

# EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB

MARCH 2016



## *The Prez's Corner – Don Bartick*

Not sure where I'm going with this month's column other than I'm late submitting it. Oh well, what's new.

One thing of interest is that I've been following 'The Airborne Reader' over the last several years. This is a free subscription E-publication mainly devoted to RC that was created by past District X VP Mike Brown after he was defeated by Larry Tougas. The Airborne Reader continued to grow in size over the years as there were many contributors of article and pictures for Mike to incorporate. Well, for Mike all things have an end as life crowds your time. He found Mike Epperson to take over the duties of publisher. As such, Epperson put out an email to subscribers asking if they wanted to continue receiving the publication. To make a long story shorter, I responded by saying that I was interested provided the publication would include Free Flight. Epperson immediately responded by asking if I or someone I knew would take on the duties of a Columnist for Free Flight. Being a sucker, I responded that I would try it out since I open my mouth. The March issue of The Airborne Reader has the very first Free Flight article since the publication's existence. I've asked Howard to attach the March issue to his email when he issues this month's ET. Take a look. This may be a way to create some new interest in Free Flight by those who only know RC or for some who transitioned from Free Flight to RC that may be ready to come back in some form.

Preparations are well under way for the Dual-clubs Free Flight Bonanza held at Lost Hills, May 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. This is the SD Orbiteers 58<sup>th</sup> Annual run in conjunction with the Fresno Gas Model Club's 77<sup>th</sup> Annual. It has been one of the larger non FAI WC contests at Lost Hills over the years. It is the only one that provides an ice cream social over the noon hour and food fest potluck in the evening. Sure hope more of you in Orbiteers land

plan to be there. Arline and I could use some help.

This is also the time of the year that the Science Olympiad program for middle and high school children. The competition has an indoor Free Flight element made up of rubber powered Penny Plan type, 12" catapult or rubber powered helicopter. The type of aircraft changes from year to year. Orbiteers members have been very influential over the years mentoring the kids. Some of them may once again find our hobby later in life. What is for sure, some parents have drifted into the hobby as result of the program. Examples are Mike Jester and Kang Lee. Mike has to be one the most enthusiastic free flighters in the club. Kang is the reigning F1D World champion. I'm currently coaching 2 Carmel Valley MS students that are preparing for the state catapult glider competition.

That's a wrap for now.

*Remember: "The best way to predict your future is to create it." - Peter Druckerr*

## **Pluggers** by Gary Brookin



A plugger never needs to file a flight plan.



## 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

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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[michaelhjester@gmail](mailto:michaelhjester@gmail)

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[hlhaupt1033@att.net](mailto:hlhaupt1033@att.net)

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Mark Chomyn .....(760) 753-7164  
[chomyn@roadrunner.com](mailto:chomyn@roadrunner.com)

### Safety Officer & Field Marshall

Open Position .....(xxx) xxx-xxxx  
[yourname@volunteer](mailto:yourname@volunteer)

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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

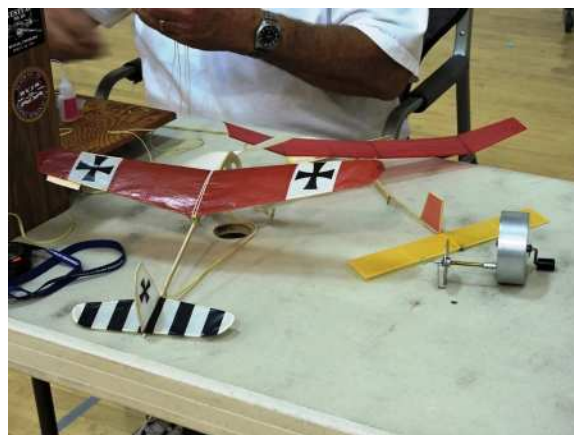
[www.SanDiegoOrbiteers.com](http://www.SanDiegoOrbiteers.com)

