

# EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB

DECEMBER 2020



## ***Prez's Corner – Mark Chomyn***

Year 2020 is coming to a close. It's been a difficult year. Difficult for the world, for our country, and for our club. As a result of COVID, our scheduled indoor and outdoor contests were affected and we do not have enough contest results for a robust tally of points earned for yearly awards. With the current restrictions on public gathering (and a concern for public safety) we will be unable to hold our yearly banquet in January 2021 at which we would have handed out those awards.

I admit the above is a rather gloomy introduction to this month's column. However, with the announcement of vaccines, which appear to be affective in combating the COVID virus, we can hope for a better year in 2021. Announcement and roll-out of the vaccines is probably the best Christmas present that we and the world could have hoped for.

So, what do we look forward to in the New Year? Well, unless there is a public order to cease all outdoor recreational activities, we'll continue to hold our monthly outdoor flying in hopes of getting a full year of contest results. A schedule for those outdoor events will appear in the El Torbellino soon. We will continue to hold our outdoor events in the spirit of the USFF COVID-19 protocols. We encourage those participating in outdoor flying to not fly if you have an elevated temperature or you're feeling ill, have masks handy, remember to practice social distancing and carry hand sanitizer. Unfortunately indoor flying cannot resume until we get the all clear from the community college. We will keep you posted on any information regarding a re-start of indoor flying.

We find ourselves entering into what would typically be a hustling bustling holiday season. A season that usually includes some holiday traveling and "meeting-and –greeting" in families and extended families. We are asked this year to limit our celebration to a smaller number of the immediate family. But for those of you proficient with Zoom and Skype there's still no limit to the gatherings you can hold. So get on line and get merry! Look at it this way. A scaled back holiday season may even save you from getting that horrible tie, pair of socks or ugly sweater contest entry from your favorite relative.

At this time of year I always get nostalgic and reminisce about "the good old days". Something we codgers tend to do when nostalgia strikes. I recall the brightly decorated store windows in my home town and the toys and hobby items that would be added at Christmas to catch the attention of the younger towns people. Names like Veco, Comet, Berkeley, Scientific, Enterprise, Monogram, Jim Walker, Cox, Wen-Mac, and Fox come to mind. In addition there were items by names like Lionel, American Flyer, AC Gilbert, MARX, Hubley, Mattel, Aurora and Revel. If the store fronts were not enough there was always the gazing through the Christmas catalogs that came in the mail. The Sears catalog was always the biggest and generated the longest "wish lists". So, despite the events that seem to buffet us on a daily basis, I hope that you and yours have the merriest, safest and warmest holiday season. I sincerely believe that 2021 will be a better year for us all. Stay healthy and I hope to see you at the field in Perris in 2021.

Mark

*"The bulk of mankind is as well equipped for flying as thinking."*

Jonathan Swift, Thoughts on Various Subjects, Moral and Diverting 1727

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## ORBITEERS MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

### Submit Dues to Club Treasurer:

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### **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.

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[www.SanDiegoOrbiteers.com](http://www.SanDiegoOrbiteers.com)

Webmaster: Kathy McLaughlin





## MAJESTYK Coupe

By Mike Jester

We were nine months into the COVID 19 lockdown and it was time for me to start building another airplane – mind you this is my fifth build since March 2020. Thank goodness I have this hobby to keep me interested and occupied during the pandemic.

I have always liked the Coupe d’Hiver event since I first learned about it. This event is also known known as F1G under the FAI international rules. The F1G rules are simple - an air frame that weighs a minimum of 70 grams and a rubber motor that weighs a maximum of 10 grams. That’s it! The Coupe d’Hiver event originated in France around 1938. Designs for qualifying models have evolved over the years. They range from what are called “vintage” coupes to high tech multi-function coupes manufactured in Eastern Europe. Coupes typically have a wing area of approximately 160 square inches or more and a folding prop, both of which are designed to maximize the glide. A typical coupe has a prop diameter of approximately 17 inches. A coupe is underpowered compared to a P-30 but a coupe will typically out-perform a P-30, largely due to its folding prop.

I am currently building a Majestyk coupe. This is an old stick-and-tissue F1G model designed by Thom Greenhalge. The plan is dated August 1991. The same person designed the Majestyk P-30 that is still available in kit form from Retro RC. That kit was sold by Lee Campbell for many years and lots of fliers like the Majestyk P-30. The attached picture shows a Majestyk coupe built by someone else. I know this coupe won’t be a high-performance model but I will enjoy flying it anyway.

