what not. They were all very nice people.

Our club is not that large and though we might not know everyone, we should at least recognize each other. If you see someone at the field you don't recognize, just go introduce yourself. A simple, "hey I'm so and so, I haven't seen you around before", will let you know if they are members or not. If they are not members tell them they can fly as your guest and let them know how to join. And of course, make sure they don't end up being the last person at the field. Our insurance depends on it!

## ***Spektrum Diversity Antenna***

By: Jim Wolfe

I recently experienced several glitches when flying my E-flite Apprentice. One time, I was flying down the runway, and when the plane was right in front of me the plane suddenly, and violently, went straight up in the air and over our heads in the cockpit area. Luckily, pushing the panic mode button on the transmitter brought it back into control.

Another time, I was flying parallel to the runway on the opposite side of the field when the plane did sort of a spin into the ground. This time I was not so quick thinking as to press the panic button.

I asked Jake at Jake's Performance Hobbies about it, and he said if there was a problem with the diversity system, it would often happen right in front of you when your transmitter was pointed right at the airplane. He suggested pointing the transmitter away from the airplane to increase the strength of the signal to the plane.

The receiver on my E-flite Apprentice has two antennae exiting the receiver at right angles. One antenna is about 2 inches long, and the other is about 7 inches. When the model was new, both antennas were taped up neatly inside the Apprentice. Over time,

through various crashes, and my hands in that area of the plane, the antenna wires have come loose. Could the layout of the antenna wires have reduced the strength of the signal from the transmitter to the plane?

I looked it up on Google, and one page I found said that the two antenna wires should always be at right angles to each other, and they should never come closer than two inches away from each other. I re-routed both the antennae on my plane to meet these requirements and taped them up securely. I have not had any similar problems since.

I noticed one suggestion from Spektrum that when range testing your airplane and receiver, one person should be on the transmitter, and another should hold the plane in many different attitudes relative to the transmitter to test the diversity system.

I notice that the latest receivers from Spektrum have antennas built into the body of the receiver, just like our cell phones. So perhaps this problem will not happen in the future.

### ***New Recruit?***

By: Guy Nicholas

The Helicopter squad has its newest member! Welcome aboard Josh. Also pictured was a guest of Josh whose name escapes me at the moment.



## ***Awesome!***

By: Jake Chichilitti

The Collings Foundation made Santa Rosa one of their stops on the "Wings of Freedom Tour" June 3, 4, and 5. The tour includes a B-24 Liberator, B-17 Flying Fortress, B-25 Mitchell, TF-51 Mustang and a just restored P-40 Warhawk. The aircraft are very well maintained and very authentic with WWII paint schemes and equipment. Check out their web site at <http://www.cfdn.org> for more info.

A few months ago, I received an advertisement with the dates and places they would be visiting this summer. They advertised rides in the bombers and flight instruction on the TF-51 and P-40. The TF-51 is a dual control P-51 Mustang that was built with dual controls right from the factory and the P-40 was converted by the Foundation to dual control for training purposes.



I don't think I'm old enough yet to have a bucket list, but I'm not getting any younger and a bicycle accident that put me in the hospital and wheel chair last year was a real wake up call. So I whipped out my credit card and called the folks at Collings and set up a ride in the TF-51 for Tuesday June 4. The weather was perfect with great visibility and cool enough at altitude that it was very comfortable.

It's hard to describe the feeling of power that you get on takeoff. 1600 horsepower really pinned me back in the seat. A few minutes later we were at 7000 ft and heading for the Pacific. Mike Hastings, the pilot demonstrated rolls, loops, wing overs and very tight turns. He then turned the controls over to me and I got to fly straight and level to get the feel of the aircraft and then asked him to talk me through some maneuvers. I did some

left and right rolls and a tight 360 degree turn and flew over to Napa, up to Healdsburg and finally back to the airport.

It is a once in a lifetime event and was worth every penny. A big thank you to my flying buddy Merlin Watson for coming with me and taking video and pictures that day.

I brought my P-51 Slope Soaring model with me and got a picture of Mike and I in front of the TF-51 before take off. Mike's 10 year old son also flies RC.

Jake

### ***Board Meeting Minutes***

20 June 2019  
By: Chris Bailey

- Board members present: Guy, Chris, Adam, Steve K., Mike C., Buzz, Bill, Eric, Jake C, Paul(by phone)
- Guy stated that Steve Cole's contractor friend would like to start the runway reconstruction project this July, group discussion about materials cost, funding, and time frame
- Warbird Fly In: Saturday, July 20, Ryan will be doing the food, Hotdogs/Hamburgers, 3 award categories; Top Speed Challenge, Best Warbird @ Event, Pilot's Choice Award
- Guy ask if there were any changes needed on the Membership renewal form, group agreed to change the year and update the club logo on the form, Guy will make changes to form
- PCAM Airshow: 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September, approaching fast, will announce at General WCF meeting next week, ask for volunteers to form a committee, Guy plans to be Air Boss again, Mike C. will be announcer
- Paul stated that Cattlemen's has increased the deposit required for the WCF Christmas Party reservation and the cost of the dinner, group discussion about whether to hold party at Cattlemen's or at another venue, group agreed to poll membership at next General meeting
- Guy mentioned an incident at our flying field, in which a family had located the field location online, and had gone to our field to fly a new model airplane they had purchased, turned out that the individual flying was neither a member of AMA nor our club, though another member of the family was a member of AMA. If you see someone at our field that you don't know, please inquire if they are a new club member, guest, etc.

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

23 May 2019  
By: Chris Bailey

- Meeting started at 7:03 pm
- 18 Members present
- Safety Minute: Guy told story about showing his quadcopter model to his neighbor, while he was holding model, throttle control was activated, rotors started turning, Guy cut his hand. Set and use a throttle hold or throttle cut switch!

- Swap Meet wrap up: 54 presale tables, 12 tables sold day of event, 300 entrance tickets sold, numbers are lower than last year, Mike Newman suggested coordinating with RC Country, so our event isn't the day after theirs
- Opening Day Event: lower turnout, suggestion made to have more advanced notice/announcements go out to club membership, approx. 23 meals served, thank you Glen (who will be retiring after this event), anyone know anyone who would want to take on the meal service for future events?
- Guy has results of his survey posted in last newsletter, 82 club members, 43 responses, approx. 1/3 didn't know that club has Facebook account, suggestions included hosting a forum, having a "for sale" section, and a section with building tips/tricks/help
- Show and Tell: Guy described molding a custom nose weight for a glider he owned, and the process he used, several other members added their experiences custom molding weights
- Mike Newman described his experience using carbon fiber thread to create a light weight pull/pull control system with no stretch/slack developing in the system
- Upcoming Events: June 15 Clearlake Modelers hosting an Open House/BBQ, Castle AFB Giant Scale Fly in, October Best in the West Jet Fly in Buttonwillow, Auction at our field Saturday
- Raffle: RC model light set, Laser 3D plane kit, 5 gift cards to Jake's Performance Hobbies
- Meeting Adjourned 7:46 pm

## **WCF 2019 EVENTS SCHEDULE**

- **Warbird Fly Day** (all military style aircraft): Sat, July 20
- **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