**Webmaster: Kathy McLaughlin**



## 2016 COMBINED FLYING SCHEDULE

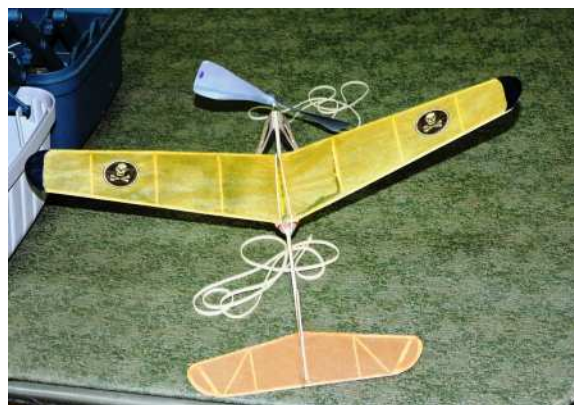
- Mar 20 - **Coupe**  
Power, & Glider  
(No rain date)
- Apr 17 - **P-30 Memorial Oldenkamp Hot Box Contest**  
Power & Glider  
(Rain date Apr 24<sup>TH</sup> )
- May 14/15 **Dual Club FF Bonanza**, Lost Hills CA
- May Rotation Skipped: (Old Time Nostalgia Rubber)
- May 28/29 **Scale Staffel FAC Scale Contest\***  
(2 of 3)
- June 12 - **Coupe**  
Power & Glider  
(June 28<sup>TH</sup> rain date)
- July 4 - **Walt Mooney Annual Scale Contest\***
- July 17 - **P-30**  
Power & Glider  
(Rain date Jun 24<sup>TH</sup> )
- Aug 14 - **Old Time Nostalgia Rubber**  
Power & Glider  
(Rain date Aug 21<sup>ST</sup> )
- Sept 11 - **Coupe**  
Power & Glider  
(Rain date Sept 18<sup>TH</sup> )
- Sept **US FF Championships, Lost Hills\***
- Oct 16 - **P-30**  
Power & Glider  
(Rain date Oct 23<sup>RD</sup> )
- Oct **SW FAI Champs, Boulder City, NV\***
- Nov 12/13 **Scale Staffel FAC Scale Contest\***  
(3 of 3)
- Nov 20 - **Old Time Nostalgia Rubber**  
Power & Glider  
(No rain date)



## 2016 INDOOR FLYING SCHEDULE

- Apr 3 - A-6, Phantom Flash\*
- May 1 - Penny Plane, No-Cal\*
- June 5 - Catapult Glider, Embryo\*
- July 3 - A-6, Phantom Flash\*
- Aug 7 - Penny Plane, No-Cal\*
- Sept 4 - Catapult Glider, Embryo\*
- Oct 2 - A-6, Phantom Flash\*
- Nov 6 - Penny Plane, No-Cal\* and  
Canard One-Design\* (Wrisley Zephyr)
- Dec 4 - Catapult Glider, Embryo\*

**\*Non-ORBITEER Points Event**





## FEBRUARY 2016 OUTDOOR MONTHLY

(February 28, 2016)

Pictures by Arline Bartick

### NOSTALGIA RUBBER

Clint Brooks	360
Mark Chomyn	314
Don Bartick	201
Mike Pykelny	179

### POWER

Ralph Ray	360
Stan Buddenbohm	331
Don Bartick	278
Mike Pykelny	269
Clint Brooks	262

### GLIDER

Stan Buddenbohm	360
Mark Chomyn	84



Mike Pykelny launch of OT model

## INDOOR MONTHLY

(March 7, 2016)

CD: John Hutchison

### Catapult Glider:

(Best two of nine flights)

1. Stan Buddebohm	33	32	-	65
2. Richard Wood	22	22	-	44
3. Don Bartick	22	22	-	44
4. John Hutchison	20	21	-	41

### Embryo:

(Three flight total)

1. Warren Allred	55	54	56	-	174
2. Richard Wood	55	48	48	-	160
3. John Hutchison	48	43	40	-	140
4. Nick Panousis	21	20	21	-	71
5. Larry Miller	12	12		-	24

(Indoor meet pictures continued on next page)



Early Saint Patrick's day treat of color themed cup cakes provided by Linda Piazza for those in attendance.



Mark Chomyn launch of OT model



## MARCH 2016 INDOOR PICTURES

(Pictures by Arline Bartick)



Dick Wood preparing for catapult glider launch



Science Olympiad participant getting some practice time in catapult glider.



