

# EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB



DECEMBER 2021

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

Where has the year gone? We're less than a week away from Thanksgiving Day. A day on which we give thanks for all we have now and what we look forward to in the future. I'm thankful that I and my family have made it through this year so far without any serious health issues. Thankful that the medical/pharmaceutical community has developed vaccines that appear to be effective in stemming the spread of the COVID virus. But I am also thankful for a hobby/sport that helps to keep my mind and hands creatively active and helps to distract me from the day-to-day frustrations and worries of life. I'm thankful that our club is still solvent and that we have a field on which we can pursue or hobby/sport. The soap box I've been standing on just collapsed so I'll end this diatribe.

Our November outdoor contest originally scheduled for November 21 has been rescheduled to November 28 due to the probability of some strong winds. Please note the change on your calendars. Moving the contest to a day following Thanksgiving has a couple of positive effects. Additional time to get your planes and field gear ready and a great way to burn those extra Thanksgiving calories by chasing after a few max flights. And, the tryptophan haze induced by that tasty holiday bird should have worn off by then. Remember, there are only two outdoor contests left in 2021. Your last chance to get those points toward the annual awards.

We are getting closer to the annual banquet in January 2022. It's not too soon to assess your building area and think about what modeling items you might want to bring to the banquet for the raffle. Who hasn't got a kit in good condition that has been sitting on a shelf for a year or two (maybe more). That kit you swore you were going to dive into but never got started. Well now is the time to think about inventory restructuring otherwise known as cleaning house. Consider this, if your list of New Year's resolutions (it's not too early to do a draft) includes cleaning and organizing your building area, you can get a great start by thinning the herd and increasing the raffle offerings.

Another traditional Thanksgiving holiday event (whose participation I typically avoid) is the Black Friday shopping frenzy. But as I'm writing, I think what if model aviation vendors had a similar event? I guess really big vendors like Tower Hobbies, Hobbico and Horizon Hobbies may do this, but they seem cater to the R/C community. What about some deals for us free-flight guys? Most of our vendors seem to be the smaller merchants and cottage industry folks and their market is probably not robust enough to offer such discounts. But imagine a two for one deal offering a Gollywock and a P-30 for the regular price of one kit. Now that's what I call Christmas spirit! I'm going to do a little net surfing of the free flight vendor sites I know and have purchased from and maybe I'll find that great deal. If anyone knows of such offers don't be shy about getting the word out, I'm sure free flight vendors would appreciate it.

Well, that's a wrap. I'm heading to the grocery store to make final purchases for the Thanksgiving Day turkey feast. Mushrooms, celery, onion, sausage and bread cubes for the stuffing. Mom's recipe. It's the best. Try it.

Continued Next Page

Mark

*"Little did I know that when I saw Carl (Goldberg) flying the Zipper way back then that it was the beginning of the end of variety in free flight. All our club members went home and bought Zippers".  
Walt Leonhardt writing for Model Builder circa 1989*

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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)

Webmaster: Kathy McLaughlin

**Marmaduke** by Brad & Paul Anderson



"We do not have brunch in this house."

## New Hotel Option for Contests at Perris

By Mike Jester



Some fliers have been looking for an alternative to the Red Lion Inn & Suites in Perris. Almost two years ago I wrote an article about a new hotel under construction about 3 miles north of the flying field at Perris. Well, it turned out that the building under construction was not a hotel. However, a brand-new Fairfield Inn & Suites opened in Menifee earlier this year. It is located at 30140 Town Center Dr, Menifee, CA 92584 which is about 9 miles from the flying field in Perris. It's a quick drive up Highway 215. When I checked the rates at the Fairfield Inn, they were similar to those of the Red Lion. The new hotel is located near a number of restaurants including one operated by the popular Texas Roadhouse chain. The Fairfield Inn is part of the Marriott Hotel chain. The new hotel offers typical amenities including a pool, an exercise room, WiFi, and complimentary breakfast.



Fairfield Inn & Suites, Menifee, California



Breakfast Room - Fairfield Inn & Suites, Menifee, California

## THE STAR OF INDIA - John Merrill

Time Flies. That's what I figured out last weekend (first weekend in November) when I celebrated my 44th anniversary of working on the oldest fully operational sailing ship in the world. San Diego's own Star of India. When I started there in early November of 1977, I was a mere 15 years old and in 10th grade at Clairemont High School. The following week the Star celebrated her 114th birthday, having been launched November 14, 1863. For you history buffs, that was 5 days before then President Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address. Yesterday the grand old lady of the harbor turned 158 years old. 44 years seems like a ridiculously long time, but in many ways it has gone by way to fast. Any more, it's almost unheard of for a person to work for a single employer that long, but I don't mind. As I always say, "it's better than having to grow up and get a real job!" I still consider it an honor and a privilege to call the Maritime Museum my home.

