

EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB



FEBRUARY 2024

Chairman's Corner – Mark Chomyn

As we roll into February, I'm looking out the window at a steady stream of rain coming down. Makes me glad I got some fertilizer on the lawn but causes me some concern when I think about the field in Perris. Especially the access road. Not so much the roadbed itself but the road entrance approach. The recent rains have eroded the road edge and made the entry difficult to navigate. It's within the public right-of-way but the City of Perris doesn't see it as an issue that it needs to be responsible for. In the past it's been repair work by the clubs that's kept it passable. There was some talk of moving up the road (easterly) to another access road which has a better entry transition but a bit rougher roadbed. We'll keep you posted on how this works out. Despite a rainy day and competition from NFL football broadcasts we had a well-attended awards banquet on January 20. Award certificates were handed out to those placing third, second and first in our various flying categories and the first-place winners also received trophies for their efforts. The honor of being the Orbiteer of the Year was presented to Tim Batiuk who walked away with an armful of trophies (three I believe) which included the coveted Orbiteer of the Year hardware. Congratulations Tim, the hardware should look very impressive on the fireplace mantel. A big thank you to Mike Pykelny for keeping the contest results and crunching the numbers to determine the awardees and to Don Bartick for getting the award certificates printed and getting the trophies engraved. And a great big shout out to Linda Piazza who coordinated obtaining the venue (Fillippi's Pizza Grotto) and planning the dining menu. The award ceremony was captured for posterity by our award-winning photographer Arline Bartick. Thanks Arline. So, check the website and El Torbellino if you want to see your smiling face and me with my ugly kisser handing you your award. Sorry about that.

Following the award presentations, we held our world-famous raffle. The tables were filled with prizes and quite a few model airplane kits. Among the kits were models from John Hutchison's personal collection which were donated to the club by John's wife Kathy McLaughlin and his son Greg Hutchison. Most of John's collection was acquired by club members, and I hope to see those models flying at Perris in John's memory. For those kits that were not acquired at the banquet, I will be bringing those to the monthly contests for those who may be interested.

The contest year has just started, and it finds our contest coordinator Mike Pykelny already dealing with mother nature in rescheduling our January 21st contest to the January 28th rain date. I was in Sacramento and unable to attend but I hope that those of you who did caught your fair share of thermals. Our next monthly contest is scheduled for February 18 and events will be, Coupe, Glider (HL, CL and Tow) and power. Other contests of note include the Kiwi Cup and America's Cup, February 10-12 at Lost Hills and the Presidents Cup, February 18 at Webster West Field in Eloy, Arizona. In the no-so-distant future the Scale Staffel of San Diego will hold its first two-day event of 2024 on March 30 and 31 in Perris Ca. William Scott handed out flyers for the contest at the banquet and it's going to be quite a show. There will be four mass launch events, one of which will be the Sky Bunny (you do remember the Sky Bunny don't you?) mass launch as well as eight other categories of free flight events. Keep your eye on your email and the El Torbellino for details.

A warning to those who wish to avoid an all-expenses paid trip to the proverbial "dog house", February 14 is Valentine's Day. So, don't forget to get something sweet and thoughtful for your wife, partner or significant other. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Keep on building and flying!

Mark

"I watched Bill Baker launch his 1939 Korda to 400 feet in forty seconds. It was like witnessing a miracle. At that moment I knew I would enjoy stick and tissue Free Flight for the rest of my life."

From "Living in the Past", by Don DeLoach, Jan-Mar SAM SPEAKS, about attending his first model airplane contest at Fort Worth TX, in 1985



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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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Radio De-Thermalizer System for Free Flight Model Airplanes