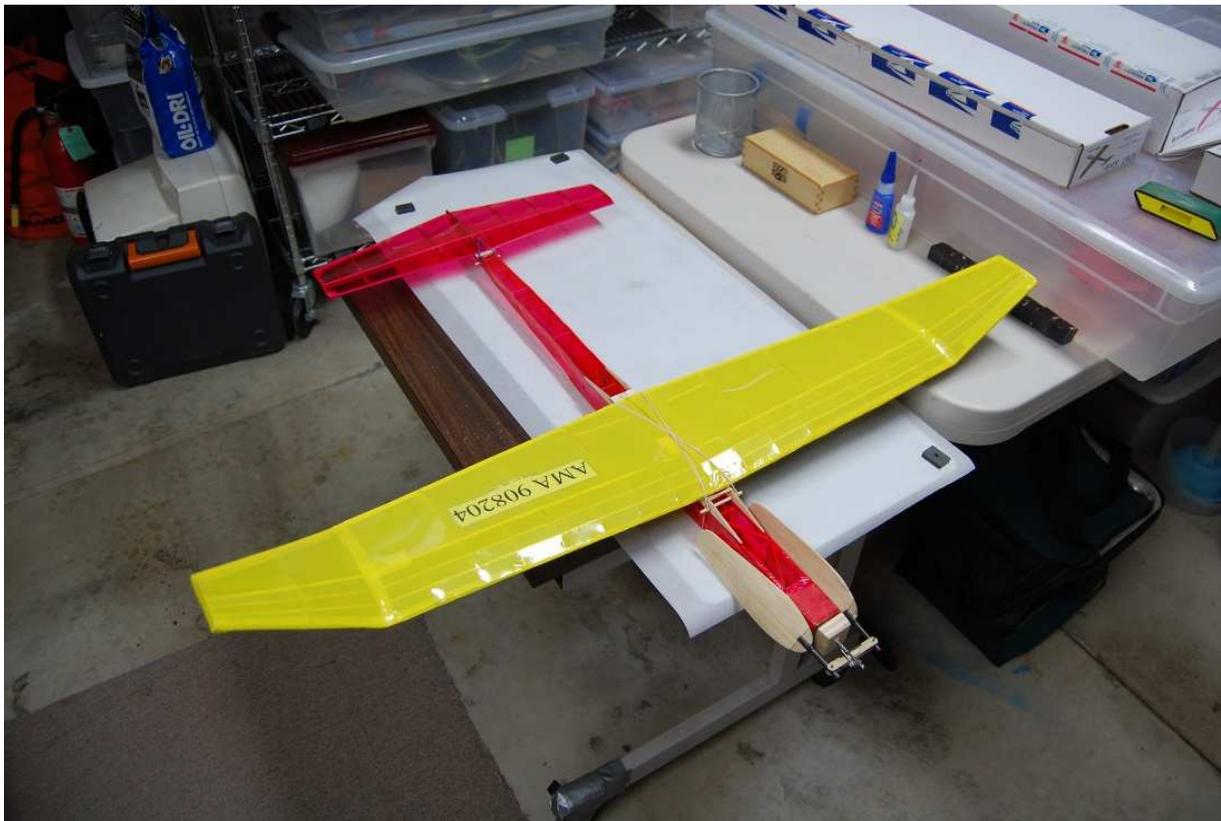


**Majestyk Coupe**

For ease of building this model, I may use an 18-inch folding prop built from a prop kit sold by Retro RC. It may be appropriate to cut this prop down to a 17-inch diameter. We shall see. I plan to cut down the height of the fin to reduce the chance of spiral instability problems. The fin looks very tall on the plan. I also plan to build the wing in two sections that can be assembled at the flying field. This will enable me to transport the model in a transparent plastic wrapping paper box that is about 31- inches long. I transport all

my models in these boxes which are sturdy, nest well, and can hold several models each. I will substitute a CF main spar for the balsa one indicated on the plan. I will cover the fuselage with Polyspan tissue, and I will cover the wing and stab with ¼ mil Mylar film. I will build a little balsa wood box that I will mount in the fuselage under the wing for removably receiving one of my Walston RF transmitters. After spending lots of time building this model, I want to maximize the chances that I can recover it after a good flight.

I want to thank Clint Brooks of the SCAMPS free flight club for supplying me with a copy of the plan for the Majestyk Coupe. He built one for the SCAMPS classic coupe event. Clint made several suggestions for modifying the plan and I think he is spot on. He also supplied me with a CAD diagram of the ribs and this is most helpful due to the tapered wing construction. In my opinion, Clint's company, CB Model Designs, sells the best free flight kits on the market. Unfortunately, I don't think he has any plans to sell a kit for a coupe. To the best of my knowledge, the only coupe kits on the market are the KIWI-KOOP sold by BMJR Models and the Souper Coupe sold by Retro RC. IMO the Majestyk Coupe should outperform both of those entry level coupes, but it will take a lot more effort to build from scratch. See the picture of the KIWI-KOOP that I built. I learned a lot building and flying this model.