Below The Star of India as seen in dry dock February 2020.



## GRATEFUL - John Merrill

Above is a picture of our Vietnam War-era PCF-816, also known as a Swift boat. She lives at the Maritime Museum of San Diego, and I'm quite honored to be her Senior Captain. She is the last operational example of the type left in the world. Normally she takes visitors on a 75 minute Navy-oriented tour of the bay on weekends only, and usually narrated by actual Vietnam Swift boat veterans. It's a great tour. That isn't the point of this article though.

Last Thursday, November 11th, Veteran's Day, I was honored with the privilege of not only taking a group of veterans and their spouses on a ride, but we got to lead the Veteran's Day boat parade around the perimeter of the northern half of San Diego bay.

As we celebrate Veteran's Day this month, I want to thank all of you who did serve our country. I know many of our wonderful members did serve. Regardless of the branch of service, officer or enlisted, you served our country, and I can't thank you enough. You put in long hours, lots of hard work, and made countless personal sacrifices. I'm saddened by the fact I can only offer a mere "thank you", but please know that it is truly heart-felt.

The picture above is a screenshot taken from a channel 10 newscast, and taken from the starboard bow of the Midway museum.



## Results of the 2021 Dual-clubs Free Flight Bonanza

A National Cup Event

November 13-14, 2021 LOST HILLS, CA



*Don Bartick, San Diego Orbiteers, Contest Director  
Doss Porter., Fresno GMC Contest Official*

The Dual Club Free Flight Bonanza is the joint annuals for the San Diego Orbiteers and Fresno Gas Model Clubs. This was the 62<sup>st</sup> and 81<sup>th</sup> annuals respectively for the clubs. Having dual club participation in waning attendance significantly reduces the overhead cost to put on a successful event. It has worked well over the past 20 years. This year, our regularly scheduled contest in May had to be cancelled because of gale force winds arriving the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the event. Seeing no relief for the 2<sup>nd</sup> day according to the weather forecasters, I cancelled the contest. It is so sad to have to cancel a contest after all the effort involved, plus those fliers who had made the journey to Lost Hills were out a lot of expense. But that's the world of Free Flight. You can have poor participation when the weather forecast is dismal only to have beautiful weather over the duration of the contest. I guess it's a crapshoot no matter how you look at it. Even with this hanging over our heads, our Free Flight community remains eager for the next event. As such, with the encouragement of many, we decided to reschedule for later in the year. The only plausible date was the weekend of the Patterson FAI contest; 13-14 November. I contacted Brian Van Nest, CD of the event to see if he was amenable to sharing the field for our contest. He was a bit hesitant with the idea. It would also mean that the Dual-clubs give up our FAI America's Cup events and find a location on the field that wouldn't interfere with his contest. So be it, both of us agreed to give it a whirl.

Arline and I arrived on Thursday and met up with Brian on the field. We worked out the location for our contest and proceeded to set up. The weather forecast for the weekend was cool and very little wind. Couldn't be better except we didn't plan on intense fog at the start of Saturday's events. The contest normally starts at 7am, but the fog didn't lift until 10am. The same was true for Sunday, except the fog didn't lift till around noon. The fog delays definitely had an impact on the participants getting in all the events they intended to fly. You can see that in the results below.

The scheduled Saturday noontime 1-hour break from flying for lunch was shortened to 45 minutes. The now famous Ice Cream Social during the break continues to be a favorite. Leftover ice cream and condiments are giving to the local Lost Hills Fire Department. The tradition also lived on for the very well attended Saturday night potluck. Courtesy of the Dual-club.

Overall participation was 35, broken down to 32 Sr/Open and 3 Juniors. Several regulars were absence. Mainly because the contest was rescheduled and they had other events scheduled for the weekend. Even so, we did have some new faces. This is encouraging. The hobby still has life.

