

Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: Cancelled due to Covid-19.

www.wcflyers.com

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

2020 Club Officers:

President:	Guy Nicholas	(707) 291-2781	guy@gui-soft.com
Vice President:	Adam Clement	(707) 322-5318	adampclement@gmail.com
Secretary:	Chris Bailey	(707) 490-6206	chrishobiecat1985@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Paul Gibson	(707) 318-5926	paul@4gibson.us
Safety Officer:	Jake Chichilitti	(707) 535-0977	jake.chichilitti@yahoo.com

2019 Board Members:

Buzz Russell	(707) 537-5299	brmaruss@sbcglobal.net
Bill Van Aslan		billv@sonic.com
Steve Koll	(707) 297-0247	imatrekki2@gmail.com
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Steve Cole	(707) 481-7969	P38Extreme@aol.com

Newsletter: Guy Nicholas

Website: Patrick O'Halloran

Presidents Report

By: Guy Nicholas

Welcome to the end of July, summer is more than halfway over and what do you have to say for yourself? My spare time has been being spent on a bathroom remodel so my flying time has been sparse. I am a couple weekends away from completion after which I should be able to visit the field more. I hope all of you have had more time to get out and get some than I have.

Our runway project is still...I don't know, I guess you could say, "on hold" as we are still in need of someone to do the heavy lifting. We have some leads, but as I mentioned at a membership meeting some time back, until the leads actually show up at the field to do work, it isn't a done deal. If anyone out there, knows of someone with road working skills that want's to do a great club a favor, I'm all ears.

Membership meetings, or should I say, the lack of membership meetings was brought up independently by a couple different board members. They floated the idea of having a membership meeting at the field. As far as I am reading, gatherings are illegal, and therefore the club cannot have officially sanctioned events (meetings). It was pointed out to me that there were more than 10 people at the field the other day, but as I said before, we are allowed to go to outdoor places for recreation and exercise, and my view is the people visiting the field on any given day are there of their own volition and are not part of any sanctioned event. Again, I am not a legal expert, I am just going by what I read, if someone out there can point me to official documentation that they believe says we can have an outdoor meeting please point me to it!

The swap meet, though still tentatively "on the books" will most likely get canceled at the upcoming board meeting. It is something we need lead time for in order to get the word out and gather interest. We considered canceling it last month but decided to hold out one more month on the off chance something changed. Don't hold your breath.

I would like to thanks the folks that have been giving articles for the newsletter. I also encourage everyone to think about contributing. Even if you are just at the field and see something cool, take a picture and text it to me with a few words describing it. Remember this is not my club, it's YOUR club!

Thats all I have for right now, get out there and get some flying in while the weather is still great!

Ciao, Guy

Safety Matters

By: Jake Chichilitti

The year is half over and we are still in the middle of a health and economic crisis. Being able to go to the flying field and enjoy our hobby is a big plus. While following county and state guidelines for gathering at the field for flying and fellowship.

Here are two more club rules to review and one recommendation for your consideration.

Rule # 12 No more than four aircraft airborne at one time. Includes fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft.

Rule # 13 Starting or running of engines on starting tables only including arming electric engines(motors). The starting tables are the tables closest to the safety fence.

Pilots Stations: I painted green stripes on the safety fence. There are four sets of stripes, two to the left of the center taxiway and two more to the right of the center taxiway. The photo shows the two on the right. Standing in one of the pilots stations will improve communications between pilots.



We should be calling out our intentions such as:

Coming Out - taxiing on the runway to take off

Taking Off - also announce taking off from the left or the right

Touch and Go - also announce touch and go from the left or right

Landing - also announce landing from the left or the right

On the runway - after landing and taxiing back to the pits.

Runway clear - after taxiing back to the pits.

Also let the other pilots know if you have to retrieve your model on the runway or flying field.

Please acknowledge you heard the intentions with an, "O.K." or, "Negative".

As of this writing it is not a club rule, but I would encourage all of us to treat it as one.

