

Wine Country Flier



Next meeting: Cancelled due to Covid-19.

www.wcflyers.com

Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County

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Newsletter: Guy Nicholas

Website: Patrick O'Halloran

Presidents Report

By: Guy Nicholas

Greetings all, I hope December is treating you well so far. We have had great weather for flying and I urge you to get out there while it lasts.

Our runway project is making progress. I don't want to announce anything quite yet, but I should have news in next months newsletter.

You may notice the northernmost pit table has changed. We swapped out a tall table for a shorter one and a ramp was added to it. I would like to thank Josh Bernstein for suggesting the change as well as designing and building the ramp. This was done to make the pit station a bit more A.D.A. compliant and giving folks an easier way to get their planes onto a table. This also allows those that need or want to sit while working on their aircraft a place to do so.

Don't forget we have a night fly coming up this Saturday the 12. There will be a mini-swap meet starting around 3:00 or so, and night flying will commence when it gets dark. I urge you all to come check it out.

Sonoma county has thus far been spared another COVID related lock down so I urge you all to do your part and wear masks and keep your distance.

I would like to take a moment to talk about decision making. I have had several incidents due to poor decisions I made. I was at the field one day and while packing up I forgot to zip up my transmitter case. When I picked it up the transmitter fell out and onto the ground. Fortunately it looked OK and I continued packing and went home. A few days later I came to the field to fly my 60" KMX and as I was preparing, I noticed something odd. One of the long switches on my transmitter was now a short switch. I looked at it and made the decision to fly anyway and fix the switch when I got home. I rolled out and took off and on climb out the plane did some kind of weird twitch. I turned to bring it around for a landing and it did it again, so I just pulled off power and tried to glide back to the runway. I "landed" a bit short and broke my gear (which I had just fixed from a previous incident). I was a bit distraught, not due to the bad landing, but due to not knowing what happened. Long story short, the plane has a gyro that uses a trio of switches, one to turn it on/off, one to set the gain and a third, always active switch that enables a "bail out" feature that will immediately right the airplane. Guess which switch I broke? Yep, the bail out switch. What was happening in flight was not the plane going nuts, but the switch being intermittently activated and the plane then abruptly bringing itself level. It was a bad decision to fly knowing I had a broken switch.

My buddy Patrick spent many hours repairing the plane from this bad decision and I thank him tremendously for it. (I will post some pics later of his repair work). After repairing it him and I went to the field to fly. It was dusk. I was working on harriers at maybe eight feet, it was a bit gusty. I was working on controlling the wing rock when one dipped quite a bit and the plane fell. Since I, once again, made a bad decision to fly when conditions weren't right, I couldn't tell which way it fell and thus I didn't know what to do to recover. Sadly, Patrick's hours of hard labor fixing the plane were wasted to my idiocracy.

Another time I went to fly one of my helicopters and I noticed a ball link on the tail push rod was starting to wear and getting a little loose. I figured it was fine and I would replace it when I got home. I took off and in about 30 seconds there was a small, "pop", and the helicopter started spinning wildly due to the push rod popping off. I was able to hit the Hold switch and land unscathed.

My suggestion to all of you is to limit your bad decisions. When you see something wrong, don't say, "hmm, I should fix that. Oh well, I will do it when I get home." It may not make it home. Learn from my mistakes, don't repeat them!

Pieces to y'all, have a good month!

Powered Up

By: Jake Chichilitti

Gentle Lady gliders modified to use electric motors mated to Radian folding propeller units by Jake and Jim. Both have been flown successfully. The fog delayed the test flights.

