

EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB

MAY 2018



The Prez's Corner – Don Bartick

The San Diego Orbiteers 60th Annual contest is part of Dual-clubs FF Bonanza contest held at Lost Hills. This contest is a joint effort between the SD Orbiteers and Fresno Gas Model Club. I'm the Contest Director for the overall contest. The dates are May 20th-21st, 2018. We recently added the large FAI events to the sanction per the request of Bill Booth. He has invited the FAI community to come out and compete at this contest. He will run that part of the show. Although this isn't an America Cup event, the FAI participants can get points toward qualifying for team selection. I plan to request American Cup status for next year's contest. Bill will head the effort for the club to make this happen. Mike Pykelny and Linda Piazza had 60th Annual shirts made for the contest. Thank you both for your efforts. They will be sold at the contest. Remaining stock will be available to Orbiteers to buy. *Sure wish more Orbiteers would attend this contest.*

Normally there isn't an outdoor contest in May because of the Dual-club event, but Mike Pykelny scheduled a makeup contest for Coupe on May 27th. Mark your calendars and be there.

The April, John Oldenkamp Memorial P-30 contest was very well attended. Eleven entries in P-30 must be a record. Look for results in the ET. Also, this month's indoor contest was very well attended. Flyers had lots of competition. Look for results in the ET.

I was contacted by David Steinmetz, son of Harry Steinmetz. He advised me that Harry can no longer participate in outdoor model flying and wants to give his entire repository of model stuff to the Orbiteers, were we

interested. John Hutchison and I went to Harry's home to meet up with David. Harry

was there also. He looks fine but having trouble moving around. He has moved into a senior retirement home and will be selling his home. Therefore, the need to get rid of a lot of stuff. His collection of planes, kits, tools and material is enormous. Harry was a fabulous builder and designer. He and John Oldenkamp were pioneers in creating new ideas for Free Flight. They co-created the P-30 event. Anyway, John and I agreed that we would collect his model stuff and make it available to the Orbiteers. Proceeds would benefit both the Orbiteers and Scale Staffels. Therefore, look for more information to come; especially request for help to move the items from Harry's home.

Right now I'm scrambling to complete a new Predator 280 for the Dual-club contest. This is my high tech F1J design with the signature curved fuselage powered by a .050 Pico engine. The plane qualifies for AMA 1/2A also. My fleet of planes is at an all time low. Good to build something new. With this said, I need to get back to the building board.

For the good of the order, our Merlot wine received a gold medal at the San Diego County Fair Home Winemakers competition.

That's a wrap for now.

Remember: "The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live."

-Flora Whittemore



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Chairman

Don Bartick (760) 789-3773
dbartick@4-warddesign.com

Vice Chairman

John Hutchison.....(619) 303-0785
johnhutchison1@cox.net

Secretary

John Merrill(619) 449-4047
johnrmerrill@yahoo.com

Mark Chomyn(760) 753-7164
chomyn@roadrunner.com

Mike Pykelny(858) 748-6235
MPykelny@dslextrême.com

Mike Jester(619) 575-1953
michaelhvester@gmail.com

Open Position(xxx) xxx-xxxx
yourname@volunteer

Treasurer (Trustee at Large)

Howard Haupt(858) 272-5656
hlhaupt1033@att.net

ORBITEER TASK LEADERS

Competition Director

Mike Pykelny.....(858) 748-6235
MPykelny@dslextrême.com

Competition Score Keeper

Mike Jester(619) 575-1953
michaelhvester@gmail.com

Banquet and Social Activity Coordinator

Linda Piazza.....(858) 748-6235
MPykelny@dslextrême.com

Safety Officer & Field Marshall

Open Position(xxx) xxx-xxxx
yourname@volunteer

Web Master

Kathy McLaughlin.....(619) 303-0785
kamcloughlin1@cox.net

Newsletter Editor / Membership Coordinator

Howard Haupt(858) 272-5656
hlhaupt1033@att.net

ORBITEERS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual Membership - \$20
Lifetime Membership - \$250
Non-Member Newsletter Subscription - \$15
Junior Members 16 years old or younger - Free

Submit Dues to Club Treasurer:

Howard Haupt
3860 Ecochee Avenue
San Diego, CA 92117-4622

THE FINE PRINT THE FINE PRINT

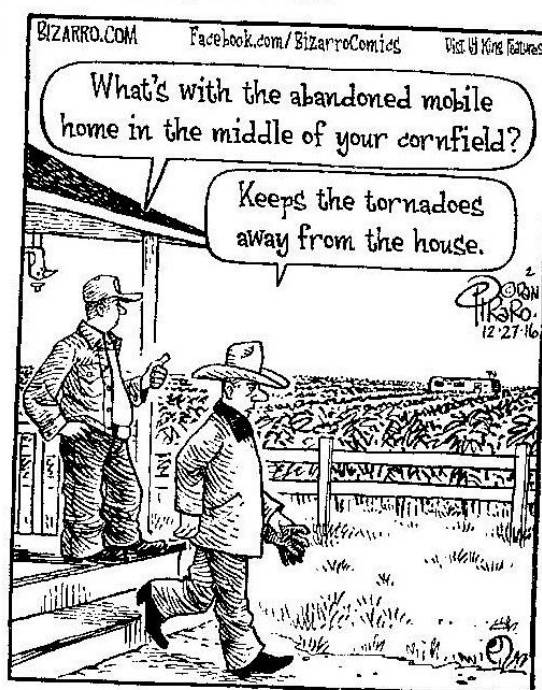
El Torbellino is the official newsletter of the San Diego Orbiteers, an Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) Charter Club (#1113) and a California not for Profit Corporation. This newsletter is sent monthly to all paid members, selected exchange and magazine editors. Non-Members may subscribe at \$15.00 per year within the U.S.A., offshore price will be adjusted to reflect the postage required. Materials from El Torbellino may be reproduced on an unlimited basis by other publications, but proper credit is requested.

