

THE MERCED COUNTY RADIO CONTROL CLUB NEWSLETTER

The

S K Y W R I T E R.

VOLUME 6, #3

APR. ISSUE

Jim Crawford, NL Ed. 2006

Seismic??.

Recently, as you drive out to our Flying Field there were some strange sights. There were signs and odd electronic devices positioned in many places around our field. There were wires crossing roads and right in the middle of our "parking lot" there sat a mysterious device festooned with wires and sensors! The signs said, "Seismic devices". If you look in the dictionary, the word "Sesimic" refers to stresses, strains and subterranean conditions related to EARTHQUAKES! If there is an earthquake scheduled for our field, we ought to hear all about it! There was some conjecture that the communication devices used by the secret installers of the secret machines affected the radios in our planes! There didn't seem to be proof either way and nobody quit flying. Some suspicious people believe that they are making an accurate survey of the land around our field. In the case that California falls into the sea, perhaps our field will be the new sea coast! Let's all buy pontoons for our planes so that we'll be ready if it falls off!!

HAW!

There is generally a hassle given to the innocent person who draws the tickets for the Club Raffle. See, the guys who don't win holler nasty comments at the ticket drawer, whoever it is. We once had Donnie's little twin girls draw the numbers and they were suspected of chickanery, too! At the last Meeting, President Bob announced that he would really like to win the gallon of fuel. He then asked if any Member would like to draw the tickets "for the sake of fairness". Member Roger Menke dashed to the ticket container and reached inside to "honestly" select a random ticket. Roger read the number and the entire place fell on the floor

as Roger drew President Bob's number! Haw! It is small things like this that makes good fun!!!

MEETING OF ONE MARCH, 2006

The Meeting started with Pres. Bob whacking the Gavel and Sec reading the Minutes of the last Meet and then Chuck gave the Treas. Report to the twenty Members at hand. Under the Heading of Reports, Treas. mentioned that he had sent out twenty-seven letters requesting Annual Dues from those who had not yet paid. Dues are coming in slowly. There was no Old Business.

Under a Heading of New Business, Pres. Bob mentioned that the Club could use some source of income. Several suggestions were made, some of which were legal and moral. More thought is required on this subject, as the Club will shortly meet major expenses of required road and runway surfacing. Pres. and Members commented on the repeated and constant efforts by Raymond and Richard Loewen to provide a well-kept flying field. All manner of gratitude and appreciation are due to these gentlemen for their dedication to all of us and the field. Pres. spoke on exposure and experience with "*Proctor Models*", the makers of some fine "Museum Quality" models. The details of their expensive kits were of such a high quality that very often, builders were hesitant to cover the models and to hide the accurate and beautiful details of the planes. Their version of the Fokker Eindecker had a fuselage made of round wooden dowels fastened together with glue and tiny nails. These were not "Sports planes"! They cost a bunch --and were worth each penny! Under the Heading of Safety, the extreme vital importance of RX batteries was discussed. The possibility of charging flight batteries on the way to

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the field or after arrival was addressed. Although possible to charge like this, the superior and much more reliable charge is the overnight slow rate charge.

An overnight charge at a proper rate, (C/10) is easier on the battery and is recommended by battery manufacturers. Fast charging is much harder in the battery and may lead to early failure. If the battery fails at home, that is not too bad. If it fails under load in flight, that might be an expensive failure, after which you are going to need a new battery anyway. For peace of mind, it won't hurt a thing to charge your batteries all night before you fly 'em. Experienced Members, Pres., Treas., John and Roger all recommend that you treat the most critical component of our planes with all the care you can muster for your satisfaction in flying your planes safely. There are always some events that can be pointed out as examples of failure to take proper care of the health of our systems and then smashing a neat plane. Your reliable batteries are all that stands between your plane and the Law of Gravity. The "charging jack" is a good thing for most planes, removing the batteries from your plane and charging them in a fire-safe place is the best possible idea for safety. Every once in a while we see pictures or hear stories about burning down a hobby shop or a garage. It is never friction from propellers, ignition of fuel tanks, sparks from wingtips that set things aflame. It is always batteries that make someone call their insurance man! Under the Heading of Show and Tell, Chuck spoke on the occasional need for a special gasket. Because no commercial gasket might be readily available, it is possible to make your own. Chuck demonstrated the equipment; two small flat 1/2" pieces of smooth Formica-faced plywood, four clamps, fiberglass cloth, a hardware store tube of "Permatex" brand black high-temperature

gasket/sealant goo and some waxed paper or thin wrapping plastic. Chuck put a quarter-sized dab of goo on the waxed paper covering one block of wood, then placed a 4"X4" square of glass cloth on the first lil' dab of Permatex goo.

