

# EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB



MARCH 2025

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

Here comes March and as lore would have it the month supposedly enters like a lion and goes out like a lamb. I guess we'll see if that's true. March is also the month where we all become Irish on March 17. I will as always get out the crock pot and make corn beef and cabbage and drink a couple pints of Guinness. Thank God the custom is not to put green dye in a dark beer. It is also the month of the "Ides of March" a date made infamous by the unfortunate demise of Julius Ceasar.

Our next outdoor event is on March 23 at Taibi Field in Perris. The events will be Old Time and Nostalgia Rubber, Glider (HL, CL & Tow) and power (gas\electric). Look for an email from Mike Pykelny our contest coordinator for details. Our monthly events going forward will need to adapt to a recent change in field conditions. In February we got a bit of a shock to find that the farmer had plowed the field including our usually undisturbed patch of ground on which we park stage and launch. However, an un-plowed area about 50 feet wide and 300 feet deep was left (I think out of kindness by the farmer) for our use. At least I'd like to think that. It will take some adjusting on our part regarding fitting parking and set-up in the area but I'm sure we can make it work. I missed the February contest so it's possible that the logistics for the adjustment may have already been worked out. On my last trip to the field to observe the condition of the plowing, San Jacinto Avenue was blocked off from Murrieta Road to Dunlap Drive due to the subdivision construction work on the north side of San Jacinto Avenue. So, the only way in for me that day was down the dirt road extension of Dunlap. The field immediately west of the dirt road had also been plowed, and I noticed there was an access road along the edge of that field which looked in good shape. Maybe it could provide some relief from the current bumpy and rutted dirt road extension of Dunlap.



Just got my March 2025 edition of Model Aviation magazine and on page 19 is a picture of Dick Sarpolus holding his electric twin fan, profile RC Learjet while standing in front of a great looking red Chevy Corvette. Some guys just seem to know how to make you envious. Also in that same edition was a cover shot of the "dream inspired" Sky Skanner a cute looking electric pusher plane. Though I'm still a die-hard rubber power flyer, planes like these two make me wonder about getting into electric. But to go-you-one-better, on page 44 of the edition there is an article about a dual-purpose Monocoupe that flies either rubber or electric (RC) power. That might be the best way for a gummy band guy to test the waters of electric flight. It was built by using a Sterling peanut scale Monocoupe kit as a basis for the design and construction of the plane. Photos of the plane show some great covering and finishing work. The author/builder has flown the plane in both FAC and NEAT Fair competitions. You can watch the plane in action at: [www.youtube.com/@JoeMalinchak](http://www.youtube.com/@JoeMalinchak)

When you get into the site click on the videos category to see the plane flying in both rubber and electric RC mode.

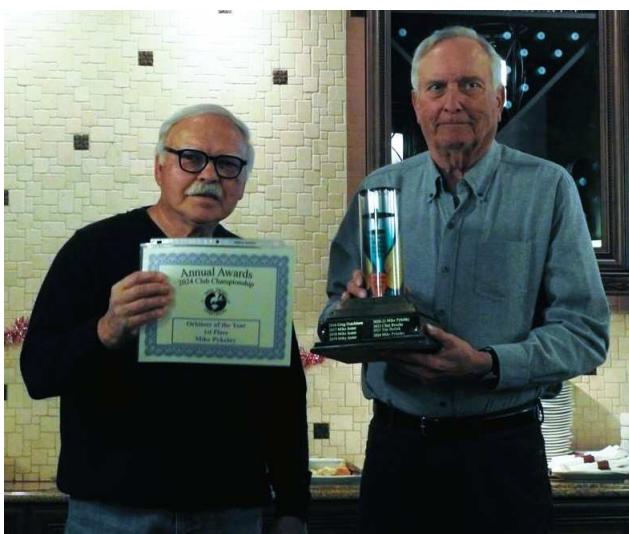
A hearty Erin Go Bragh to all and keep flying.  
Mark

*"Gee, that's a honey! And it actually flies and looks like a real plane. I'm going down now and get a BURD. It's BURD for me always!"*

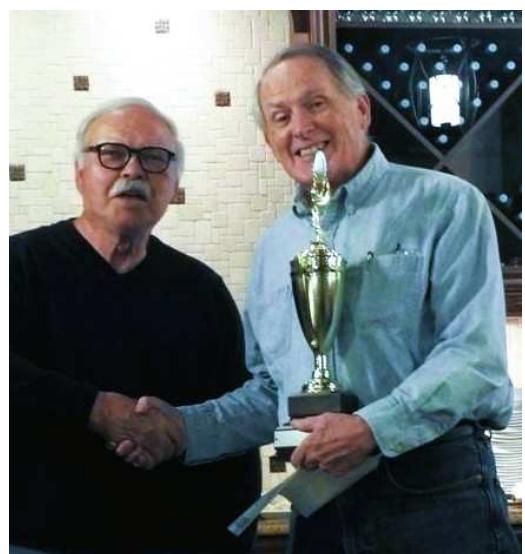
*BURD Model Airplane Company ad in Model Airplane News, February 1938*