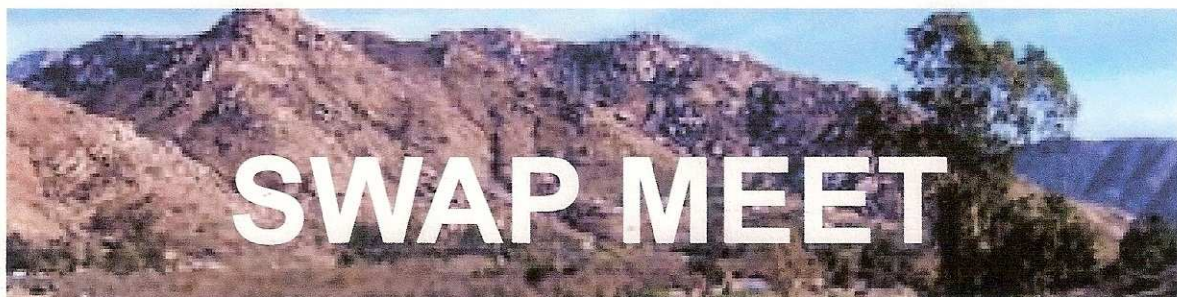
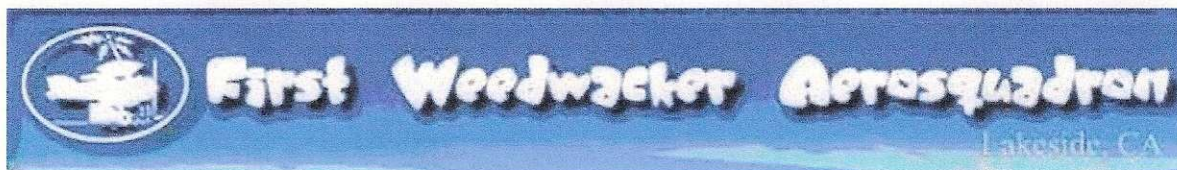
John Hutchison Embryo on take off roll



Past Orbiteer member Gilbert Arroyo and his daughter Emilia winding a model from a previous Science Olympiad competition.







### ESTATE SALE

Past Orbiteers Don Riordan's model aircraft estate will be on sale at this event.  
Proceeds will be distributed between the Orbiteers, Scale Staffel, and his widow.

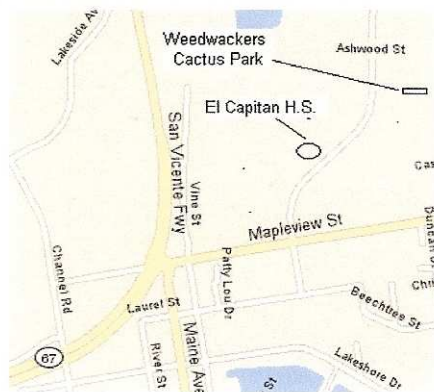


Site: Ron Smith Memorial Field  
(SD County Cactus Park, Lakeside)

**Hours: 7:30 am – 11:30 am**  
**\$5 Seller's Fee ----Buyers Free**  
**Refreshments Available**

### Information:

DON MADISON (619)-296-1510



## G-30 Bungee Launched Glider

*By Mike Jester*



Everyone likes a new challenge in the free flight airplane hobby, or at least they ought to. Our club's monthly outdoor contests at the SCAMPS field in Perris, California currently feature three different free flight events. These events are: 1) rubber power; 2) power (Gas/Elec Combined); and glider (HLG/CLG Combined). The rubber powered event rotates between Coupe (F1G), P-30 and OT/Nostalgia Rubber.

Except for Stan Buddenbohm's magnificent tip launched glider, everyone else flies a catapult launched glider at the Orbiteers' monthly outdoor contests. In my own experience it is much easier to launch a glider with a bungee and get consistent flights, than it is to launch a glider with a six inch dowel and a couple of nine inch loops of rubber. It is not easy to get a catapult launched glider high in the air, have it transition near its apogee, and then glide slowly down to the ground. Don't get me wrong, I really like catapult launched gliders, perhaps because they are so challenging. Nevertheless, the thought occurred to me that we might be able to attract more members to our club if they could begin with an easy, inexpensive form of outdoor free flight in which they are likely to succeed early on.

