



PROP WASH

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The Presidents Message

You should all be Proud!

By Dan Metz

I need to tell you just how proud I am of all of YOU! No other club in the area could boast more about the willingness of its membership to be involved. When the word goes out for volunteers, you respond and the work is completed in a timely way and always with a smile. I also want to commend the board members who are about the best I have ever worked with. When about 30% of the club membership comes out to help, it is clear that you not only have a great club, but also effective leadership.

The winning attitude of this club was presented at its best over this past Jet Rally weekend. As they say in the old western song, " Not a discouraging word was heard ", the only stress was about the weather and even that cooperated. Our Jet Fly is being talked about on the Internet forums as being a class event held by a classy club at a world-class

site. All of you can pat yourselves on the back for showing great attitudes all weekend.

When Stan Ford of the Parks and Recreation Dept. arrived at our Jet Rally on Saturday he told me that he was amazed at what he was seeing. He came up three different times and told me just how awesome it was to see the jet aircraft flown with such great piloting skills. He also complimented us on how well the jet rally was organized. He recognizes that our club is a very good caretaker of The Canal Regional Park.

The Recreation and Parks Dept. will be including us in their future publications with a full page of pictures and activity descriptions. These publications are mailed to over 125,000 homes in the valley. Gentlemen, we are already well known in the modeling world and are finally going to be discovered by the Coachella Valley.

This club is a class act and has a brilliant future.

Best in the West Jet Rally 2007

By Murray Ross

The Best in the West Jet Rally 2007 will be remembered as a very successful event that survived severe weather warnings that never materialized. In fact, the weather was great, and the timid pilots that believed in the bogus forecasts missed a great experience.

For several weeks before the event, club volunteers erected new safety fencing and cleaned up the tables. The new PA speakers were tested and mounted on pedestals. Final spreadsheets were assembled to

describe the work schedule for the club volunteers. The schedules were emailed to volunteers along with job instructions and parking passes. Thirty-two volunteers had offered to work at jobs like parking attendants, impound supervisors, heralds, and registrars and raffle hawkers.

Early Friday morning a few of us came out to meet the live crew from KMIR (local channel 6 TV) for BITW promotional interviews and flight demonstrations.

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BITW 2007 (continued from page 1)

Entrants started to arrive on Friday with motor homes and trailers chock full of jet models. We had open flying during the afternoon with jets and prop-planes sharing the field.

Bright and early Saturday, the generator and PA were started and the registration desk, staffed by Murray Ross, Shirley Brenon and Bev Holmwell, was set up. Each pilot was interviewed and his data sheet compiled in a notebook for the announcer, John Elliott Jr.

After a brief safety meeting conducted by Mike Stone, the flying fun really started. As each pilot took-off, John Elliot told the audience the pilot's name and plane and narrated the maneuvers. At midday, the "peoples choice" balloting was conducted. Pilots showed off their planes for audience approval. Later, all were treated to a spectacular low fly-by of a real Chino P-51. Flying

ended officially at about 4:00 PM on Saturday, but the entrants continued until dusk before shutting down for the night.

Sunday started out a little windy, but the gusts subsided as the day progressed. There were many great flights, and the ghost judges tallied up the results from both days and compiled the list of plaque winners. The pilots were summoned as each award was presented:

- "Peoples' Choice" to Lou Vadino for F-18.
 - Best EDF to Frank Gagliardo for MIG-15
 - Most Spectacular flight to Terry Harcharik
 - Best Scale Flight to David Searles for TUTOR
 - Best Crash to David Searles for F-18
 - Beat Finish and Markings to Mark Jarrell for F-18
 - Best Turbine to Hal Lockett for Flash/Merlin turbine
 - Pilot's Choice to Mark Jarrell for F-18
 - Contest Director's Award to Sherrell Family
- Event photos from various photographers are displayed below and the next page.





March 25, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes

By Dick Knapp

President, Dan Metz at 11:17 AM, called the meeting to order. Also present were Murray Ross, Dick Knapp, Serge Puis, George Muir and Jim Decker. Dick reported that the club treasury currently stands at \$9,752.

Dan also announced that Tim Dobrowolski who had the mishap with our shade structure had sent a check for \$650 to cover the repairs. Dick said that he had received it and had turned on Shade Structures Inc. to make the repair, hopefully before mid April.

Dan then indicated that he would like this meeting to focus on the up coming Best in the West Jet Rally.

Murray then discussed his trip to Tucson to see how they ran their jet fun fly. He felt that it was a very well run event and the staff was very helpful in educating him.

We discussed the installation of additional safety fencing about 10 feet beyond the north and south ends of the pit area. It was agreed that it would be installed this Thursday morning and that Chacho had agreed to bring out his posthole digger. We will also temporarily close the gaps between the pilot stations and use the taxiway strips to enter and leave the runway. Dick, Dan and Serge will cut the material this Thursday and have it ready to install the Thursday before the event.

Dan said that he had discussed the food situation for the event with Chacho and felt that it was under control. Chacho asked if the caterers could set up under the large shade structure, which we agreed to. The actual cooking would not be directly under the shade structure.

Murray said that he would like to check out the PA system and a generator over the weekend of 6-7 April. Dan will check with Mike Scuro to see if we can borrow his generator. (We need about 2-4 kva) Dick will check on renting a generator as a backup.

