

# EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB

February 2018



## ***The Prez's Corner – Don Bartick***

As I sit down to write this column, I'm fussing with a cold most likely acquired at the Science Olympiad Regional held February 10<sup>th</sup>. I'm very pleased at the 4 teams I coached. They all built from scratch a plane I designed for this year's competition. The team work shown by the students (12/13 years old) was exquisite. They all placed in the competition. The excitement and pride shown by my 8 students, makes it all worth it.

We cancelled going the Isaacson Winter Classic in Lost Hills because of the conflict with Science Olympiad and the fact I have only one airplane that is competitive. I do have a new Predator 280 in the bones stage. Hope to have it ready for the San Valeers Annual. This weekend is the Orbiteers February contest. Sorry guys, this cold of mine ruined the weekend for me. The Scale Staffel 's 1<sup>st</sup> contest of the year is coming up February 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>. Hope to be there.

I did say in the January issue of the ET that Arline and I would be going to the Southwest Regional's in Eloy, AZ. In fact, we did. The weather was wonderful for flying and I came away with 1<sup>st</sup> place in P-30. Only one out of 7 entries to be clean after 4 flights. My main competitor was Linda Powell from Kansas. She flew a very pretty Speckled Bird. You don't see many of those any more.

All of you out there in Orbiteers land and beyond who like competition will be interested in noting that all of our monthly contests, AMA sanctioned as Record Trials, are now categorized as National Cup events. This should draw more competitors to our events.

Our awards banquet went off without a hitch. The food was excellent and the drawing yielded some excellent model projects,

reading material and building equipment. The awards this year had new names associated with them. Look within this ET for pictures. Thank you Mark Chomyn for the venue, Linda Piazza for the decorations and Arline Bartick for the photographs.

Unfortunately, our January Monthly was blown out. Our Contest Coordinator, Mike Pykelny will look into rescheduling the main event "P-30".

Just out is the January-February NFFS Digest. You will find my P-30 "High Tail 30" published.

That's a wrap for now.

Remember: "It's how you deal with failure that determines how you achieve success."

-David Feherty



Photo by Arline Bartick

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[MPykelny@dslextreme.com](mailto:MPykelny@dslextreme.com)

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Mike Jester .....(619) 575-1953  
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Kathy McLaughlin.....(619) 303-0785  
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Howard Haupt .....(858) 272-5656  
[haupt1033@att.net](mailto:haupt1033@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  
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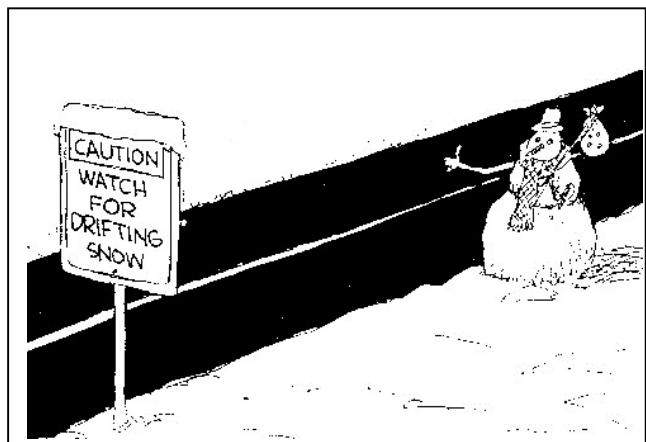
## THE FINE PRINT THE FINE PRINT

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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**Webmaster: Kathy McLaughlin**



