

# EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB



MAY 2024

## **Chairman's Corner - Mark Chomyn**

April showers bring May flowers. Or in the case of our beloved Taibi Field, a new crop off knee-high plant growth. If you flew in either the Scale Staffel Two-Day or the Orbiteers April monthly, you likely had the experience of trying to retrieve your flight as grassy shoots wrapped around your ankles making the trek feel like a slog through quicksand. But we free flight enthusiasts will let nothing stand in the path of our aeronautic endeavors. Yes, the retrievals were slow, and planes were a bit hard to find at times, but we flew on bravely and had a blast anyway.

The Scale Staffel Two-Day on May 28-29 was organized and run by William Scott and ran smoothly over the course of the two-day event. Thanks William! Congratulations to all participants. I hope you enjoyed the contest. I did. My claim to fame in the two-day was my triumph over the great Bob Hodes in the Sky Bunny event. Okay, there were only the two of us flying but a first is a first and I thoroughly enjoyed the jellybeans that were the reward for my thrilling flight. There was a total of twelve separate events including four mass launches (WWI, WWII, Greve-Thompson and Sky Bunny) that were on the flying schedule. So, it gave any free flyer a chance to participate. Can't wait for the next two-day event to be announced. I need an excuse to build a new Phantom Flash.

The Orbiteers April monthly was flown on Sunday, April 29 and included a P-30 mass launch in honor of John Hutchison. It's amazing how long and how high a P-30 will fly if you're not setting your DT for only two minutes. Made for some lengthy retrievals. It was a site to see, and I imagined "Hutch" looking down upon us from free flight heaven with that great grin of his. The P-30 main event was won by Mike Jester, Henry Kruse (a Junior!) won Cat Glider and Tim Batiuk won Hand Launch Glider. Congratulations gentleman. I was amazed at how the glider flyers were able to track and find those gliders in the tall stuff (i.e. weeds).

The field on Sunday was full of flyers as we had three different clans, Orbiteers, Scale Staffel and a tow -launch glider group all flying at the same time. At times, the sky was very busy, and one had to keep an eye out for the glider towlines when walking about on the field. It was amazing to watch the young tow line flyers work the tow lines to fly those planes. The best way to describe what I saw was an "aerobatic ballet" as flyers were continually moving back and forth, side to side and doing continual start-stop sprints to control the tension on their towlines. I realized that what these young people were doing, and doing very well, was far beyond anything I could attempt. It's great to have them out there with us and I hope they stay interested in free flight as a hobby/sport that can be enjoyed for their lifetime. It got me thinking.

I do have an old SIG Sinbad glider kit in my collection. Would one of these young flyers be willing to teach an old codger the art of towline flying? The Sinbad is a pretty basic plane, so I think I'd be able to tow it straight ahead without the need to perform any aerobatic ballet moves.

Our May 19 monthly event in Perris will be Coupe, Glider (HL,CL and tow line) and Power. Hope you can attend. I've got my "old school" Winterhawk II collecting dust in the garage. Seems like a good time to dust it off and get it ready for some flights. No, it probably won't show up in the winner's circle or even second or third place, but the object is to participate. You've still got time to get something ready for the contest. So, there's no excuse. Get out there and let-er-rip!

The SCAMPS held their Taibi Fun Fly on May 5 so I'm looking forward to getting some photos of that gathering. I finally took the plunge and joined the SCAMPS (about time). Now, as a member, I'm looking forward to attending a few of their contests. I've attended some of the SCAMPS events in the past (was lucky and awed to meet Sal Taibi) as a non-member and found the club to be very welcoming to newcomers. The thing that gets my heart pumping is to watch the gas guys putting up those classic free flight power planes. Rocket take-offs transitioning to floating glides. Love the smell of the burning nitro. Takes me back to the 50s and 60's when free flight was still in its heyday.

For those of you who enjoy a good road trip there's the 2024 AMA Indoor Nats at the Kibbe Dome in Moscow, Idaho. NNFS free flight calendar shows that contest happening July 1-5, 2024. Even if you don't compete it might be worth the trip to watch the elite of indoor flying do their thing. Heck, if you've got the planes and the ambition go ahead and compete. But indoor flying is not all that's going on in Moscow, Idaho. When you're not watching or competing in the free flight action you can entertain yourselves with a trip to the Moscow Farmer's Market or the McConnel Mansion

tour and my favorites (though I've never been there) the Rants and Raves Brewery and the Moscow Brewing Company. As Homer Simpson said, "Beer, cold frosty beer!"

