



THE SONORAN DESERT FLYER

WEB VERSION

FALL 2003

CLUB OFFICERS 2003

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Vice-President

Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer

Bette Gustafson

Safety Marshal

Jim Hilgefors

Field Marshal

Chris Rose

(Acting)

Head Flight Instructor

Keith Koppos

Newsletter Editor

Steve Anderson

FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS

Bill Evens

Guy Fuller

Dave Hargrove

Jim Hilgefors

Bill Hunchis

Bob Knutson

James Parker

Ned White

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

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

Steve Anderson
470 E. Deers Rest Place
Tucson, AZ 85704
or
webmaster@sdfrc.org

NEWSLETTER COMPILED BY:

Marianne M. Anderson

FROM THE PREZZZ

HELLO EVERYONE . . .

As many of you know, John Willis Sr. has resigned as the President of Sonoran Desert Flyers and as Vice-President I have assumed the duties of President. In addition to John's resignation, the club also received the resignations of Nick Nichols as Field Maintenance Officer, Bill Melcher, Dick Schenz, and John Willis as Flight Instructors. This occurred during the week prior to August 23rd.

The special meeting held at the field on the 23rd was attended by 38 club members and I want to thank all of you who showed up. While there is still much to do to mend hard feelings, I felt that people for the most part wanted to move forward with a positive attitude and I thank all of you for that.

During the meeting I appointed six people to a nominating committee and also asked for members to volunteer for the committee. The following six members accepted the appointments; Bill Evens, Steve Anderson, Guy Fuller, Steve Knepper, Gustavo Rodriquez, Ken Petrick and Jan Kvilvang volunteered for the committee.

I asked the nominating committee to return the names of two candidates for both the office of Vice-President and Field Maintenance Officer within two weeks. As of Aug 30th I had received the names of three candidates for each office.

I want to thank the committee for aggressively tackling this task and returning a list of candidates whom I believe represent a good cross section of our club.

I also very much appreciate and want to thank the candidates who accepted the nominations. May the best man win!!!

Also this past weekend Keith Koppos soloed two new pilots, Jeff Doyle and Scott Burke. Congratulations guys. (Note: Keith also had his sights on another guy, but he got away when Keith wasn't looking).

Hope to see all of you at the field for our next meeting which is the 20th of September.

**JIM MORRIS,
PRESIDENT**

MEETING/ELECTION NOTICE!

There will be a special election on September 20, 2003, at 8:00 AM to fill vacant officer positions for the 2003 term. Officers elected in this special election will serve through December 2003 and be replaced on January 1, 2004, by those elected in the December general election. *See the enclosed candidate sheet and ballot.* Please bring a completed ballot to the field for the election. If you can't make it that day, ballots can be mailed to the club address printed on the ballot.



FUN TOOL

After the election and any club business, an informal members-only fun fly will take place. Events will be categorized so that the friendly competition will be with other pilots of like skill level, and prizes will be awarded. Look for a prize suggestion sheet on the shed between now and the event. This will be a great opportunity to get together and kick off the fall season (and hopefully some cooler weather).

THANK YOU!

I recently received a letter of thank you from Joyce Hager, Executive Director of AMA. It seems that one of our club members has donated \$10.00 to the site development fund in the name of our club. Here is her letter in part:

“On behalf of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc., thank you for your \$10.00 donation toward the site development fund, received on May 28, 2003.

Because the Academy is an educational and scientific 501(C)3 non-profit organization, your contribution is tax-deductible. I hope you will convince others that the Academy and the museum are now undertaking projects that are important and should be supported by as many individuals as possible.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Joyce Hager
Executive Director”

I would like to personally Thank the member who made the donation.

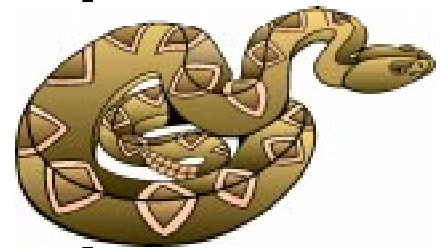
BETTE R. GUSTAFSON
SECRETARY/TREASURER

SAFETY

Diamondback Rattle Snakes like our field too. They also like to hang out in places hard to see, such as under cars where they are within striking distance of passing legs. Fortunately, the 3-4 foot rattler that lurked under one of the cars parked next to the pit last week was not too aggressive and rattled rather than struck.

The message — be vigilant!! Look as you walk by cars and watch out also when walking backwards while conducting a range check. Those darn snakes match our dirt perfectly and are hard to see. You can easily threaten it enough to cause a strike before you even know it’s there.

... EDITOR



WELCOME!



I would like to welcome the following new members to Sonoran Desert Flyers:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Jeff Doyle | Robert Steinway | John Santy |
| Jack Finn | James Stroup | Bruce Parraga |
| Dave Holtz | Don Ursem | Hans Brosbol |
| Larry Johnston | Don Weber | Garrett Parker |
| Bob Meder | Alan Nickerson | Marlin Kinning |
| Russell Bratka | | |

Welcome back—Jan Kvilvang and Jay Kvilvang!