## Gulliows Laser 504 Spitfire - D.Scigliano

Since I have the whole Gulliows laser cut collection, I decided to build the Spitfire with 16 inch wing. These new laser cut kits go together so fast most of the build is done in a couple of days with no issues. The wood quality is much better than what most of us grew up with and the fit is excellent. I built this Spitfire right out of the box with no modifications. There really is nothing to say about the construction, pretty straight forward. The tissue Gulliows now supplies is pretty close to Esaki with excellent wet strength and super shrink as you can see from the stringers on the fuselage. I covered the fuselage with wet tissue so only needed 2 pieces, one for the right and one for the left. I used thinned Elmers glue to apply the tissue then when one side was dried I went over the glued areas with 70/30 thinned Eze Dope so when I applied the second wet side it would not loosen the first side that was laid down. After it was all trimmed up I let it dry and mist the tissue with 5 percent Eze Dope in water. Since the wing is pretty beefy I covered that wet as well adding in my washout as the tissue dried. I covered the tail surfaces with dry tissue. Once everything was nice and tight with no wrinkles, I applied a couple of coats of 70/30 Eze Dope. I did this because I wanted to paint the model with Testors Acrylics and acrylics don't really like to stick to doped surfaces. I hand brushed the paint on and it came out pretty nice and for some reason no weight was added, still have not figured this out. If I use thinned enamels or colored dope it adds weight but the acrylics don't really add any weight. The decals were pretty bad, they fell apart in the water, I should have coated the decals with Testors Glosscote to make them more durable. The only issue with hand brushing is the brush streaks do show when the model is held up to the light, airbrushing is always better I was just being lazy. She is all trimmed with a wad of clay in the nose and her flying weight is 30 grams without the landing gear. She will not win any competitions but sure is fun letting her fly at the park.





## Balsa Wood Storage Box

By Mike Jester

I used to store my supply of balsa wood in a very disorganized pile in a long zippered box made of stiff fabric. I wasted a lot of time and energy pawing through that pile looking for the right piece of balsa wood for the model I was building. There was always a danger of breaking some delicate sticks or sheets. Some collections of sticks were held together with rubber bands. Stacks of sheets were held together with blue tape. Many pieces of balsa wood were just loose.



### Old Balsa Wood Storage System

One of the best “tools” in my garage, aka my airplane work shop, is a 37-inch long wooden box designed and built about three years ago specifically to hold standard-sized 36-inch long sticks and sheets of balsa wood. See the hand drawn layout reproduced later on in this newsletter.

The smaller compartments of the wooden box with square openings hold, for example, various weights of 1/16-inch x 1/16-inch square sticks, e.g. less than 7#, 8#, 10# and greater. Other smaller compartments hold 3/32-inch x 3/32-inch square sticks and 1/8-inch x 1/8 inch square sticks. Still other smaller square compartments hold rectangular cross-section sticks, such as 1/16-inch x 1/8-inch and so forth.

The larger compartments of the wooden box with rectangular openings hold 1/64-inch, 1/32-inch, 1/20-inch, 1/16-inch, 3/32-inch, 1/8-inch, and 1/4-inch thick sheets in both 3-inch and 4-inch widths. I also have some big sticks in some of the smaller compartments. I bought them by mistake many years ago, but that is another story.

Continued Next Page

The contents of the compartments are labeled on their lower front edges. The rear end of the box is a single 12-inch x 15-inch sheet of plywood that stops the sticks and sheets when you slide them in to conveniently position their front ends. It is easy to identify a piece of balsa wood as a candidate and slide it out for inspection and weighing. If the candidate doesn't pass muster, just slide it back into the compartment where it was stored.

I don't have fancy wood-working equipment in my garage. I have a friend who has such equipment and some cabinet making skill. He built my balsa wood storage box for me.

The large horizontal panels of my balsa wood storage box are grooved to receive and locate the vertical dividers. Before having this box built, I searched in vain on the Internet for a commercially available container that would do the job. I was also unable to purchase one of the containers you see at hobby shops and ACE Hardware stores that hold Midwest balsa.



**Balsa Wood Storage Box with Compartments**

Continued Next Page

Bala Storage Box for Worcester  
Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ " = 1"

Scale 1/2" = 1"

10/15/14

## Balsa Wood Storage Box Layout

Post a copy of the following chart of sheet and strip weights near your supply of balsa wood. This chart was generated by legendary UK builder and flier, John Barker. It is very handy in selecting the right piece of balsa wood for a given component in your model. Of course you will need a good digital scale.



