

EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB



OCTOBER 2024

Chairman's Corner – Mark Chomyn

If you're walking around any commercial/shopping areas lately your nose might sense a smell of pumpkin in the air. Yes, it's October and the time for everything from bread to beer to be flavored with pumpkin. My take on this some things should not be adulterated with the pumpkin spice. Sorry.

We had our first official monthly outdoor contest restart on September 22nd. Many thanks to the farmer for leaving us a nicely mowed field. The field was quite active. We had our OT/Nostalgia event, glider events and power event (electric). Ronnie Espolt had his group of young glider enthusiasts going non-stop with Tim Batiuk foregoing his flying time to mentor the young flyers. Thanks Tim. We had a group of towline flyers working their planes in athletic grace. I witnessed a three minute plus glider flight by our own John Merrill. Nice going John! And yes, he did place in the event. Our next outdoor monthly is November 17 and will feature Coupe, Glider (HL, CL & Tow) and Power (electric or gas). See you there.

The weather on September 22nd was great, and the air was excellent with thermals available. You still had to keep your eyes on the streamer, but many maxes were being logged. How easy was it to max? My Ace Whitman Albatross got some excellent air (by coincidence not competence) I was lucky to get at least one max and a second place in the OT/Nostalgia event. We only had three competing in OT/Nostalgia. So, hey flyers get on the building board and build an OT/Nostalgia plane and let's get more planes in the air. And, no a Gollywock does not need to be your first choice for OT/Nost.

The Scale Staffel Two-Day was held September 29-30. It will be history by the time you read this. I'm gearing up to go and I find that I have several models that require attention before they can be flown. So, I'm not taking any phone calls, emails or invitations in the last week of September because, darn it, I've got serious work to do! Hoping I've got enough rubber left to for a fresh motor in each plane.

I've mentioned them in a previous column but just as a reminder the John Hutchison Memorial will be held October 25-27 in Buckeye, AZ and the Dual Clubs Free Flight Bonanza will be held November 8-10 at Lost Hills. There's a lot of flying to be done before the holiday season. So, get out there.

I'm writing this column on Sept. 23rd, so this column will be short as my wife and I are getting ready to travel to France in October. Do they have hobby shops in France? Looks like a Google search is needed before we leave.

Have a Happy Halloween!

Mark

*"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing".
George Bernard Shaw, as noted in, From the President, NFFS Free Flight Digest, May-June 2024*



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chomyn@roadrunner.com

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hlhaupt1033@att.net

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dbartick@4-warddesign.com

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michaelhjester@gmail

Mike Pykelny(858) 748-6235
MPykelny@dslextreme.com

Open Position(xxx) xxx-xxxx
yourname@volunteer

ORBITEER TASK LEADERS

Competition Director and Score Keeper

Mike Pykelny(858) 748-6235
MPykelny@dslextreme.com

Banquet and Social Activity Coordinator

Linda Piazza(858) 748-6235
MPykelny@dslextreme.com

Safety Officer & Field Marshall

Open Position(xxx) xxx-xxxx
yourname@volunteer

Web Master

Jake Olefsky(760) 815-325
jake@olefsky.com

Newsletter Editor / Membership Cordinator

Howard Haupt(858) 272-5656
hlhaupt1033@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
San Diego, CA 92117-4622

THE FINE PRINT THE FINE PRINT

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ORBITEER WEB SITE

www.SanDiegoOrbiteers.com

CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE:

Mark Chomyn
Mike Jester
John Merrill
Don Bartick
Roger Willis
Mike Pykelny



PHOTO CREDITS THIS ISSUE :