ORBITEER WEB SITE

www.SanDiegoOrbiteers.com

Webmaster: Kathy McLaughlin

Bizarro by Dan Piraro



DUAL-CLUBS FREE FLIGHT BONANZA

A National Cup Event

SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS 60th ANNUAL - CLASS AA, CATEGORY 2
SPONSOR OF AMA, CLASSIC & MINI-FAI EVENTS

*

FRESNO GAS MODEL CLUB 79th ANNUAL - CLASS AA, CATEGORY 2
SPONSOR OF NOSTALGIA, TEXACO & OLD TIME EVENTS

*** MAY 19th & 20th, 2018 ***
*** LOST HILLS, CA ***

SATURDAY ONLY
7 AM - NOON, 1 - 5 PM
LUNCH BREAK W/ ICE CREAM
SOCIAL

EITHER DAY
MUST FINISH EVENT THE SAME DAY

SUNDAY ONLY
7 AM - 3 PM

1/2A GAS(1)
C/D GAS
P-30 (1)
VINTAGE FAI POWER
CATAPULT GLIDER (1)
½ A TEXACO
DAWN P-30 MASS LAUNCH
NIGHT GAS (COMBINED)
TWIN PUSHER MASS
LAUNCH

SMALL OT RUBBER STICK
SMALL OT RUBBER CABIN
LARGE OT RUBBER STICK
LARGE OT RUBBER CABIN
¼ A NOSTALGIA
½ A NOSTALGIA
A NOSTALGIA
B NOSTALGIA
C NOSTALGIA
E-36
EARLY ½ A NOSTALGIA

.020 REPLICA
A PYLON
B-C PYLON
A FUSELAGE
B-C FUSELAGE
RUB/WAKEFIELD NOS
CLASSIC TOWLINE
½ A CLASSIC POWER
1/2A GOLDEN AGE
F1Q/A/B ELECTRIC
(Combined)

FIG (COUPE)
F1H (TOWLINE)
F1J (POWER)
A GAS
B GAS
HAND LAUNCH GLIDER (1)
FULL SIZE TEXACO
MULVIHILL
DAWN MULVIHILL
GOLLYWOCK MASS LAUNCH

(1) Junior & Senior/Open Event

See Special Instructions on backside

**** AN ORBITEER TRADITION LIVES ON ****

JOIN US FOR SATURDAY ICE CREAM SUNDAE SOCIAL ON US (NOON - 1 PM)
also

SATURDAY NIGHT FOOD FEST POTLUCK ORGANIZED BY DAN HEINRICH (6:00 - 7:00 PM) *(Main course provided)(Bring a side dish or dessert)(Let Dan know what you're bringing at aeronutd@cs.com)*

AWARDS FOR FIRST 3 PLACES
Ceremonies at: 3:15 PM Sunday

\$20 REGISTRATION Sr. & Open / \$2 Jr
\$5 per Event Sr. & Open / \$1 Junior -
Optional: \$40 for Registration & Unlimited Events

For Information Contact:

Don Bartick, CD - San Diego Orbiteers
22465 Casa De Carol Ramona, CA 92065
(H) 858-774-2941
(E) dbartick@4-warddesign.com

Doss Porter, Fresno GMC
(H) 559-251-0787
(E) steve93612@comcast.net
Web: FGMAC.tumblr.com

LOST HILLS MODEL AIRFIELD ASSOCIATION CARD REQUIRED (\$25 AT FIELD TO JOIN)

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

SATURDAY NOON to 1 PM LUNCH BREAK & SUNDAE SOCIAL

The contest will be suspended for 1 hour for lunch and the San Diego Orbiteers famous ice cream social. This is a great time to relax, cool off, have lunch and enjoy the ice cream sundaes. We will provide ice cream, & sundae fixings, napkins, plates and plastic ware.

PRIZE DRAWING

The Fresno GMC once again has collected an enormous amount of model stuff for their drawing. For up to 3 events entered that are sponsored by them, the contestant will receive a drawing ticket. Drawing to be held right after Sunday's award ceremony.

BILL BOOTH, SR. MEMORIAL

High time in Old Time Gas. Includes 020 Replica, but not Texaco. Winner will receive a special award from the Fresno GMC.

HAND LAUNCH GLIDER & CATAPULT GLIDER

Hand Launch Glider & Catapult Glider will to be launched from an established glider pen on the field. Max's are 120 seconds and all flights count.

NIGHT GAS FLYING

All engine classes combined. Event window between 6:30 pm – 9pm. Engine runs in accordance with aircraft classification; i.e., AMA or Nostalgia.

MINI FAI EVENTS *Low stress format*

FIG, FIH & FIJ: **First five (5) flights must be flown from the established line between 7:00 – 12:00 AM. 120 sec max**
Fly-off in ½ hour rounds starting at 1:00 PM. 15min rounds in sequence. 15min between end of round and beginning of next one. Fly-off round max: 1st 150sec, 2nd 180sec, 3rd 210sec, 4th 240sec, 5th 300sec, 6th 360sec and so on. Fly-off rounds may be compressed by consensus of the participants and the CD.