And please remember, May 12 is Mother's Day. Make sure to remember your spouse or significant other for being an important part of your life. Let's face it how many other people in your life would embrace a grown adult who builds and chases model airplanes. So, do something nice.

Keep on flying!  
Mark

***"Focus more on your desire than on your doubt, and the dream will take care of itself."***

Mark Twain as taken from NFFS Free Flight Digest, July-August 2023, "The Leading Edge," Dave Lindley.

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## 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:

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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.

## ORBITEER WEB SITE

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



Like a lot of people in our hobby I mostly build my balsa wood air frames with nitrocellulose glue. It dries quickly but gives you enough time to adjust parts. More importantly, you can easily dissolve hardened nitrocellulose glue joints by patiently brushing them with acetone. I use medium viscosity CA for special joints requiring more strength. On rare occasions I use thin viscosity CA. I am mindful that thin viscosity CA will sometimes weep and flow where you don't want it, resulting in parts being permanently glued together that are not supposed to be joined. Ask me how I know this. You can buy a green tube of nitrocellulose glue bearing the Duco® brand at Walmart for about \$3. The peach-colored nitrocellulose glue sold under the AMBROID® brand is no longer commercially available. The last time I purchased Duco glue at Walmart I was asked for my ID. I told the clerk I was on Medicare. Not having received any reaction from the clerk, I joked that I would rush home to sniff the glue. The clerk at Walmart was not amused. But I digress. I like to thin my Duco glue 50/50 with acetone. A pint of Acetone costs very little at your local ACE hardware store and lasts a long time. You can buy a small bottle of thinned nitrocellulose glue from Volare Products which George Bredehoff sells under his Am-Droid™ brand. I have purchased several bottles of Am-Droid glue. I like the convenience of the small steel dispensing tube on the squeeze bottle and the flexible polymer cap that fits over the tube and is held to the bottle with a tiny lanyard. However, invariably the glue dries in the dispensing tube, even when capped. I then must shove a segment of .025-inch music wire down the tube to clear out the dried glue. It seems like that segment of music wire is never conveniently available. Then it takes a keen eye and steady hand to insert the wire into the tube. This leads to the inevitable search for my reading glasses. Back to the building board after searching for my reading glasses. Now what was I doing?



**MicroCementeur™ Glue Dispenser - matchbook shown for purposes of scale**

Thankfully, I discovered a better glue dispenser when I went to the 2023 AMA Indoor Nats at the Kibbie Dome. Dave Lindley, who runs Indoor Free Flight Supply, had a whole bunch of neat products for sale which he laid out on a table so that passersby could not resist buying them. Eureka! Dave was selling the MicroCementeur™ glue dispenser. I have since learned that it was originally developed by William Bigge and later sold by Harry G. Geyer. This product was new to me, but I immediately recognized its utility. I bought three of these clever glue dispensers. I recall that Dave quickly sold out of this product at the contest. The MicroCementeur glue dispenser comprises a small squeeze bottle with a removable cap assembly that includes an elongated narrow plastic dispensing tip. The unique feature of this glue dispenser is a stainless-

steel stopper and clearing wire that is integral to the plastic dispensing tip. This wire has a red plastic finger grip at its rear end. The wire can be slid forward to seal the dispensing tip and slid rearward to open the dispensing tip. If any glue dries in the dispensing tip, it can be cleared out by pushing the clearing wire back and forth. The squeeze bottle can be filled by rocking the cap assembly back and forth and pulling it free to open the bottle. Use a segment of straw or metal tubing as a pipette to fill the bottle with a 50/50 mixture of Duco glue and acetone. RC-56 glue (now Formula 560 glue) along with white and yellow aliphatic glues (such as Titebond® brand and Elmer's® brand) can be thinned with water and used with this dispenser. Do not fill this glue dispenser with CA!

You can purchase the MicroCementeur glue dispenser for \$12 on Dave's website at <https://www.indoorffsupply.com/>. You might want to buy the set of three glue dispensers and some other stuff from Dave to amortize the cost of shipping. Most of the stuff he sells is for indoor free flight which follows from the name of his business. Dave is also the President of the National Free Flight Society (NFFS). Thank you, Dave, for all you do for the free flight hobby. If you are not already a member, I recommend you join the NFFS. Among other benefits you receive the NFFS digest, which is very informative and enjoyable thanks to its editor, Don DeLoach. I have had the pleasure of being bested by Don in outdoor free flight events like a lot of other fliers. Second place is not in Don's DNA. But like most accomplished fliers, Don is willing to help you improve your own flight times if you just ask him. That is one of the wonderful aspects of our hobby.