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Ilushin Il-2 Sturmovik

By Mike Jester

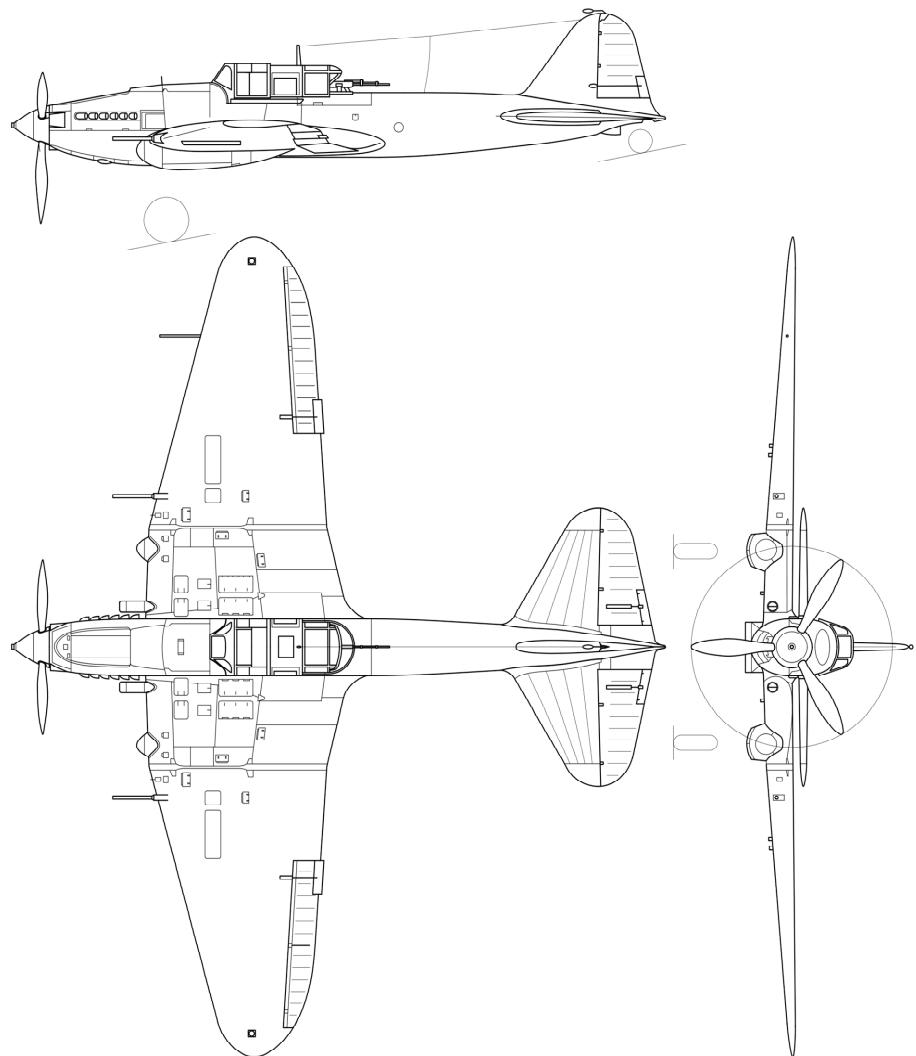


I am not great at building and flying rubber powered scale models. Perhaps this is because my model airplane skills are more of an engineering nature and less of an artistic nature. However, I admire those who do build stick-and-tissue scale models and their ability to craft something that looks like the real thing and is capable of a 2-minute max in FAC competitions. I particularly like WWII combat aircraft because they look cool. They can be flown in both the FAC Rubber Scale and WWII Mass Launch events. I never turn down a request to serve as a mechanic in FAC mass launch events.



The Illushin Il-2 “Sturmovik” was a ground attack aircraft that was easily the most important aircraft ever produced by the Soviet Union. According to Wikipedia 36,183 units of this aircraft were manufactured during WWII. It was used to attack tanks, enemy troops, and artillery with bombs and rockets. It was notoriously inaccurate but when used in large formations with improving tactics it could inflict serious carnage to the Germans on the Eastern Front. It was heavily armored with nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick steel plates that protected the engine and the pilot. This gave it the name of the “flying tank” as it was impervious to small arms fire. Typically well-placed 20 mm cannon fire from fighters or 37 mm flak from ground based anti-aircraft guns was necessary to bring down a Sturmovik. However, the heavy armor drastically limited the weight of bombs and rockets that could be carried by the Sturmovik. Despite its armor, the Sturmovik was often easy prey for the much faster and agile Bf 109 and Fw 190 German fighters. After all, the Sturmovik was a ground attack aircraft and it was not designed for dog fighting. To counter its vulnerability to German fighter aircraft, the Soviets added a rear gunner behind the pilot who manned a single 12.7 mm machine gun. The gunner had side and bottom steel armor but it was only about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick and as a result, Sturmovik gunner casualties were very high. Moreover, experienced German pilots learned to approach the Sturmovik from below and to strafe its underside with machine gun or cannon fire. They aimed for the radiator and the tail end of the fuselage where the elevator control cables could be severed. If the radiator was hit, the Sturmovik’s engine would overheat and fail in about ten minutes. If the control cables were severed, the airplane would nose dive into the ground. Eric Hartman, the highest scoring WWII Luftwaffe Ace with 352 victories, allegedly perfected this tactic. Adding the rear gunner and his partial armor shifted the CG rearward and made the Sturmovik somewhat unstable. To counter this, later models of the Sturmovik had a tapered wing that helped counter the CG shift resulting from lengthening the armored cockpit to partially shield the gunner, as well as the weight of the gunner, the machine gun, and its ammo.

I have never seen a model of the Sturmovik at any contest that I have attended. Based on the 3-view below, it seems like this WWII aircraft has the proportions to be a good flier. I acquired the Golden Age Reproductions kit for the Sturmovik last April from Greg Hutchison and I am giving it to Tom Arnold. He will do a much better job building and trimming this model than I could ever hope to do. Watch this video of a dogfight scene involving a Sturmovik (the “cobra” escape maneuver was not possible):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLD2v0jqiRY>



Ilushin Il-2 Sturmovik



FROM THE WORKBENCH - J.Merrill

A little update on last month's From the Workbench bit:

I finally got the Cessna finished. It is in the same color scheme as the C-34 that raced in the 1930's.

I took it to last weekend's Scale Staffel 2-day contest, but unfortunately I had trouble convincing it to fly.

While I was up there I stayed overnight at the local hotel. I had a few hours to kill, so I made the little A-4 Skyhawks glider. Maybe I'll use it in a Jet-Cat contest someday. I don't expect it to fly all that great, but it was fun to build anyway.

The top picture shows exactly how to get 12 models into the back seat of a Subaru. That's called semi-organized chaos, but it works.

So, what's on your workbench?



AMA Museum - D.Bartick

The SD Orbiteers via Don Bartick have been given the go-ahead to help the AMA National Model Aviation Museum create the John Oldenkamp/Harry Steinmetz P-30 exhibit.

This is the project that Don proposed as result of his and Arline's visit to the museum during the 2024 Outdoor FF National Championship contest in Muncie, IN back in July.

They met with museum curator Michael Smith and during that visit, Don brought up the fact that the SD Orbiteers are the creator of the AMA P-30 Event.

This sparked a concept in Michael's mind that the museum is in need of the history as to how, why and when an AMA Event is developed. Hence the history of the P-30 event will be the first exhibit of this kind. Stay tuned.

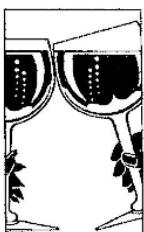
VENICE PIZZA - M.Pykelny

Linda and I visited last Saturday
For those of you who frequented Venice
Pizza with the Orbiteers.

There are new owners, they remodeled and updated the place.

Now more of an Italian restaurant than a pizza shop.

Same cook and great pizza!



SCALE MODEL SIGHTINGS - R.Willis

1st picture is of Bob Hodes JU-52...

2nd photo is my Jimmie Allen SKY CHIEF done with Texaco graphics..named UNCLE MILTI...

3rd is Fernando Ramos with his twin scale.....





INTRODUCING THE EP30 - M.Jester

As some of you may know, Stan Buddenbohm came up with a great new event called EP30. An EP30 contest was successfully held at the 2024 AMA outdoor NATS. The initial EP30 rules are attached.

Basically you take an old P30 and swap in the motor and electronics used on an E20 model. The prop is tiny but the models fly very well according to all reports. A 20 second motor run puts the performance of an EP30 on par with that of a rubber powered P-30. I love rubber powered free flight, but there is something to be said for eliminating the need to make up rubber motors, apply lube, use a stuffer stick, blast tube, extractor, torque meter, winder and winding stooge. The EP30 event might induce more beginners to try our hobby.

The attached picture shows what I have put together so far in "building" my first EP30. The wing, stab and fin are old. I built them several years ago and never used them. The simple stick and tissue box fuselage is new. It has an open able case at the front end for enclosing the motor, battery, and electronics. The full package of 2 props, one motor, one LiPo battery and one set of control electronics with timer, is available from J & H Aerospace.

Thermals,

Mike Jester



EP30 - A PROPOSED EVENT DEMONSTRATION

A concept for a new event is being explored. This event combines two popular events into one new event that utilizes components of models that have been built for the source events. The source events are E20 and P30. Both popular events with a high fun factor.

The proposed new event is EP30. This event uses the airframe of a P30 model and the electric power system of a E20.

To demonstrate the feasibility of the EP30 concept, a deomstration competition will be held Tuesday evening after the E20 flying is complete. A set of simple rules has been proposed by Stan Buddenbohm and that set of rules will be used for the demonstration competition.

The proposed rules are as follows:

1. Minimum flying weight of the model is 50 grams. This includes the airframe, power system, battery, and timer.
2. No part of the model shall exceed 30 inches when it is in assembled condition.
3. Maximum propeller diameter is 2.7". Any number of blades can be used.
4. Electric motor used to power the model must be a coreless electric motor with a diameter of 8.5 mm and a length of 20 mm. No gear drives are allowed.
5. A single cell lithium battery of any capacity, or two nicad/nmh cells of any capacity.
6. Motor run time is 20 seconds for the first three official flights, and 10 seconds for the fourth and subsequent flights until a max is not achieved.
7. Maximum flight time is 90 seconds for the first three official flights, and 120 seconds for any subsequent flights.
8. Attempts. A motor timer malfunction (fails to shut off or restarts once stopped) is an attempt. A flight of less than 20 seconds is an attempt, but it can be used as an official flight if the contestant declares it. No limit on the number of attempts to achieve three official flights.

US Free Flight Championship, September 12th-15th 2024 by Don Bartick

Arline and I attended the US Free Flight Championship at Lost Hills, CA. One thing for sure, this contest has dwindled down to a trickle of what it once was. The 'Champs' as it is normally referred to was in its hay day the West Coast version of the Nationals. Hundreds of participants. But not anymore. Hasn't been for years. This contest is Sanctioned as a AAA Regional. But, with this year's meager entry of 30 flyers caused a lot of discussion to be brought up at the Lost Hills FF Model Airfield Association Board meeting held that weekend. The underlying cause of poor attendance is thought to be the available pool of Free Fighters' is dwindling quickly. With few Junior/Senior flyers coming up the rank, it appears the sport is slowly dying in front of our eyes.

With the loss of fields close to the population further exacerbates the development of new flyers. And the cost to travel to the few venues that are available, lessens attendance. What can we do is the question at hand. The Board agreed that there are few contests the Southern CAL flyers are willing to attend. At Lost Hills, there are only 3. In April, the San Valeers Annual; in September, the Champs; and in November, the Dual-clubs Annual. In Eloy, AZ in January is the SW Regionals. That's about it.

Now, what can we do to make these events more attractive for folks to spend the time and money to attend. One thing we realize is there are too many events to fly at these contests, making for poor competition. These contests are not supposed to be Fun Fly's. Folks want to compete with other than, themselves. Therefore, there is a need to drastically reduce the number of events by combining many of them. For example, 1/2A/A Gas, B/C/D Gas. The same for Classic and NOS Gas; NOS/OT Rubber; E-36/Electric A. Leave the glider events alone. Folks need to be able to fly what they brought and have fun competing with several others.

These are my thoughts.

BTW, I won P-30 against one other flyer. Won E-36 against one other flyer. Not a big thrill.

Photos September 13-15, 2024 at the USFF at Lost Hills - A.Bartick



Bill Booth



Randy Secor →

**Photos September 13-15, 2024 at the USFF at Lost Hills - A.Bartick
(Continue)**



Matt Kruse



Matt Kruse



Randy Secor



Don Bartick



Bill Booth →

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 24		OT/NOS Rubber/Glider/Power	
April 28		P-30/Glider/Power	Mark
May 19	May 26	Coupe/Glider/Power	
June 23	June 30	OT/NOS Rubber/Glider/Power	Don
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	



DUAL-CLUBS

FREE FLIGHT BONANZA

A National Cup Points Event

AMA SANCTION 16630 - CLASS AA, CATEGORY 2

SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS 65th ANNUAL - SPONSOR OF AMA EVENTS

*

**FRESNO GAS MODEL CLUB 84rd ANNUAL - SPONSOR OF NOSTALGIA,
TEXACO & OLD TIME EVENTS**

*** November 8th, 9th & 10th, 2024***

*** 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
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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 E-20 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
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(I) Junior & Senior/Open Event

See Special Instructions on backside

SCHEDULED EVENTS

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
VINTAGE WAKEFIELD 11:00AM TWIN PUSHER MASS LAUNCH	VINTAGE FAI POWER NIGHT GAS 8:30AM P-30 MASS LAUNCH 9:30AM GOLLYWOCK 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**

**\$20 REGISTRATION Sr. & Open / \$2 Jr
\$5 per Event Sr. & Open / \$1 Junior –**

OPTIONAL: \$40 For Registration and Unlimited events

**CD: Don Bartick, - San Diego Orbiteers
(858)774-2941
dbartick@4-warddesign.com**

**NOS/OT: Doss Porter, Fresno GMC
(559)-251-0787
Steve93612@comcast.net**



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. For up to 3 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 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 flown from the established line 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 from the established line 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.

TWIN PUSHER MASS LAUNCH

Saturday morning 11:00AM sharp. Mass launch in front of Headquarters; 1 flight, no max.

GOLLYWOCK MASS LAUNCH

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

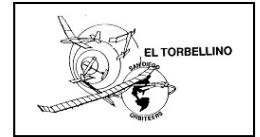
TEXACO (Timer can ride with contestant or follow using their own chase vehicle)

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING - OCTOBER 2024



- | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| October 20 | - | San Diego Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly Events: P30 / Glider / Power Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, 7:30 am |
| November 8, 9, 10 | - | Dual Club Contest, Lost Hill, CA. See enclosed contest flyer for all the details. |