

*February 2024 Edition*

## *Wine Country Flier*



**Next meeting: 22 Feb Mountain Mike**

**[www.wcflyers.com](http://www.wcflyers.com)**

**Promoting Model Aviation in Sonoma County**

**2024 Club Officers:**

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**Newsletter: Guy Nicholas**

**Website: Patrick O'Halloran**

# ***Presidents Report***

By: John Cole

<ed. note: John is unable to get a report together this month. He will be at the general meeting and give his report there>



# Gee Bee Z

By: Mike Schroeder

I came across a great deal on an old Jamara balsa kit of the GeeBee-Z on Ebay. It was in a scale close enough to the original so I decided to make this my 2nd build.

Everything came together nicely and I primarily used C.A. thin and medium viscosity for all wood joints and wood glue for the the radius parts which required sanding to shape.



It sat for a while and was eventually crushed. I was going put it in the scrap pile but Jake encouraged me to repair it. I went back to work and it really wasn't as difficult as I expected. I used monokote to wrap it. Some of the compound curves were difficult to work with but Merlin loaned me a mini-iron and it all worked out nicely. It just takes repeatedly working on the same spots



I had issues trying to cut the canopy and it would tend to crack mid-cut. Jake recommended curved scissors to cut and that did it. I didn't have a mm to spare.



My biggest issue was what to do with this big gaping hole in my cowl. More on this shortly...



I had to start making decisions on the color scheme and whether I would cut monokote or paint. I heard 1-shot worked pretty well so I gave it a try. It was a great choice. It sticks well, is extremely opaque, and is easy to work with.



As for Graphics, Callie-Graphics can make anything in any scale. The prices are affordable and the quality is top-tier.



About that gaping hole, something needed to be done about it. I overheard one of the guys talking about an expert 3-D printer that could print a dummy engine and they weren't kidding. 3-D printing is the way of the future



Some lifter arms covered in Sharpie Silver were the final touch



I was loaned a Gee Bee book for reference and it was helpful. I probably would have added wing strut/wires if I had thought ahead, but It really is rigid as it sits.



Out to the field for a quick run-up



I'm more than satisfied with the outcome and I'm glad I didn't give up on it. I had a really great group of guys helping me along the way, so thanks to all of you who helped.

-Mike



## Colin's CL Shop

By: Colin McRae

My new Yak-9 warbird control line model build is ongoing, but a bit on hold as I repair and upgrade two other models.

