

EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB

FEBRUARY 2013



The Prez's Corner – Don Bartick

Gosh, I miss our monthly meetings. But I'll get over it. Arline and I attended the SW Regionals in Eloy, AZ. It was a wonderful weekend of terrific weather and good competition. Worked out well for me as I came away with 2 first and 2 thirds. This was the first year for a Grand Champion award. It required flying 5 events. You had to pick any 2 classes followed by 3 more obligatory classes consisting of 1 rubber, 1 glider and 1 power. As such you had to be a prolific builder and flier. Who best fits this? You got it--Don DeLoach (NFFS Digest Editor). He won the award. Arline took copious photos. DeLoach requested copies that she provided upon return to Ramona. Look for them in a future Digest.

The Awards banquet should have been better attended, but even so those in attendance enjoyed the food, camaraderie, great drawing prizes and of course the awards. Unfortunately, the award plaques and ribbons were handed out and immediately taken back by yours truly because the date was wrong. The trophy shop is redoing them and they will be given to awardees when seen. Once again, I want to thank Larry Miller for putting on another great event.

As I mentioned last month, with the passing of Bill Booth, Sr. the Fresno Club has scrambled to come up with replacements to manage their portion of the Dual-club annual coming up this May. Doss Porter has volunteered to take on the heavy work. Dave Martin will be the official CD since he is the one with the AMA Contest Director Credentials and Steve Jensen, the contact person. Their club will be

sponsoring a Bill Booth, Sr. Memorial event. As I understand from Doss it will be awarded to the contestant with the high time for Old Time Power combined. The planning for the Dual-club Free Flight Bonanza is now complete. The 2013 flyer is being finalized. It will be sent to the LHFFMAA, Orbiteers and SCAMPS webmasters. I will also be sending it out by email. So look for at any of the aforementioned locations.

I will be calling for a Board meeting early March. Board members, be on the watch for an email.

This is a wrap for now.

Remember; Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication. (Leonardo da Vinci)

FUDO FIELD REPORT - B.Langdon

Stopped by Fudo's this afternoon. In a way he seemed more awake and alert than most times during the last 6 or 8 months. Wasn't feeding time, but as many other times he'd be asleep. He still recognizes people and responds to some questions. Some times his speech is rather low, so one has to pay close attention.

His sister TY was sleeping, so I wrote her a small "Hello" note. Her hearing is marginal and to me seems frail.

Visit when you can.

Keep Flying and Trying,

Bob

2013 ORBITEER FLYING SCHEDULE

Feb 24 - Old Timer Rubber Stick (Small),
Power, & Glider

Feb 24 - SCAMPS Contest*, Perris CA

Mar 3 - Scale Staffel Indoor Contest, Grossmont
College

Mar 10 - Coupe, Power, & Glider

Mar 17 - SCAMPS Contest*, Perris CA

Apr 21 - P-30, Power, & Glider

Apr 24-27 WESTFAC IV, FAC at Perris

May 18/19 Dual Club FF Bonanza, Lost Hills CA

May Rotation Skipped: (Old Timer Rubber Stick "Small")

June 9 - Coupe, Power, & Glider

June 16 - SCAMPS Contest*, Perris CA

July 4 - Walt Mooney Annual Scale Contest

July 21 - P-30, Power, & Glider

Aug 18 - Old Timer Rubber Stick (Small),
Power, & Glider

Aug 5 - Scale Staffel FAC Contest* (1st of 2)

Sept 15 - Coupe, Power, & Glider

Sept 20-22 US FF Championships, Lost Hills

Oct 20 - P-30, Power, & Glider

Oct 26-27 SW FAI Champs*, Boulder City, NV

Oct 27 - Scale Staffel FAC Contest* (2nd of 2)

Nov 17 - Old Timer Rubber Stick (Small),
Power, P-20, Power, & Glider

Dec 15 - Coupe, Power, & Glider

* **Non-Club Points Event**
Otay Field Weather (619) 661-8297



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San Diego Orbiteers/Scale Staffel Annual Banquet Notes

1:00 p.m., Sat., 1/26/2013

The banquet was held at Giovanni's Restaurant on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. There were 17 of us that were in attendance. As always, it was well organized, with lots of things to bid on, a model airplane DVD running on a continuous loop on the TV, and scenes of our group running on a laptop computer slide show. There was a lot of food, including salad, lasagna, fettuccini alfredo, garlic bread, and three kinds of pizza. The buffet also included all you can drink self-serve soda fountain.

After most were done eating, President/Chairman of the Board of Trustees Don Bartick got up to start the presentations and talk about a little business. First, a big thank you to Larry Miller, who organized the banquet again, and as always, did a terrific job of it.

