

# EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB



MARCH 2023

## Chairman's Corner – Mark Chomyn

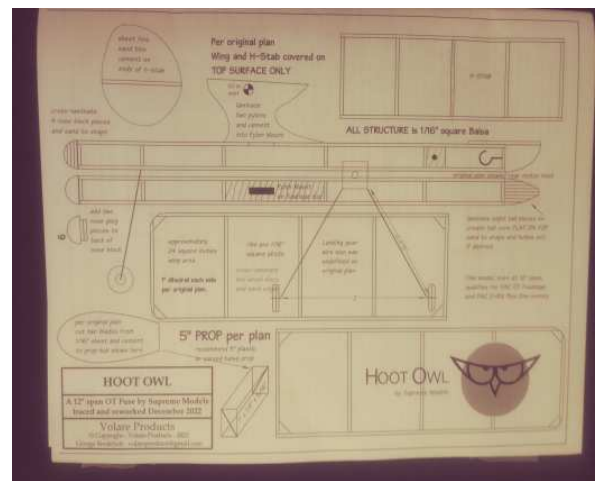
There's an old saying that goes, "March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb". If it holds true, I can't wait for April to get here too soon. The end of February and beginning of March have been pretty wet and windy here in southern California. Record snowfall in the mountains is a delight to skiers if they could only get through on the roads to the ski resorts, some of which have been closed for (can you believe it?) too much snow accumulation. Many mountain area residents are stranded due to the heavy accumulation and inability to quickly remove snow. The recent rains have been beneficial to our reservoirs so much so that some are releasing water to accommodate the potential upcoming storms. As I write this (March 10) rain is falling at my house and puddles are forming where previously saturated soil just can take any more water. As the 1972 song said.... "Seems it never rains in southern California. But boy don't they warn ya? It pours. Man, it pours."

I hope that despite the recent rains our Perris flying field will be accessible and dry enough to allow for our Sunday, March 19 monthly to be held. Events will be OT/Nostalgia Rubber, Glider (HL and Cat) and Power. Hope to see you there. I'm going to fly my Ace Whitman Albatross for which I got some test flights in after flying Coupe in our February monthly. It put in some nice flights with only about 500 winds. I think if I could get about 850+ winds on the six strand 3/16" motor I might stand a chance to place. We'll see.

Looking ahead to April the NFFS event calendar shows that we have the SCAT Annual at Lost Hills, April 13-16. The contest includes events for glider, rubber, and power. For you FAC flyers and scale guys don't miss the April 22-23 two-day Scale Staffel Outdoor Flying Contest at Taibi Field in Perris. Go to the Scale Staffel of San Diego website for event categories. There are quite a few events and I know you'll have a model in your fleet that is eligible for the contest. And, on April 30 we have the rescheduled Taibi Memorial run by the SCAMPS at the Perris field. Events will include small and large Old Time Rubber stick or fuselage So if you have a Gollywock or a Korda Wakefield, there's no excuse not to go.

Since we're talking Old Time Rubber, if you are Flying Aces Club member and have received your Mar – Apr 2023 edition of the Club News check page 9 for an interesting and seldom seen (I think) old time model. It's a 12 inch span rubber power free flight called the Hoot Owl. It was designed by Carl Schmaedig and produced and sold by Supreme Model Supply of Milwaukee Wisconsin. It's a pylon wing mounted plane with only a 12-inch span, but it sort of looks like an old time Class A pylon gasser with its twin rudder stab configuration. I think it would make a great indoor as well as outdoor model. The wing and stab are covered on only one side and the plan states that the plane, though only at a 12" span, qualifies for FAC OT Fuselage and FAC 2-Bit Plus One contest events. Looking at the plan you could probably build it in a day or two.

How about considering a one design event with this model? For purists of course, there would be no DT allowed. It's not shown on the plan. All you need is some 1/16" sheet and sticks. Could it be any simpler?



And from the picture on page 32 (back page) of the FAC Club News, it couldn't be any cuter. You can get a short kit from Volare Products or build from the plan with your own wood. If you go to the Volare Products website and search VPS Short Kits/VPS Old Timers, you can find a video of the Hoot Owl in flight outdoors on only a single loop of 1/16" rubber. Imagine what going to 3/32" would do! I'm building one.

Hope you all have a great St. Patrick's Day. We'll be getting out the crock pot and making corn beef and cabbage at our house. And of course they'll be a shot of Jameson and a Guinness to help wash it down.

Erin Go Bragh!

Mark

*"The rubber he sent me was white stuff meant for underwear waistbands. I tested it and found its specific energy was about 1,500 feet., same as Filati (rubber) I didn't continue my search\*."*

*From "A Short History of Model Rubber and Rubber Strippers" by Ray Harlen*

\*That's because the Pirelli he already had, had a specific energy of 3,200 feet.