By Mike Jester



If your free flight model airplane catches a thermal, the good news is that it should have a long flight time. The bad news is that if you don't have a de-thermalizer (DT) on the model that triggers when it should, you stand a good chance of losing the model. Fuse DTs are legally prohibited in California due to the risk that they could start a wildfire. Viscous damper DTs are inexpensive and lightweight, but suffer from accuracy problems. I failed in my attempt to modify a TOMY mechanical timer for use in a DT. Electronic band burner DTs are extremely accurate but they are relatively expensive and relatively heavy since they require the power of a LiPo battery. The radio-activated DT (RDT) is the most expensive and the heaviest DT system, but it allows you to DT the model once it has achieved a max in an official flight. This shortens retrievals and reduces the risk of losing the model. An RDT also enables you to do short trim flights when you are evaluating the power pattern. More importantly, it allows you to end a flight early if the model starts diving or is heading toward a freeway, tree line, or other undesirable venues. An RDT comprises a hand-held RF transmitter, an RF receiver, a LiPo battery, and a miniature servo. I recently installed RDT components on my Old Time Rubber (OTR) Korda Victory model. The receiver and battery are held with dental bands to the underside of a mounting plank made of 1/16-inch sheet balsa wood. The mounting plank is removably held in place inside of the cockpit with a plastic screw and nut. The servo is mounted on the outside of the fuselage. When I depress the pushbutton on the RF transmitter, it sends a signal to the receiver. The receiver then sends a signal to the servo, causing its arm to swing rearwardly, and release the DT line. This allows the horizontal stabilizer to pivot upwardly 45-degrees. This RDT system saved me a lot of time at the WESTFAC contest in Buckeye, Arizona that took place last October. I completed building my Korda Victory just before the contest, and took this untrimmed model to the flying field. I was able to do a series of short trim flights between which I adjusted the decalage and thrust line while I progressively increased the launch torque. On one trim flight the model took off straight, and continued flying straight. This flight could have resulted in a one-mile retrieval hike but I activated the RDT early and saved a lot of time and energy in avoiding an exhausting trek through tall alfalfa.



Korda Victory Old Time Rubber Model by Mike Jester



Servo (white), RF receiver (blue), and LiPo battery (silver) - total weight 6.81 grams



RF receiver and LiPo battery secured to mounting plank held to fuselage with plastic screw

The CD of the 2023 WESTFAC contest (Tom Arnold) allowed me to fly my Korda Victory in both the OTR Fuselage and OTR Stick events. For the latter event, I removed the landing gear and moved my Walston RF tracker (not shown) from the mounting plank to the nose of the fuselage to keep the CG in the optimum location. On one of its official flights, my Korda Victory burrowed itself beneath the tall alfalfa and may have been lost for good but for carrying the RF tracker. An RDT is not for everyone due to its cost, weight, and complexity. I can understand why most fliers prefer to merely install a viscous damper DT and avoid using an RF tracker or an RDT. If they lose their model, they just build another one.

Special Events



So far in January the club has had a couple of special events, other than just our regular outdoor contest in Perris.

First, on Saturday the 13th, we gathered in La Mesa at the Olive Garden restaurant to celebrate the life of one of our very well loved and appreciated members, who unfortunately caught his final thermal in November. That was, of course, John Hutchison. It was heartwarming to see so many of his family, friends, neighbors, and members of various clubs and organizations attend this special celebration of life. There were several speeches, and letters read from various people that unfortunately were unable to be there in person. There is absolutely no doubt that he will be missed for many years to come.

Another great event was our annual banquet held the following Saturday, the 22nd, at Filippi's Pizza Grotto in Kearny Mesa. Twenty-two people attended, which was a pretty good turnout for a rainy day. It was great that we had not only our usual attendees, but some distinguished guests as well; including Bill Booth, Bob Beecroft, and Sandy Peck. We also had some folks come from outside of San Diego County, so thank you to all that came such a long way.

There were 8 categories of awards given out, and the awards were for 1st through 3rd place. Here's a brief rundown of the overall winners:

Coupe – Mike Pykelny

P-30 – Don Bartick

Old Time/Nostalgia – David Wade

Hand Launch Glider – Tim Batiuk

Catapult Launch Glider – Tim Batiuk

Power – Mike Pykelny

Rubber (combined) – David Wade

Finally, the Russ Merrill Orbiteer of the Year trophy was given to Tim Batiuk.

MANY thanks go to Linda for all of her work getting the venue set up and organized, she is truly talented with those skills. Thanks to Arline, too, for her help getting a fabulous slide show going with her great pictures she's taken throughout the year of our various contests. Also, a huge thank you to Greg Hutchison, who so graciously donated a huge portion (vast majority) of the auction items that he had obtained from his father's collection of modeling items. Many others were very helpful as well, so thank you to all. If you were unable to attend this time, I hope you make it next year, this is always a fun event.