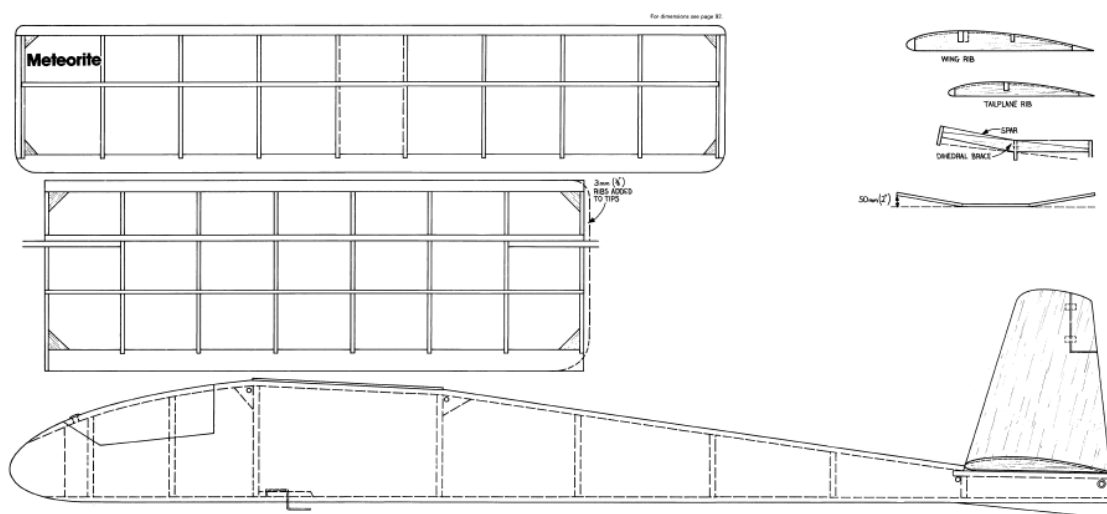
In some ways, a bungee launched glider is easier to build, trim and fly successfully than even the simplest rubber powered cabin airplane, such as the Flying Aces Moth. A bungee launched glider requires no winder, no torque meter, no stooge, no lube, etc. You don't have to worry about propeller thrust line adjustments with a glider. So a bungee launched glider can be an easy and inexpensive way to get into outdoor free flight, which avoids the discouragement of a beginner's propeller airplane that won't fly for more than 20 seconds.

See the attached proposed rules that I drafted for a new outdoor bungee launched glider event which I call G-30. I patterned my G-30 rules after the P-30 rules. The P-30 class originated with the San Diego Orbiteers around 1977 and has been very popular in Europe, Australia and South America. A P-30 prop weighs close to 9 grams, so I thought a 30 gram minimum would be good for a G-30 glider. The bungee comprises 25 feet of 1/8 inch rubber connected to 75 feet of fishing line or kite string. The contest director could provide the bungee or the flier could use his own bungee. A D/T and an auto-rudder are not necessary on a G-30 glider, but they can be beneficial. A G-30 glider would be a quick build, so if you don't include a DT and it flies OOS, it wouldn't be a great loss.

In the UK they have a similar bungee launched glider event with at 36 inch wing span. Don Bartick says they ran a bungee launched 36 inch wing span glider event at Eloy, Arizona in January, 2016. He reported to me that fliers had trouble getting their gliders up in the air with a 1/8 inch rubber bungee. Hmmmm - I am thinking that shouldn't be a problem with a smaller glider as set forth in my proposed G-30 rules.

Bungee launched gliders of this type have been around for decades. There are many free plans for suitable gliders available on the Internet, particularly on the Outerzone web site. Examples include the Jetco Trooper, the Montgomery Models Cloud Buster, and the Keil Kraft Cadet. Some of these gliders have a 36 inch wing span and therefore they will need to be scaled down so as not to exceed the 30 inch maximum dimension of the G-30 rules.

The plan for the Meteorite bungee launched glider is reproduced below, along with a picture of a completed Meteorite glider.



I plan to build and test launch a G-30 glider in the next few months to spur interest in this potential new glider event with my fellow Orbiteers board members. This will also allow me to confirm the viability of this type of glider and to tweak the proposed rules as necessary. My thought would be that the club could alternate the HLG/CLG and G-30 events in our monthly contests. Stay tuned!





## Free Flight Outdoor - G-30 Rules\*

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1. Free flight glider models shall conform to the following specifications:
  - 1.1 No part of the model shall exceed 30 inches when in its assembled condition.
  - 1.2 The minimum weight of the model shall be 30 grams.
  - 1.3 No mechanically movable aerodynamic surfaces shall be permitted with the exception of a tilting stabilizer for de-thermalization (DT) and an auto-rudder for effecting turn in the glide.
2. Launching shall be accomplished by means of a bungee which shall conform to the following specifications:
  - 2.1 The bungee shall comprise a 25 foot (unstretched) segment of 1/8 inch Tan Super Sport or equivalent rubber connected to one end of a 75 foot long segment of fishing line or kite string.
  - 2.2 The rubber segment shall be connected to a suitable ground anchoring device such as a stake or a pole whose location shall be clearly marked.
  - 2.3 The fishing line or kite string shall be tied to a ring having an internal diameter of at least 1/4 inch.
  - 2.4 A flag of silk or similar light weight fabric measuring no larger than nine (9) square inches shall be secured to the fishing line near the ring to aid in detachment of the ring from a hook on the model once the model has reached its apogee.
  - 2.5 The flag shall be colored to aid in location of the free end of the bungee after a launch.
3. A flight of more than 20 seconds shall be considered an official flight.
4. There shall be no limit to the number of attempts allowed in order to record three (3) official flights.
5. The maximum recorded duration for each flight shall be 120 seconds.
6. If a tie exists after three (3) flights have been recorded then each successive flight shall have a maximum duration of 30 seconds more than the previous flight.

