



## LES WAS REALLY MORE!



We have just completed our annual Les Gustafson Memorial Chilly Fly-In that was created to remember our friend and flying buddy Les Gustafson.

The purpose is to remember Les for one of his favorite pastimes - having fun flying model aircraft with friends. From his teens to his late 60's, Les was an avid modeler who commanded an air force of 23 airplanes in his final flying days. He was a great husband to wife Bette, father to three daughters, and flying buddy and mentor to many others. He flies with us at our annual event. His wife of 44 years, Bette, currently holds two elective offices in our club, thus maintaining the Gustafson contribution to our hobby in a big way. Leslie Benjamin Gustafson, April 10, 1932 – March 31, 2000, thanks for being you and all you have given to us.

**-Exerts from *Who is this "Les" Guy?*  
Summarized by Steve Anderson**

## SUPER DAY - SUPER SHOW

Thanks to the Sonoran Desert Flyers R/C Club and it's volunteers who worked hard to get the field in tip-top shape, provide all the "Fab" Food and the Super R/C Flying and the 'Real Neat' Noon Time Show.

We all enjoyed it very much. Keep up the good work.

**-Les's Family  
Bette, Sandy & Jerry,  
Leslie & Ben, Beth,  
Michelle & Jayson**

## OH WHAT A DAY!

If you didn't join us at the field on Sunday, you just flat missed a heck of a great day.

The field was in great shape, thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard to get all the weeds and holes pulled and patched. We also need to thank all of our Board members for their tireless work on Sunday. I also need to thank **Ken Petrick** for bringing out the grills, chairs, and tables. Without these things, our cooks would have been out of a job. Also a special thanks to **Bill Melcher, Dick Schenz, and Ron Richman** for keeping all those transmitters safe.



We need to give a thank you to the man on the microphone - **Kim Windsor** - for keeping us all entertained and also to the TRCC Special Event Show Team for their combat show and the use of their PA system for the day.



We were also lucky enough to have **Jerry Deebach** come up from Sierra Vista to fly the Flag on his 1/4 scale Cub. Thanks, Jerry. I would also like to thank my co-worker for putting on one heck of a Control-Line Demo. Great job, **Steve Mills!** We also had **John Blum** put on a really cool demo with his pattern plane. Thank you. It was awesome.

I would like to give a very special thanks to our fantastic food committee for the awesome spread of food and drinks. Thank you. An **extra** special thanks to the hardest working person in our club without whom we would not of had any of these fly-ins. Thank you, **Bette Gustafson**. You are the best.

We should also thank all of our guests and members for all the flying and fun. Thank you.

**Tex (Ned)**

## FOOD COMMITTEE REPORT

The Food Committee has done an outstanding job again!

A special thanks to our "In House" gourmet cooks who always do a great job cooking those burgers and hot dogs and to the volunteers who brought all the delicious salads and desserts and who helped serve the lunches. Yes, we can't forget our own Special Chili Cook - AKA - **Jim Parks**. Another superb job, Jim. Thanks so much.

Thanks again, Everyone.

**Bette R. Gustafson**

## ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY IN OUR LITTLE SPOT OF THE WORLD

by Bette R. Gustafson, Secretary/Treasurer

What a beautiful sunny Sunday to have the 4th Annual Les Gustafson Memorial Chilly Fly-In - a nice turnout to see the talented flying from our club pilots and guests, the spectators who enjoyed watching all the antics on the field, and the noontime show. A special treat was the fly-over by the T-28 Mentor trainer flown by **Bud Abrams**. A special thanks for a good show.

A special congrats to the winners of the grand prizes:

**Bill Evens** - Cherokee Plane Kit

**Jim Hilgefard** - Futaba Radio

**Chuck Campbell** - JR Radio

**Gustavo Rodreguez** - Thunder Tiger Engine

**Joanne Willis** - \$100 Cash

And to all the other prize winners including the several Junior pilots who got their first airplanes.

A special thanks to the Food Committee for a job well done - the usual layout of delicious food and all who donated the side dishes and desserts. Thanks to the volunteers who helped **Nick Nichols** get the field ready. It looked superb!!

Thanks goes to **Ken Petrick** and **Don Schubert** for selling the raffle tickets, to **Ken Petrick** and his friend **Norm** (from Canada) for bringing out the grills, tables and chairs, and to **Bill Melcher**, **Dick Schenz** and **Ron Richman** for manning the impound table. Thanks again, everyone!