Respectfully submitted by John R. Merrill, Amateur Secretary



ANNUAL ORBITEER and SCALE STAFFEL BANQUET - Photos by Arline Bartick



Event Cake for all



Must be present to win



Tim Batiuk - Orbiteer of the Year recipient, 1ST HL Glider, and 1ST Catapult Glider

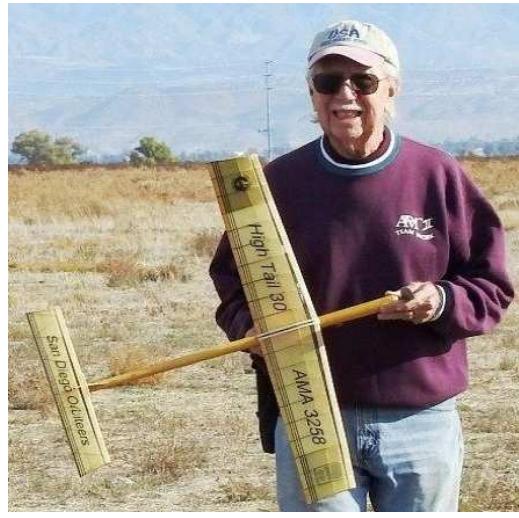


David Wade - 1ST Rubber and 1ST Old Time / Nostalgia

ANNUAL ORBITEER and SCALE STAFFEL BANQUET - Photos by Arline Bartick



Mike Pykelny – 1ST Coupe and 1ST Power



Don Bartick – 1ST P-30



- 2023 -



In Remembrance of John Hutchison



Outdoor Contest

Date: 3/30 and 3/31/2024

Time: 8 to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Scamps Field in Perris, CA

List of Events

John Hutchison Memorial WW1 Scale Contest

Walt Mooney style judging

Total of three flights

John Hutchison Memorial WW1 Scale Contest

Rules: Planes are judged on appearance and awarded bonus points on a scale of 1 to 10. Bonus points are added to the total flight time.

Planes must be hand launched while wearing FAC baseball cap

Mass Launch

Saturday 8 a.m. Pilot's meeting

8:30 a.m. WWI Mass Launch Photo

8:35 a.m. WWI Mass Launch

9:30 a.m. WWII Mass Launch Photo

9:35 a.m. WWII Mass Launch

Sunday 8 a.m Pilot's meeting

8:30 a.m. Greve/Thompson Mass Launch Photo

8:35 a.m. Greve/Thompson Mass Launch

9:30 a.m. Sky Bunny Mass Launch Photo

9:35 a.m. Sky Bunny Mass Launch

Fly Either Day*

1. FAC Rubber Scale
2. Embryo Endurance (ROG)
3. Golden Aged Combined
4. Old Time Rubber Stick and Fuselag (hand launched)
5. FAC 2Bit +1 and Jimmy Allen combined (ROG)
6. Dime Scale
7. Phantom Flash (ROG)
8. Catapult Launched Glider

*All flights must be made on the same day.

Fees:

\$8 for 1 event

\$3 for each additional event

Maximum \$20

Hotel Accommodations

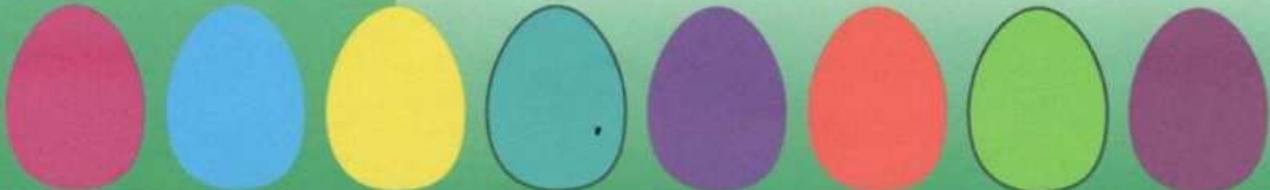
Studio 6 Suites

480 S. Redlands Ave

Perris, CA 92570

(951) 943-5577

Happy Easter



San Diego Orbiteers
Flying Schedule 2024
Taibi Field Perris, Ca

| Primary Date | Rain Date | Event | CD |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| January 21 | Jan 28 | P-30/Glider/Power | |
| February 18 | Feb 25 | Coupe/Glider/Power | |
| March 17 | March 24 | OT/NOS Rubber/Glider/Power | |
| April 14 | April 28 | P-30/Glider/Power | |
| May 19 | May 26 | Coupe/Glider/Power | |
| June 23 | June 30 | OT/NOS Rubber/Glider/Power | |
| July 21 | July 28 | P-30/Glider/Power | |
| August 18 | Aug 25 | Coupe/Glider/Power | |
| September 22 | Sept 29 | OT/NOS Rubber/Glider/Power | |
| October 20 | Oct 27 | P30/Glider/Power | |
| November | Nov 8,9&10 | Dual Club, Lost Hill, Ca. | |
| November 17 | Nov 24 | Coupe/Glider/Power | |
| December 15 | | Make-up | |