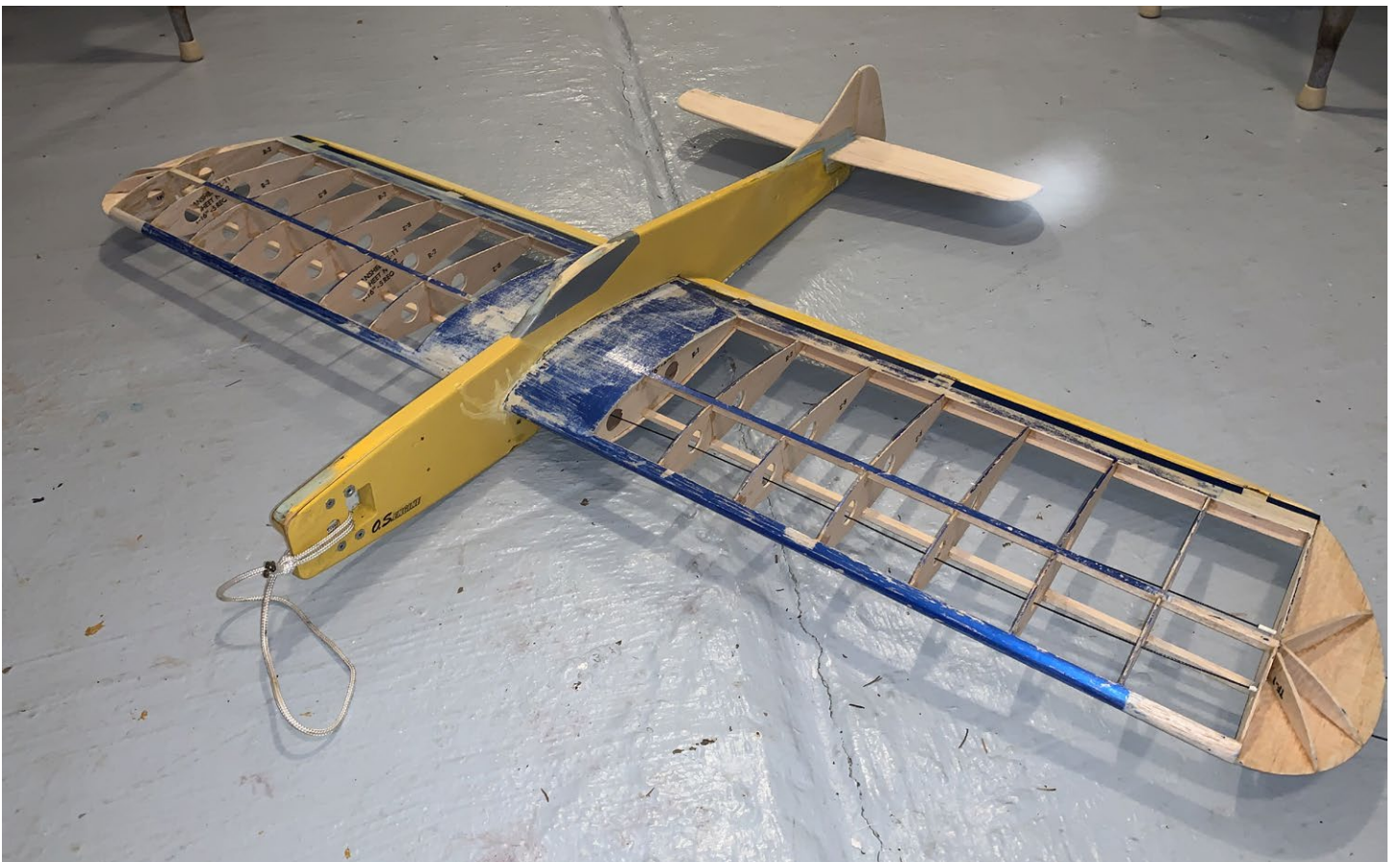
### P40 Tigershark Upgrade

In an effort to get my P40 to perform a little better in the air, I decided to upgrade the flap and elevator controls. Being an ARF model, the original Chinese kit used inferior and weak pushrod wire and related control components causing some control system flex which is never good on any CL model. I have upgraded the controls using a carbon fiber pushrod and ball joints. This is my first model using a CF pushrod and ball link system. I had to first learn how to put together a CF pushrod system by watching various YouTube videos. Ended up not being too difficult, and I enjoy learning new model building techniques.



### SIG Banshee Repair/Upgrade

I had a minor crash a few months ago on my old SIG Banshee CL model. The damage was just on the tail area. So I rebuilt the entire tail, rudder, stabilizer and elevator. And I also decided that I will recover the wing. The recovering was a good idea as I found some minor damage to a couple of wing ribs once the old covering was off the model. Also, while I am at it, I am going to do the same CF pushrod/ball joint upgrade as I did on the P40.





## Coastal Crew

By: Guy Nicholas



It was a beautiful day at the coast! So Patrick and I messaged a few folks and headed to the coast. Mike Retterer, Nat Seavy, Merle McGregor, and Paul Gibson showed up to check out the day.



Paul wanting to be more like Patrick and I (a.k.a. the Cool Kats), told us to let him know when we were going out so he could check it out. When he first got there, I had my combat wih up trying to "connect" with Mike's (I am not sure Mike knew we were combatting). Anyway, I asked Paul if he wanted to fly it, and he jumped right in. He did end up making first contact with Mike! After he flew the wing around for 20 minutes or so, I asked if he wanted to fly my Ahi. He flew that one for probably 30 minutes, and apparently enjoyed it. So much so, that he had his own by Wednesday that same week. Him and Patrick also both both the same combat wing I have, so soon we will have a nice little fleet of them hunting each other down.



Paul on the left, and Mike below...just wing'in it.



Patrick flying something of Nat's while Mike flies his Ahi.



Then Mike took over the controls of Nat's plane to bring her safely back to earth.