## February 19th Taibi Field

<b>Coupe</b>	Mike P David Mark
<b>HLG</b>	Tim Daniel Brad
<b>CLG</b>	Stan John M
<b>Power</b>	No Entries



Stan Buddenbohm



Mike Pykelny



Daniel Guo & Tim Batiuk



John Merrill →

## Wind Turbines Threaten Our Hobby

By Mike Jester



Our hobby is based on the availability of balsa wood, glue, covering, and rubber. Glues have never been better and can be purchased from many sources. Even though Esaki tissue went away there are good commercially available tissue options. Low-cost polymer films are readily available for purchase that are off the charts in terms of lightness. All batches of TSS rubber manufactured since 2009 are good according to Don DeLoach. However, the cost and availability of balsa wood is severely threatened by the environmentalists pushing the Green Deal. It dictates the use of solar panels and wind turbines which will only takes place in first world countries due to simple economics. Will solar panels and wind turbines save the planet? Answer: No. China fires up a new coal-fired electricity generating plant each week. India's energy is almost totally derived from fossil fuels. Together they represent almost half of the world's population. Do you think the predominantly poor people of Africa are going to opt for solar panels and wind turbines, or burning much cheaper oil, kerosene, gasoline, and wood? Solar panels are mostly manufactured in China and that endeavor causes lots of pollution. In California you get to pay a utility for inputting power from your own solar panels into its grid. I don't blame SDG&E. It costs a lot of money to install and maintain an electrical grid. Ask John Hutchison about this. He was a longtime employee of that company. I probably won't live long enough to recoup an investment in solar panels. Wind turbines are huge, noisy, expensive, unsightly, high-maintenance, unreliable, and not economic absent government subsidies. The wind doesn't blow all the time. Wind turbines also threaten birds and apparently whales. In addition, they also threaten decades of our ability to purchase good balsa wood at reasonable prices to build model airplanes. I recently paid triple the price for some sheet balsa wood that I would have paid for similar balsa wood before 2019. I have purchased from many vendors and have found that [www.specializedbalsa.com](http://www.specializedbalsa.com) is the best source for good balsa wood.



**Harvesting of Balsa Wood Logs in South America**

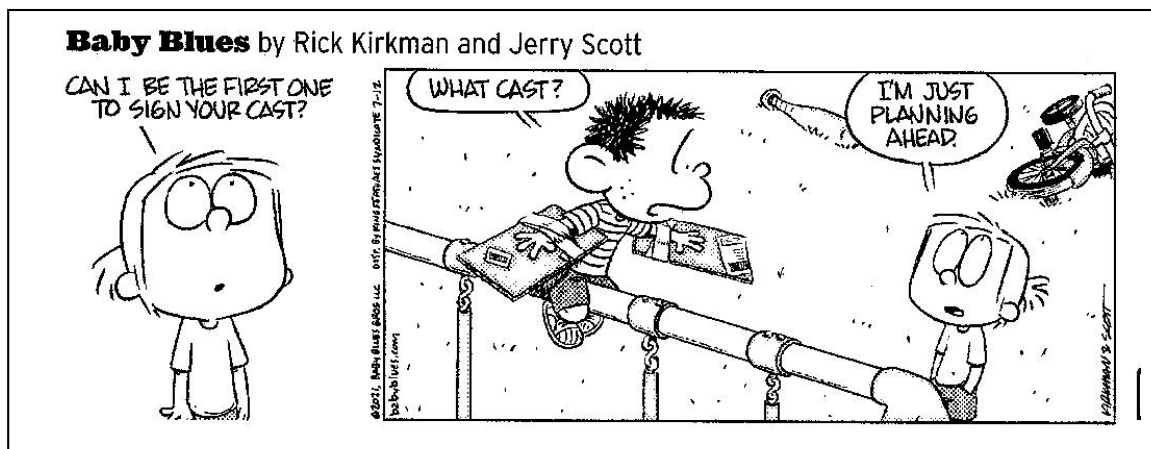
Wind turbine blades now are as long as 100 meters. The outer surface of these blades is epoxy-impregnated fiberglass or some other composite material. But you guessed it, the interior of wind turbine blades is balsa wood because of its lightness and stiffness. Each blade can consume 150 cubic meters of balsa wood! Polymer substitutes like PET (recycled plastic bottles) are available but more expensive. Modern wind turbines were developed in Germany and the Netherlands, but like almost every other mass-produced product they are now mostly manufactured in China. I have read that the Chinese have purchased most, if not all, of the balsa wood plantations in Ecuador. Prices for balsa wood have increased dramatically in the last five years. The price of balsa wood logs is now so high that illegal cutting takes place in Ecuador.