He built a sandwich with 2, 3 or more layers of glass cloth and Permatex. The sandwich is covered with another piece of waxed paper and then the second piece of wood. Clamps are applied to put lots of pressure on the stack and to force the Permatex through the pores of the glass fabric. The material should cure overnight and then may be released to disclose a black piece of rugged, high-temp material easily cut and formed to size for the gasket that you really need, right now. Needless to say, the price of such a home-brew gasket will be a small portion of the price of a custom piece. Chuck has used glass or plywood and heavy weights in the same way for the same purpose. There are more things that you can do than you know now. Only two things are needed: the nerve to start and the guts to finish. The Club Card Drawing disclosed the name of absent Member Stanley Cram, who missed the \$10 prize, which will be \$15 next time. The Raffle was more fun than it usually is because of the entertainment provided by "Honest Roger" Menke as he drew the Pres's ticket!! Roger made a comment befitting the situation and took his seat with a case of the Grumpy Mumbles. Ten Prizes were drawn. One Member had forgotten to bring funds for tickets, he could only buy one—and darn if he didn't win a prize anyway! Please pay your Dues if you haven't done so, Dues are almost the single source of our Treas. input!

TYPHOID MARY

At one time, a woman named "Typhoid Mary" worked as a dishwasher in New York City. She spread the disease all over and

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was eventually arrested and jailed to protect the public. People who spread conditions and habits are referred to as "Typhoid Marys". We have a Typhoid Mary hiding among us in plain sight! Once there was just John Strauss' helicopters at the field. Now there are more copters! The other day, Wed. the 1st, there were more helicopters than planes out there!

John has gone so far as to lend a perfectly fine 'copter to Chuck to fly. The unit was one that Chuck had sold almost twenty years ago and it was still working very well! Member Dick Nalle now has a 'copter too! The need for 'copters is spreading like a disease! Now, we need to tell a tale and we know that it will meet with your disbelief! In order to get Dick Nalle's 'copter to fly, Dick and John seriously sought out a hammer! No hammer was forthcoming, therefore a hatchet was used to repair something necessary to go fly a new 'copter! The details escape me, but this was the first time we ever saw such a rude barnyard tool needed and used to fix a lil' flying machine! What next, a shovel? The point? Beware the company and the sweet words of "Typhoid Mary" John Strauss, lest you be flying a 'copter too! Just imagine how hard it to start your engine by flipping that big propeller spinning around on top of the thing! Jeez!! Oh, you can tell if a 'copter pilot is just learning, 'cause the ship will have about half a dozen tennis balls glued on the skids. That is just an embarrassing sight!!!

"SOMEONE" HEARD THE PRES.!!

At the second monthly Meeting, Pres. Bob asked for ideas on how to arrange an input to the Club Treasury. There were few ideas given, for the old ideas don't work so well anymore. We once made money by operating contests, Pattern events, Pylon Races and stuff like that. There was a "Listener" to Bob's question. A few days

ago, Chuck got an E-mail from a person unknown to us. Mr. Bill Neuman from up north of us called Chuck and said that he had a bunch of model STUFF in his garage and he was going to give it to somebody *or throw it away*. Chuck notified the Sec. (me) and I made calls and arrangements to get the STUFF before it went into the trash. Our deep gratitude to Mr. Neuman for his generous donation,! This is unmatched in our history!

All this material will be auctioned off at the next FunPylonRace at the field. Members are petitioned to bring anything that you want to sell, trade or donate to the Club at this Event. (We would like to ask sellers of their STUFF to make a small donation to the Club as you see fit.) The Race will be operated until noon and the Auction will take place right after that. Among the gifts from Mr. Neuman are kits: FW-190, a Giant Scale Corsair (and an expensive custom metal cowling for it), a Liberty Sport scale biplane, a Super Hot Fun-fly, a Bearcat scale, a Mustang F-51, and a Kiwi. There is enough balsa and plywood to make a full-scale B-29, there is an odd batch of retract mechanisms, props, two PCM Futaba vintage RXs, prop spinners, engine mounts, some fine Rossi Pattern engines, (a couple of them new-in-the-box), a K&B .61, a four-cycle O.S. .48, an old O.S..10, a Torpedo .40, a Quadra Q50, (and big props), a Byron prop speed-reducer for big gas engines on scale planes, five tuned Pattern-type stinger exhausts, an almost complete Pattern plane with Rossi engine and nose retract mounted and wing built, a finished Plane, an RTF Hirobi Helicopter, wheels, a Robart incidence gage, assorted hardware of all kinds, old servos, tools, tanks, some smoke accessories, a field box with control panel and fuel pump, two starters, (one high-torque), a TX carrier, an old TX, clevis packs, pushrods, control horns, hinges and much, much more!! By the time that you

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put all this STUFF on tables along with the STUFF which will be brought by Members, there ought to be a GREAT TIME had by all! Come to the field on Sat. 25th March and bring STUFF and all your excess money for the Auction starting at 12 PM!!!! (The last Auction was sparsely attended, there were not too many things for sale. It may be better to have several small events rather than one large Auction. We will try this new concept for a while.)