VINTAGE FAI POWER *Low stress format*

For rules, please go to this website: <https://freeflight.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/NFFSCompetitionRules2017-2018v1.pdf>. A copy of the rules will be available at the CD's table. **First five (5) flights must be flown from the established line between 7:00 – 12:00 AM.**

DAWN P-30

Saturday morning 7:30 AM sharp. Mass launch from glider pen; 1 flight, no max.

DAWN MULVIHILL (Timer can ride with contestant)

Sunday morning 7:30 – 7:50 AM launch window, 1 flight, no max.

TWIN PUSHER MASS LAUNCH

Saturday morning 8:30 sharp. Mass launch from glider pen; 1 flight, no max.

GOLLYWOCK MASS LAUNCH

Sunday morning at 8:00 sharp. Mass launch from glider pen; 1 flight, no max.

TEXACO (Timer can ride with contestant)

1/2A Texaco: Saturday 7:00-10:00 AM launch window, 8cc fuel; Full Size Texaco: Sunday 6:00-10:00 AM launch window, ¼ oz per pound – max 1.75 oz fuel.

1/2A GOLDEN AGE

Open to any free flight design that had plans published or dated from 01/01/1957 thru 12/31/1969. Engines are restricted to Holland Hornet

.049/.051 and Cox T.D..049/.051. Although an electric version is included in the provisional rules, electric is excluded from this event. No V.I.T., auto surfaces or auto rudders allowed even if on the original plan. Engine runs are: Cat II) Hand launch 12 sec/VTO 15 sec for first 3 official flights; fly-off flights are 8 seconds. Flight maximum is 180 sec.

SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS

John Oldenkamp Memorial P-30 Contest - Perris, California - April 15, 2018

<u>Contestant</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>1st flight</u>	<u>2nd flight</u>	<u>3rd flight</u>	<u>total</u>	<u>rank</u>
Clint Brooks ¹	Boomer	120	120	120	360	1
Stan Buddenbohm	Air Shark	120	118	120	358	2
Greg Hutchison	Pirate	120	107	120	347	3
Don Bartick	High Tail	120	102	116	338	4
Mike Jester	Pirate	120	89	120	329	5
Mark Chomyn	Hot Box	76	87	120	283	6
Mike Pykelny	Pirate	120	79	76	275	7
John Hutchison	Pirate	84	89	85	258	8
Don Brent	One Nite 28	63	79	79	221	9
C.M. Kim	Pirate	38	69	46	153	10
John Alling ²	Teacher's Pet	100	DNF	DNF	100	11



Mark Chomyn P-30 Launch

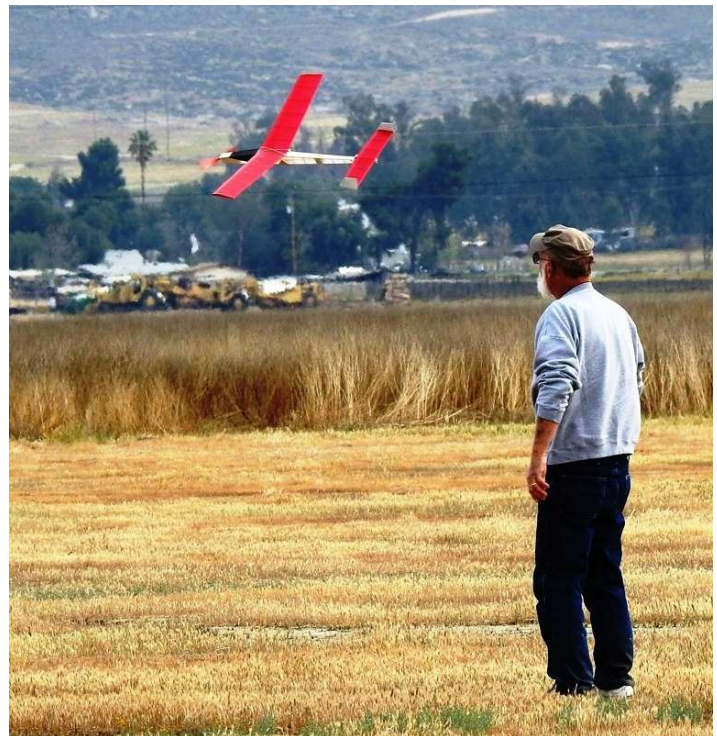
Photo by Arline Bartick

¹ Clint went on to record official flights of 150, 180 and 210 seconds per the AMA P-30 rules in case of a tie.

² John's Teacher's Pet P-30 was damaged and retired after his first official flight.

MORE PHOTO'S FROM JOHN OLDENKAMP P-30 MEMORIAL CONTEST

Photos by Arline Bartick



SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



April 11, 2018

Held at the Chomyn residence in Encinitas, California

After everyone finished a delicious dinner including specialty pizza, salad, and homemade cookies, the meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m. by Chairman Don Bartick. Don noted that Mike Jester would serve as temporary acting Secretary due to John Merrill's absence resulting from his ongoing back problem. Mark Chomyn, John Hutchison, and Mike Pykelny were also present, providing a quorum of five trustees. Also in attendance were Nancy Chomyn, Arline Bartick, Dorothy Jester and Kathy McLaughlin.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The December 2017 - February 2018 Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved. (Note that this item was taken up out of order from the order listed on the agenda that was handed out at the beginning of the meeting.)

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING

The minutes, as published in the March 2018 edition of the El Torbellino, were approved unanimously with no further comments or changes.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The enticement of several potential new members was discussed, including prospects that appeared at the Grossmont indoor fly on April 8, 2018.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership Campaign: Mike Pykelny dropped off club flyers at Discount Hobbies in Kearny Mesa. He traveled to their recently acquired location in San Marcos to do the same, but the designated area was in disarray and the attempt will need to be repeated.