I would also like to give a special thank you to the local hobby shops: Hobby Barn, Hobby Town, Competition Hobbies and Tucson Hobby for their contributions to our very successful event. Thanks again.

**THANK YOU ALL!**



### FIELD MARSHAL'S REPORT

I would like to thank everyone who showed up for the work party: **Guy Fuller**, **Jim Hilgefard**, **Dick Kern**, **Bob Knutson**, **Bill Melcher**, **Ron Richman**, **Dick Schenz**, **Vern Weimer**, **J.R. Willis**, **Jim Parker**, and **John Willis** (thanks for the donuts). A special thanks to **Ned White** and **Jim Parks** for the extra work they did, and thanks to anybody I might have forgotten to mention. We had the field in great shape for the fly-in.

**Nick**

### ○ WHERE ○ WHERE HAS THE CLUB WEB SITE GONE???

During the past couple of months, our web site, hosted by Duploweb, has been down due to Duploweb's reconstruction of their servers.

The reconstruction is now completed or at least the part that allows us to view the web site. Check it out at [www.sdfrc.org](http://www.sdfrc.org) and see the photos from the 4th Annual Les Gustafson Memorial Chilly Fly-In.

**Steve Anderson,**  
Webmaster

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please send your R/C tips, pictures, ideas, or anything remotely connected with the club or R/C flying to:

[webmaster@sdfrc.org](mailto:webmaster@sdfrc.org)

## PRE-FLIGHT CHECKS

This is a very important part of all types of Flying from Models to Full Scale.



I have found myself skipping over this very important part of going to the field. It's not smart or safe. We need to be looking over these aircraft as if we were to be in them. Would you fly in a full-size aircraft that had not been checked over? I don't think so! Now, it's no less important for our models. Our lives and others lives may depend on it.

Now here's what happened to one of our Club Trainers the other week: I charged the batteries and took the model out to the field to help train new students. I very quickly looked the airframe over, strapped the wing on and went flying. All was just fine until the wing folded and the plane slammed hard on its side in the desert. It's really hard to control an airplane when your wings are stuffed inside the radio compartment. Now had I done a better job of looking the aircraft over, I may have noticed that the spar was about to come out of the wing. I was just very lucky that the plane crashed in the desert and not over the pits.

Now I do look over my airplane much harder even before they get into my truck. And when I take them out at the field, I'll check over the aircraft again. We should never overlook the pre-flight inspection. Never!

**Once Bitten,  
Ned**

### NEW FLYING SITE ACQUISITION COMMITTEE REPORT

Some progress has been made in seeking a new flying site. There has been a meeting with City of Marana officials who have received our presentation, understand our needs, and are actively involved in seeking a suitable site for our future use. We viewed one potential site and although it was ideal for a flying field, since the land was developable, as was the adjacent farm land, it would provide no long term solution. Another location which was discussed may prove to be a better candidate as it would be a part of a large recreational land development by the City of Marana. As such, it should provide a more permanent location. Marana officials have implied that the SDF flying site is being included in the future planning of this large area of recreational development. The committee has not yet viewed this site - which should be the next action. We are awaiting a call from Marana before we can determine the acceptability of the area for a flying site.

**- Charlie Sides**

## SHOPPING THE HOBBY

Man, we sure are lucky here in Tucson, Az. I think we have some of the best flying weather year round. Summers are a little hot, but our winters are just awesome. Which brings me to my point - when we need to get things from the hobby shops to keep us flying, boating or racing our cars, we've several shops to choose from, not to mention the mail order shops. What I would like to talk about is our local shops.

The folks who own these shops are some of the hardest working people I know. Their work seems to never be done: Check stock in, wait on customers, order this part, stock that part, talk to the supply house and make an order, pay this COD, hold that bill. These folks have a very challenging job in the hobby shop.

Thank goodness there are people who are willing to do what it takes to make our hobbies fun and convenient for folks like us (modelers). We need to give these shops as much of our business as we can, because if we don't support these good people, we will lose out on a very important part of our hobby. It's very hard to get a mail order phone jockey to give you advice or help with a new project you may have. For me it is just fun to walk up and down the aisles of the shop to see what is new. In most cases, if you don't see that new item on those shelves, the shop owners/employees will order it for you. Usually, this only takes a few days to get - about the same as it does to order from a catalog except you will get personal service and support from your local shop.