Special thanks to Orbiteers Arline Bartick and Linda Piazza and Fresno GMC Gail Porter who spent a great deal of time at the CD table registering folks, recording times and helping with the Ice Cream Social and Potluck. I can't express more gratitude for their help. This gave me and Doss Porter an opportunity to participate in the competition. Arline also handles the camera duty. She has honed her action shots to perfection. Furthermore, she culls out individual shots of flyers and shares the pictures with them via email.

Special participants were Don DeLoach, NFFS Digest Editor and daughter Skilly

The 2 contests ran smoothly on the Lost Hills field. Brian I agreed that the Patterson and Dual-clubs events can share the field in the future. With this said, our intent is to move the Dual-clubs contest normally held in hot May to the November date for the Patterson FAI contest. This is a win-win for both organizations.

**Highlight of the contest:** The most contested event this year was the P-30 mass launch. Normally scheduled for 7:30am Saturday, but was delay till 10am because of fog. Eleven (11) participants chucked their planes in the air at the call of starter Mike Pykelny. This was probably the largest field of P-30 for a mass launch ever. It was a beautiful sight seeing so many P-30s in the air at 1 time. Not 1 mid-air collision. The Gold went to Glenn Schneider. He is a power flyer, not known in the circles of gum band fliers. Surprise, surprise.

Until next year; *Don Bartick, CD Ramona, CA: dbartick@4-warddesign.com*



Dawn P-30



← Hal Cover



Gollywock Mass Launch Pilots

## For the record . . .



<b>P-30 MASS LAUNCH (11)</b>		<b>P-30 (3)</b>		<b>P-30 Junior (3)</b>	
1 Glenn Schneider	297	1 Clint Brooks	349	1 Skilly De Loach	465
2 Don Bartick	135	2 Matt Kruse	320	2 Herry Kruse	251
3 Skilly DeLoach	122	3 Doug Mayer	262	3 Tristan Mayer	173
<b>½ A Gas (1)</b>		<b>A Gas (5)</b>		<b>B Gas (1)</b>	
1 Phil Ronney	62	1 Guy Menanno	540	1 Jeff Carmen	513
		2 Jeff Carman	449		
		3 Phil Ronney	414		
<b>C/D Gas (3)</b>		<b>Catapult Glider (7)</b>		<b>Catapult Glider, Jr. (2)</b>	
1 Ed Decker	540	1 Rocco Ferrario	360	1 Henry Feister	218
2 Terry Kerger	532	2 Stan Buddenbohn	329	2 Skilly DeLoach	202
3 Jeff Carman	161	3 Tim Batiuk	302	3	
<b>Hand Launch Glider (3)</b>		<b>Hand Launch Glider Junior (2)</b>		<b>Vintage FAI (4)</b>	
1 Tim Batiuk	360	1 Tristan Mayer	226	1 Guy Menanno	1264
2 Stan Buddenbohn	303	2 Skilly DeLoach	161	2 Jim Kelly	1146
3 Don DeLoach	267			3 Ed Decker	852
<b>A-B Electric Comb (2)</b>		<b>E-36(7)</b>		<b>Night Gas Combined (4)</b>	
1 Hal Cover	600	1 Hal Cover	840	1 Jeff Carman	720
2 Clint Brooks	540	2 Clint Brooks	564	2 David Martin	716
		3 Guy Menanno	356	3 Guy Menanno	521
<b>½ A Golden Age(1)</b>		<b>Electric Nostalgia (3)</b>		<b>½ A Nostalgia (4)</b>	
1 Bill Kelly	507	1 Clint Brooks	540	1 Mike Slessor	529
		2 Hal Cover	484		
		3 Phil Ronney	319		
<b>A Nostalgia (4)</b>		<b>B Nostalgia (2)</b>		<b>C Nostalgia (1)</b>	
1 Guy Menanno	900	1 Don McNamee	513	1 Don McNamee	1128
2 Jim Kelly	705	2 Glenn Schneider	469		
3 Glenn Schneider	518				
<b>½ A Texaco (3)</b>		<b>Texaco(1)</b>		<b>Early ½ Nostalgia (1)</b>	
1 Cobb/BootsProxy	12:26	1 Bran LeVine	7:38	1 Justin Martin	3
2 Robb Cobb	12:12				
3 Brad LeVine	8:36				
<b>Nostalgia Rubber/Wakefield (2)</b>		<b>Sm. Rubber Nostalgia (1)</b>		<b>020 Replica (1)</b>	
1 Ates Gurca	780	1 Ates Gurca	123	1 Justin Martin	434
2 Don DeLoach	513				
<b>Sm. OT Rubber Cabin (1)</b>		<b>Sm. OT Rubber Stick (1)</b>		<b>A Pylon (1)</b>	
1 Doss Porter	238	1 Mike Mayea	459	1 Brad LeVine	160
<b>B-C Fuselage (1)</b>		<b>Gollywock Mass Launch (4)</b>		<b>Bill Booth Sr. Memorial (3)</b>	
1 Eric Stengell	173	1 Doss Porter	436	1 Justin Martin	434
		2 Skilly DeLoach	307	2 Eric Stengell	122
		3 Mike Mayea	219	3 Brad LeVine	173