Recommendation for 1 additional Board Member: Don noted that the club is still looking for another trustee to fill the current vacancy. It was further noted that the club's constitution requires that there be seven Board members. This facilitates avoidance of tie votes. It was suggested that the constitution might have to be revised to state that the club will have a minimum of five Board members.

Event Makeup for Outdoor Contests: As the current club contest coordinator, Mike Pykelny has filed with the AMA and obtained three sanctions. There will be an outdoor contest May 27, 2018 at Perris with the rubber event being Coupe. It is presumed that the usual power and glider events will be flown at that contest. While unstated, the club's web master, Kathy McLaughlin, should update the contest schedule on the club's website to indicate this new outdoor contest.

Mike Pykelny stated that the club would make up a missed contest with the P-30 event in October, after the weather in Perris has cooled.

NEW BUSINESS

Indoor Rotation for P-18: There was discussion and general agreement that there is insufficient time to fly three events at the club's monthly indoor contests, and therefore one event is suffering. Mike Pykelny pointed out the fact that P-18 is very popular and opined that it is serving its purpose at enticing new members and increasing participation. Minimal participation in the glider event was noted due to its high level of difficulty and the need to re-trim gliders at each contest. Mike Pykelny moved that the indoor event rotation be changed to LPP, P-18 and A-6, and that moving forward, placement in the P-18 event will count as points toward the club's annual indoor champion prize. John Hutchison seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by voice vote. Kathy McLaughlin indicated that she would need to change the indoor contest schedule on the club's website.

Indoor Specialty Event: The idea of having an indoor specialty event was discussed. The Scale Staffel has its annual Zephyr canard event in November. The SDO specialty event would not count toward indoor champion. Ideas for the event will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Clarification of the John Oldenkamp Memorial P-30 Contest: After a thoughtful discussion and consideration of several hypotheticals, the following was the consensus of the Board members regarding the manner in which the Memorial P-30 Contest will be run on April 15, 2018 at Perris. In general AMA rules will be followed, including procedures to be followed in a fly-off. There will be a \$10 entry fee and each flier can officially enter only one P-30. The name of that P-30 will be written down on the score sheet. The top three places will divide a \$100 pot with the division being \$60 for first place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for third place. In addition, there will be a \$25 bonus awarded to any flier who flies a HOT BOX for all three flights AND who places either first, second or third overall. It is not necessary for three HOT BOX models to have been flown in the Memorial P-30 Contest order in order for a HOT BOX flyer to win the \$25 bonus.

Mike Jester indicated that he would compete in the upcoming Memorial P-30 Contest but was undecided as to whether he would fly his HOT BOX or another of his P-30 models. He stated that the fuselage of his HOT BOX had recently been rebuilt. Both John Hutchison and Don Bartick indicated that the HOT BOX is a very competitive P-30 model. Mark Chomyn has a flyable HOT BOX and Mike Pykelny is completing construction of his HOT BOX. Don Bartick indicated that he would fly his High Tail P-30 after his two previous HOT BOX models, both winners, flew OOS. While one was recovered in Perris after spending a month in the field, only its GizmoGeezer prop was worth saving.

There will be an unofficial P-30 mass launch event at 7:30 a.m. on the morning of the Memorial P-30 Contest which has been tentatively arranged by Clint Brooks and Stan Buddenbohm.

Open for new business: Mike Pykelny noted that the club is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. He showed an example of a yellow T-shirt with a silk-screened 50th anniversary SDO logo that was previously sold at Lost Hills. After considerable discussion, including an estimate of a previous club cost of \$11 per shirt, Mike Pykelny made a motion that the club purchase thirty-five 60th anniversary T-shirts of various large sizes and colors for sale at the upcoming Dual Clubs contest at Lost Hills. Mike Jester seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Schedule next Board Meeting: An opinion was expressed that the Board should stay on track with its quarterly meetings and that the next Board meeting should not slide into July. The next Board of Trustees meeting was therefore scheduled for June 13, 2018 at John Hutchison's residence, commencing at 6:00 p.m. It was noted for the record that Mike Jester will be traveling most of June and therefore will miss the next Board meeting.

CONTEST REPORTS

Mike Jester noted that he had sent the members of the Board a report on the results of the indoor contest held on April 8, 2018 (at Grossmont Junior College).

Don Bartick noted the upcoming San Valeers and Dual Club contests to be held at Lost Hills in May.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Don Bartick and John Hutchison explained that long time free flight enthusiast Harry Steimetz is donating his models and equipment to the club. He was a co-developer of the P-30 event along with John Oldenkamp. Don and John will visit his residence this Saturday to assess the donated items. Similar to the way the donated F1G models from estate of Gus del Castillo were handled, the SDO will sell the items donated by Harry as a fund raiser for the club. Board members will have the first opportunity to purchase the Steinmetz items.

Mike Jester mentioned that the GizmoGeezer prop units are out of production and resumption of production is unlikely. He said that Clint Brooks is making a new adjustable thrust bearing kit which Mike recently constructed. There will be an article in the upcoming edition of the El Torbellino regarding the same.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mike Jester said that his daughter, Julie, was married last Saturday at the San Diego Air & Space Museum. Two photographs of the newlyweds were handed around. Mike indicated that Julie invited John Hutchison to her wedding because Julie had known John since she was a little girl. Dorothy Jester explained how John had patiently coached Julie in indoor flying and that she and her brother had won numerous gold medals in the Science Olympiad Wright Stuff indoor flying event.

