

August 2019 Edition

# Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: 22 August 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:

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Newsletter: Guy Nicholas  
 Website: Patrick O'Halloran

## ***Presidents Report***

By: Guy Nicholas

Hello happy flyers! Let's start off with a runway update. The board discusses the runway at every meeting, and thus far we have come to no real conclusions. Mike Cracchiolo suggested we get some information to help guide our decisions and so, we are looking to get someone out there to give us a better assessment of the soil.

I went to Michael Troy's Vortex event as a spectator and had a great time watching the festivities, I urge everyone to check it out next time it comes around.

There are a couple changes in mind for the Christmas party as the price for meals at Cattleman's' is going up a bit and they want a larger deposit for a weekend event. So a couple of items being looked into are a change to a weeknight for easier booking, a change in venue, some board members had ideas for places so it has been placed upon each to find out cost and availability. Another idea being rolled around is to change it from December to early January. We will keep you posted.

The Larry Frank scale event is fast approaching and, to be honest, it caught me off-guard. The date is 7 September, only two weeks away. The flyer will be sent out right after the email for this newsletter goes out.

I brought up failsafe (again) in the general meeting and my main point was I firmly believe throttle all the way off is the only way to go. I am going to do a short technical writeup of the various forms of lost signal handling in next month's newsletter.

PCAM is also fast approaching so I want to make a plea for both pilots and volunteers. I am drawing a blank right now on the exact amount of time a volunteer shift will be, but I guarantee it will give you plenty of time to wander around and check out the festivities. Plus it gets you into the event for free! How can you beat that? (you can't). Also, for those that haven't done it before, I will say that it isn't a "job" but rather fun. You get to talk shop to your fellow members during slow times, talk to interested passers by during busy times, and we are generally at a great vantage point for the in-air show! So step on up and volunteer.

I would like to also give a big thanks to Jake Chichilitti and Larry Gustafson for their contributed materials! I encourage everyone to share a story here. It can be anything, how you store your glue bottles, fiberglass techniques (I need help here), aviation places you have visited, interesting things that happened at the field, biographies. Really, anything you find interesting about aviation and modeling is worth telling others about.

Ciao for now, and have a great month!

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Vortex Event

By: Larry Gustafson

On August 10<sup>th</sup> Michael Troy hosted a Fun fly event at his home up off Lichau Road in the Coati/Rohnert Park area. Three clubs were represented: Wine Country Flyers, Liberty Flyers and Middle School Pilots. The event was well attended with some 20 pilots plus families present.

Did you ever wonder why Michael Troy calls it the Vortex? Well, after you fly there you won't. As the day progressed, the winds, which seemed to come from the northwest, started to swirl around sometimes making for challenging landings. But it's a great spot for small to medium 3D planes and helicopters as well as pattern and cruiser type planes. My guess is: pretty much everything. The Vortex will definitely make a better pilot out of you. There is plenty of room to fly with no obstacles to worry about.

The runway is fabric, 350 feet by 30 feet and has a slight slope up to the southeast. There is a garage with restroom and shade trees to the west out of the way of any aircraft activity.

As a fun fly there were a number of fun contests to try a pilot's skill or luck as the case may have been. First up was the paintball shoot down, with about 6 planes being sacrificed for the fun. Planes were donated to the cause and were either flown by the owner or by one of the volunteer suicide pilots. Adam Clement and Mike Cracchiolo provided the paintball guns. Josh Bernstein acted as the C.D.