← Gollywock Mass Launch

# Photo's of the 2021 Dual-clubs Free Flight Bonanza

By Arline Bartick



Ice Cream Social



Don Bartick



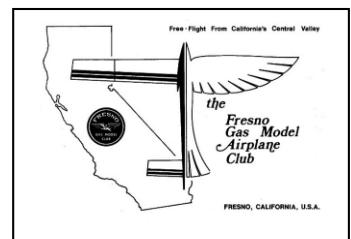
Matt and Henry Kruse



Hal Cover



← Don Bartick



## WESTFAC 2021 Drama

By Kathleen McLaughlin

John and I went to the WESTFAC 2021 event in Goodyear and Buckeye, AZ. The event was from October 21-24. On Thursday was the judging of the planes in a conference room at the Comfort Suites Hotel where we were all staying. John was one of the judges. Friday was the first day of flying. John got a chance to test-fly one of his models. But then Saturday morning everything changed for us.

The police arrived early on Saturday morning due to a domestic disturbance in the hotel. John and I went down to the cafeteria for breakfast. In a few minutes a police officer entered the cafeteria and asked if anyone owned a Ford F-150 with California plates. It was our truck. We went outside with the officer. We were shocked.

The glass on the back door of the camper shell above the tailgate was smashed. John's toolboxes and his airplanes were stolen. **ALL** his model tools were in those boxes. The thieves must have been very strong because they lifted the toolboxes over the tailgate. It was terrible! The officer took a report and checked with the hotel for cameras. The cameras were posted on the top of the building. The footage showed a roof that obstructed the view of the parked cars. It only showed any cars driving by. John had brought all his tools; winders, stooges, everything. They were all gone. Fortunately, the thieves didn't break into the cab of the truck.

We spent the rest of the weekend in despair. We timed flyers and helped with recording the flights. The other participants were, of course, very sympathetic. Some gave John extra props, rubber, and timers they brought. Monday, October 25, we had our typical breakfast, packed up the truck with our suitcases (had lots of extra room...unfortunately) and headed home.

## WESTFAC 2021 Photo's

By Arline Bartick



## WESTFAC 2021 Photo's (Continued)

By Arline Bartick



**FLYING  
ACES**

WestFAC 2021

21 – 24 October

Rovey Field, Buckeye Arizona  
Featuring Working Aircraft of the World

## Oct 17<sup>TH</sup> OUTDOOR MONTHLY

Photos by Arline Bartick

Coupe 1st Mike Pykelny  
2nd David Wade  
3rd John Merrill

CLG 1st Tim Batiuk  
2nd Stan Buddenbohm  
3rd Chris Rec

HLG 1st Stan Buddenbohm  
2nd Tim Batiuk  
3rd Brad

Power 1st Stan Buddenbohm  
2nd Clint Brooks  
3rd Hal Cover



John Merrill



David Wade



Tim Batiuk



Hal Cover



Chris Rec

## San Diego State University - Arline Bartick Photos by Arline Bartick

On Oct. 6, at the San Diego State University soccer field, the Model Airplane Flying class was conducted. It was well attended by some very bright, interested, articulate, attentive, and polite students. Very impressive. Looks like our future might be in good hands after all!



SDSU Students & Supporters standing in back, with Mentors kneeling in front



Mentor Clint Brooks



Mentor Don Bartick



Professor Gary Fogel



Mentor Linda Piazza



Pit area on Soccer Field



**San Diego State University - Arline Bartick Photos by Arline Bartick (Continued)**



Mentor Mike Pykelný



Mentor Ron Espoit



Mentor Tim Batiuk



Women in Aviation at SDSU



Alpha Glider building to plan



Mass launch rubber power



Mentor group photo →

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING - NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2021

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December 19      San Diego Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly  
Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, 8:00 am.  
Events: **OT-NOS Rubber / Glider / Power**