Don Bartick indicated that the eight students he coached in Wright Stuff had all placed in the 2018 San Diego regional Science Olympiad competition. Arline showed a picture of the very nice plaque with an inspiring inscription that Don received in appreciation of his efforts.

Kathy McLaughlin informed Board members that the recently concluded run of her play “Contract Claus” in San Diego had been very successful. In the play, Rudolph files suit because an unfriendly work environment. She also called attention to SCRIPTEASERS, a San Diego-based playwrights development group that has been assisting local playwrights since 1948 by reading their scripts.

Mike Pykelny graciously gave each of the other four Board members several 8-inch diameter grey plastic Peck-Polymers props which are still in their plastic packages. Thanks Mike! These will be great for use in scale airplanes.

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Jester, temporary acting Secretary.



Orbiteers - Indoor Contest Results - May 6, 2018

Limited Penny Plane

<u>Flier</u>	<u>Best 2 of 5 flights</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Mike Jester	231	290	521	1
Greg Hutchison	259	234	493	2
Don Bartick	224	210	434	3
Richard Wood	188	209	397	4
Don Brent	89	52	141	5

No-Cal Scale (Best 3 of 5 flights)

Steve Saburski	91	97	97	285	1	Chambermaid
Richard Wood	112	85	25	222	2	Spitfire
Don Brent	18			18	3	Cessna Turbo



Photos by Arline Bartick

MORE PHOTO'S FROM MAY 2018 INDOOR FLYING EVENT

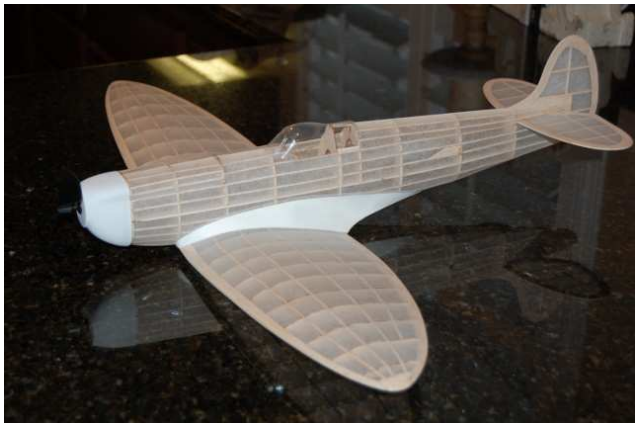
Photo's by Arline Bartick



GULLIOWS Series 400 SPITFIRE

– D.Scigliano

This time I decided to build one of the newer laser cut kits from Guillows in the 400 series. These planes have a 27 inch wing span and the laser cutting is excellent with good quality balsa. The build went together fast using white glue and I decided to use the kit supplied silkspan covering. The silkspan goes on wet and I attached it to the structure with thinned white glue. I was able to cover the whole fuselage with 2 pieces of silkspan and had the covering done in a few hours. I then brushed on 2 coats of thinned Sig lite cote dope before painting. I should have left the plane white and added the decals or used my airbrush with really thin Testors paints. Instead I was lazy and used Design Master spray paint, this stuff went on ok but peeled up with the masking tape. Also the brown came out an orange color, that's what I get for being lazy. The final weight balanced with rubber is just she of 100 grams. With the quality balsa it is easy to make this plane even lighter, so far the test flights are looking good. I did leave off the tail wheel and spinner for test flights.



BUILDING AND TRIMMING A NEW GREVE RACER - R.Willis

Of course the term "new Greve Racer " is somewhat of a misnomer because there are no new Greve Racers. For those of you who are not familiar with the GREVE RACE, here is a little background. The Greve Race is a FLYING ACES mass launch event named after the financial benefactor of air racing in the 30's Louis William Greve. Most of the Cleveland Air races were sponsored by Greve.

Most of you have seen the two most popular Greve Race models, the Mr. Smoothy, Chambermaid .

I recently built a Greve Racer not many have seen. It was called the FOLKERT SPECIAL SK-2. How did this choice happen....well as you know the Mr. Smoothy and Chambermaid are popular because they are mid to high wings with great nose moments. Using a great book I borrowed from Fernando Ramos I looked at every Greve racer that was built, paying special attention to the mid/high wing verity and the nose moment. I also screened for retractable landing gear as a non-retractable gear is pure weight and drag.

The FOLKERT SK-2 fit all the parameters. Now I had to find a plan. I asked around the FAC Council and found that Ralph Kundz had one. Ralph sent me his 1974 plan he drew himself and away we went. I blew up the plan to 23" and began cutting out parts. The wing is not the typical clark Y. It has some under-camber which required an extra lower spar at the point of most camber to make tissueing the camber much easier [an idea from Joe Jones , our newest Squadron member at the OASIS FLYERS].

Then, using a jig designed by Fernando Ramos and John Donaldsen , I began the fuselage bones. I had to lower the thrust line a bit to get the motor under the wing, so I may lose a scale point or two, but it had to be done as I am much too lazy to do wing wires and such.