My two favorite gliders are my Ahi (<https://dream-flight.com/products/ahi-kit>) which is a great all around sport-aerobatic airplane, and my Mega SST ([https://fancyfoam-com.3dcartstores.com/48-Mega-SST-Wing\\_p\\_265.html](https://fancyfoam-com.3dcartstores.com/48-Mega-SST-Wing_p_265.html) or <https://alofthobbies.com/products/mega-sst-48-slope-glider>) you do NOT want the "lite" or 1.3lb version, you want the beefy 1.9lb version. The wing is super durable and it's great fun trying to hit someone! RCGroups has a thread on it here: <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2241020-SST-%28Sloper-Steve-Tribute%29-ultrabatic-wing%21>

Happy soaring, Guy



## ***Board Meeting Minutes***

11 January, 2024

By: Jake Chichilitti

- Board members present: Nat, Eric, Bill and Jake Attending by phone Guy
- Updated web site is still in the works per Guy
- Tentative Schedule of WCF Events for 2024
  - Night Fly Saturday March 2nd or 9th
  - Work Party Saturday April 27th
  - WCF Swap Meet Sunday April 28th
  - Opening Day Saturday May 4th We would like to have a BBQ for this event if we can find a volunteer to buy the fixings and cook..
  - Learn To Fly Day Saturday June 8th, 15th or 22nd.
  - Warbird Fun Fly Sunday July 14th
  - Fun Fly Contest Saturday 10th, 17th or 24th
  - Larry Frank Scale Event Saturday September 14th, 21st or 28th.
- We will need volunteers to buddy box students on the Learn To Fly Day
- A judge or judges will be needed if we want the Larry Frank Event to be a contest.
- An event director will be needed for the Fun Fly Contest.
- These dates are subject to change. We have to check with Ya-Ka-Ama to make sure we don't conflict with any of their activities

Respectfully submitted

Jake Chichilitti

# *General Meeting Minutes*

25 January, 2024

By: Jake Chichilitti

- General Membership Meeting January 25, 2024 15 club members in attendance. No visitors. Plenty of pizza to go around.
- Meeting called to order by Vice President Adam Clement. President John Cole is said to be in Hawaii this week
- Adam welcomed new Board Members and returning Board Members for 2024.
- Treasurer's Report
- As of this date there are 63 paid up members in the club. That is more then we had at this time last year. As a comparison: in 2022 we had a total of 90 members and in 2023 we had a total of 80 members.
- New Business:
- There has been interest in some car folks using a portion of our property for a car track. There is a lot more information our club needs before we allow them to join us. Hopefully one of them will join us for a board meeting where we can quiz them.
- The club will be giving our neighbors thank you cards as a gesture of good will.
- Guy Nicholas has submitted FRIA paperwork to the FAA and are waiting for their approval. Thank you Guy!!
- The club web site should be getting a makeover soon with more timely information and easier access.
- Reminder: The club swap meet is scheduled for Sunday April 28th. It's time to gather up all the good stuff you don't need anymore and find it a new home. Adam is heading up this event and as always could use some assistance. More info to follow.
- Safety Report
- Please check out the January Newsletter's Safety Officers Report. Josh Bernstein is our new Safety Officer.
- Field Maintenance:
- Time to think about redoing the pit area. Grading and new surface material was suggested. The old covering is worn out.
- Please be gentle with the grey painted Hardy Board tables. They are not the strongest table tops. Plenty strong to hold our models and support equipment, but that's about it.
- New club events scheduled for 2024 to be announced. Tentative events: Opening Day, Learn to Fly Day, A Fun Fly, The Larry Frank Scale Event, Pylon Racing and anything else we can think of. A BBQ lunch at one or more of these events would be welcome. Anyone interested in taking ownership in one of these events please contact the WCF board.
- Show and Tell:
- Bilal brought in his partially built Old School Model Works Sky Ranger 40. Electric powered with a Power 32 motor and four cells. The fuselage and tail surfaces are built and covered. The kit is laser cut and Bilal say it is going together nicely.
- Mike Schroeder brought in his nearly finished Gee Bee Super Sportster. Finished in yellow and black. Also an electric powered model. Mike took pictures at the field today and will try to have a picture or two in the newsletter next month. Roger 3-D printed a dummy scale radial engine to fill up the space in the cowling. Nicely done!
- Paul Kohlmann brought in his excess model supplies and donated it to anyone who could use it. Lots of covering material and other good stuff.
- Raffle results, Paul Gibson is the raffle master. The prizes were gift cards from Jake's Performance Hobbies...And the winners are...Adam, Walker and Mike Schroeder.

Respectfully submitted:  
Jake Chichilitti

## ***Events Calendar***

Tentative schedule - See board meeting minutes