\* Version 2.0 of the rules for a new outdoor glider event proposed by Mike Jester of the San Diego Orbiteers. These rules were originally drafted on January 15, 2016

# DUAL-CLUBS FREE FLIGHT BONANZA

*\*A National Cup Event\**

**SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS 58<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL - CLASS AA, CATEGORY 2  
SPONSOR OF AMA, CLASSIC & MINI-FAI EVENTS**

\*

**FRESNO GAS MODEL CLUB 77<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL – CLASS AA, CATEGORY 2  
SPONSOR OF NOSTALGIA, TEXACO & OLD TIME EVENTS**

**\* MAY 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 \***  
**\* LOST HILLS, CA \***

<b>SATURDAY ONLY</b> 7 AM – NOON, 1 - 5 PM LUNCH BREAK W/ICE CREAM SOCIAL	<b>EITHER DAY</b> MUST FINISH EVENT THE SAME DAY		<b>SUNDAY ONLY</b> 7 AM – 3 PM
1/2A GAS(1) C/D GAS P-30 (1) VINTAGE FAI POWER CATAPULT GLIDER (1) ½ A TEXACO DAWN P-30 MASS LAUNCH NIGHT GAS (COMBINED) TWIN PUSHER MASS LAUNCH	SMALL OT RUBBER STICK SMALL OT RUBBER CABIN LARGE OT RUBBER STICK LARGE OT RUBBER CABIN ¼ A NOSTALGIA ½ A NOSTALGIA A NOSTALGIA B NOSTALGIA C NOSTALGIA E-36 F1Q/A/B ELECTRIC (COMBINED)	.020 REPLICA A PYLON B-C PYLON A FUSELAGE B-C FUSELAGE RUB/WAKEFIELD NOS CLASSIC TOWLINE ½ A CLASSIC POWER JOHN OLDENKAMP MEMORIAL P-30 (2) 36" HIGH START GLIDER	FIG (COUPE) F1H (TOWLINE) F1J (POWER) A GAS B GAS HAND LAUNCH GLIDER (1) FULL SIZE TEXACO MULVIHILL DAWN MULVIHILL GOLLYWOCK MASS LAUNCH

*(1) Junior & Senior/Open Event*

*(2) Cash Awards*

*See Special Instructions on backside*

**\*\* AN ORBITEER TRADITION LIVES ON \*\***

JOIN US FOR SATURDAY ICE CREAM SUNDAE SOCIAL ON US (NOON – 1 PM)  
*also*

SATURDAY NIGHT FOOD FEST POTLUCK ORGANIZED BY DAN HEINRICH (6:00 -7:00 PM) *(Main course provided)(Bring a side dish or dessert)(Let Dan know what you're bringing at [aeronutd@cs.com](mailto:aeronutd@cs.com))*

**AWARDS FOR FIRST 3 PLACES (except as noted)**  
**Ceremonies at: 3:15 PM Sunday**

**\$20 REGISTRATION Sr. & Open / \$2 Jr**  
**\$5 per Event Sr. & Open / \$1 Junior -**  
**Optional: \$40 for Registration & Unlimited Events**

For Information Contact:

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22465 Casa De Carol Ramona, CA 92065  
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Web: [FGMAC.tumblr.com](http://FGMAC.tumblr.com)

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



# SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

## SATURDAY NOON to 1 PM LUNCH BREAK & SUNDAE SOCIAL

The contest will be suspended for 1 hour for lunch and the San Diego Orbiters 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.

## JOHN OLDENKAMP MEMORIAL P-30

Only John's Hot Box P-30 is eligible for this event. Flown to AMA rules. Cash awards for the top 3 places. Hot Box P-30 plans available through AMA's plans service – Plan #773 or in PDF format from Don Bartick. Email: dbartick@4warddesign.com.

## 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 and 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.

## MINI FAI EVENTS - Low stress format

FIG, FIH & FIJ: First five (5) flights must be flown from the established line between 7:00 – 12:00 AM. 120 sec max  
Fly-off in ½ hour rounds starting at 1:00 PM. 15min rounds in sequence. 15min between end of round and beginning of next one. Fly-off round max: 1<sup>st</sup> 150sec, 2<sup>nd</sup> 180sec, 3<sup>rd</sup> 210sec, 4<sup>th</sup> 240sec, 5<sup>th</sup> 300sec, 6<sup>th</sup> 360sec and so on. Fly-off rounds may be compressed by consensus of the participants and the CD.