The pictures show the completed bones and the model. I have begun flight trimming with a

10" Giz front-end and a motor at 6S X1/8th X 36" @1850w @85% of break. The final weight came out at 79g [a bit heavy]. The first trimming session at the trimming field found the CG just fine and we saw a very stable straight and level flight . We are now going up the torque curve with current flights at 800 winds. She looks like a competitor...I hope... Roger Willis



On-Board Locators

By Mike Jester



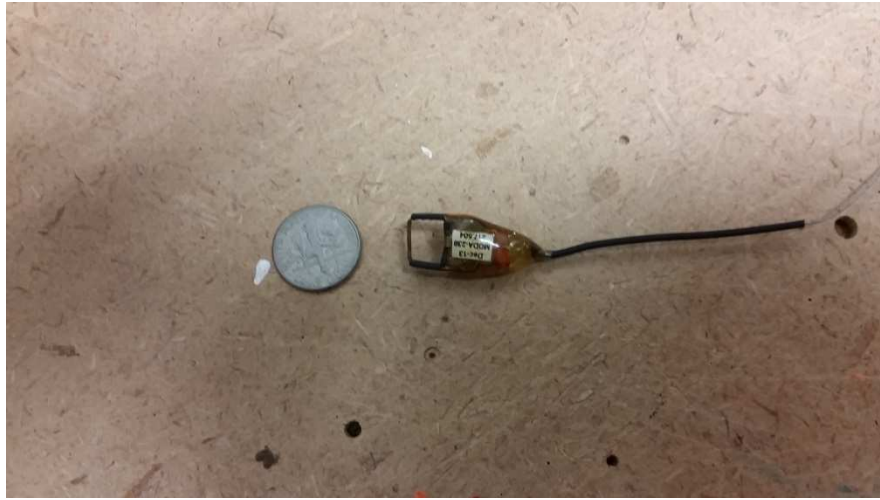
If you have been at this hobby for a while you have probably lost an outdoor free flight model, or several models. I have lost a few over the years. This occurs due to one or more of the following: 1) no dethermalizer (DT) on the model; 2) DT not properly set; 3) DT triggered late; 4) insufficient pop-up rubber bands on stab; 5) DT failed to trigger; 6) strong thermal carried model away despite DT triggering as intended; or 7) failure to get and/or follow a good line of sight on the model. John Hutchison told me years ago that a model is usually not as far away as you think. I have found this to be true. If you have a good line of sight, and walk the line, you can usually find your model. Sometimes you don't have a good line of sight, particularly where the model has flown out of sight (OOS). Other times a model lands in bushes or in a ditch, or behind an obstacle, and therefore you can't see it. Over the years various on-board locators have been developed and used by hobbyists to improve the chances of recovering their free flight models. I will explain a few of them in this article.



**The Author's Kiwi Koop F1G After Landing in a Bare Spot in the Weeds
at Perris Making it Impossible to Be Seen from a Distance**

Probably the most popular on-board locator is the so-called RF tracker. It consists of a tiny battery powered transmitter that sends out an intermittent radio frequency (RF) signal that can be detected with a receiver and a Yagi antenna.

Continued Next Page



Walston RF Tracker Next to a Dime

A beep emitted from the Walston receiver gets progressively louder as you approach the model and/or as you hold the plane of the antenna at a right angle to the line on which the model sits. It takes some skill to point the antenna back and forth and locate a model with an on-board RF tracker. I purchased this equipment from a gentleman named Walston several years ago before he had to go out of business due to health issues. I eventually bought a second RF trackers from him, so that I would have one with an A frequency and one with a B frequency. Thus I can use one of them without interfering with the operation of Don Bartick's similar Walston retrieval system. The Walston RF tracker uses two hearing aid batteries giving it a total weight of 3 grams. Supposedly it will send out a signal for several days if the batteries are fresh. I build a little balsa wood box near the CG in many of my models for removably holding one of my RF trackers. There is an antenna wire that extends about 12 inches from the RF tracker which I thread through small segments of wire insulation glued or taped to the fuselage.

I typically install one of my Walston RF trackers on my P-30, coupe and Old Time Rubber (OTR) models which are large enough to accept the 3 gram weight penalty. My Walston retrieval system cost me around \$700. I would have lost many more models were it not for my use of this system. Similar RF electronic hardware is available from L.L. Electronics. See <http://www.radiotracking.com/transmitters>. The picture reproduced hereafter shows Mike Pykelny after his skillful use of my Walston retrieval system enabled him to recover my Gollywock from a ravine east of our old Otay Mesa flying field. He is holding the antenna and receiver in his left hand. The DT failed to trigger and Mike lost sight of my model with his binoculars after 6 minutes.

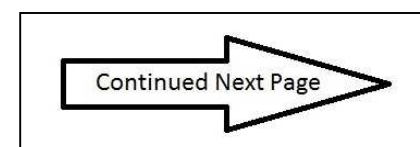


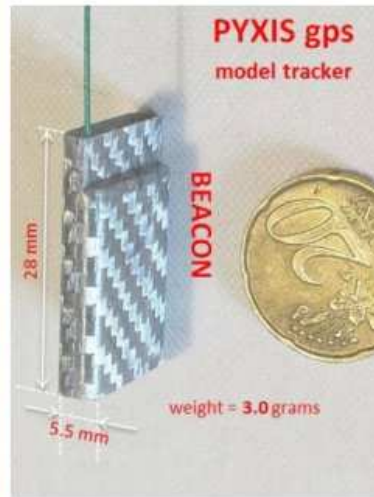


Mike Pykelny After Using Walston Retrieval System to Locate Lost Gollywock

RF trackers are not fool proof. At best I have found I can get a signal about one-half mile away from the model. If the antenna wire ends up too close to the ground, much of the RF signal will be absorbed into the earth. The antenna needs to be kept away from carbon fiber composite material which greatly attenuates the RF signal emissions. I often have to drive a few hundred yards toward where I think the model might be located, take a reading, and then drive some more. The RF signal can be blocked by metallic objects such as chain link fencing and vehicles. Uneven terrain can also block reception of the RF signal. It is not easy to handle an RF retrieval system on a chase bike. If you don't end up finding the model, you have lost a \$100 RF tracker in addition to the model.