Orbiteers Monthly Results

January 28th Tiabi Field

P-30 Greg
 David
 Clint

Power Mike/Stan
 Clint

CLG Chris
 Tim
 Greg

HLG Tim
 Stan
 Brad



Thank David for bringing the Girls Scout Cookies

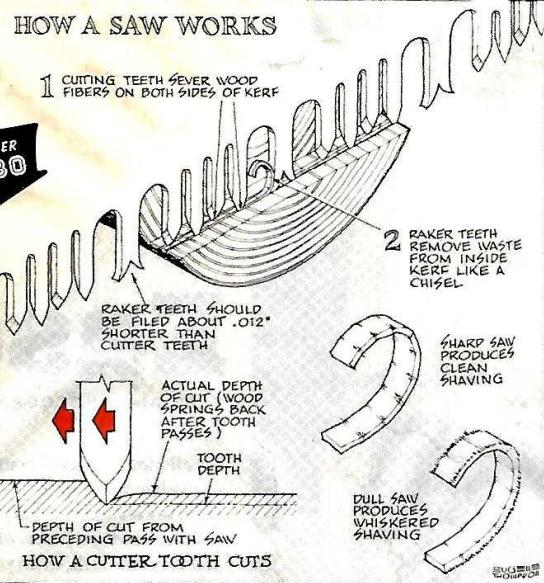
Classic Peanuts by Charles M. Schulz





SHOP NOTES

EASY WAYS
TO DO
HARD THINGS



OCTOBER
1980

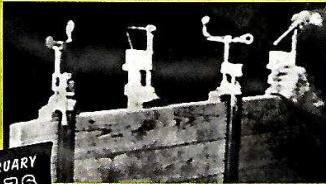


Winch Mired Car to Firm Ground with Spanish Windlass

Campers who get bogged down off-road need not fear if they have enough rope or chain to set up a Spanish windlass. The windlass is used to winch the car to firm footing as illustrated. To do this, a small log is placed upright in a shallow hole dug next to a tree to which it is linked with a rope as shown. One end of a tow rope is then tied to the car and the other end is wound on the log, after a loop is tied on the end. A stout pole inserted in the loop is used as a lever to operate the windlass. —Contributed by E.V. Reyner, Salinas, California

HOMEMADE LEVEL

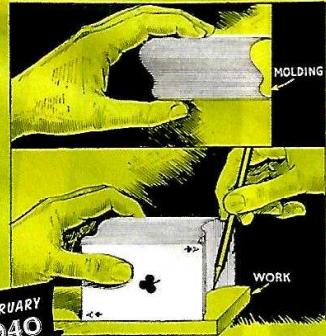
A homemade level that suffices for all ordinary purposes is shown in the diagram. The level is made of a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch x 3 inch x 36 inch piece of wood, two plastering laths 2 feet long, a string, and a plumb bob. The illustration explains the construction. The laths may be nailed to the bottom piece with shingle nails. —Contributed by Jas. Morton Jr., Dunn, Tennessee



FEBRUARY
1976

AVOID CUPPING BY ALTERNATING

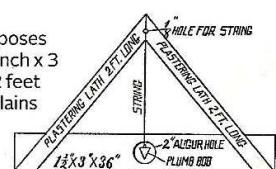
When tabletops and other wide panels are built of random-width boards, the heart grain of the boards should change direction from board to board and bar clamps should be placed on alternate sides of the work.



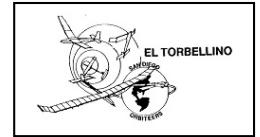
FEBRUARY
1940

Playing Cards Serve as Template to Copy Irregular Work

Accurate fittings for moldings, cornices, etc., can be cut using two decks of playing cards to form a template of the work to be copied. Just stack the cards and then press one end over the contour of the work as shown. After squeezing the stack tightly to avoid slipping, remove it and trace the contour on the piece to be cut.



SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS
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WHAT'S HAPPENING - February 2024

- February 18 - San Diego Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly
Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, 7:30 am
Events: **Coupe / Glider / Power**