## VINTAGE FAI POWER Low stress format

For rules, please go to this website:

[http://freeflight.org/Competition/NFFS%20Competition%20Rules%202015\\_2016%20Rel1.pdf](http://freeflight.org/Competition/NFFS%20Competition%20Rules%202015_2016%20Rel1.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 7:00 – 12:00 AM.

## DAWN P-30

Saturday morning 7:30 AM sharp. Mass launch from glider pen; 1 flight, no max.

## DAWN MULVIHILL (Timer can ride with contestant)

Sunday morning 7:30 – 7:50 AM launch window, 1 flight, no max.

## TWIN PUSHER MASS LAUNCH

Saturday morning 8:30 sharp. Mass launch from glider pen; 1 flight, no max.

## GOLLYWOCK MASS LAUNCH

Sunday morning at 8:00 sharp. Mass launch from glider pen; 1 flight, no max.

## TEXACO (Timer can ride with contestant)

1/2A Texaco: Saturday 7:00-10:00 AM launch window, 8cc fuel; Full Size Texaco: Sunday 6:00-10:00 AM launch window, ¼ oz per pound – max 1.75 oz fuel.

## 36" HIGH START GLIDER

Any design as long as the projected wingspan doesn't exceed 36". Organizers will provide a pylon with 75' non elastic cord attached to 25' of 1/8" FAI rubber will constitute the High Start mechanism. Bob Holman [www.bhplans.com](http://www.bhplans.com) has plans for the WREN from Frog models UK.

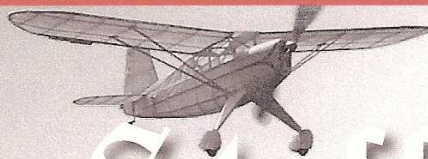


## NEW CONTEST DATES

**FLYING  
ACES**  
SQUADRON 41



# SAN DIEGO Scale Staffel



## May (Gray) 2016: Outdoor Flying Contest

**Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, 2016, 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, Location (33.7803656,-117.1972964)**

### Events Prizes

Awards for first to third place.

### Fees

\$8 for contest including entry for one event, \$3 for each additional event, \$20 maximum to cover contest entry and 5 to 11 events

### Contest Directors

**George Mansfield**  
gmansfield75@gmail.com  
phone (858) 453-3857

**William Scott**  
wscott127@yahoo.com  
phone (619) 469-9681

### Awards Presentation

Immediately following the contest's final gun on Sunday

### Hotel Accommodations

Red Lion  
480 S. Redlands Ave, 92570  
(Less than 2 miles from the flying field)  
**(951) 943-5577**

***Lunch is at the flier option  
for both days***

***Pilot's Meeting: 8 a.m. on both days***

### FAC Single Model Events

Fly any event on either day, but all flights for a given event must be flown on the same day

1. FAC Rubber Scale #2
2. FAC Jumbo Scale #3
3. FAC Power Scale (90 second max) #5
4. Golden Age Monoplane #13
5. Old Time Rubber Stick and Fuselage (hand launch) #21/22
6. FAC 2-Bit(+1) Rubber, 1/2 Wakefield (ROG) #23
7. Jimmie Allen (ROG) #24
8. No-Cal (no max) #33
8. Embryo Endurance (ROG) #35

### Mass Launch Events

#### Saturday

10. FAC World War 1 Combat:  
Wind at 8:20 a.m., Launch at 8:30 a.m.
11. FAC World War II Combat:  
Wind at 9:20 a.m., Launch at 9:30 a.m.

#### Sunday

12. Double Trouble (Twins)  
Wind at 8:20 a.m., Launch at 8:30 a.m.
13. FAC Greve/Thompson Race:  
Wind at 9:20 a.m., Launch at 9:30 a.m.

\*Earn points towards your GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP. This contest's scores coupled with those of the later Scale Staffel contest held in 2016 will determine our annual Grand Champion. The trophy will be presented after the last event of 2016 to the flier who garners the most 1st to 3rd place points in the 2016 Scale Staffel contests.