Next, the contest that was supposed to be the next day, on Sunday, Jan. 27th was cancelled due to weather. It was reported that the field was recently plowed, and after all the rain we've had, it seemed a lost cause. That's what we get for waiting until the end of the month for a contest.

Don and Larry then handled the presentation of the awards. I recall they were more or less in this order:

Coupe: 3rd place - Larry Miller
2nd place – John Hutchison
1st place – tie between:
John Oldenkamp &
Mike Pykelny

P-30: 3rd place – tie between:
Don Bartick &
John Oldenkamp
2nd place – Mark Chomyn
1st place – John Merrill

Indoor/A-6: 3rd – Mark Chomyn
2nd – Don Bartick
1st – John Merrill

Total Non-Power (P-30, Coupe, and OT Rubber):

3rd place – Larry Miller
2nd place – John Oldenkamp
1st place – John Hutchison

Total Power: 3rd – Larry Miller
2nd – Mike Pykelny
1st – John Oldenkamp

The Russ Merrill Overall Orbiteer of the Year Trophy:

3rd – John Hutchison
2nd – Mike Pykelny
1st – John Oldenkamp

Unfortunately, I was handed a list of the winners above, but it seems a few corrections were made at the last minute, so all of the above may not be 100% accurate. If anyone wants to send in some amendments, please do.

John Hutchison, President-For-Life of Scale Staffel then got up and made a few announcements as well. He mentioned the big WESTFAC IV contest held in Perris, CA April 24-27 2013. There is a new website to go along with it, with pre-registration opportunities therein. John then awarded the one trophy they give out for the year. It was for the most-improved, not necessarily the most-winning member. The trophy was presented to a very shocked John Merrill.

We then held the raffle, and again there were a lot of good merchandise to bid on. After that, we held a quick show-and-tell.

Mr. Kang Lee was introduced as our local World Champ in EZB. He showed us a variable-pitch F1-D prop. It did not have a center spar, which is traditional, and it did have boron around the edges. Wonderfully done with lots of high-tech materials and new ideas. The main thing is that it automatically adjusts its pitch in flight as the torque of the rubber is eased off. It was covered with O-S film, amazing piece of work.

John Oldenkamp showed us an E-36, weighing about 155 grams. It had an arrow shaft for a tail boom. As always, the plane was beautifully done. John reports that this is a real up-and-coming event, is very cheap and easy to build, so we should get on it!

I believe a good time was had by all. Thanks again to all of those that attended, those that donated all the goodies to help us raise some funds, and especially to Larry Miller who did his usual great job of organizing everything.

Respectfully submitted by John R. Merrill,
Secretary

MONEY MATTERS - H.Haupt

01/19/12 thru 1/31/13

Income:

n.a.

Expenses:

Jan. Newsletter	3.70
Spanky's,	21.70
Rancho Engraving	234.90

	\$260.30

Current Balance \$1,107.96



FOR SALE or TRADE

Special Offer – SD Orbiters Only

E-36 package \$99.00 + Tax

Includes: Super Pearl 202E Plan,
Short Kit,
CF Arrow Shaft,
Motor,
Timer,
ESC,
Servo.

Mike Pykelny
Starlink Flittech Models
(858) 231- 4994

ORBITEERS YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES

Junior	- \$10
Senior	- \$15
Open	- \$25
Family	- \$30
65+	- \$15
Lifetime	- \$250
Non-Member Newsletter Subscription	- \$15

Submit Dues to Club Treasurer:

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San Diego, CA 92117-4622

THE FINE PRINT THE FINE PRINT

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January 22, 2013

San Diego Orbiters
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Dear Donor:

On behalf of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc. and the Junior Free Flight Team, thank you for your generous gift of \$400.00 received January 22, 2013. Your commitment to helping the Junior Free Flight Team is greatly appreciated.

Each year the AMA continues to advance its mission of promoting, developing, educating, advancing, and safeguarding modeling activities. With the help of donations from supporters such as you, our FAI teams have benefited in many ways, including your assistance with World Championship expenses. The impact of these contributions is appreciated by the entire aeromodeling community.

Because the Academy is an educational and scientific 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, your contribution is tax deductible. In compliance with the tax code of the IRS, we confirm that you did not receive any goods or services of monetary value from the AMA in connection with this gift.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Mathewson'.

Dave Mathewson
Executive Director

In Praise Of Wacky Thinking

There is a generation in aerospace and aviation that first became enthralled with the possibilities of flight in the 1960s. That was the twilight of an extraordinary era of innovation that had lasted a quarter of a century. It was an era in which the world airspeed record rose fourfold, air travel went from the wreck of the Hindenburg in 1937 to the Concorde treaty in 1962, and rocketry from an eccentric hobby to the ultimate weapon. Where is the inspiration today for the airships, spaceplanes, tailsitters, flying cars and hypersonic gliders that fired our imagination?