Jake



Field Maintenance Update

By: Jake Chichilitti

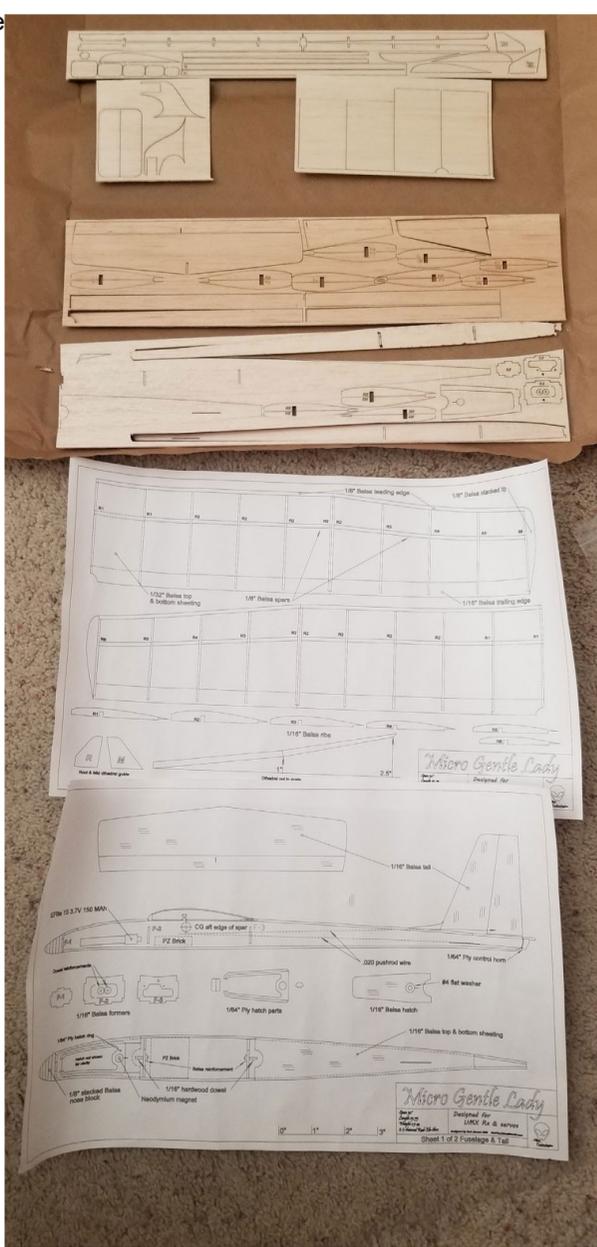
Although the the club has not scheduled a work party due to the Corona Virus lock down, a few of us have managed to keep the field mowed and hauled off the trash that has been accumulating. I want to give a shout out to Billy Lantz for keeping our field mowed this summer and to Steve Koll who let us fill his trailer with our trash not once but twice. And thanks go out to the club members that pitched in to keep our field looking good. Perhaps a new and improved runway in 2121? Your board of directors is trying to make it happen.

Jake

Micro Gentle Lady

By: Guy Nicholas

A buddy of mine and an ex-club member Robbie Jensen, a.k.a RedTheAlien, a.k.a. Alien_Tech, is a pretty prolific builder. A lot of the birds he builds, he ends up kitting and selling. I happened to acquire one of his micro Gentle Lady kits. I have built airplanes in the past, the distant past. Like the last time I did it I was fighting Brontosaurus for balsa...ok, I'm jesting. In reality it was around the late 70's. Where was I? Oh, so the kit arrived and came with several sheets of laser cut balsa, two sheets of plans, a bag with some a bit of hardware. The instructions came as a pdf that Robbie emailed to me. The kit fit together very nicely and was quite enjoyable to build. I will certainly be looking for another one to build soon.



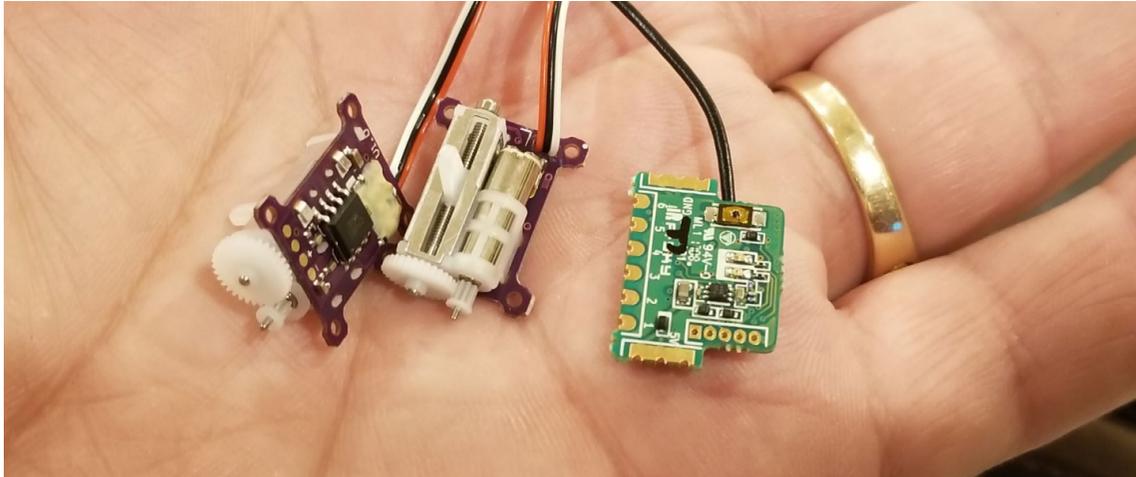
One completed wing panel.