Please enjoy happy and safe flying.

Til I see you at the field,
BETTE R. GUSTAFSON
SECRETARY/TREASURER

SDF ON THE WEB

After some period during the early part of the year when our club web server was down, our presence on the Internet is now pretty reliable. The web provides a cost effective (one year is a fraction of the cost of one newsletter) means of making late-breaking and reference club information available to members who have access to the internet and non-members interested in RC flying in Tucson.

Sooo..... If you haven’t been there for awhile or have forgotten the address, check it out. The address (URL) is easy to remember if you think of **S**onoran **D**esert **F**lyers **R**adio **C**ontrol and we are a non-profit **O**RGanization not a company on the **W**orld **W**ide **W**eb. When put together it’s: WWW.SDFRC.ORG.

STEVE ANDERSON
WEBMASTER

SITE COMMITTEE REPORT

by the Site Acquisition Committee

The site committee, with the help of AMA, began early in the year determining the focus of efforts and identifying a vast array of issues that need to be considered. Discussions with Pima County identified the city of Marana as the dominant coordinator of recreation use of public land in our northwest area of interest. Furthermore, Marana has been in a planning phase, so it has been essential to get our recreational pastime included in their plan before the plan is finished. Therefore, working with Marana has occupied the majority of our effort so far.

One of the possibilities is to use a portion of the future 500-acre park that will be on both sides of Avra Valley road about a mile East of Sandario road. If and when the land that we are presently using is sold, we would like to have an alternate site already spoken for and an agreement in place for the new location. There are numerous restrictions and requirements to address before an agreement can be consummated. For example, each RC airfield must be at least three miles from each other to prevent frequency interference. AMA requires this three-mile separation (or some sort of frequency sharing so that nearby clubs don't use the same frequency) and there are two or three other RC clubs in the Avra Valley area. Their location must be located exactly before any site is considered for our use. There are other regulations that must be followed around active airports for the safety of the full-scale airplanes as well as RC airplanes. We are investigating the requirements and will provide you with periodic updates as they become available. This process is not an over night project and may take some time to finalize. The park is not scheduled for construction for 3 to 5 years, which also requires us to have an alternate plan if it is necessary. We are in the first phase of this project. For those of you who have heard the rumor that the field is sold, we have not received any such notice.

To date, we have accurately located the other RC fields and plotted the 3-mile circles on the map. The corner of the future park area originally identified by Marana officials for an RC field was just barely inside the 3-mile distances from each of the two other RC fields (SAGE and Avra Valley Flyers) and had several other

disadvantages (along with some advantages). An alternate location has been identified in another corner of the future park, and an RC field with flight pattern has been tentatively laid out. The site committee will be surveying that area with GPS soon to assess the suitability for an RC airfield. Preparation may be the problem with this site as there is currently no road access. If suitable, we must get Marana's approval. Marana officials have identified another potential area as well that may require less preparation; however, adjacent land is slated for development in the next few years, and we would probably have to move again. Marana park land isn't the only option, just the first to be explored because of the urgency to get in on the planning.

John Willis Sr. contacted Jim Adams who is with the Arizona State Land Department in Phoenix regarding a possible lease of state land. Mr. Adams informed us that the state budget is very tight and the land department is under staffed. The backlog now is about two years to look at any new possible leases, and that is considering no new application. John asked if we applied now would we be considered in two years, and he explained how the system works. It is not on a descending order list. It is on a list of who is the biggest buyer or leaser list. And he suggests that we may never be looked at because of the small dot of land that we would apply for. He suggested that we should look elsewhere for property. This option appears to be a dead end.

Next we consider BLM land and also private land. Private land probably bears the highest risk of falling to development in the near future but may be graded farm land with little preparation investment.

We have worked hard, but it's hard to find a place as suitable as we have now. You can see from the discussion above that we have yet to find a really good location but we may be able to come up with something if asked to move soon. If anyone can suggest an area we should investigate, please make a suggestion to the Site Committee or any officer.

STEVE ANDERSON, JOHN WILLIS, SR.
SITE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS

We appreciate the generosity of two donors of equipment to the club. Jeff Orach donated RC planes and equipment to the club and Brady Buckley donated a complete electric glider system ready to fly. Both read about our club in recent newspaper articles (see separate article).

... Editor

TIMPA ACCESS CHANGES!

R. Michael Cummins, President of the Tucson International Modelplex Park Association (TIMPA) briefed us at our August 23, 2003, meeting regarding changing access policies at the TIMPA field. Unlike our field which is locked when not occupied, TIMPA has not been locked. Some reckless flyers have taken advantage of the always-open TIMPA to disregard safety rules and generally create a liability risk to the association as well as a safety risk to themselves and others present. Some of these flyers are not AMA members and therefore not covered by AMA insurance.