**KIWI-KOOPE BY MIKE JESTER**

Of course, there is little chance that my Majestyk coupe will fly as well as my venerable Candy G coupe that was a bargain when I purchased it as an ARF model from Starlink-Flitetech Models. Hopefully I will show you pictures of my completed Majestyk coupe sometime in the next few months. To me it is very satisfying to see a model that I built and trimmed myself get a max. See you at the flying field.



## From the Workbench – J.Merrill

Greetings! In my last submittal, I had just completed a little Dime Scale of a Howard from 1937. That was on November 8th. Figured I'd take a little modeling break, but that didn't last long. I've been thinking of building another Embryo, so I pulled out a short-kit of Al Backstrom's "Big Cat". I had gotten the kit from Volare Products, and it went together pretty easily. It's very much like the Pussycat that was popular several years ago, and I hope it fly's just as well.

I started it on Friday the 13th of November, finished it up on Thanksgiving Day, just 13 days later. I know most modelers would have had that built in a couple of nights, but under two weeks for me to build anything is kind of a miracle. I am, after-all, the world's slowest builder!

Not sure what to build next, although I've still got several unfinished projects to finish up. Even so, the lure to start something new is always there.

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving, and are staying healthy.

So, what's on your workbench?



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## From the Workbench – B.Hodes

This a just-completed model for FAC Embryo events. Just under 50 sq inches, and 18 grams. It is called the Durham Mystery Plane. The mystery to me is why it is called this. Have not had a chance to start test gliding it - still looking for that patch of grass.



## From the Workbench (Part 2) – J.Merrill

Okay, so I told myself I really needed to finish a few projects that have been in bare bones for quite awhile now before I start something new. I think we've all been down that road before, right?

Well, I just couldn't help it. I've had this older kit for awhile, not sure where I got it from, and it kept calling to me. She's a Kiel Kraft 'Achilles', originally designed in 1939 by Louis B. Heath, then redesigned in 1950 by Albert E. Hatfull, both of whom I believe were pretty well known British modelers.

I got started on this shortly after Thanksgiving, and as you can see, most of the bones are done. I need to form and install the landing gear, and finish the nose area, then it'll be ready to cover. I'm trying to come up with a good color scheme, but I've obviously got a few days for that.

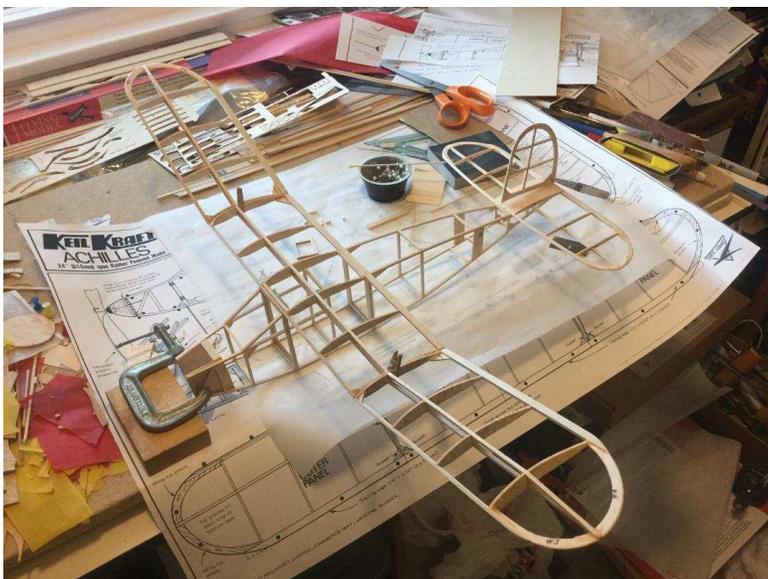
I think this should qualify for either Old Time Rubber or at least Nostalgia Rubber, but don't expect it to conquer the Gollywock types.

At least it's been a fun building project.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season!