Over the past few years I heard of a GPS locator system for model airplanes but dismissed it when I learned that the onboard transmitter weighed 8 grams. Recently Starlink-Flitetech has begun selling the PYXIS gps model tracker system that uses a 3 gram transmitter. The system includes a small receiver with an intuitive directional display. The PYXIS gps system is very reasonably priced at \$359. It is almost indispensable if you are flying \$700 F1G or \$2,000 F1B ready-to-fly models that are made in the Ukraine. I am anxious to see one of these new GPS locator systems in use.





PYXIS gps Model Tracker System

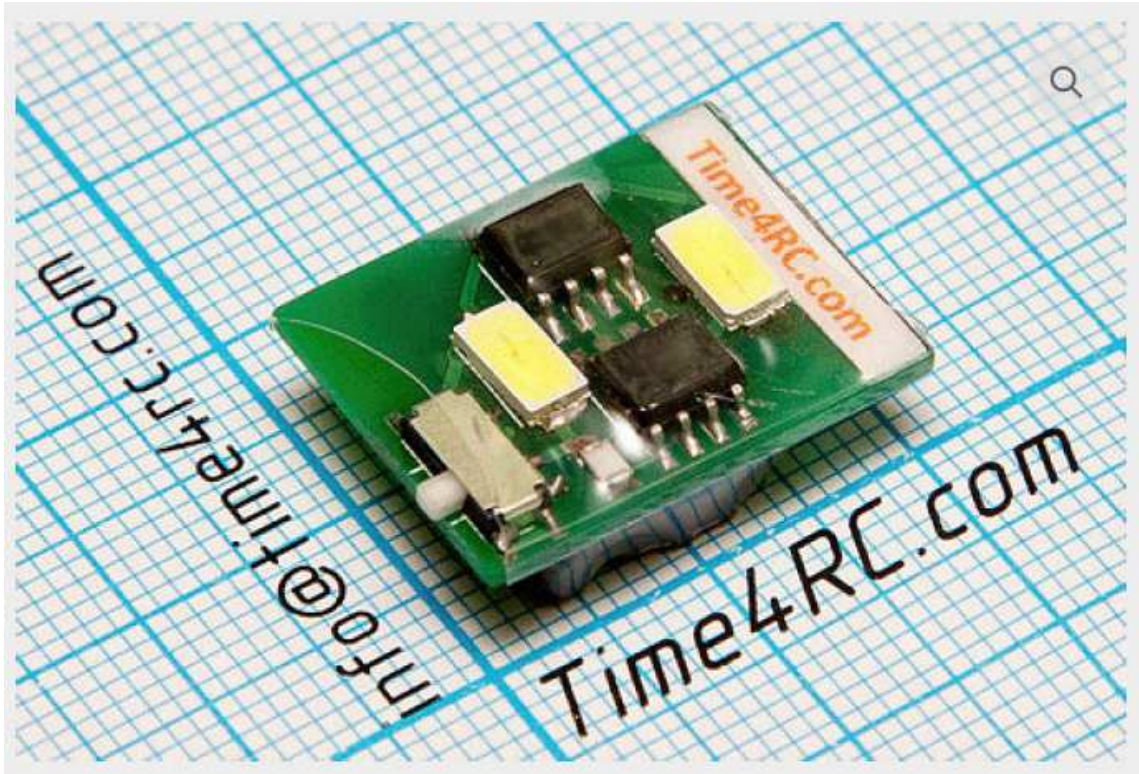
I have heard of fliers using on-board beepers on their models to facilitate recovery. Checking on-line I found one made in Russia that can be purchased through eBay for \$20.99. At 7 grams it is too heavy for my liking. I suppose if you are good at electronic fabrication you might be able to make a buzzer locator that weighs 3 grams.



On-Board Buzzer Locator

The same Russian entity sells an on-board LED strobe that weighs only 3 grams including the weight of one CR1220 coin cell battery and surrounding heat shrink tubing. Supposedly the battery will power the strobe for at least 48 hours. Of course retrieval will only be facilitated by this strobe in dusk or night time conditions. The cost of this device is only \$12.34 with free shipping. I ordered one via eBay and it arrived in about three weeks. It is tiny! I am anxious to test this LED strobe. I am hopeful it will provide a cheaper,

albeit less convenient, alternative to using my Walston retrieval system. Transporting all its gear in my SUV, and lugging it on chases is not a lot of fun.



LED Strobe On-board Locator

L.L. Electronics also sells a product called a Beeper Bell for \$79 adapted for use in locating falcons. I could not determine the weight of this device from the company's web page. However, it is likely to weigh less than 4 grams including its battery since small birds of prey don't need to be carrying extra weight. I prefer the much cheaper LED strobe alternative from Russia if it works.

It has been my observation that most people in our hobby fly their models without on-board locators. It helps not to fly a green model over green alfalfa or a tan model over dry grass. I often use red wings and/or tail surfaces to improve the chances of quickly finding one of my models. It takes me a long time to build a model and then trim it so that it flies well. Therefore I feel more comfortable when my models carry one of my Walston RF trackers. I always try to check the battery strength before installing one of them in a model and then hook up the antenna and receiver to check for a signal.