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## AWARDS BANQUET FOR FLYING EXCELLENCE / 2024 - by Arline Bartick



Mike Pykelnky - Orbiteer of the Year 2024  
- Coupe Champ 2024  
- Power Champ 2024



David Wade - OT/NOS Champ 2024  
- Rubber Champ 2024

## **Three Nite P-30 - Ensuring That the Wing is Flat**

*By Mike Jester*



One of the unique features of this model that I designed in 2020 during COVID is that it has a flat wing. It has no conventional dihedral, i.e., sections of the wing on either side of its center that are angled upwardly. Dihedral is critical to roll stability of a free flight model airplane. Instead of angled wing sections, my Three Nite P-30 incorporates tip plates (winglets) on the ends of the wing which effectively provide dihedral. The tip plates on the wing may also help reduce wing tip vortices, which in turn reduces drag. So even though the Three Nite P-30 does not have a wing with a thin, under-cambered air foil, when trimmed correctly it still exhibits a remarkably good glide. The reason for the flat wing design is to make the construction easier for beginners. The wing ribs each have a flat bottom edge that lays flat on the building board. A wing with a flat bottom is much easier to cover than a wing that has an under-cambered air foil.

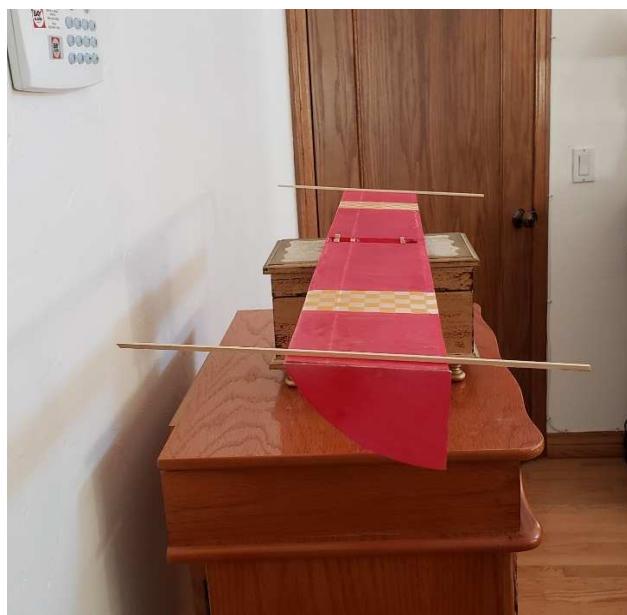


### **Three Nite P-30 By Mike Jester**

Normally I build washout into the wingtips of almost all my outdoor models to help prevent them from getting into a downward spiral when upset by turbulence. However, I have found after building and flying five Three Nite P-30 models without washout in the wingtips that this is not a necessary feature for this design. Possibly this may be due to the action of the tip plates on the wing. This is another aspect of my Three Nite P-30 which makes it a good beginner's model. Shimming the outer ends of the trailing edge of the wing during construction, or warping the wing afterwards to provide just the right washout on each wingtip can be a daunting task for a beginner. It is, however, critical that the wing of the Three Nite P-30 be perfectly flat. Unintended warps in the wing may make it impossible to trim this model for consistent flights, as is the case with almost every outdoor free flight model. There is one caveat here on this point. If the outer sections of the wing curve up slightly to provide a small amount of traditional dihedral, this is fine so long as the angle of attack of both outer wing sections is the same as that of the center section of the wing. I would be wary of flying this model with a wing that has anhedral, i.e., downwardly drooping wing sections.

So how do you make sure the wing of the Three Nite P-30 is flat? There are a number of things you can do to ensure this. First, build the model on a flat building board. Second, if the leading edge or trailing edge sticks are curved, make sure you orient them on the plan so that they lay flat. Lay them on their sides so that they curve inwardly. The curvature of the leading edge and the trailing edge will go away when you glue all the ribs between them. After the wing has been covered, you might be tempted to just lay it on a table top and say "there, it looks flat or close to flat." You might think this because the leading and trailing edges look

like they are either lying flat on the table top or they are elevated about the same amount above the table top near each wingtip. This is not a good enough test. What if I hold up the wing and visually look for warps? Good luck with that. Your perspective is just not good enough considering that the wing span is nearly thirty inches. The best way to test for warps is to lay the center of the wing inverted on a support, like a small box resting on top of a table. If the tip plates have already been glued to the outermost ribs, the box will need to be tall enough so that the tip plates clear the table top. Lay two 12-inch-long 3/32-inch x 3/32-inch or 1/8-inch by 1/8-inch balsa wood sticks that are straight and true on top of the outer ends of the wing so that they extend perpendicular to the leading and trailing edges. Visually confirm that the two sticks are parallel to each other in the plane of the flat bottom surface of the wing sighting down its span. If not, have someone hold a hair dryer or a heat gun for you. Carefully grip the opposite ends of the wing by grasping the leading and trailing edges between the thumb and fingers of each hand. Then gently twist the wing in the appropriate direction. and pass the wing back and forth in front of the stream of hot air. DO NOT OVERHEAT THE WING. Re-test with the 12-inch-long sticks to see if the warp in the wing has been removed. If not, repeat the heating and twisting. You should perform the same test and warp removal on the horizontal stabilizer.