## NEW CONTEST DATES

**SAN VALEERS 67th ANNUAL & 34th ANNUAL 7 ROUNDER  
APRIL 16th & 17th, 2016 - LOST HILLS, CA.**

**A NFFS NATIONAL CUP, AMERICAS CUP & AMA AA SANCTIONED CONTEST**  
(SCAMPS/SCIFS contest same weekend with SCAMP CD Dan Heinrich 909 593-5789)

**AMA CAT II & NOSTALGIA CAT II\*\* (WEATHER PERMITTING)**

**SATURDAY 8 TO 5**

**1/2A GAS**

**B GAS**

**C GAS**

**1/2A Nostalgia\*\***

**1/4A GAS(15sec VTO,12sec HL) 1/4A flyoff Sun(7:30-7:45am)**

**SLOW GAS\* (9 Sec all flights) (Slow gas flyoff Sat at 5:30 PM)**

**SUNDAY 8 TO 3**

**A GAS**

**D GAS**

**ABC Nostalgia\*\***

**BOTH DAYS**

**P-30 & HL Glider**

**Catapult Glider**

**Nostalgia Rubber**

**(all flights same day  
for each entry)**

**F1A NORDIC - FIB WAKEFIELD - F1C/F1P POWER SATURDAY 8 AM TO 3 PM (7 rounds)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Round at 8am, F1A 210 secs, F1B & F1C 240 secs. Flyoff begins at 4:00pm**

**F1G – F1H – F1Q SUNDAY 8 AM TO 11:45 (5 rounds 45 minutes ea) flyoff at 1:00 pm Champagne flyoff 7:30 to 8:00  
am for tie breaker (if needed after 2 fly off flights)**

**VINTAGE FAI**

**SATURDAY 8:00 am-1:00pm (5 1hr rounds) All flights 180 secs flyoff at 1:00pm**

**HUNTER MEMORIAL SUNDAY MORNING(weather permitting)-Sponsored by Mike Thompson**

**RULES: Any gas free flight airplane. 15 second VTO, 12 second H.L. Highest single flight time (no max)  
Starts Sunday at sunrise with 1 hr window (start time announced). Entry fee (\$1.00 per flight)**

**\*SLOW GAS RULES: No auto surfaces, single bypass stock engines only (except TD's .049&.051), 15%  
Nitro max,3 maxes & 1 flyoff to the ground. 9sec motor runs all flights(including flyoffs)**

**\*\*NOSTALGIA per latest rulebook except motor runs which shall be 10 sec HL, 13 sec VTO for 1<sup>st</sup> 3  
flights, 7 & 9 secs on all flyoff flights. Classes scored separately for National cup but awards given for  
1/2A Nostalgia and ABC Nostalgia combined.**

**MERCHANDISE AWARDS (engines, kits, fuel, wood, \$\$\$, etc)**

**\*\*\*3.5 K&B motor RAFFLE (1 ticket for each event entered, or \$3 ea, or \$5 for 2, or \$10 for 5)\*\*\***

**AMA/NOST CD: Ted Hidingier (602) 316-4430 FAI CD: Mike Thompson (805) 404-6173**

**AMA & Nostalgia: 1<sup>ST</sup> event: \$10.00, Additional events: \$5.00 per event or \$35 unlimited entry, JRS  
FREE, FAI events: 1st event \$20 and additional events \$10.**

**"JUST BRING YOUR MODELS AND SLEEPING BAG AND HAVE FUN"**





**By William Garvey**

Business & Commercial Aviation Editor-in-Chief  
William Garvey blogs at:  
**AviationWeek.com**  
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## COMMENTARY

# Personal Best

## A Hudson with wings

**H**e died knowing he was on to something good, but he couldn't have known just how good. And how enduring.

World War II had fueled Beechcraft's prosperity, with the decade-old Wichita plane-maker turning out AT-7s and C-45s—military versions of its Model 18 “Twin Beech”—for the training of navigators, bombardiers and multiengine pilots by the thousands. But as the Allied victory seemed more assured, Beech Aircraft, along with other manufacturers supplying the war's hardware, had to begin refocusing on civilian opportunities.

As legend has it, engineer Frank Harmon approached Walter Beech with the idea of building a single-engine personal aircraft for use by the tens of thousands of military aviators reentering civilian life. Reportedly, the idea received a lukewarm response, and Harmon was told he could not pursue the concept on company time. Sure he was right, Harmon and a team of like-thinkers continued the project nights and weekends in his kitchen.

Once the design was more fully refined, Harmon again approached Beech. This time the boss got so excited, he asked his board of directors for a project go-ahead. And was rebuffed: The board wanted to go bigger, not smaller. Upon learning of the rejection, Harmon told Beech that he would take the project elsewhere. Beech passed that prospect on to the directors, who reversed themselves. The result was a Bonanza, both in aluminum and in gold.