Speaking of service, the shops we have in town are very good to our clubs when it comes to donating. The shop owners seem to be more than happy to give to an event when we (clubs) ask for help with prizes, but we as clubs need to give the shop owners a month or two advance notice. So get out and support these guys! - Ned

### HOBBY SHOPS

**Competition Hobbies**  
3930 W. Costco Drive  
Phone: 297-8162  
M,T,Th,F: 10 AM - 7 PM  
Wed: 10 AM - 9 PM  
Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM  
Sun: 12 AM - 4 PM

**Hobby Town USA (South)**  
3700 E. Speedway (at Dodge)  
Phone: 882-8888  
M,T,Th,F: 10 AM - 7 PM  
Wed: 10 AM - 9 PM  
Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM  
Sun: 12 AM - 5 PM

**Hobby Barn**  
7025 E. 21st Street  
Phone: 747-3633  
Mon-Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM  
Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM

**Tucson Hobby Shop**  
5525 E. Pima Road  
Phone: 326-8006  
Mon-Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM  
Sun: 12 Noon - 5 PM

**Hobby Town USA (North)**  
485 E. Wetmore Road  
Phone: 888-9777  
Mon-Sat: 10 AM - 7 PM  
Sun: 11 AM - 5 PM



## HERITAGE HIGHLANDS RC MODELERS GROUP FORMED

**Bill Hunchis** and **Charlie Sides** held a kick-off meeting in December to determine if sufficient interest existed to initiate a Special Interest Group of R/C modelers made up of residents of the Heritage Highland Community. John Willis was invited to describe the Sonoran Desert Flying Club and to define the benefits of Club membership and AMA membership. There were 11 attendees at this initial meeting. Attendance has remained about the same at each monthly meeting since.

The agendas for these meetings have in general consisted of the following:

- Dec Mtg - What does it take to get into the R/C hobby?
  - Introduction to the Sonoran Desert Flyers
  - Show & Tell with various models on display
- Jan Mtg - Recommended Purchases to get going in R/C hobby
  - Special Purchase package available from Competition Hobbies
  - Show & Tell using various Trainer type models on display
- Feb Mtg - Assembly of the new Hobbico SuperStar RTF models & pre-flight checks
  - Great Planes Flight Simulator Demonstration and hands-on flying
- Mar Mtg - Monokote covering instructions and demonstration
- Apr Mtg - The plan is to discuss the various R/C radio Transmitter types & capabilities

*Interested modelers gather for a group photo at the first meeting of Heritage Highlands RC group held in December 2001. Most, but not all of these people, (plus some not pictured) are now members of SDF. John Willis made a presentation at the meeting on behalf of SDF, all others pictured reside in Heritage Highlands. Pictured from left to right are: Front row: Frank Snook, Robert Steinway, Walt Smolenski, Bill Hunchis, and Charlie Sides. Back row: Don Ursem, Dave McComb, Don Swisher, John Willis, Ray Osowski, and Jim Parker.*



These monthly get togethers have been fun and beneficial and we hope as Heritage Highlands grows so will the interest in R/C modeling. To date there are nine active SDF from Heritage Highlands.

- Charlie Sides

### GIVE ME A BREAK

Now I know that we must have rules to help give order to an organization, but sometimes you need to be not so strict with rules. I've heard several people complain about how some folks have jumped down their throat over some of the rules we have at our club.



Sure, maybe these guys did break some of our bylaws, rules, but whoever it was who told the violator could have done so in a more diplomatic way. Remember, there is more than one way to skin a cat!

We are all out at the field to have fun and to get away from some of the BS of living. So when we see something that's not *Safe* or is just *Wrong*, use some *Tact* and a *Smile* to tell the person. You'll get more bees with honey than with vinegar!

**Silver Tongue,  
Ned**

### FIRST FLIGHT GONE AWRY

Well, once again the crash monster got a hold of me. Three Sundays ago I was to fly my new **Dave Patrick Extra 330L**. I had taken so much caution in all that I did and followed all my checklists, etc. I know that some of you out there have done this before, but I will talk about it and it hurts. I programmed my ailerons backwards. Well, I did not crash right away. I flew it and it was not fun, very intense thinking on training your hand to do what we have been training it to do only backwards. I managed to get it back over the runway but with wind blowing. The plane was very light - 23 lbs. I had to make another try at it but just could not get it back around.

That was the hardest flight I have ever had so a bit of advice to ME is always have your Bubba look things over before your first flight. Four eyes are much better than two. TRUST ME. DO NOT PUT YOURSELF IN THIS POSITION - EVER!!!!!!

**-John Willis II**