



PROP WASH

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The President's Message

“We are on the Verge”

By Dan Metz

With all of your help, we are on the verge of a significant membership increase. This past month the club member participation in the field preparations and running of the Jet Rally contributed immensely to the success of the event. In addition, the positive media coverage of the rally has raised local interest in the club to a higher level than ever experienced.

Tom Chant, our new Vice President, said that at Uncle Don's the local chatter is extremely flattering. Lots of Kevin's customers are voicing the desire to join the club. Let's hear it for Tom being our goodwill ambassador.

One of the major advantages of joining our club is the free flight instruction. Recently, Joe Scuro's work with young student Alfredo Sanchez was highlighted on channel 3 and even seen on the Monday noontime news. Joe is to be congratulated for his work with young students.

Also Ron Vincent's outstanding program with La Quinta High School students should serve as an example of what we can do to encourage and train new members. Both Joe and Ron could use your help and support in building interest in our hobby and club.

On February 7 and 8 we will host a new event at our field, called The Western Scale Invitational. It is a first step contest for the West Coast Version of Top Gun. The leadership of five Southern California clubs came up with this event. Please stay tuned to the emails so you will know what is happening that weekend. Also please stay alert for a marathon race the end of February.

Happy landings and thank you for all that you have done for our club

Dan

Please attend the next general club meeting at Sloan's Restaurant at the corner of Hwy 111 and Dr. Carreon on January 27, 2009 at 7 pm.

BEST IN THE WEST JET RALLY OR **The Gong Show**

By Murray Ross

On January 16-18, 2009, CVRCC hosted the 20th annual Best in the West Jet Rally at our sparkling clean and expanded Coachella Valley Model Air Park. Thanks to the work of over 40 volunteers, the event was a greater success than last year. In particular, field security, registration, food catering and spectator parking management were handled perfectly. We need to improve the way we manage pilot parking, but according to the pilots, they had a great time.

Pilots began arriving on Thursday, January 15th. A crew of three from Maine actually started flying at day-break. By noon, there were about 30 pilots already flying. All told, by Saturday we had 47 pilots, which is a 15% increase over last year. On Friday, we started formal event registration while the Rios family caterers prepared great tacos and tamales for us. The registration workers checked credentials and signed up the flyers. Each pilot was given a felt number and a logo tee shirt. Parking and security workers reported in for their shift and received staff badges.

Ron Long from Arizona brought a huge oriental gong which was intended to announce less than perfect landings. You could see the pilots cringe with each bounced landing, because they could reliably anticipate that nerve shattering "**BONG**". Because of the perfect weather, flying went on from dawn to dusk both Friday and



Friday Registration Ladies, Joan, Shirley and Bev



Juan Rios' family did some great cooking.



The Gong crew, Doug, Ron, Billy and Rick



Two of three A-10s about to takeoff .

Saturday. Some of the most spectacular events included formation flying of three A-10 warthogs, the smoke writing, and the spectacular aerobatics. (Continued on Page 4)



Crowded pit area on Saturday



David Searles' beautiful Bae Hawk, winner of most realistic flight award.



Three visitors from Maine, Ray Labonte, Jim Baker and Richard Lugg with their planes.



Ray Labonte's impressive Ultra-Lightening in a high-speed pass.



Billy Edwards' Thunderbird scheme F-16



Dan and Murray award Lowell Wexler the Peoples' Choice plaque for his Black Bunny F-4.

Best in the West Jet Rally (continued)

The winners of the various awards were:

Peoples Choice: Lowell Wexler, Black Bunny F-4 Pilots
Choice: Best flying, Joe McBride
Best Markings and Finish: Lowell Wexler, Black Bunny F-4
Best Turbine: Joe McBride A-10
Most Spectacular Flight: Ken Falconer F-16
Best Electric Ducted Fan: Larry Wolfe F9F Panther
Best Scale Flight: David Searles Bae Hawk
Contest Directors Award: Lowell Wexler.

Sam Wright of "TOP GUN" fame announced for most of the weekend. He certainly injected a lot of colorful information for the crowd. "To your left, three down and locked," a description of Ken McSpadden preparing to land his Skymaster F-18, "Right down the center line."

Camaraderie at the field was evident as flyers eagerly greet one another. There are many huddles in the pit area as pilots lend their expertise to help fix a fellow

flyer's problems on a malfunctioning jet. Also, a common sight of long faces and caring remarks abound when a plane crashes. However this group also enjoys playful insults via the gong.



Lowell Wexler and his "Black Bunny" F-4 Phantom Jet, winner of multiple awards.

Board Meeting Minutes December 7, 2008

By Dick Knapp

President Dan Metz called the meeting to order at 10 am, December 7 at the flying field. Also present were Murray Ross, Dick Knapp, Tom Chant, George Muir, and Serge Puis.

Dan explained that he felt that it was very important for the Board members to totally understand all the safety rules at the flying field. Dan asked Tom to review the AMA's basic flying safety rules. These rules can be found on page 164 of the December issue of *Model Aviation* and are also printed on the back of all AMA membership applications. They are also available at the flying field as well as the Coachella Valley RC Clubs rules, which are posted above the transmitter impound and frequency control board.

Dan reiterated that it is every members responsibility to enforce our safety rules to ensure that we keep our field and our flying privileges. We had an incident that morning where a crop dusting helicopter passed close to the field and people just kept on flying. It is extremely important that we NEVER have an incident with a man bearing aircraft since the FAA will close us down immediately.

Tom went over all the rules to refresh everyone's mind. Dan also asked Tom to cover an aspect of flight safety at each of our monthly meetings.

Dan then asked Murray for an update on the Best in the West Jet Rally. Murray reviewed the current status of prize contributions and his latest post card mailing to all of last years participants. Murray has ordered the special BITW tee shirts and the award plaques. He also has contacted Sam Wright to be our announcer again. Murray is still working on upgrading our loudspeaker system and both Serge and Chris Ritter have working mixers that he can borrow. Murray also needs a couple of 100 foot cables for the microphone, which Chris thought he might have available. Murray will get with Chris to set up and test our system a week or two before the event.

Murray will be putting out a memo to the membership looking for volunteers to help with various jobs during the event. Please help out.

Dick said that we probably need new direction signs to the flying field since the old ones are pretty tired. Dan will check with Jason Hawkins to see if he can provide them.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

General Meeting Minutes December 27, 2008

By Dick Knapp

President Dan Metz called the meeting to order at 7 pm. There were 17 members present. Dan gave a brief report on our "State of the Club" briefing to the Coachella Valley Recreation and Parks Department that is now being called, the Desert Recreation District. Dan stated that Dick had prepared a terrific report giving the status of the membership since 2002, the budget needs of the club for this coming year and the look forward. The results of the briefing were that the District will cover at least the next six months of our porta-potty expense. We also requested that they place our runway in their line up for the next time they slurry seal their parking lots. At the very least, we should both get a lower per square foot cost for our combined needs. The District Board said that they will try to find the money for our project this next year. That is a net savings to the club of over \$800 per year for the porta-potties and \$8,100 for the slurry costs for the runway and control line pad. It turns out that the oil companies have shifted production to gasoline and asphalt is now in very short supply, hence the price has more than doubled since we coated the runway two years ago.