Murray has lined up an announcer for this years event, so we will have to be a bit more organized in moving aircraft to the flight line so the announcer knows who is flying what aircraft. Murray also feels that the Spektrum DX-7 radio system (donated by Horizon Hobbies) will be a great prize for the pilots only raffle. There will also be an additional raffle open to the general public that is a club fundraiser. Murray also would like additional CD's for background music during the event. Serge said he would get a copy of the "Top Gun" music, and Dick will bring "Star Wars".

Dan set Thursday, April 12th for a field clean up day. We will be washing down all the tables and blowing the sand and dust off the runway and pit area; so don't plan on flying until those tasks are completed. Dan will check with the Coachella Valley Recreation and Parks Department to see if they can help get the County road crew to clean up along our access road before the event.

Dick will arrange to get several rolls of yellow safety tape to block off the pit area to all spectators during the event. Spectators will be allowed to get close to the airplanes when they are lined up on the runway for the "People's Choice Award" viewing. We are expecting that some jet pilots will show up on Friday and some will remain until Sunday noon, but the BIG day will be on Saturday.

We will also be putting up the spectator fencing to the north of the spectator area and south of the storage container to keep people back from the runway.

Murray will put out e-mail to the membership looking for volunteers to help with the spectator parking, transmitter impound area and raffle sales.

March 26, 2007 General Meeting Minutes

By Dick Knapp

President, Dan Metz, called the meeting to order at 7 PM. There were 24 members present.

Dick Knapp reported that the Treasury now stood at \$9725.

Dick then asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March Board Meeting Minutes. They're being none, the minutes were approved as published.

Dick then asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February Meeting Minutes. They're being none, the minutes were approved as published.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dan then discussed the pending Shade Structure Inc. repair at our field. The cause of the mishap seemed to be lack of proper rudder control during the takeoff run. Dan suggested that any new fliers try leaving the wing off their plane and practicing running up and down the runway to get used to the left thumb rudder control.

Dan then discussed the year-end briefing that he and Dick gave to the Coachella Valley Recreation and Parks Department. The Board listened for almost 30 minutes and Stan Ford indicated that he would see what he could do to encourage the County Highway Department to clean up the end of Ave. 54 before our major events. Dan also discussed the possibility of a future float fly at Lake Cahuilla since the CVR&P Department is looking at setting up some future events at the lake.

Dan then asked Murray Ross to discuss the up coming Best in the West Jet Rally on April 14-15. Murray said that he needed club members to help with parking, transmitter impound, pilot registration and the club raffle. He also said that he needed help with a "Herald" position. Murray said that the "Herald's" job would be to keep track of what pilot was "on deck" and pass that information to the announcer so he could say a few words about the pilot and his airplane for the audience. If you would like to assist, and get a free parking pass, please call Murray at 360-0145. Murray also announce that since this was our club's major fund raiser, everyone, except pilots and volunteers, would be asked to pay the \$5 parking fee, which covers both days of the event.

Dan then discussed the additional safety fencing that we would be installing at both the north and south ends of the pit area. This will be permanent fencing to help protect all of us from aircraft that have deviated from a "normal" flight path. We will also temporarily close off the spaces between the pilot stations and only use the taxiways to leave and enter the pit area. The pit area will be open ONLY to pilots and their crews, There will be a noon time display on the runway to give everyone a chance to see all the aircraft up close and to vote for their favorite airplane.

Dan then announced that Owen Whiteman is too busy to work on the new tabletops and felt that we would be hard to do the job ourselves before the 13th. So we will build the 20 new tops after the Best in the West event.

Dan also announced that we would be working on installing the new fencing on Thursday, April 5th. Murray will check out our PA system on April 7th to make sure that everything is ready for the big weekend. We will then have a major field cleanup day on Thursday, April 12th to wash off all the tables, pick up trash and blow all the sand and dirt off the runway and pit areas. We will also clean off and set up the spectator seating.

Dan then discussed the proposed U-control / helicopter / 3-D electric flying area and said that initial cost estimates were to high so we were tabling further discussion pending a more cost effective solution. This could be using the wood resin base that we used at Foster Field.

Dan said that he had no further information on the addition to our frequency control board of the 27 MHz and ham radio bands.

Dan then asked Ron Vincent to report on his activities with the La Quinta High School ROTC unit. Ron said that he has been working to solo all the students on the electric trainer there at the school and hoped to have a group ready to bring out to our field for advanced work leading to solo flights with our trainers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dan then asked if there was any new business that anyone would like to bring up.. Gerry Hartley asked to be recognized. Gerry said that he was a "snowbird" from Canada and that he felt that we had one of the best flying sites he has ever seen. He loves the friendly attitude of the club members and really enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the club's Delta Dart program with the Indio Recreation Department. He intends to take our approach and our egg crate glider design back to his home field and start a similar program up there. Good going Gerry!

Dan then asked Ray Cullen to be our speaker for the evening. Ray enjoys scratch building early aircraft (including pre-WWI). His latest project is a flying machine by Ray Clough, which is a long tubular fuselage with no wings, powered by a .25 engine. There are tail surfaces, which hopefully will give some turning ability, but trying to keep the fuselage from rotating from engine torque should also be interesting. Dan asked Ray to please have George Muir present with his video camera when he tries the first flight, hopefully before May.

Dan then auctioned off a very nice .40 size Decathlon that was donated by Tom Lucas. Chacho Gomez and Jim Morgan had a spirited bidding war, with Jim winning with a bid of \$125. Thanks Tom, Chacho and Jim for making this a successful fund raiser.

Our regular raffle also raised \$124..

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Prop Wash

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