## San Diego Orbiteers Flying Schedule 2024 Taibi Field Perris, Ca

<b>Primary Date</b>	<b>Rain Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>CD</b>
May 19	May 26	Coupe/Glider/Power	
June 23	June 30	OT/NOS Rubber/Glider/Power	Don
July 21	July 28	P-30/Glider/Power	
August 18	Aug 25	Coupe/Glider/Power	
September 22	Sept 29	OT/NOS Rubber/Glider/Power	
October 20	Oct 27	P30/Glider/Power	
November	Nov 8,9&10	Dual Club, Lost Hill, Ca.	
November 17	Nov 24	Coupe/Glider/Power	
December 15		Make-up	



## SCAMPS free flight club 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fun Fly.

This year represents the 60<sup>th</sup> year since the SCAMPS club was founded, and to recognize that milestone the club will be celebrating with a fun fly contest at Taibi Field in Perris on June 2 2024.

In recognition of the Club's long history we will be flying planes of all eras since 1964. Among the most popular events back then were ABC Old Time Gas, Texaco, Haggard Bowden and Twin Pusher. It isn't practical to fly Texaco at Perris due to limited flying space, but we will fly ABC Old Time Gas, Twin Pusher, and modified Haggard-Bowden two-minute precision. We will also fly both Large and Small Old Time Rubber, and Perris Special as a tip of the hat to Sal Taibi, one of our founding members. And from the more modern era, AMA Gas, P-30, E36 electric, FIG "Coupe d'Hiver" and Cat-Launched Glider. There will also be a specially sponsored Junior P30 contest for ages up to 18. Flying will be from 7am to 2pm.

Contacts: Clint Brooks ([scampsedit@yahoo.com](mailto:scampsedit@yahoo.com))  
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### A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW CLASS - S.Buddenbohm

$$P-30 + E-20 = EP-30$$

The ORBITEERS are deservedly famous for creating one of the all time favorite FF events, P-30. We all know that times have changed, so maybe it is time for an event just a tweek away from the original? Most electric events involve very fast intimidatng climbs, great heights, sometimes long chases, and scary chances to crash. Could this be why such events have not kept more participants?

Submitted, a new event that produces beautiful flights of 60 to 120 sec. This event uses that P-30 you stored away when it did not perform as well as you liked, or when you got tired of all the hassels of rubber power, or when your field got smaller, or when you just got bored with it.

What you do is take the power system used for the E-20 event, and couple it to a P-30. These power systems are readily available. I use an E-20 timer from Micro RC, about \$40, an 8520 brushed motor, less than \$5, and a Tattu 270mah battery, also about \$5. Chargers can be super simple and cheap too. Mine has plug-ins for 6 batteries at a time, and it plugs into a usb port. The prop is a 65mm diameter drone propeller, that is less than 3".

The result is a model, EP-30, that will do a minute on a 10 sec motor run, double that on a 20 sec motor run. The glide is much improved compared to a P-30, due to the tiny prop, so the flights are beautiful. The climb is not scary fast, about like the initial burst on a rubber power P-30. In 20 seconds the models climb to about P-30 height.

I wonder if there is enough interest to make this a popular event?

**SCAMPS**

**60<sup>th</sup>**



**ANNIVERSARY  
FUN FLY**



**JUNE 2, 2024  
TAIBI FIELD, PERRIS CA  
7AM - NOON**

**ABC Old Time Gas**

**Haggard-Bowden 2-min precision\***

**Twin Pusher**

**Perris Special**

**AMA Gas**

**Small OT Rubber**

**\*modified to permit all types of plane**

**Large OT Rubber**

**E36**

**P30**

**Cat-Launch Glider**

**Coupe**

**P30 Junior\*\***

**\*\*special sponsored event**

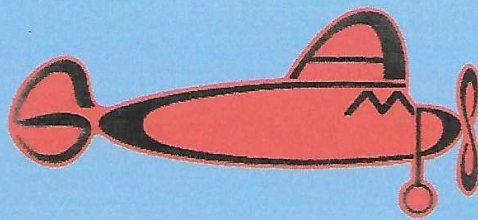
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FAI Jr. Team Participants



David Wade



Mike Jester and Greg Hutchison



P-30 Mass Launch



Tim Batiuk



Stan Buddenbohm



Chris Reck



WWII Mass Launch



Henry Kruse



John Alling



John Swain



Bill Booth →





# MoneySaver

## Gold Hard Facts

When people worry about the economy, their thoughts often turn to gold. Check out these nuggets of truth By NIAMH ROWE

Gold is a precious metal ... but it's not the most precious metal.