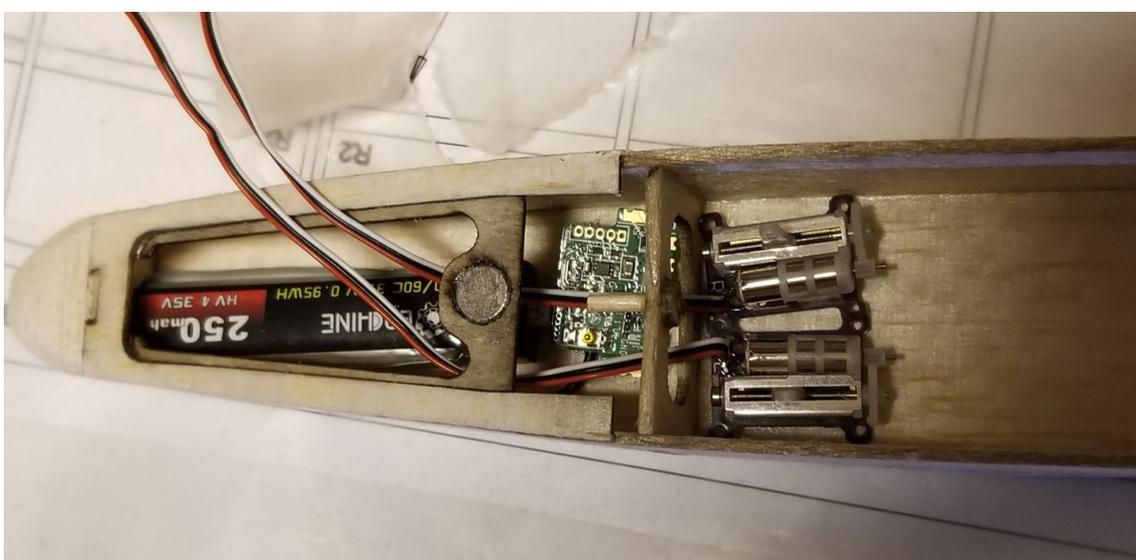
Here are the completed bits ready for sanding. Two things I thought were pretty cool was the little rubber band holders made out of "donuts" and dowels, and then the magnetic hatch. Not yet installed is the hatch "handle" that will be attached after covering and goes in the little slot right behind the round magnetic piece.



Here is the radio. I fly FrSky equipment and didn't come across a "brick" until after I had bought my individual components. For those unaware of what a "brick" is, it is a receiver and a pair of servos built into a single unit. That would have been much easier to install than this will be. The receiver is the piece on the right and along the left you will notice numbered tabs; those are the channel outputs. The gold strips along the top and bottom are the power leads. I will cut the servo leads and solder them directly to the receiver, and then solder a battery connector to connect to power.



Here is a test fitting of all the components inside the nose.



The wing is ready to cover.



All that's left is some nose tinting and the tail feathers. I found covering to be the hardest part and I did nothing fancy. Patrick is building a Wanderer kit, also created by Robbie and he has done his up with fancier striping and a windscreen, etc. I won't post those pictures as they just make mine look weak. On my next kit, I will try to do something more complex.



I will post an update when I get it in the air.

For anyone else interested here is a link to a trio of gliders from Robbie: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3757791-Sinbad-Aquila-and-Gentle-Lady-Micro-glider-kits-FREE-SHIPING%21>

You should also keep your eyes posted on RCGroups for future kits from Alien_Tech!

Safety Matters

By: Jake Chichilitti

Hello everyone!

It's time for another edition of Safety Matters and we are getting down to the last of the published club rules.

Rule # 23 No flying over the vineyards while vineyard personnel are present. I have not heard of any complaints of models flying over the workers, so good job everyone.

Rule # 24 Last person leaving for the day lock gate. Don't forget to lock the shed if you open it.

Rule # 25 Flying FPV requires a spotter.

We still have one month to go before the year is over and so far we are doing a good job keeping the field safe and secure. Keep it up.

Jake Chichilitti

Board Meeting Minutes

12 November 2020

By: Jake Chichilitti

Meeting in Jake's work shop called to order by president Guy Nicholas at 6:30 PM Attending in person were Guy, Buzz, Paul, Bill and myself. Attending by phone were Adam, Steve Koll and Steve Cole. Items discussed:

- Runway update, So far we have one bid and are waiting for a second bid. Jake will call the contractor to obtain a second bid. Also discussed was the purchase of brand new astro turf instead of geo tex. Still to be determined which way we will go.
- Purchase of used gas powered weed wacker for \$50.00 was approved by the board. Or was it a leaf blower?
- The start time for flying at the field was changed to 8:00AM and updated on the club rules posted at the field.
- Adam delivered the rent check to Ya-Ka-Ama and it was cashed. This covers our rent period from Oct. 2020 to March 2121.
- A club swap meet/night fly/pot luck was approved for Saturday 12/12/2020 with the swap meet beginning at 3:00PM It was decided that the swap meet will be for WCF members only.
- Our outhouse supplier, Honey Bucket, has missed cleaning our outhouse three times this year. The board decided it was time to look for a more reliable service provider.
- Steve Koll volunteered to bring his trailer to the field on Sunday around 8:00AM 11/15 to remove the trash that has been accumulating over the summer. I will be there to help Steve and would like another person or two to join us. I would like to cut the old plywood tables tops in half to make it easier to load and unload at the dump. I'm hoping someone has a battery powered circular saw they can loan us for the job.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM

- Jake

WCF 2020 EVENTS SCHEDULE

- **Night fly and mini-swap. 12 December 3:00 - after dark**
- **News Year Day Fun Fly: (take a guess)**