The four-place aircraft with the distinctive V-tail first flew in December 1945, and throughout its test flying and production buildup in 1946, word spread among excited dealers and pilots about the breakthrough airplane. Up until then, personal aircraft featured tube and fabric construction, and were generally cramped and slow taildraggers powered by noisy radial engines.

By contrast, the Model 35 Bonanza

(see photo) took design cues from the Hudson automobile. Those with-in sat erect on comfortable seats in a Hudson-sized cabin, and the tricycle gear kept them level on the ground, just as in a car. The horizontally opposed, 165-hp Continental engine was cowled and quieter, and combined with the sleek, low-drag design and retractable gear, gave it a 175-mph cruise speed and 750-mi. range. The base aircraft was capable of day, night and instrument flight, and was priced at \$7,975, roughly \$100,000 in current dollars.

AMERICAN BONANZA SOCIETY



**2007 Bonanza fly-in at Beech Field, Wichita.**

When the aircraft received its type certification in March 1947, Beech had already taken orders for 1,500 Bonanzas, an unprecedented market response. By the time a heart attack felled Walter Beech three years later, the Bonanza had redefined the personal aircraft forever.

The aircraft became the non plus ultra of light planes and retained that position for half a century. Indeed, many of its most ardent admirers believe it retains that status still, despite the arrival of many challengers, most of which have since departed. The appeal of the Bonanza's styling, handling and performance have endured, so much so that it became the aircraft



**Aug. 5, 1946, cover of Aviation Week's predecessor.**

in longest continuous production 36 years ago—and continues in production today.

The aircraft has undergone many iterations over the years. Manufacture of the V-tail version ended in 1982, ultimately giving way to today's Model G36, which sports a

conventional tail; a stretched, six-seat cabin; a 300-hp Continental engine and panel packed with G1000 avionics. All those upgrades come at a price, of course; a new G36 is tagged at \$777,000.

That high price, among other factors, has contributed to a marked decline in new aircraft orders. Since the Great Recession of 2008, the manufacturer has averaged just 26 Bonanza deliveries per year. When the 2015 tally is revealed this month, that average likely will be unchanged.

While these numbers feed speculation about Textron Aviation's continued commitment to the model, Thomas Turner, the American Bonanza Society's Air Safety Foundation's executive director, says the market for used units remains robust. Nearly 18,000 Bonanzas have been delivered, and he estimates some 12,000 are still in service, though they average 40-45 years of age.

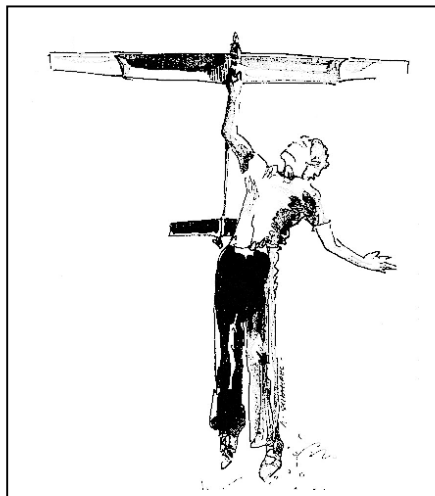
A typical buyer is Bruce Landsberg, recently retired as president of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's Safety Foundation and Air Safety Institute. Over the decades he'd flown “almost every production single-engine aircraft,” but the one he liked best, by far, was the association's A-36 Bonanza. He readily admits he “grew to love the aircraft. It does everything well.”

And so with his gold watch day approaching, he bought his own Bonanza, a 1987 A-36, with 1,400 hr. logged by a single owner and in meticulous condition. Why? “On balance,” he responds, “for speed, payload/range, production support and just [being] fun to fly.”

Clearly, Frank Harmon and Walter Beech saw the true value of their Bonanza, a long time ago. ☼



SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS  
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## WHAT'S HAPPENING - MARCH / APRIL 2016

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Mar. 16 - **Orbiteer Board Meeting**, 6:00 pm.  
Mike Jester's residence, 11 Buccaneer Way, Coronado CA 92118

Mar. 20 - **Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly**,  
SCAMPS Field, Perris CA., 8:00 am.  
Feature Event: **COUPE** Other Events: **Power & Glider**  
(No rain date)

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Apr. 3 - **Indoor Flying**, Grossmont College (Upper Gym), 7:30 am to 11:30 am.  
Feature Event: **A-6**, Other Event: **Phantom Flash \***

Apr. 17 - **Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly**,  
SCAMPS Field, Perris CA., 8:00 am.  
Feature Event: **P-30 Memorial Oldenkamp Hot Box Contest**  
Other Events: **Power & Glider**  
(No rain date)