The huge increase in demand for balsa wood has caused rampant deforestation, prostitution, drug abuse, littering, and river pollution in Ecuador. So, deforest the rain forest for wind turbines and save the planet. That makes a whole lot of sense, doesn't it? What do you think powers the ships that transports the balsa wood logs to China and then the wind turbine blades all around the world? Adding insult to injury, when the wind turbines are decommissioned after a short life it costs too much to salvage and recycle the immense amount of balsa wood inside each blade.



**Transporting Segments of Balsa Wood Logs Via Canoe in South America**

Our hobby is supported by a cottage industry of kit suppliers. They have been hit hard by the compromised availability of balsa wood and the big price increases for this commodity. In my experience the current kits tend to have heavier balsa wood than they did just a few years ago. Give these kit suppliers a break. They can't supply balsa wood that is under 7-8-pound density and still make a profit. They have to increase their prices. The balsa wood in commercial kits won't be as good as it used to be. But unless you are flying in ultra-competitive indoor classes, the balsa wood in these kits is acceptable. I panicked over the last 3-4 years and have now purchased a lifetime supply of balsa wood. I just hope my adult children don't pitch it in the trash later on. If you are interested in learning more about this topic, copy this link and paste it into your browser to view an excellent video: <https://youtu.be/l6pT351gNic>



# OASIS FLYERS

## Flying Aces Squadron 20



### Oasis Flyers Tenth Anniversary Celebration Flight Competition

**Friday,-Sunday, May 19, 20, and 21, 2023**

Taibi Flying Field, Perris, CA (Location: 33.7803656, - 117.1972964)

#### Friday May 19, 2023 At Taibi Field

##### All Day 8 AM to 5PM

- Pre-Registered Pilot Check In (Form Below(\$40.00)
- Day Of Event Registration \$45.00
- Fees include food carts and amenities
- Access to Trimming Field and Taibi field

##### Taibi Field Amenities Free to all registered Flyers

- Pilots Lounge
- Donuts & Coffee
- Hot Dog Cart Both Days
- Cold Drinks
- Award Plaques

##### Sponsored By

OASIS Flyers, Flying Aces Squadron 20

##### Contest Director

Richard Brooks [oasisflyers@gmail.com](mailto:oasisflyers@gmail.com)

Or Go to our Website at [www.oasisflyers.org](http://www.oasisflyers.org)

#### Saturday May 20, 2023

Pilots Meeting 8 AM Both Days

All Events are conducted under the Flying aces Official Rules

##### Mass Launch Events

1. WW1 mass launch 8:30 am
2. WW2 mass launch 10:30 am

#### Sunday May 21, 2023

3. Greve/Thompson mass launch 8:30 am
4. Simplified Scale Mass Launch 10:30 AM

##### FAC Single Model Events Both Days. All Events TOTF

5. 2Bit+1
6. Old-time Rubber Fuselage
7. Jimmie Allen ROG
8. Embryo ROG
9. Jet Cat
10. Civilian Scale
11. Post War/Reno Unlimited Mass Launch (New Event)5577

### Registration Form

**Events (Circle event Numbers Above for your entries). Entry Fee \$40.00 for all Events**

**The Flying Aces and Oasis Flyers Squadron 20 are not responsible for any injury during the event**

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ AMA NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make all Checks Payable to Roger Willis and Send all Registration Forms and Checks to:**

Oasis Flyers Club  
29100 Midway Summit Rd.,  
Menifee, CA. 92584

# FLYING ACES

Squadron 41

San Diego



# Scale Staffel

## April 2023 - Outdoor Flying Contest

Saturday and Sunday, April 22 - 23, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Taibi Flying Field, Perris, CA

(Location: 33.7803656, - 117.1972964)

**Prizes** for 1st, 2nd & 3rd

### Fees

- \$8 entry fee includes one event
- \$3 for each additional event
- \$20 maximum: includes entry fee and 5 or more events.

### Contest Director

John Hutchison  
johnhutchison1@cox.net  
619-504-5731

### Awards Presentation

Immediately following the final event on Sunday

### Hotel Accommodations

Red Lion  
480 S Redlands Ave,  
Perris, CA 92570  
951-943-5577

### GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP:

The flier who earns the most 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> place points will become the 2022 Grand Champion. The trophy will be presented on Sunday.

**Pilot's Meeting** @ 8 a.m. each day

### PT Aviation Double Nickel Contest

Contact **W.Scott** for kits: [wscott127@me.com](mailto:wscott127@me.com)

Comet Nickel Series - Double sized, Wing Spam 20"

Total 3 flights (all flights on same day)

1st place - \$50 2nd place -\$25 3rd place -\$10

### FAC Single Model Events

Fly any event on either day or on both days.