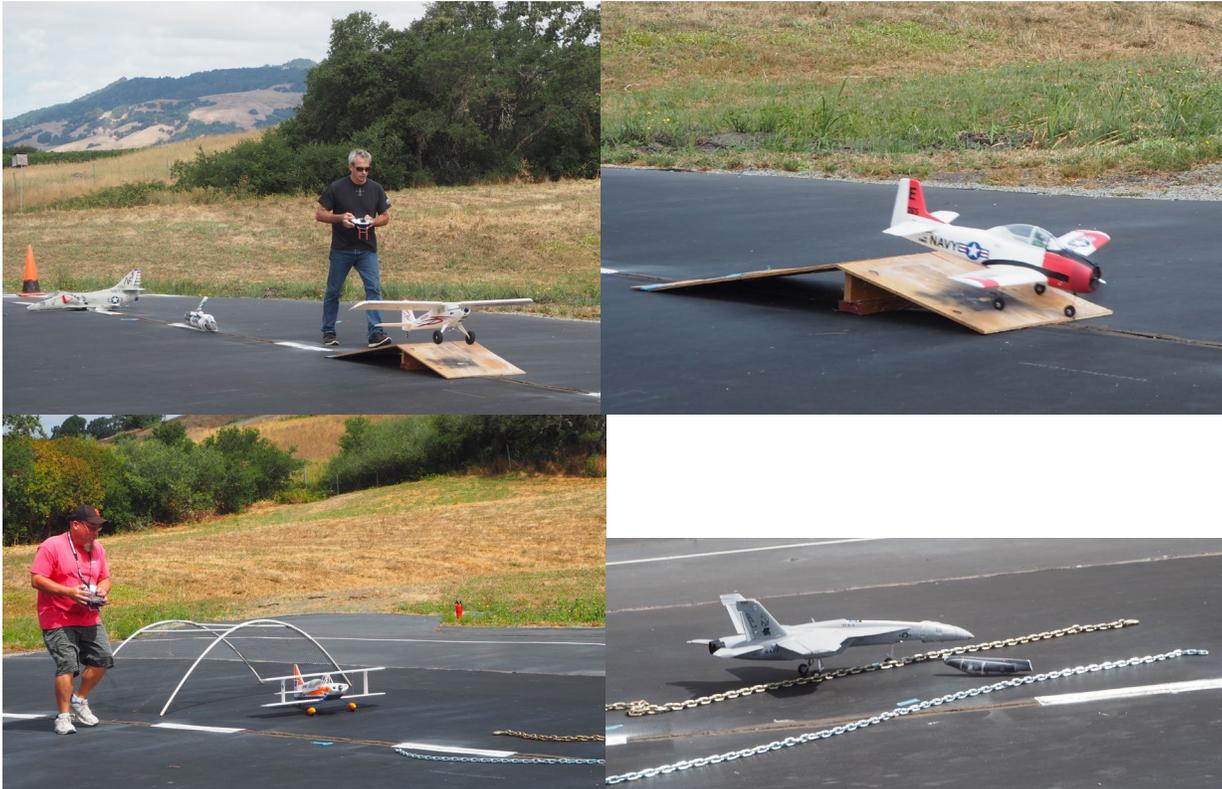


Next up was the Musical Planes. If you are not familiar with Musical Planes it is akin to musical chairs, but, in this case when the music stops everyone lands, at once. This made for some interesting landing as everyone jockeyed for position to be the first one safely down.

After that we played the Limbo: how low can you go and still survive? Initially all pilots did fairly well. But as the limbo line got lower and lower we began to lose planes. Some of our best pilots succumbed to the limbo, one hitting a pole, several bouncing off the runway and of course a few cut the ribbon before we had a winner.



The last event was the Obstacle Course. In this event anyone could participate regardless of flying skill. No flying is required, just taxi down the runway and maneuver around a number of obstacles. What could be easier? What could go wrong? Yea, sure, but to be honest all planes did survive this one with only a few bumps and scrapes.



Lunch was served. Chicken, Hotdogs and Hamburgers were cooked on the BBQ by Neil Isaacson and Jim Rolle from Liberty flyers. There was plenty of food. Salads of every type, cookies, brownies, cakes, chips, etc. Everyone got plenty to eat and we all left full. Lunch did not deter the diehard flyers, they just kept on FLYING and FLYing and flying ...

This was a great event with a good time had by all. If you missed it this year be sure to put it on your calendar for next year. Remember, brush up on your contest skills and come on out and join the fun.