Note the wear and tear on this original box



**NOVEMBER 15, 2020 - PERRIS CA - Photos by Arline Bartick**



**Lee Hines**



**Mark Chomyn**



**Tim Batiuk**



**Don Bartick**



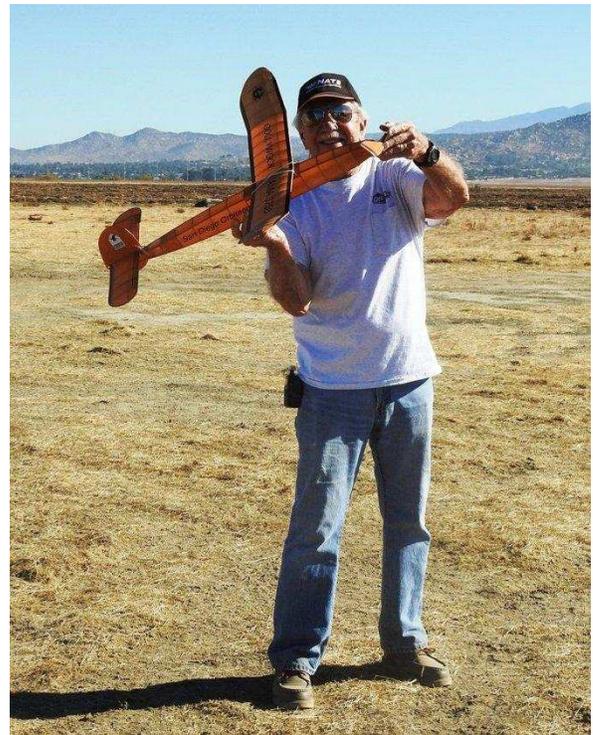
**Mike Pykelny**



**NOVEMBER 15, 2020 - PERRIS CA - Photos by Arline Bartick (Continued)**



**Mark Chomyn**



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**Mike Pykelny**



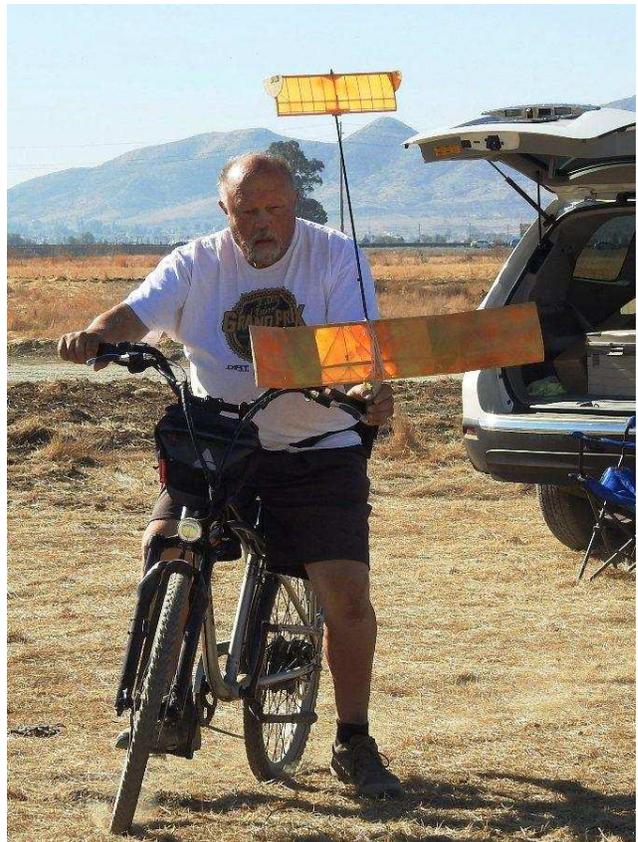
**Clint Brooks**

**Yes, more pictures on the next page!**





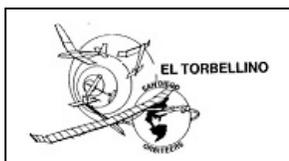
**Tim Batiuk**



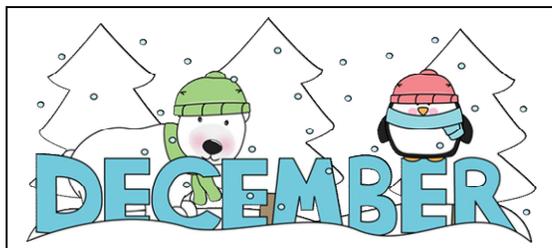
**Stan Buddenbohm**



**Stan Buddenbohm**



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING - DECEMBER 2020

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### Local Events:

SDO will be flying Sunday December 13<sup>TH</sup>, Perris CA 8:00 am to Noon.

P-30  
Glider (Hand Launch, Catapult, Towline)  
Power



2 minute max, Glider 90 seconds

See you at Perris CA - - - - - → December 13<sup>th</sup> 2020