Happily, we need to look not back to the 1950s, but to here in the 2010s, where these ideas are being actively pursued—mostly by companies that are far from household names. It might not be rife in Big Industry, but there is still a strong current of innovation in aerospace. This is particularly true in unmanned aircraft, where removing the size and safety constraints imposed by a human pilot has opened up the trade space and allowed designers to revisit unconventional concepts discarded decades ago as unworkable.

Take the dazzlingly weird Vought XF5U-1 “Flying Flapjack” of 1946, with its massive propellers and disc-like wing. This constituted an evolutionary dead-end until Aurora Flight Sciences revived the configuration for its Skate mini-UAV (both pictured above), scaled down to a hand-launched vehicle that snaps together from three slabs of plastic foam.

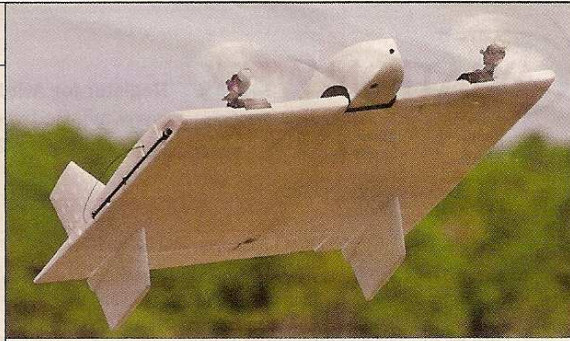
Or take the airship, which reached its zenith in the 1930s and has been extinct except as a novelty since the Beatles were playing Hamburg. Half a century later, the Pentagon-sponsored Aeros Pelican (see page 46) is something new: an airship that can change its buoyancy on demand, as a submarine does in water.

Some criticize this reinvention trend as unimaginative, but many of the innovations we applaud today in other industries are the repackaging of old ideas using new technologies. Through advances in materials, propulsion and electronics, aerospace has a similar opportunity—even obligation—to mine its past for ideas.

The post-war years of the late 1940s and 1950s were enormously creative for an industry that saw nothing wrong with its ambition outreaching its abilities. Designers were supremely confident that technology would catch up with their imaginations—and, decades later, it may finally be happening.

The question is how to enable this creative wackiness to thrive within an industry that is increasingly averse to risk, and with a customer base that is increasingly unwilling to fund R&D that does not promise to deliver near-term capabilities.

One successful recent vehicle was the Ansari X Prize: \$10 million to the first team to launch a reusable manned spacecraft. The win-



AURORA FLIGHT SCIENCES



U.S. NAVY VIA SAN DIEGO AIR & SPACE MUSEUM ARCHIVE

ner was Burt Rutan’s air-dropped SpaceShipOne, an unconventional solution without doubt. X Prize founder Peter Diamandis is trying to repeat the success with a \$30 million challenge to land a robotic rover on the Moon.

The U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects

“ We must find ways to enable creative wackiness to thrive in an industry that is increasingly averse to risk and a customer base reluctant to fund open-ended R&D. ”

Agency has long been the champion of wackiness within the Pentagon, whether it is legged robots or flying Jeeps. Darpa has a notoriously short attention span, balanced by a weak corporate memory, which makes it quick to end projects but willing to revisit discarded ideas as technology evolves.

Darpa has embraced competitive challenges as a way to unlock creativity and attract non-traditional interest in addressing Pentagon needs, from crowd-sourced competitions to find balloons or fold proteins, to challenges for driverless cars and disaster-response robots. NASA has staged challenges for space elevators and electric aircraft.

Darpa funded designer Abe Karem to build a UAV that could fly for 40 hr., and he created what became the Predator. LaserMotive won NASA’s space-elevator power-beaming challenge, and now Lockheed Martin has used its technology to prove that a UAV can fly indefinitely. There are ways to make innovation happen.

Big Industry should do more to foster and celebrate this inventiveness. If the same sort of creativity could be brought to organizing large enterprises and the broad industry itself to produce and explore wacky ideas, the payoff could be huge. It would lead to more failures, to be sure. But it would also produce some big payoffs and a few true game-changers. What is more, celebrating the wacky will encourage a new generation to study science, technology, engineering and math—and reinvigorate a “mature” but exciting industry. ☺

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WHAT'S HAPPENING - FEBRUARY 2013

Note Date Change for February Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly

- Feb 24 - **Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly**, Otay Mesa, 8:00 am.
Feature Event: Old Timer Rubber Stick (Small) Other Events: Power & Glider
- Mar 3 - Indoor Flying, Grossmont College (Upper Gym), 7:30 am to 11:30 am.
Scale Staffel Indoor Contest with Penny Plane and Phantom Flash.
- Mar 10 - Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly, Otay Mesa, 8:00 am.
Feature Event: Coupe Other Events: Power & Glider