It is hard for most of us to imagine the degree of generosity needed to make such a donation as this one. Mr. Newman expressed to me that his wish was that all his property be used best by model airplane builders and pilots who most value his treasures. We can assure him that everything that he gave us will be put to the best use possible by those who know how to get it flying in his honor. Our deep and sincere thanks go out to Mr. Bill Neuman of Delhi for this remarkable gift! (As the concept behind the sale of these items is to make the maximum price possible, some of them might not be as desirable to Members as they once were. The Rossi engines are high-performance Pattern engines perhaps not of the type used by most of our sports fliers. In the case that they are not met with good sale prices, they will be sold to another outlet to maximize their realistic worth.) Please come, bring some of your extra stuff and let's make a buck for your favorite Club!

MEETING #2 MARCH 2006

Pres. Bob whacked the gavel and introed Sec. Jimbo to read the Minutes of the last Meeting. Club Treasurer Chuck Winter submitted his Report and asked for outstanding bills, none surfaced. Under the Heading of Reports, Treas. mentioned that the required AMA Official Club Roster had deleted some Members who have not been current with their Club Dues. These people

have been dropped from the AMA and Club Rosters, from our legal permission to use the Club flying field and Club facilities and from receipt of the Newsletter. Vice Pres. John McAlister made an updating presentation concerning the progress of the Field access road repairs. After the recent rains, the road has reverted to its "natural Winter-time condition", that of an accurate imitation of a B-52 Vietnam bombing strike. Lot'sa holes and bumps and mud! Ptoie for rain on dirt!!!!

Plans are proceeding well and there will be a change to the road as the weather allows. Any work done on the road during the rain does not last long, as has been recently demonstrated (again). John has people, materials and machines lined up to do it right! Some Members spoke on the FunPylonRace and scheduled a race for Saturday, 25th March. Race starts at 0800 and pilots will fly until noon. Pylon Rules have been clarified and will be reviewed at the Race. There was no discussion under Old Business or New Business. Under the Heading of Safety, Members are expected to announce their actions on the runway! Keep all pilots aware of taking the runway, low approach, landings, dead stick and anything else you are doing on the runway! Make sure that your shouts are heard! Treas. related recent adventure where he installed a brand new aileron servo. He got more interested in trying out a new engine than checking the servo. Who would have a reason to expect a new servo of bad operation? Plane got off the ground, ailerons failed and Chuck reverted to old method of flying with "Rudder-only" installations. There was a period wherein the plane was too slow to respond, but Chuck hung in there and managed to get it back on the ground safely. Those who watched the uncontrolled flight thought that the plane would eat it. Chuck is too cheap to crash airplanes that might be

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saved by applications of skill and luck! Members had a fruitful discussion of our battery chargers and the fact that the expensive ones work better than the cheap ones. Well, isn't that special? The most common cause for failure and crashes is bad batteries, bad charges on good batteries, loose wires and allied problems. The great habits of our Members keep this sad fact to a minimum, Thank you! Ask around before you buy your next battery cyclor to be sure to get the best one.

Under the Heading of Show and Tell, Treas. showed method of making light and strong aircraft components. Chuck put a sheet of waxed paper over a smooth board. Paper was coated with Z-poxy and a sheet of thin fiberglass was layed over the liquid. The 'poxy was spread smooth with a credit card and a piece of balsa wood was painted on both sides with 'poxy and laid on the wet glass. Another piece of glass was laid on and smoothed. A piece of waxed paper was laid on and it was topped with a second flat board. Chuck applied six clamps and tightened them to a great pressure. It will cure to a strong composite material for use where great strength and lightness are needed in a plane. The material will cure and will be shown at the next meeting. Some samples were shown and they are strong and light and professional! This can be done with weights and glass with mold release agent if very smooth surfaces are required.

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Come to the FunPylonRace and a great Club AUCTION on Saturday, 25 March!

(Chuck has no trouble demonstrating complex expert procedures at Meetings. He spreads Newspapers and slobbers 'poxy all around and manages to do some things at the Meeting that we would have trouble doing at home.) As a payback for the jocular comments I made about Roger Menke drawing the Pres.' number at the last Meeting, the name drawn for the \$15.00 Club Card Draw was,.. guess who? Right, it was Roger! (What goes around comes around.) Meeting was closed and the Raffle put out nine prizes to happy Members. As a closing comment, my personal compliments go to Member Al Layton. Al not only brings neat scale planes to the field, they all have pilots! Anybody can glue in a stiff plastic Williams Bros. manikin "toy pilot" or a stuffed bunny. Al takes the time to cut, re-position, re-pose and re-equip his ulyra-realistic pilots. Al works with "G.I. Joe" hardware, he puts it to a good use in his fine planes! Great stuff, Al!

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