Most of my FAC models are too small to carry an on-board locator without significantly increasing their wing loading. Because of my desire to avoid such a weight penalty, I lost my best Embryo at a fly-off at WESTFAC VI last October. I am getting better about accepting the loss of a model. Now, when one of my models flies away and cannot be recovered, I try to look at the loss as an opportunity to build and fly a better one. However, I still yearn for an inexpensive, lightweight, reliable on-board locator.



2018 OUTDOOR FLYING SCHEDULE

All are AMA Sanctioned & National Cup Events

May 19/20 **Dual Club FF Bonanza**, Lost Hills

May 27 - **Coupe**

E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider
(Make up date)

June 9/10 **Scale Staffel FAC Scale Contest***
(2 of 3)

June 24 - **Old Time Nostalgia Rubber**
E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider
(No rain date)

July - No Club Outdoor Contest

August - No Club Outdoor Contest

Sept 16 - **Coupe**

E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider
(Sept 23RD rain date)

Sept ?? **US FF Champs, Lost Hills***

Oct 14 - **P-30**

E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider
(Oct 28TH rain date)

Nov 11 - **Old Time Nostalgia Rubber**

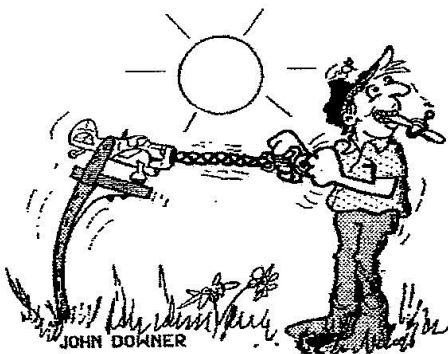
E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider
(Nov 25TH rain date)

Nov 17/18 **Scale Staffel FAC Scale Contest***
(3 of 3)

Dec 9 - **Coupe**

E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider
(Dec 16TH rain date)

* **Non-Club Points Event**



2018 INDOOR FLYING SCHEDULE

June 3 - P-18 & Embryo*

July 1 - A-6 & Phantom Flash*

Aug 5 - Lmt. Penny Plane & No-Cal*

Sept 2 - P-18 & Embryo*

Oct 7 - A-6 & Phantom Flash*

Nov 4 - Lmt. Penny Plane, No-Cal* &
Canard One-Design*
(Wrisley Zephyr)

Dec 2 - P-18 & Embryo*

***Non-Club Points Event**



Photos by Arline Bartick from
May 2018 Indoor Event.

**FLYING
ACES**
SQUADRON 41



SAN DIEGO

Scale Staffel

June 2018: Outdoor Flying Contest

Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10, 2017, 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, Location (33.7803656,-117.1972964)

Events Prizes

Awards for first to third place.

Fees

\$8 for contest including entry for one event, \$3 for each additional event, \$20 maximum to cover contest entry and 5 to 11 events

Contest Directors

George Mansfield
gmansfield75@gmail.com
phone (858) 453-3857

William Scott
wscott@visualantics.com
phone (619) 469-9681

Awards Presentation

Immediately following the contest's final gun on Sunday

Hotel Accommodations

Red Lion
480 S. Redlands Ave, 92570
(Less than 2 miles from the flying field)
(951) 943-5577

Lunch is at the flier option
for both days

Pilot's Meeting: 8 a.m. on both days

FAC Single Model Events

Fly any event on either day, but all flights for a given event must be flown on the same day

1. FAC Rubber Scale
2. Golden Age Combine
3. Old Time Rubber Stick and Fuselage (hand launch)
4. FAC 2-Bit + 1 (ROG)
5. Jimmie Allen (ROG)
6. Dime Scale
7. Phantom Flash (ROG)
8. Embryo Endurance (ROG)
9. Twice Peanut Walt Mooney Designs

Mass Launch Events Saturday

10. FAC World War I Combat:
Wind at 8:20 a.m., Launch at 8:30 a.m.
11. FAC World War II Combat:
Wind at 9:20 a.m., Launch at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday

12. FAC Greve/Thompson Race:
Wind at 8:20 a.m., Launch at 8:30 a.m.
13. Spanish Civil War
Wind at 9:20 a.m., Launch at 9:30 a.m.

*Earn points towards your GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP. This contest's scores coupled with those of the later Scale Staffel contest held in 2018 will determine our annual Grand Champion. The trophy will be presented after the last event of 2018 to the flier who garners the most 1st to 3rd place points in the 2018 Scale Staffel contests.

SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS
Howard L. Haupt / Editor
3860 Ecochee Avenue
San Diego, California 92117-4266



WHAT'S HAPPENING - May / June 2018

- May 19/20 **DUAL-CLUBS FREE FLIGHT BONANZA**
San Diego Orbiteers 60TH Annual – Class AA, Category 2
Lost Hills CA (See enclosed flyer for details)
- May 27 - **Orbiter Outdoor Monthly** (March monthly make-up contest)
SCAMPS Field, Perris CA, 8:00 am.
*Feature Events: **Coupe** Other Events: **E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider**
- June 3 - **Indoor Flying**
Grossmont College (Upper Gym), 7:30 am to 11:30 am.
Feature Events: **P-18 & Embryo***
- June 9/10 **Scale Staffel FAC Scale Contest** (Second of Three)
Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, 7:30 am to 12:00.
See enclosed flyer for details.
- June 13 - **Orbiter Board Meeting**, 6:00 pm.
John Hutchison Residence, 7945 Michelle Drive, La Mesa CA 91942
- June 24 - **Orbiter Outdoor Monthly** (No rain date)
SCAMPS Field, Perris CA, 8:00 am.
Feature Events: **Old Time Nostalgia Rubber**
Other Events: **E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider**