

EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB



October 2025

Chairman's Corner – Mark Chomyn

It's October, the frost is on the pumpkin and Halloween is only a few weeks away (even though Halloween stuff has been in CVS since July). Knowing model builders, I was sure that some model builder would have designed a Halloween themed model aircraft. I was right. I found this neat little flying witch named the Witch Craft designed by Frank Scott in 1972. Originally designed for a Cox .049 this version looks like it's been updated with an electric motor and some RC control. I do believe that aircraft modelers have probably developed a plane for every one of our holidays. Finding a model plane design for each holiday might make an interesting research project. Could be made into a book. Who knows?



We continue to hold our indoor contests at Los Coches Middle School in El Cajon. The most recent was On October 5th. Unfortunately, I can't offer any insights on how the contest went as I was visiting family on the east coast and missed it. To all those who attended I hope you had a great time and put up some high flight scores. Keep your eyes on your email inbox for the next indoor contest announcement.

Our outdoor contest schedule is still on hold. A yearly lease for use of the Perris field for model aviation has been developed. The terms of that lease will require the payment of a yearly lease fee that would be shared by each flying club that accepts the terms of the lease and then contributes to their portion of the yearly lease cost. Our club has asked for a copy of the lease so we can review its terms and conditions. We will keep you appraised of the progress.

Though Orbiteers monthlies are on hold there are still free flight events that fliers can attend to keep active. I received an email from Roger Willis announcing that the Cactus Flyers will hold a contest on Wednesday, October 15 from 8AM to 11AM. I believe the flying site will be Taibi Field in Perris. Events will be Fiction Flyer, Jet Catapult and Honeybee. Other events on the horizon include the Orbiteers/Fresno Dual Club on November 7-9 in Lost Hills and WESTFAC 2025, October 23-25 Rovey Farms, Buckeye AZ. For those who attend the contests, may the thermals be with you.

That about does it for this month. Don't forget to stock up on goodies for the Trick or Treaters. Hope you all have a Happy Halloween.

Mark

*"If you're not having fun you're doing something wrong."
Groucho Marx*

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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.

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Storing and Transporting Model Airplanes

By Mike Jester



I usually spend at least 20 hours building each of my free flight models from a kit or from scratch. Then I spend more time hopefully trimming them to fly well. With so much time invested, I want to store my completed models safely in my garage and when transporting them to a flying field. For the past 10-15 years I have stored and transported my outdoor model airplanes in IRIS® brand transparent plastic boxes meant for storing rolls of gift wrapping paper. They measure 33 7/8-inches x 12-inches x 6 1/4 inches. These boxes have indented lids so that they stack and nest securely one above the other. Each box can carry up to five models but the wings and tail feathers on each of my larger outdoor models need to be removable. My models with large wingspans that exceed the length of this type of box are separable into two sections. I use these boxes to store and transport Mulvihill, Coupe, P-30, P-20, E-36, EP30, FAC Rubber Scale, OTR, and Embryo models. They are well protected when transported. Stan Buddenbohm taught me to randomly put lightweight plastic grocery bags between the fuselages, props, wings, etc. to provide protective cushioning and so that these components don't slide around when driving to a contest. When I started buying these plastic boxes, they only cost about \$6-7 dollars each. However, now they cost about \$25 each even though according to the federal government there has been mild inflation for the most part over the past 10-15 years. Go figure!



P-30 and P-20 Models Stored in an IRIS Gift Wrapping Paper Box





Twelve Boxes Containing 40-50 Models Stored in Nested IRIS Gift Wrapping Paper Boxes and Loaded Inside the Author's Ford Explorer SUV



Eighteen Boxes Containing 60-70 Models Stored in Nested IRIS Wrapping Paper Boxes and Loaded on Shelves Inside the Author's Garage