HAPPY FLYING !!!

## ***Visit to J&M Hobby House and the Hiller Aviation Museum***

By: Jake Chichilitti

Last month Jim, Merlin and I drove down to San Carlos to pay a visit to my old hobby shop and also visit the Hiller Aviation Museum located at the San Carlos Airport.

J&M Hobby House has been in business since 1964 and was started by Joe and Mary White. This was and still is an old-style hobby shop. They cater to all modelers with a huge selection of plastic models, slot cars, trains, boats and of course airplanes. Looking at the store from the outside you can't believe how much merchandise they can pack into it. One half of the store is devoted to modeling and the other half is for crafts. I have found elastic thread that I used for flying wires on the craft side.

J&M is still family owned and operated by Cliff and Pam White since Joe's retirement. I met Cliff when he was still in high school and we would fly our control line models at Hillsdale High School. Cliff and Pam are getting close to retirement so most likely the store will close. There is merchandise in the store that was there when it opened, so if you're looking for something old you might find it.

Definitely worth a trip to check out.  
J&M Hobby House

1660 laurel St.  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
650-593 5019  
Closed Monday  
Tuesday thru Friday 11:00AM - 6:00 PM  
Saturday 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM

The Hiller Aviation Museum is located at the San Carlos Airport only a few miles from the hobby shop. The museum is not huge, but has quite a collection of aircraft, engines, models and some interactive displays. I would plan on taking about three hours or so to take it all in. The day Jim, Merlin and I visited they were setting up a model railroad display in the lobby. And there was a field trip of a large group of kids also visiting that day. They seemed very interested in the flight simulators and who knows how many of them will pursue a career in aviation. The pictures taken by Jim are to whet your appetite.

There is also a nice Museum Store with books, model kits, apparel, aviation cd's and more.

Hiller Aviation Museum  
601 Skyway Rd.  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
650 654 0200

[www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org)

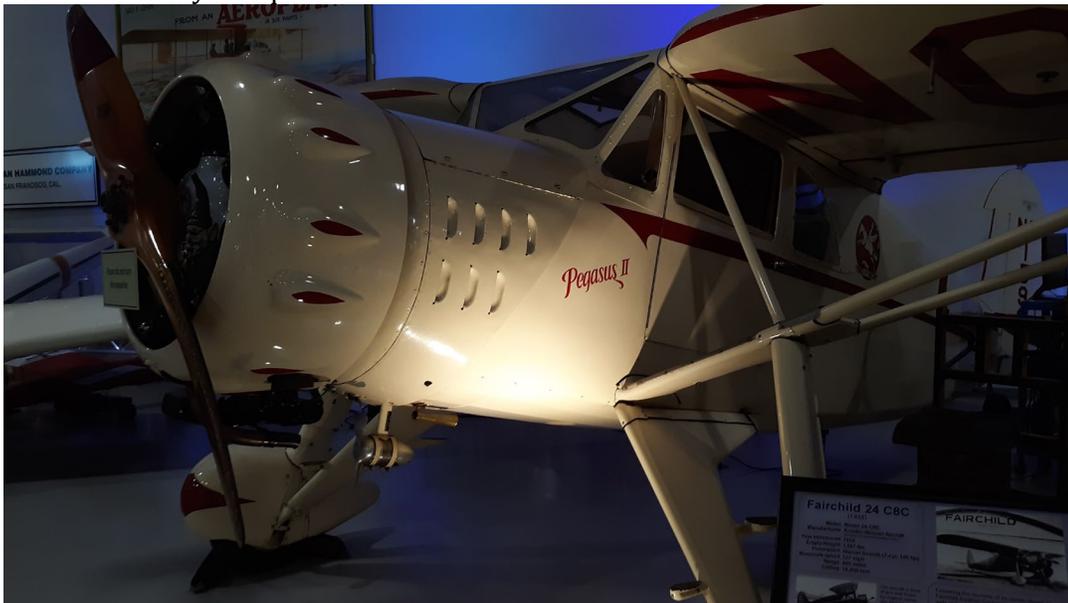
Open seven days a week from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Admission:

\$18.00 Adult

\$11.00 Senior and youth (5-17 years old)

One of the many antique restorations



Merlin Watson in the Blue Angles A-4 cockpit, and then flies the Wright Model B around San Francisco



## ***Board Meeting Minutes***

15 August 2019  
By: Chris Bailey

- Start 6:40 pm
- Present: Paul (by phone), Guy, Chris, Steve K., Adam, Mike C., Buzz, Bill, Jake C., Eric
- Runway Project bids: Eric \$23,000, Mike M approx. \$12,000 for rock, approx. \$6000 for fabric, Brian Y approx. \$8000-10,000 for base rock
- Mike C recommended waiting to do actual work, doing more research, hiring a soil engineer to evaluate site
- Motion by Mike C. to hire soils engineer, Second by Guy, all present in favor, Jake will check with Brian Young for recommendation of engineer
- Mike C stated that the goal for the Wings Over Wine Country show this year is to provide A higher quality RC performance, choreographed to music, with possibly fewer total planes performing
- If you wish to fly at the airshow, contact Guy or Adam, also email Guy or Adam if you will be volunteering at the airshow, so Adam knows how many wristbands and flight line badges to request from PCAM
- Larry Frank Memorial Event: September 7, Judges Bill Van Asdlan? Jim Swanson?, Guy will talk to Ryan about providing food for the event, 2 classes, Beginner/Advanced, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> in each class, \$15 landing fee for participants

- Neil Taylor Award: send nominations to Guy, Motion by Adam that that the award can be won by the same person more than once, Second by Jake, all present in favor, Jake will check with Eric Kirby to see if he has a list of previous Neil Taylor Award winners
- Bob Nellor has donated 2 planes to the club, Lil Tony, and a Funtana
- Adam proposed changing the number of gift cards and \$ value of each for the general meeting raffle: (1) \$50, (1) \$30, (1) \$20
- Paul ask if we could survey the members at the general meeting as to whether they want to go ahead with this years' Christmas Party at Cattlemen's?
- Various board members suggested other possible venues, it was agreed that they would each check into their suggested venue and bring the info back to the board
- Meeting adjourned 8:09 pm

## ***General Meeting Minutes***

25 July 2019  
By: Chris Bailey

- Meeting started 7:06 pm
- Adam Smith, new member, was a member of WCF when he was 12, club was flying at the county dump, Welcome Adam!
- Treasurer's report: 87 members
- Safety Minute: Mike C., Fire extinguishers, buckets of sand, rubber fire tamper available at the field in case of a fire, if you lose a lipo battery at the field search until you find it!, Set and test Fail Safe on all aircraft flown at the field, Ask Mike for help setting it up if you need assistance, Remember, in case of actual or suspected contact between 2 aircraft, both must land immediately and check for possible damage
- Runway Improvement Project: everyone's opinion counts, must be a whole club decision
- Runway budget approx. \$ 10,000-12,000
- Goals: Lengthen existing runway, smooth out surface
- Brian Young quoted a price of about \$10,000 for 6" base rock, suggested we might want to look at using Astroturf instead of Geotex, and might try to lift up existing fabric, regrade, and lay old fabric back down, if this doesn't work then lay new Geotex or Astroturf.
- Steve Koll, Warbird Fly In wrap up: Many positive comments from those attending, plenty of food and fun had by all, Profit to the club \$206
- Michael Troy Event: August 10, paint ball aircraft shoot down, plane limbo, flying obstacle course, info in email from Guy
- To audition for flying in Wings Over Wine Country airshow RC demo, contact Guy or Mike C.
- Show and Tell: Guy shared a MiniMach slope soaring plane
- Raffle: 5 Jake's Performance Hobbies Gift cards, 1 Jake's T-shirt,( 2) 3D laser cut model kits
- Meeting adjourned 8:13 pm

### **WCF 2019 EVENTS SCHEDULE**

- **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