John Barker 2005

SHEET AND STRIP WEIGHTS IN GRAMS										
Density units		Density								
lb/ft <sup>3</sup>		4	5	6	7	8	10	12	14	16
grams/in <sup>3</sup>		1.050	1.313	1.575	1.838	2.100	2.625	3.150	3.675	4.200
kg/m <sup>3</sup>		64.07	80.09	96.11	112.13	128.14	160.18	192.22	224.25	256.29
grams/cm <sup>3</sup>		0.064	0.080	0.096	0.112	0.128	0.160	0.192	0.224	0.256
thickness inches		sheets 36" x 4"								
1/32	0.032	5	6	7	8	10	12	15	17	19
1/16	0.063	10	12	14	17	19	24	29	33	38
3/32	0.094	14	18	21	25	28	36	43	50	57
1/8	0.125	19	24	28	33	38	47	57	66	76
3/16	0.188	28	36	43	50	57	71	85	99	114
1/4	0.250	38	47	57	66	76	95	113	132	151
1/2	0.500	76	95	113	132	151	189	227	265	302
thickness mm (inch equiv.)		sheets 1000mm x 100mm								
0.8	0.031	5	6	8	9	10	13	15	18	21
1.0	0.039	6	8	10	11	13	16	19	22	26
1.2	0.047	8	10	12	13	15	19	23	27	31
1.5	0.059	10	12	14	17	19	24	29	34	38
2.0	0.079	13	16	19	22	26	32	38	45	51
2.5	0.098	16	20	24	28	32	40	48	56	64
3.0	0.118	19	24	29	34	38	48	58	67	77
4.0	0.157	26	32	38	45	51	64	77	90	103
5.0	0.197	32	40	48	56	64	80	96	112	128
6.0	0.236	38	48	58	67	77	96	115	135	154
12.0	0.472	77	96	115	135	154	192	231	269	308
thickness inches		sheets 36" x 3"								
1/32	0.032	4	5	5	6	7	9	11	13	15
1/16	0.063	7	9	11	13	14	18	21	25	29
3/32	0.094	11	13	16	19	21	27	32	37	43
1/8	0.125	14	18	21	25	28	35	43	50	57
3/16	0.188	21	27	32	37	43	53	64	75	85
1/4	0.250	28	35	43	50	57	71	85	99	113
1/2	0.500	57	71	85	99	113	142	170	198	227
thickness inches		strips 36" long Note rectangular strips are easily multiplied from the square strip figures								
1/16 sq	0.063	0.15	0.18	0.22	0.26	0.30	0.37	0.44	0.52	0.59
3/32 sq	0.094	0.33	0.42	0.50	0.58	0.66	0.83	1.00	1.16	1.33
1/8 sq	0.125	0.59	0.74	0.89	1.03	1.18	1.48	1.77	2.07	2.36
3/16 sq	0.188	1.33	1.66	1.99	2.33	2.66	3.32	3.99	4.65	5.32
1/4 sq	0.250	2.36	2.95	3.54	4.13	4.73	5.91	7.09	8.27	9.45

In the photo of my balsa wood storage box you can see that the ends of many of the sticks are colored. They were purchased from Easy Built Models. That company paints the ends of the sticks to signify the density of each piece. The color coding is not 100% accurate, but it speeds the process of selecting the right piece of balsa wood.



**February INDOOR MONTHLY 2018**  
**(February 4, 2018)**  
**Completion Scorer: William Scott**

**P-18:**

(Best two of five flights)

1) Don Bartick	127	106	-	233
2) C.M. Kim	101	127	-	228
3) Richard Wood	92	109	-	201
4) Nick Panousis	75	77	-	152



**Limited Penny Plane:**

(Best two of five flights)

1) John Alling	272	265	-	537
2) Greg Hutchison	256	268	-	524
3) Richard Wood	240	193	-	433
4) John Hutchison	118		-	118

(DNF - D.Bartick, CM.Kim, D.Brent)



**No-Cal Scale:**

(Scale Staffel Event)

(Three flight total)

1) Walter Ainslie	Mustang	76	33	88	-	197
2) C.M. Kim	P-40	75	35	44	-	154
3) Richard Wood	Spitfire	34	33	71	-	138
4) John Hutchison	Edge 540	34	48	49	-	131
5) Don Brent	Marine	47	29		-	76

Observation

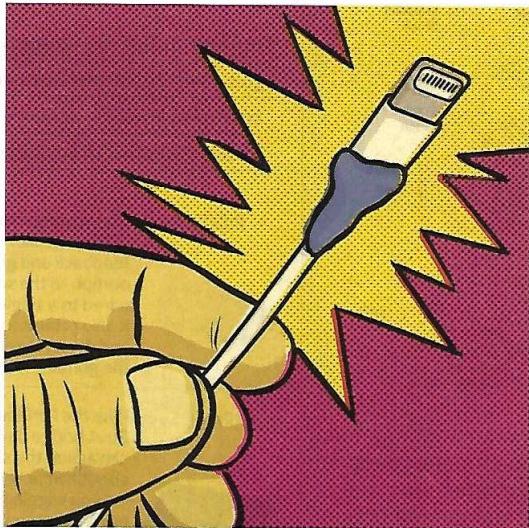


**Photos by Arline Bartick**  
(From January 2018 Indoor Flying)



# SHOP NOTES

EASY WAYS  
TO DO  
HARD THINGS



## The Multifarious Usefulness of Sugru

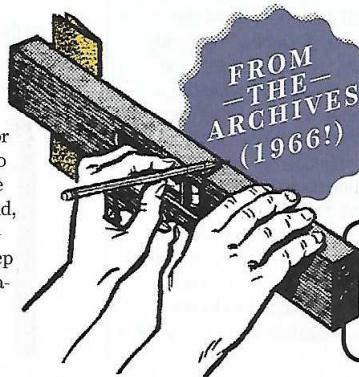
**Here are a few household chores** I've accomplished with Sugru, the moldable silicone-rubber glue: reinsulated an exposed low-voltage wire on a gadget charger, recoated a rusty part in the dishwasher, created two "locking nuts" that keep a floor mat in my car from sliding around, replaced a knob on my wife's KitchenAid, plugged a hole in a rubber boot.

Sugru comes in ten colors, in five-gram packets. It feels slightly tarry when you first roll it around in your hands, but it's easy to shape and it isn't messy. It remains workable for half an hour, then hardens in a day, and once cured stays permanently stuck to whatever you've stuck it to. (A knife can remove it, though.) The retail price works out to something like \$250 a pound, but it's infinitely useful. And unused packets last for several years if you store them in your refrigerator. But you'll find uses long before that.

—David Owen

### Sandpaper Prevents Level Slippage

When you're holding a long level against the wall to make markings for a shelf or TV mount, it's impossible to hold an end in each hand and operate the pencil. But if you hold only one end, the other has a tendency to slip, especially as you make your marking. Keep it in place by folding a piece of sandpaper in half and putting it—grain side out—between the level and the wall. Friction keeps the level still.



FROM  
THE  
ARCHIVES  
(1966!)

**EXPIRED CARDS ARE PERFECT FLOATS**

When your past year's membership cards expire, don't just throw them away. They're perfect miniature floats for fine tasks, like grout repair.



► To draw an accurate line with a ruler, hold a freshly sharpened pencil at an angle, so the point meets the work surface precisely where the ruler does.



► Ensure the accuracy of a measurement from an edge by abutting the edge with a stop block, then holding the ruler against it.



► Holding a ruler on edge, so its graduations meet the work surface, improves accuracy. With a tape measure, hook the end over one side of the workpiece, then roll its blade to meet the surface.

SUGRU: ILLUSTRATION BY MORNING BREATH

## ORBITEER & SCALE STAFFEL ANNUAL BANQUET

Held on January 27, 2018



Annual awards and Ribbons 2017



The Attendees



Mike Jester Orbiteer of the Year  
1<sup>ST</sup> Indoor & 1<sup>ST</sup> OT Nostalgia



Don Bartick  
1<sup>ST</sup> Power & 1<sup>ST</sup> P-30

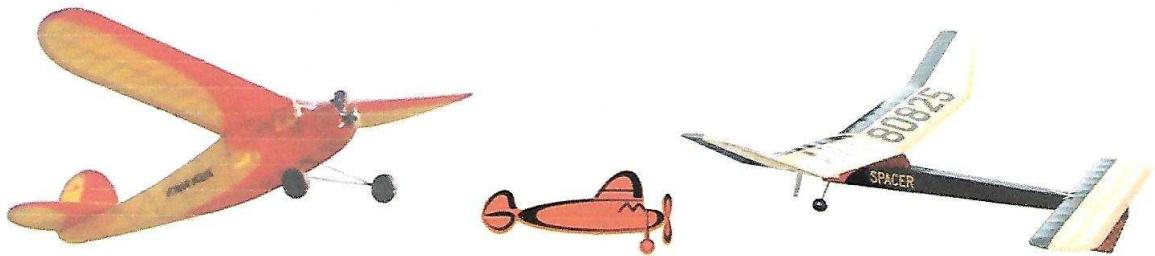


Greg Hutchison (Center)  
1<sup>ST</sup> HL/Catapult Glider

John Hutchison 1<sup>ST</sup> Coupe



Photos by Arline Bartick



# SCAMPS 14th Annual Taibi Contest

Sunday, March 11, 2018 – Perris, CA

\*\*\*This will be an AMA Sanctioned Contest\*\*\*

\*\*\**Flying Starts at 8:00 AM and contest closes at 1:30 PM!*\*\*\*

## EVENTS:

\*\*All Taibi (Any Taibi design flown to its era's modified rules below)

\*Perris Special (15 Second engine run – Mark II version is legal)

\*ABC Old Timer (Fuselage & Pylon combined 20 second engine run)

\*Small O.T. Rubber - Combined - (Stick & Fuselage)

\*Large O.T. Rubber - Combined - (Stick & Fuselage)

\*ABC Nostalgia (10 Second Hand Launch, 13 Second VTO or ROG, then 7&9 seconds)

\*½ A Nostalgia (10 Second Hand Launch, 13 Second VTO or ROG, then 7&9 seconds)

Nostalgia Electric(10 Second Hand Launch, 13 Second VTO or ROG, then 7&9 seconds)

E-36 – First 3 flights 15 sec motor run then 10 and 5 in fly-off. All 2 minute maxes

\*3 minute Max

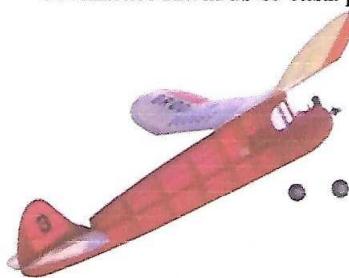
\*All Old Timer Flights will be HAND LAUNCHED, no ROG

\*Nostalgia, HAND LAUNCH or VTO, no ROG

\*SAM rules for standard SAM events

\*Entry fee is \$5 per event

\*Certificate Awards & cash prizes. Engine for first place in All Taibi Event



# Modern AMA models like Starduster, Perris Special, Orbiteer will fly to current Cat II . rules, 9 second HL, then 7 in fly-off; Nostalgia legal designs will fly to currently used SCAMPS Nostalgia rules, 10 seconds HL, 13 VTO, then 7 HL, 9 VTO in fly-off. Old Timer designs will get a 20 second HL, then 15 in Fly-off. All 3 minute max.

CDs Ted Firster (951)830-0414 & Joe Jones (714)968-1982

## SCIENCE OLYMPIAD 2018

Coached by Don Bartick



Ava Kapelczak



Avalon Shelton



Benjamin Pureco



Jose Cetina



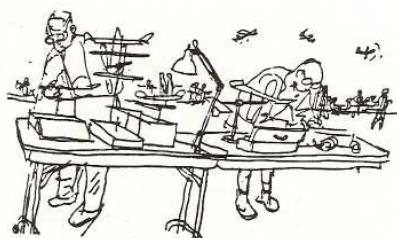
Sarah Rogers



Trey Miles



Zoe Vandegrift



## 2018 OUTDOOR FLYING SCHEDULE

All are AMA Sanctioned & National Cup Events (See separate attachment)

Jan 28 - **P-30**  
E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider  
(No rain date)

Feb 18 - **Old Time Nostalgia Rubber**  
E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider  
(No rain date)

Feb 24/25 **Scale Staffel FAC Scale Contest\***  
(1 of 2)

Mar 18 - **Coupe**  
E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider  
(No rain date)

Apr 15 - **P-30**  
**John Oldenkamp Memorial Contest**  
E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider  
(Apr 29<sup>TH</sup> rain date)

May 20/21/11 **Dual Club FF Bonanza**, Lost Hills

June 9/10 **Scale Staffel FAC Scale Contest\***  
(2 of 3)

June 24 - **Old Time Nostalgia Rubber**  
E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider  
(No rain date)

July - No Club Outdoor Contest

August - No Club Outdoor Contest

Sept 16 - **Coupe**  
E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider  
(Sept 23<sup>RD</sup> rain date)

Sept ?? **US FF Champs, Lost Hills\***

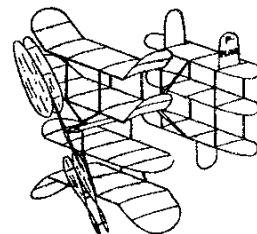
Oct 14 - **P-30**  
E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider  
(Oct 28<sup>TH</sup> rain date)

Nov 11 - **Old Time Nostalgia Rubber**  
E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider  
(Nov 25<sup>TH</sup> rain date)

Nov 17/18 **Scale Staffel FAC Scale Contest\***  
(3 of 3)

Dec 9 - **Coupe**  
E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider  
(Dec 16<sup>TH</sup> rain date)

\* Non-Club Points Event



## 2018 INDOOR FLYING SCHEDULE

Jan 7 - A-6, P-18 & Phantom Flash\*

Feb 4 - Lmt. Penny Plane, P-18 & No-Cal\*

Mar 4 - Catapult Glider, P-18 & Embryo\*

Apr 8 - A-6, P18 & Phantom Flash\*

May 6 - Lmt. Penny Plane, P-18 & No-Cal\*

June 3 - Catapult Glider, P-18 & Embryo\*

July 1 - A-6, P18 & Phantom Flash\*

Aug 5 - Lmt. Penny Plane, P-18 & No-Cal\*

Sept 2 - Catapult Glider, P18 & Embryo\*

Oct 7 - A-6, P-18 & Phantom Flash\*

Nov 4 - Lmt. Penny Plane, P18, No-Cal\* &  
& Canard One-Design\*  
(Wrisley Zephyr)

Dec 2 - Catapult Glider, P-18 & Embryo\*

\*Non-Club Points Event

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



## WHAT'S HAPPENING -

**February / March 2018**

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**Feb. 24/25 Scale Staffel Scale Contest**

SCAMPS Flying Field, Perris CA. 7:30 am to 12:00 pm.  
See enclosed flyer for events and contest details.

**Mar. 4 - Indoor Flying**

Grossmont College (Upper Gym), 7:30 am to 11:30 am.  
Feature Events: **Catapult Glider, P-18 & Embryo\***

**Mar. 18 - Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly (No Rain Date)**

SCAMPS Field, Perris CA, 8:00 am.  
Feature Events: **Coupe** Other Events: **E36/Power & HL/Catapult Glider**