PER-OUNCE PRICES\*

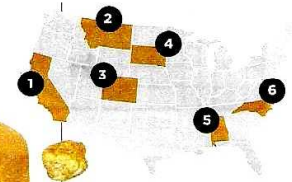
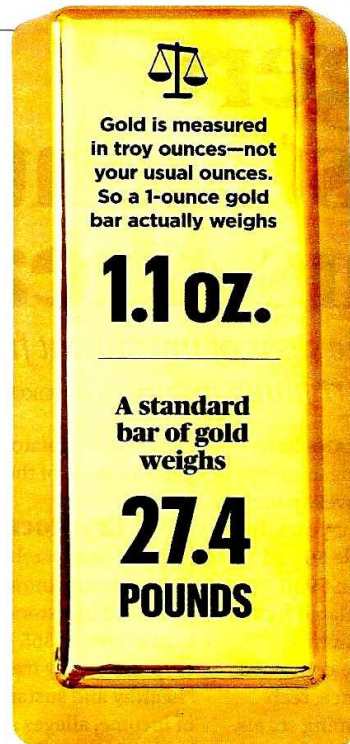
Iridium	\$5,000
Rhodium	\$4,350
Gold	\$2,013
Palladium	\$953
Platinum	\$909
Silver	\$23

Olympic gold medals are at least **92.5% silver.**



**SOMETIMES, YES**  
As inflation soared from 1976 to 1980, gold's purchasing power nearly tripled.

**MORE RECENTLY, NO**  
As inflation took off between May 2020 and June 2022, gold's purchasing power fell 9 percent.

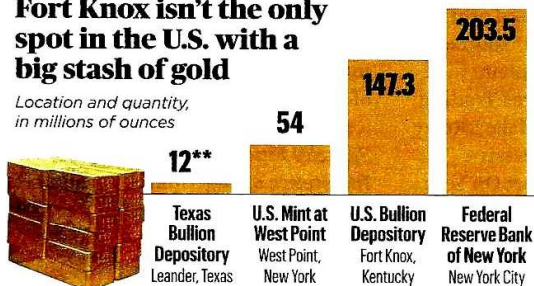


Six places where you can pan for gold for free or at low cost

- 1 Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park**  
Coloma, California
- 2 Libby Creek Recreational Gold Panning Area**  
near Libby, Montana
- 3 Cache Creek Prospecting Site**  
near Granite, Colorado
- 4 Broken Boot Gold Mine**  
Deadwood, South Dakota
- 5 Alabama Gold Camp**  
Lineville, Alabama
- 6 Reed Gold Mine**  
Midland, North Carolina

Fort Knox isn't the only spot in the U.S. with a big stash of gold

Location and quantity, in millions of ounces



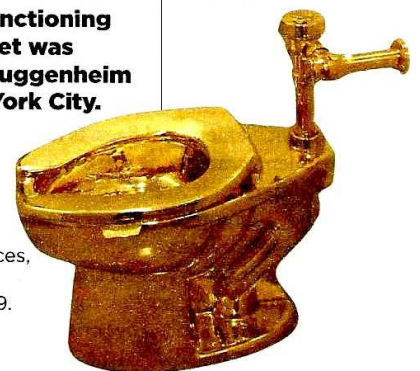
The most expensive gold coin ever sold was a 1933 U.S. \$20 gold piece

Never actually issued for circulation, it was auctioned off in 2021 for a record \$18.9 million.



In 2016, a fully functioning 18-karat gold toilet was installed at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

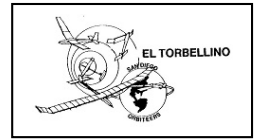
It was reportedly used by more than 100,000 visitors. The toilet, built of more than \$6 million in gold at today's prices, was stolen from an English palace in 2019. It's still missing.



Olympic medals: Lisa Moxee/Williams/Getty Images; 1933 coins: Sotheby's/Getty Images; toilet: William Edwards/AFP via Getty Images; stack: Ira Berger/Alamy; nuggets, bar, shield: Getty Images

\* Prices as of February 16, 2024. Source: mining.com  
\*\* Capacity

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## **WHAT'S HAPPENING - MAY 2024**

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- MAY 18
- San Diego Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly  
Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, 7:30 am  
Events: Coupe / Glider / Power