**Testing the Wing of the Three Nite P-30 for Flatness**



### **Non Sequitur** by Wiley Miller





# Outdoor Contest

Date: March 29 and 30, 2025  
Time: 8 to 11:30 a.m.  
Location: Scamps Field in Perris, CA

## List of Events

### 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  
9:00 a.m. 2x Peanut Mass Launch Photo  
9:05 a.m. 2x Peanut Mass Launch

### Fly Either Day\*

1. Rubber Scale (judging at the field)
2. Simplified Scale
2. Dime Scale
3. Embryo Endurance (ROG)
4. Golden Aged Combined
5. FAC 2Bit +1 and Jimmy Allen Combined (ROG)
6. ARF Glider contest total of 3 flights (winch or high start)  
(winch and high start will be provided)

\*All flights must be made on the same day.

### Contest Director

William Scott  
wscott127@mac.com  
(619) 701-2457

### 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



FROM THE WORKBENCH - J.Merrill



Not a tremendous amount of progress since my last report, but I did get a little bit done. Finished up the Guillow's Hawker Typhoon. The lower surfaces are black and white, as was typical for the 1939 Pre-War era, and this was the prototype, hence the light blue upper surfaces.



Got a few little bits attached to the fuselage of the 2xMooney Miles Sparrowhawk from 1935.



Started getting the Neo-Dime scale Chambermaid fuselage framed up as well. Wings and vertical stab are done, fuselage is being cantankerous. →



I've gotten the double nickel Fairchild finished, just need to add a headrest behind the aft cockpit. The kit is one of a series from William Scott's P.T. Aviation.

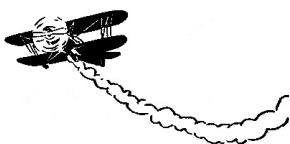


Last but not least, I was able to take my new P-30 "Echo" to the February contest to try a few test hops. I can't say it went spectacularly, but showed a hint of potential. If nothing else, at least I like the way she looks, although it kinda looks like she blew through a McDonald's too quickly!



That's it for this month, hopefully I'll be a little further along on a few of these projects by next month.

So, what's on your workbench?



Lately I have had the joy of building and flying some simple, inexpensive, electric models. Flown at Perris on Orbiteer's contest day, and at a field of weeds in Jacumba. These designs Were easy to trim and beautiful in the glide.



EP-30



E30

Dual Club Annual Contest Photo's - by Arline Bartick



P-30 Mass Launch



Guy Meanno



Justin Martin



Randy Secor



← Gollywock

January 2025 Monthly Photo's - by Arline Bartick



Now that is a strong thermal!  
(Greg Hutchison and David Wade)



David Wade



Mike Pykelny



Kruse family Catapult HL launch



← Stan Buddenbohm



**San Diego Orbiteers**  
**Flying Schedule 2025**  
**Taibi Field Perris, Ca**

<b>Primary Date</b>	<b>Rain Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>CD</b>
January 19	Postponed	P-30/Gliders/Power	
February 16	Feb 23	Coupe/Gliders/Power	
March 23	March 30	OT/NOS Rubber/Gliders/Power	
April 6	April 27	P-30/Gliders/Power	
May 18	May 25	Coupe/Gliders/Power	
June 22	June 29	OT/NOS Rubber/Glider/Power	
July 20	July 27	P-30/Gliders/Power	
August 17	Aug 24	Coupe/Gliders/Power	
September	(need dates)	Free Flight Champions, Lost Hills	
September 21	Sept 28	OT/NOS Rubber/Gliders/Power	
October 19	Oct 26	P30/Gliders/Power	
November 7,8,9		Dual Club, Lost Hills, Ca.	
November 23	Nov 30	Coupe/Gliders/Power	
December 21		Make-up	

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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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San Diego, CA 92117-4622

## THE FINE PRINT THE FINE PRINT

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## ORBITEER WEB SITE

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John Merrill – From the Workbench  
Stan Buddenbohm – Recent Projects



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John Merrill	6, 7
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**New Addition for Power Event**

EP30  
20 Second motor run  
Two-Minute Max

**WHAT'S HAPPENING - MARCH 2025**



- March 23 - San Diego Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly Events: OT / NOS Rubber / Gliders / Power Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, 7:30 am
- March 29-30 - Scale Staffel Outdoor Scale Contest (See enclosed flyer for event details) Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, 8:00 to 11:30 am.
- April 6 - San Diego Orbiteer Outdoor Monthly Events: P-30 / Gliders / Power Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, 7:30 am