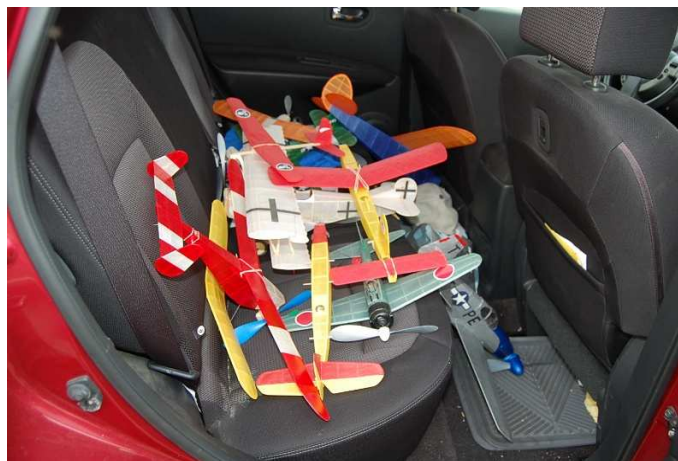
I am happy to report that my gift wrapping paper boxes have given me a clean record of no models being damaged during storage or transport. Not shown in the above picture are tie down strings and bungy cords that I have added to prevent the boxes from falling off the shelves in my garage due to earthquakes! I really should get rid of some of my older models that I no longer fly, or that have been damaged and never repaired. It seems like everyone has a different way to store and transport their model airplanes. The following pictures show some alternate model airplane storage and transport systems employed by other fliers.



Clothes Line Model Airplane Storage System



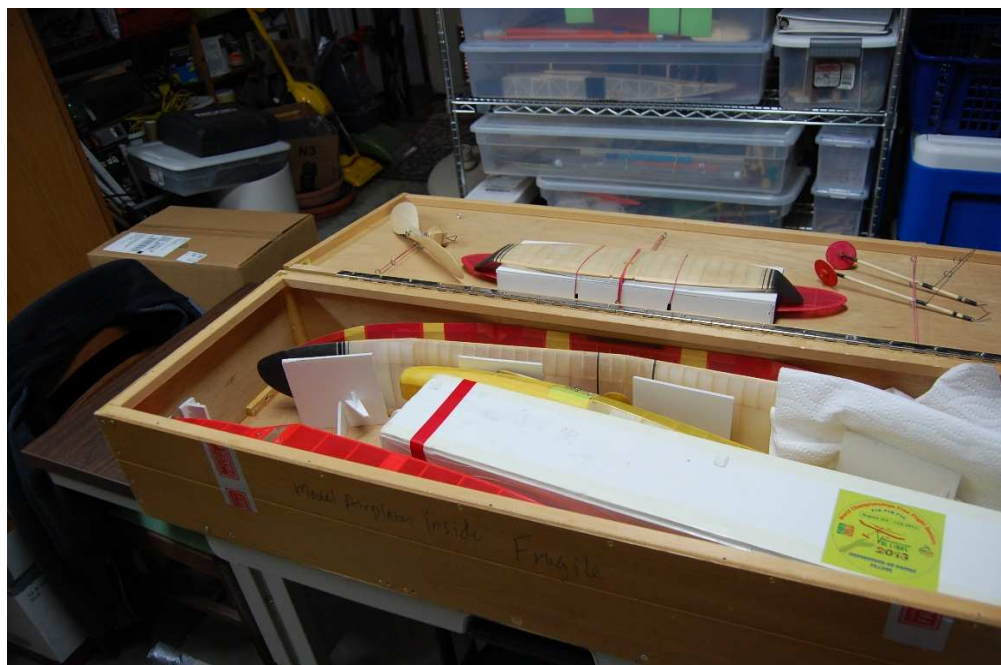
Models Transported in a Van on a Multi-Level Custom Built Rack



Stack of Models on the Back Seat of a Car



**Gollywock and Jabberwock with Interchangeable Components
All Stored in Custom Built Foam Box**



**Lanzo Duplex, Eugene, Gollywock & Jabberwock Stored and Secured
in Large Hinged Wooden Box for International Shipment**

RETURN TO INDOOR FLYING --- Don Bartick



October 5th marked the 4th time that we have flown Indoors at the Los Coches Creek Middle School gym. The 2 competitions were Phantom Flash and Catapult Glider.