1. FAC Rubber Scale
2. Jimmie Allen (ROG)
3. Embryo Endurance (ROG)
4. Golden Age Combined
5. Old Time Rubber Stick & Fuselage Combined (hand launch)
6. FAC 2-bit + 1 (ROG)
7. Dime Scale

### Mass Launch Events

**Saturday - Pilot meeting at 8:00a.m.**

8. FAC World War I Combat  
Wind at 8:20 a.m., Launch at 8:30 a.m.
9. FAC WW II Combat /Spanish Civil War Combined  
Wind at 9:20 a.m., Launch at 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday - Pilot meeting at 8:00a.m.**

10. FAC Greve / Thompson Race  
Wind at 8:20 a.m., Launch at 8:30a.m.

## Orbiteers at Lost Hills February 2023

More February Monthly Pictures – A.Bartick

### KIWI Cup FAI

		Placed/Contestants
F1A	Dainel	20/33
F1B	Bill B	17/37
F1G	Mike P	8/17
F1S	Clint	2/16
	Don	13/16

### Isaacson AMA

P-30

Mass

Launch Don 1<sup>st</sup>

E-36 Clint  
Don

CAT Tim 1st  
Stan 2nd

HLG Tim 1st  
Stan 2nd  
Daniel 3rd



Don Bartick



David Wade



Brad Terrell

Mark Chomyn →



# San Diego Orbiteers

## Flying Schedule 2023

### Taibi Field Perris, Ca

Primary Date	Rain Date	Event	CD
January 22	January 29	P-30/Glider/Power	
February 19	February 26	Coupe/Glider/Power	Mike P.
<del>March 19</del>	<b>March 26</b>	<b>OT/NOS</b>	
April 16	April 30	P-30/One design Event Glider/Power Oldenkamp Memorial	
May 21	May 28	Coupe/Glider/Power	
June 11	June 25	OT/NOS Rubber/Glider/ Power	
July 16	July 23	P-30/Glider/Power	
August 20	Aug 27	Coupe/Glider/Power	
September	15,16,17	Free Flight Champions Lost Hills	
September 10	Sep 24	OT/NOS Rubber/Glider/Power	
October 15	October 22	P-30/Glider/Power	
November	10,11,12	Dual Club, Lost Hill, Ca.	
November 19	November 26	Coupe/Glider/Power	
December 17		Make-up	



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



### Chairman

Mark Chomyn .....(760) 753-7164  
[chomyn@roadrunner.com](mailto:chomyn@roadrunner.com)

### Vice Chairman

John Hutchison.....(619) 303-0785  
[johnhutchison1@cox.net](mailto:johnhutchison1@cox.net)

### Secretary

John Merrill .....(619) 449-4047  
[johnrmerrill@yahoo.com](mailto:johnrmerrill@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer (Trustee at Large)

Howard Haupt .....(858) 272-5656  
[hlhaupt1033@att.net](mailto:hlhaupt1033@att.net)

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[dbartick@4-warddesign.com](mailto:dbartick@4-warddesign.com)

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Tim Batiuk .....(949) 547-4644  
[tbatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:tbatiuk@gmail.com)

## ORBITEER TASK LEADERS

### Competition Director and Score Keeper

Mike Pykelny.....(858) 748-6235  
[MPykelny@dslextreme.com](mailto:MPykelny@dslextreme.com)

### Banquet and Social Activity Coordinator

Linda Piazza.....(858) 748-6235  
[MPykelny@dslextreme.com](mailto:MPykelny@dslextreme.com)

### Safety Officer & Field Marshall

**Open Position** .....(xxx) xxx-xxxx  
yourname@volunteer

### Web Master

Kathy McLaughlin.....(619) 303-0785  
[kamclaughlin1@cox.net](mailto:kamclaughlin1@cox.net)

### Newsletter Editor / Membership Coordinator

Howard Haupt .....(858) 272-5656  
[hlhaupt1033@att.net](mailto: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](http://www.SanDiegoOrbiteers.com)

Webmaster: Kathy McLaughlin

### **Marmaduke** by Brad & Paul Anderson



“I told you not to come in here.”

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



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PHOTO CREDITS:

Page 1 - Mark Chomyn  
2, 7 - Arline Bartick  
3, 4 - Mike Jester



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING - February 2023**

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**(Note: March Outdoor Meet, is now scheduled on its rain date.)**

**March 26<sup>TH</sup>** - San Diego Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly  
Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, 7:30 am.  
Events: **OT NOS / Glider / Power**