Dick then gave the Treasurer's report, we have \$3,388.28 in our checking account with lots of renewals still outstanding. We have also repaid several of the member loans, but still have \$2,000 outstanding.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as published. The minutes of the December Board meeting were corrected to add Joe Scuro to the attendees.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dan then asked Murray Ross to discuss the upcoming Best in the West Jet Rally. Murray said that he has received excellent cooperation from the club members and has all his job assignments filled. Murray now has 10 pre-registrations in hand (much better than last year) and even has three fliers coming in from Maine. Murray thinks that we will have about 70 entries by Saturday morning, January 17. Murray has also had several prospective sponsors begging to get added in. In discussing our fire prevention plans, Chacho Gomez volunteered his personal Gator off road vehicle to carry our water tanks and equipment. Craig Waters volunteered to come out and weld repair some of the tables that need it and burn off the weeds in the parking area and at the ends of the runway. We will still need a work party on Sunday, January 11 to blow off all the dust and dirt and clean up the table tops. If you own a gasoline powered blower, please bring it out. We will also need to repair some of the water damage to the runway slopes to eliminate excessive damage to planes that run off the west side of the paved surface. Murray also announced that there would be "open" flying after 1 pm on Sunday, January 18. Chacho will also coordinate the food operation. Dan then announced the election of officers. There being no additional nominations, the existing

slate were all elected by acclamation, including the new V.P., Tom Chant.

Dan announced that our 36 inch plotter still needs a new home since Bill Heersema is leaving town.

Dan also expects to order the new Viper 500 pylon racers the first week of January, so if you want to get involved, call Dan (831-6045).

Dan also awarded the 2008 pylon race winners plaque to Duane Van Dermolen and vowed to beat him in 2009.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dan announced that he had talked with Mel Santmeyer who is coordinating a scale fun fly at our field in February to be followed by a full Top Gun-West event in November of 2009. Our club would only host the event and handle the parking and food concessions.

Dan then asked Tom Chant to give his safety briefing. Tom discussed the importance of keeping everyone behind the propeller arc except the person actually starting the engine. Tom displayed the spinner that Serge had fly off his engine while it was in flight, which destroyed the aluminum spinner, fortunately it was well clear of the runway.

Dan and Tom discussed and agreed that especially on Sundays, we would hold a brief pilots meeting just to ensure that everyone understands our rules. We did have another incident where a plane landed in one direction while another plane was taking off in the opposite direction, that's not supposed to happen!

It was also suggested that when George Muir is out video taping a maiden flight for our web site, that the other pilots refrain from starting their engines and running them up, it really hurts the quality of the video production.

Susan Fornelius suggested that the club investigate setting up a miniature RC flying field display as part of the large railroad display at the Living Desert.

Joe Scuro stated that he and George Phillips have been having discussions with some of the LA and Orange County U-Control groups to see if they would like to hold a fun fly at our field. Joe also asked if the club would consider moving part of the eastern berm back a bit further to give a clearer flying area for the fliers. It would entail moving some earth back from the eastern apex of the flying circle to give a few more feet of clearance.

The raffle raised \$62.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM

Checklists Are Not Just For The Big Boys

By Tom Chant

Here are a few check lists that we should all use ,
CHARGE

Charge transmitter battery
Charge rx battery
Charge flight packs for electrics
Charge glow starter battery
Charge field box battery

CHECK + LOAD IN VEHICLE

Correct Radio
Correct fuse and wing (check in the wing bag)
Correct wing joiner
Spare props

TOOLS

Field box
All hardware and tools required for model
Fuel station for glow and gas models
Batteries and charger for electric models
AMA and club ID card
CA and epoxy
Portable Shade

Flight table
Water
Food

Before Each Flight

Obtain Frequency Clearance before you turn on radio
Check for correct airplane program in radio
Check control direction right, left, up, down , not just that the surface moves
Check and fill fuel/ charge flight battery
Secure canopy and all hatches
Secure the model pointing away from pits and flight line and start engine
Warm-up and run-up engine pointing away from pits and flight line
Check wind and flight pattern direction
Reconfirm correct control directions- up, down, right, left
Confirm dual rates are set for takeoff
Confirm antenna in proper position
Look for other aircraft in pattern
Announce intentions and then fly safely



Sunday morning at the Best in the West. Not many jet pilots left at the field so Chris Ritter and Ken Merenda treat visitors to some 3-D antics.