Six flyers registered and 5 entered the events. 5 in Phantom Flash and 4 in Embryo. The best of 6 official attempts was scored and added together. The results were:

Phantom Flash

1 st Greg Hutchison	256 seconds
2 nd Walter Ainslie	170 seconds
3 rd Don Bartick	114 seconds

John Alling →



Catapult Glider

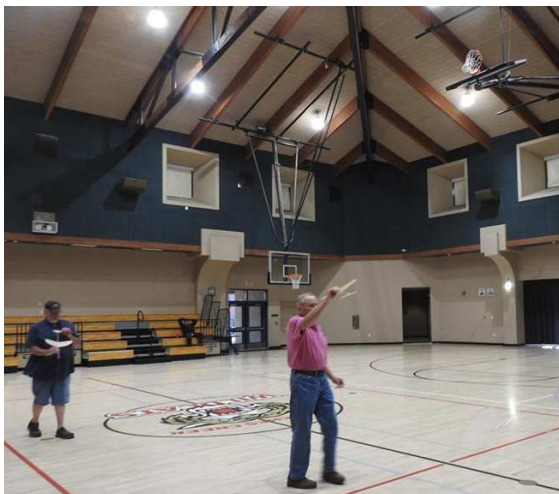
1 st David Wade	71 seconds
2 nd Don Bartick	59 seconds
3 rd Greg Hutchison	50 seconds

Once again, we fell short on attendance. Having only 6 participants did not come close to the rental fee. The gym is the best venue we have ever had. With a 27-foot ceiling to the center girder. Higher if you fly above the wooden girders. Some successfully do. It makes indoor flying a joy. So, everyone reading this report, please try indoor or return to indoor. The weather is great and the chases are very, very short.

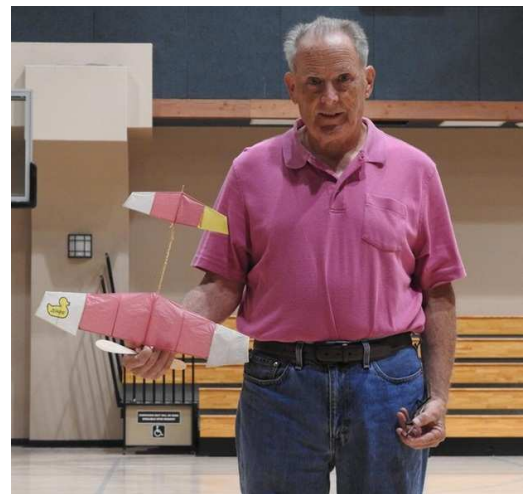
Next Indoor is scheduled for **December 7th** for 4 hours-8am to noon. The cost to participate is \$30. Competition events are \$3 each. Events will be Unlimited Penny Plane and No-Cal. Of course, bring what ever you have to fun fly.

WE NEED MORE PARTICIPANTS. We can't sustain renting this great venue without more participants. Please consider Indoor Free Flight. It's really a fun version of Free Flight.

Up-up and away!
Don



Los Coches Creek Middle School gym



David Wade

DUAL-CLUBS

FREE FLIGHT BONANZA

A National Cup Points Event

AMA SANCTION 18519 - CLASS AA, CATEGORY 2

SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS 66th ANNUAL - SPONSOR OF AMA EVENTS

*

**FRESNO GAS MODEL CLUB 85th ANNUAL - SPONSOR OF NOSTALGIA,
TEXACO & OLD TIME EVENTS**

*** November 7th, 8th & 9th, 2025***

*** LOST HILLS, CA ***

FRIDAY ONLY
7 AM – NOON, 1 - 5 PM
1 HOUR LUNCH BREAK WITH
ICE CREAM SOCIAL
NO OFFICIAL FLIGHTS DURING THE BREAK

SATURDAY
7AM-4PM
5PM FOOD FEST

SUNDAY
7 AM – 3 PM
3:15 AWARDS CEREMONY

FLY ANY REGULAR EVENT ANY DAY. IF CLEAN, YOU CAN CONTINUE THE FOLLOWING DAY(S)

1/2A GAS (1)
A GAS
B GAS
C/D GAS COMBINED
1/2A NOS
A NOS
B NOS
C NOS

EARLY 1/2A NOS
1/2A CLASSIC POWER
A/B CLASSIC POWER
1/2A GOLDEN AGE (GAS)
RUBBER/WAKEFIELD NOS
HAND LAUNCH GLIDER (1)
CATAPULT LAUNCH GLIDER (1)
P-30 (1)
E-36 (1)