To reduce safety and liability risks the TIMPA field will be gated in the future and access will be restricted to those having a coded access card. Dr. Cummins emphasized the association's goal to maintain TIMPA as a resource open to all responsible flyers. The new policy will try to make it as easy as possible to use the field while reducing risks.

Access cards will be available to any AMA member



TIMPA Field on Reservation Road

willing to abide by TIMPA's rules. An initial one-time purchase price of \$5 will be charged. The card will expire (stop opening the gate) with the holder's AMA membership but can be renewed for no charge by verifying AMA

membership for the next year. Daily or annual usage charges will be the same. TIMPA will buy the card back if in good condition when the owner no longer desires access the TIMPA facility.

Facility users opening the gate are to close it after their car and not let following cars in. Each flyer should have their own card, even if arriving in the same vehicle. A user opening the gate when the TIMPA safety officer is not present becomes the acting safety officer and is responsible for anyone coming in on their card.

This policy has not yet been implemented yet but will be put into effect soon.

More details are being worked out and will be printed here when available.

. . . EDITOR



Keith Koppos' 1918 Italian Caproni 42 Bomber at the last Fun Fly



H O B B Y S H O P S

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 Barn

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

Hobby Town USA (North)

485 E. Wetmore Road
Phone: 888-9777
Mon-Sat: 10 AM - 7 PM
Sun: 11 AM - 5 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

Tucson Hobby Shop

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

HINTS AND TIPS



Drilling Wing Bolt Holes

Many airplanes, particularly warbirds, have a belly pan under the wing that makes getting to the wing bolts a bit tricky. Most kits have you drill a hole in the belly pan sheeting and use the supplied paper tube to create a conduit for inserting and removing the wing bolts. The problem is the paper tube is barely large enough to go over the head of the bolt. If you change to a different type of bolt later or don't get the tube aligned just right, you have a problem.

You can usually take care of this by using a 3 x 5" index card. Drill a hole in the belly pan sheeting directly over the wing bolt holes. Make this hole as large as necessary to accommodate the type of bolt you wish to use. You can use a coin of the appropriate size to mark the outline of the hole. Then, use your hobby knife or a Dremel tool to remove the material. Wrap the index card around a wooden dowel that is smaller than the hole. Insert the card and dowel into the hole and remove the dowel. Be sure the card is touching the wing bolt plate. The rolled up card will expand nicely and should conform to the hole you drilled. Glue the tube in with CyA and sand it flush with the sheeting. If the holes are anywhere near the exhaust, it is a good idea to fuelproof them with resin or fuelproof paint.

from *Mission Briefing*
Magic Valley Air Force
Gary Nelson, editor
Jackson TN

Emergency Patching

Sometimes a taxi mistake or a soft landing results in minor damage, such as a hole poked in the wing covering material. Your aircraft is flyable except for that hole. To handle this problem, carry some denatured alcohol in a small, plastic container and a roll of scotch tape. Using a paper towel, clean the patch area with the alcohol to get rid of all oil. The oil film will keep the tape from sticking. Clean the area twice. Wait a couple minutes and apply the scotch tape to seal the hole. I have an old Ugly Stik that I use to break in 2-cycle engines, and it has several scotch tape patches that have held up for years. Caution: Don't use regular rubbing alcohol as it has some oil in it that will leave enough film to prevent the tape from sticking properly.

from *The Beacon*
Miramar Radio Control Flyers of MCAS Miramar
Dick Doucet, editor
San Diego CA

Gluing on Canopies

Before gluing on your airplane's canopy, put a small hole in some obscure place to allow air circulation under the canopy. This will keep your canopy from popping off in the summer when the air inside expands or from collapsing in the winter when the air shrinks.

All articles above are from the AMA national newsletter, May 2003.

OUR CLUB IN THE NEWS

The Sonoran Desert Flyers was the topic of two newspaper articles this summer. The first, in the *Arizona Daily Star*, addressed our search for a new field as well as general information relating to the club. The reporter, Susanne Canizo, came out to the field to talk to members and even gave flying a try herself. The second, in the *Tucson Citizen*, was a father's day article and highlighted RC flying as a father-son activity. This very nice *Tucson Citizen* article was written by one of our own members, Chuck Graham.

Both articles were part of an outreach to the community in our search for a new field in the event we are asked to move from our current location. We did receive some site acquisition guidance as a



Jim Hilgefjord (right) does a low pass for the "Star" photographer (left)

result of the articles, but it wasn't helpful. We also received donations of RC equipment from newspaper readers (see separate article).

Please note that we have not been asked to move! But the area will be developed sooner or later, and we must be prepared. It takes time to find a new place (see article by the Site Committee).

Some concern has come from the membership regarding the landowner's potential reaction to news stories. We will have to further review future news coverage from the standpoint of the risk of losing the club flying site versus the rewards of establishing ourselves as a beneficial part of the Marana community to obtain a new flying site. . . . **EDITOR**



P.O. Box 35127
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