Stay safe and keep flying,

Jake

What's Old Is New

By: Guy Nicholas

Back around 2002 or so the Wine Country Flyers were nicely situated atop the Healdsburg transfer station. The dump itself had been capped years before and we flew off the top of the main cap. It was pretty nice place to fly. That year we had some big event and there was a swap meet, raffle prizes, food and of course, flying. A non-flying buddy of mine came to it and he ended up winning the awesome Sig Katdet LT-40. He wasn't going to fly it so I bought it from him and used that to teach my son, Christopher to fly. Sometime after he had soloed he was coming in for a landing which took a little getting used to due to us being on a plateau of sorts. So I was talking to him, telling him his approach was fine, "looking good, stay on that course and...". I forgot to mention one minor downside of the field. It being an ex-dump there were 3' tall 6" diameter vent pipes that took the methane down the hill to the furnace. Where was I, oh yeah, "stay on that course and..." bang, the right wing took out the pipe just past the end of the runway. I guess I should say the pipe took out the airplane. Anyway, I fixed it up and patched the Monokote (I didn't have any white). After Christopher quit flying it was hung up in the garage waiting.



Fast forward quite a few years and Patrick or one of his trainees, crashed his trainer. I looked at that Kadet hanging in the rafters and decided it needed a new home. Patrick freshened it up with new fuel lines, a battery and a receiver. He brought it to the field, range checked it, fueled it up and flipped the prop a half dozen times (he rarely resorts to an electric starter) and she started right up! You just can't beat the bushed OS LA engine! Now he is using it to teach Conor (right) and Fintan (left) to fly.



The red Stick was built in 1993 and it was purchased for a whopping!

In 2018 the original owner moved and at that point it was transferred from his garage to Patrick's shed where it sat until it became COVID Project III. For some reason he replace the "High quality electric motor with noise suppressors" and NiCad power with one of those new fangled brushless things (no character at all) and a lightweight LiPo pack. He had to add the "eyes" (look closely at the above photo) to get it to C.G. correctly. He is using this plane as a trainer for the boys as well.



I find it pretty cool that you can take something that has been sitting around for years and years and go out and have a ball with them!

For Sale - New Low Price!

Will Whiteside:

I am selling my 1 month old Eflite F/A18. No batteries included. Flown 4 times. A couple of scrapes but no big damage. \$275.00 Usually sells for Close to \$500 with tax and shipping. Will 707-321-7073
Thinning out hangar

<https://tinyurl.com/yb89jdgk>



Lost and Found

9 July 2020

By: Guy Nicholas

Did you lose a battery at the field, cuz one was found. Email or text me (707) 291-2781 details of your lost item and I will get it returned to you.

Board Meeting Minutes

9 July 2020
By: Chris Bailey

- Meeting started at 6:37 pm
- Present: Guy, Steve Koll, Paul, Bill, Buzz, Jake, Chris, Eric (by Phone)
- Guy brought up that we still need to get our field registered with the FAA, Bill volunteered to work with the AMA and FAA to accomplish this registration, which would make our field a Designated Flying Area, and thus not require Individual Remote Registration, under the Proposed Rules
- Guy checked with Steve Cole, Steve will continue to check with his friend about doing the necessary soil prep and grading at our runway
- Guy brought up communication between pilots while flying at the field, Jake has painted marks on the safety fence rail establishing 4 pilot stations, 2 on each side of the center taxiway, this should help keep the pilots closer together, and thus facilitate better communication, announce your intended action to the other pilots(taking off from the right, landing from the right, touch and go from the right, etc.) then wait for an acknowledgment back (so you know they heard and understood your announcement) then take off, land, etc. Guy suggested that it would be best when 2 or more people are flying simultaneously if each pilot had a spotter, this is currently at the discretion of the individual pilots, official flying hours are 8 am until Dusk
- Adam had spoken with Guy about the WCF swap meet, currently planned for October, after some discussion by the board, it was decided that we will wait until next month's board meeting to decide whether to postpone the swap meet until 2021
- Paul mentioned that some club members had proposed to him that we might have an outdoor General Membership meeting, perhaps at the flying field, after group discussion, it was decided that with Sonoma County still banning large gatherings we really can't have any type of general meeting, unless it was a virtual one, not sure how much interest there would be in a virtual meeting? We will just have to wait and see how things work out
- Guy brought up, and all present tended to agree that anyone, whether or not they are a paid member of the club, is welcome to attend our general meetings(when we are able to have them again)
- Guy ask if we can get an ADA compliant portable toilet with a urinal for the flying field, Paul contacted company, unit can't have a urinal and be ADA compliant
- Guy, thanks for repairing and repainting the flying field pit area tables, they look great!
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

WCF 2020 EVENTS SCHEDULE

- **Larry Fran Scale Event: Sat, 12 Sept.**
- **Christmas Party: TBD**
- **News Year Day Fun Fly: (take a guess)**