A/B ELECTRIC COMBINED
MULVIHILL
CLASSIC TOWLINE
SMALL OT RUBBER STICK/
CABIN COMBINED
LARGE OT RUBBER STICK/
CABIN COMBINED

.020 REPLICA
A/B/C PYLON/FUSELAGE
COMBINED
1/2A TEXACO
FULL SIZE TEXACO
1 MINUTE TARGET

(1) Junior & Senior/Open Event

See Special Instructions on backside

SCHEDULED EVENTS

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
VINTAGE WAKEFIELD 9:30AM -GOLLYWOCK MASS LAUNCH	VINTAGE FAI POWER NIGHT GAS 8:30AM P-30 MASS LAUNCH	8:00-8:15AM DAWN MULVIHILL

CASH AWARD FOR 1st PLACE with 3 or more entries.
Certificates awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd place

\$30 REGISTRATION Sr. & Open / \$2 Jr

\$5 per Event Sr. & Open / \$1 Junior –

OPTIONAL: \$50 For Registration and Unlimited events

CD: Don Bartick, - San Diego Orbiteers

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

(LOST HILLS FF MODEL AIRFIELD ASSOCIATION CARD REQUIRED (\$25 AT FIELD TO JOIN))

FRIDAY NOON to 1 PM LUNCH BREAK & SUNDAE SOCIAL

The contest will be suspended for 1 hour for lunch and the San Diego Orbiteers famous ice cream social. This is a great time to relax, cool off, have lunch and enjoy the ice cream sundaes. We will provide ice cream, & sundae fixings, napkins, plates and plastic ware.

PRIZE DRAWING

The Fresno GMC once again has collected an enormous amount of model stuff for their drawing. Any events entered that are sponsored by them, the contestant will receive a drawing ticket. Drawing to be held right after Sunday's award ceremony.

BILL BOOTH, SR. MEMORIAL

High time in Old Time Gas. Includes 020 Replica, but not Texaco. Winner will receive a special award from the Fresno GMC.

HAND LAUNCH GLIDER & CATAPULT GLIDER

Hand Launch Glider & Catapult Glider will to be launched from an established glider pen on the field. Max's are 120 seconds Hand Launch and 90 seconds Catapult. All flights count.

NIGHT GAS FLYING

All engine classes combined. Event window between 6:30 pm – 9pm. Engine runs in accordance with aircraft classification; i.e., AMA or Nostalgia.

VINTAGE FAI POWER

For rules, please go to this website: freeflight.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2024-2025NFFSCompetitionRules_Rel1.pdf

A copy of the rules will be available at the CD's table. *First five (5) flights must be between 7:00AM – 11:30 PM.*

VINTAGE WAKEFIELD

For rules, please go to this website: freeflight.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2024-2025NFFSCompetitionRules_Rel1.pdf

A copy of the rules will be available at the CD's table. *First five (5) flights must be flown between 7:00AM – 11:30 PM.*

P-30 MASS LAUNCH

Saturday morning 8:30 AM sharp. Mass launch in front of Headquarters; 1 flight, no max.

DAWN MULVIHILL (Timer can ride with contestant)

Sunday morning 8:00 – 8:15 AM launch window, 1 flight, no max.

GOLLYWOCK MASS LAUNCH

Friday morning at 9:30AM sharp. Mass launch in front of Headquarters; 1 flight, no max.

TEXACO (Timer can ride with contestant or follow using their own chase vehicle)

1 MINUTE TARGET

Any Sport Plane, such as: Dakota, Sniffer, Tom Boy, Sioux. Even Peewee 30.

6 official flights. All count. Flight duration must be equal to or over 1 minute. Score will be the number of seconds over 1 minute for each of the 6 official flights. Flights under 1 minute will be an attempt. No limit on attempts. Lowest total of 6 official flights wins.

SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS
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WHAT'S HAPPENING -



Flying field currently closed for environmental assessment and study.

November 7, 8, 9 - Dual-Clubs Free Flight Bonanza
Lost Hills, CA
See enclosed flyer for details and events.

