

PCC Newsletter



March 2012

Next Meeting:

March 21st, 2012

AMA Chartered Club # 139

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WHAT'S HAPPENING @ PCC



**Alonzo Richardson
turned 95 on
March 5th,
Happy Birthday!!**

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ AMA

President signs FAA bill, includes protection for model aviation.

Last week, Congress passed the first FAA Reauthorization bill in more than four years. The Bill included a special provision for model aircraft protecting it from FAA regulations.

Signed last night by President Obama, the special provision in the Bill recognizes community-based safety programming as an effective means of managing the modeling activity. The model aircraft section establishes minimum criteria for safe aeromodeling operations and specifically directs the FAA to not enact rules for modeling activity conducted within the safety programming of a nationwide community-based organization.

The culmination of AMA's efforts over the past four years in achieving this recognition and obtaining the legislative safeguard is a great accomplishment for the aeromodeling community. This recognition will help with our continuing

efforts with the FAA to improve safety in the national airspace.

Recognition is also due to the tens of thousands of AMA members who went the extra mile by writing their congressional leaders, making phone calls, and supporting the AMA with donations used for this campaign. Continue to monitor <http://www.modelaircraft.org/gov> for further details.

SEC. 336. SPECIAL RULE FOR MODEL AIRCRAFT.

(a) In General- Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to the incorporation of unmanned aircraft systems into Federal Aviation Administration plans and policies, including this subtitle, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may not promulgate any rule or regulation regarding a model aircraft, or an aircraft being developed as a model aircraft, if--

- (1) the aircraft is flown strictly for hobby or recreational use;
- (2) the aircraft is operated in accordance with a community-based set of safety guidelines and within the programming of a nationwide community-based organization;
- (3) the aircraft is limited to not more than 55 pounds unless otherwise certified through a design, construction, inspection, flight test, and operational safety program administered by a community-based organization;
- (4) the aircraft is operated in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to any manned aircraft; and
- (5) when flown within 5 miles of an airport, the operator of the aircraft provides the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport) with prior notice of the operation (model aircraft operators flying from a permanent location within 5 miles of an airport should establish a mutually-agreed upon operating

procedure with the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower (when an air traffic facility is located at the airport)).

(b) Statutory Construction- Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Administrator to pursue enforcement action against persons operating model aircraft who endanger the safety of the national airspace system.

(c) Model Aircraft Defined- In this section, the term 'model aircraft' means an unmanned aircraft that is--

- (1) capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere;
- (2) flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft; and
- (3) flown for hobby or recreational purposes.

PREZ SEZ

Mike Solaegui

Lots of action at the new and improved field, 25 members a few Sundays ago with about 20 planes up, Yeah!

AMA pulled through for us. Congress is leaving us pretty much alone to self regulate as we have done for many years. Seems that private and commercial use of Drones had to be dealt with.

Darwin Allen is pre building a bench for our charging station, we have the batteries and generator, still need solar panels.

Stephen Williams has come u with a better field camera, using a cell phone set to up load to the web every 10 minutes with much less current draw than the old set up.

SACRATS is interested in a Home/ Home exchange fly in, they will love our field, we will get it going.

Greg Romine reported 90 plus paid up members as of the last meeting, that's almost enough to float our boat or rather provide enough air under PCC's wings for the year.

Ray Quintal has offered up a trip to the dumps again, start a pile near the shed.

Roger Pena says hello to all, he splits his flying time between Nicaragua and here.

Mike

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Dennis Lowry

February 15, 2012

Call to Order: By Oliver Salles (Mike Solaegui called in from home, in bed, with ruptured disk in his back. Take it easy Mike, and heal.)

Guests: None would admit to being so.

Raffle Prize: A Small and Fast Bind & Fly from J&M: A Pole-Cat from Park Zone.

- Eric and John made a big donation to general fund.

Treasurers Report:

- The General Fund is Healthy.
- The Field Assessment Fund is now sufficient to repay the CD for the work done in 2011.

Membership Report: 91

- We need to recruit more members in order to secure our yearly lease agreement with the landlord.

Safety Report:

- Good Flying and Safe Pilots have been observed by the membership present.

Field Report:

- The field is perfect but . . .
- We need 5 Gallon Buckets for nails
- Mike P. suggests plastic covers for tables
- Clothes Pins need to be glued to the box for the frequency control.

Flight Proficiency:

Ellsworth would like a board resolution in order to move forward with the program. It is a good program that promotes the sport, and the health of the club, but it requires judges who know the prescribed flying patterns and are willing to teach them to more novice fliers. It also comes with a price to the club that's associated with the badges and patches earned by the pilots participating.

Events:

- **Dream Machines April 28 and 29.** Ray will put together a list of those who can commit to coming out and manning the booth for next month's meeting. This is a good chance to stay part of the community, and some of our strongest members have been recruited at this event. If you have a model you can talk with veterans or kids about, you should attend.
- **Oceana Interim March 26-30.** Ken Martinez and Dennis Lowry are looking for instructors who can help talk with High School students and show them anything about modeling. Dave Santana is planning an engine demonstration. Ethan Jug has volunteered to help instruct for the whole five day event.
- Lake Hennessey Float Fly had 20 members and no crashes. See the article below.

Old Business:

- AMA's First Person Video Rules as reported by Steve Williams:
- Two people must fly together on a buddy box with the primary flier using no goggles.

- The range is limited is to the maximum of the primary pilot's visual field of vision.
- The flight path is limited to the flight site's rules and regulations. That is, no flying over the pits, or over the highway, in our case.
- The maximum weight and speed is 10 pound x 60 mph top speed.

New Business:

- Is there a club trainer? Oliver says he would like to look into it and make sure there is a trainer available. If you can help, call him.

Show and Tell:

- Jake's Gee Bee w/ Gyro. Nice little indoor/outdoor ship with fancy spinner nut.
- Tim's Kits for sale:
Fock Wulf - 190
Sky Shark short kit with spinner.
- Two silent auction kits from Kirk Phaling
- Greg R.'s foamy w/ lipo batteries, special power-2-weight ratio, and wheels. (Your Stanford dollars at work!)
- Ray's nice looking Lear Jet, w/ Hobby King retracts. Painted with foam safe paint at \$6.00 a can! A little can at that!!!
- Carlos showed a beautiful Revolver. 2.4 gig receiver with Lipo batteries. Super Tiger 90 for thrust. 15 Flights so far. In the straight vertical it tucks in a little. Lands hot. He says, "Pretty good airplane." AND a little helicopter with everything included for one flight. That's all most folks ever need.

Adjourned

And the raffle was held.

Dennis Lowry

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

- 4** *March Newsletter material submission dateline.*
- 21** *PCC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Dave Chetcuti Rm, Millbrae*
- 31** *Lake Hennessey Float Fly, Napa, Ca.*
- 31** *8th Annual IMAC, Salinas Area Modelers.*

April

- 1** *No Fooling! Newsletter material submission dateline.*
- 14** *SCCMAS Spring Swap Meet, SCCMAS, Morgan Hill.*
- 18** *PCC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Dave Chetcuti Rm, Millbrae*
- 21.22** *SBSS Los Banos Scale Fun Fly, Los Banos Reservoir*
- 28.29** *Pacific Coast Dream Machine, HMB Airport, HMB*
- 29** *May Newsletter material submission dateline*
- 27.29** *Giant Scale fly in @ Salinas Area Modelers.*

May

4-29 *Newsletter material submission dateline*

5.6 *Pattern By The Bay, BARCS, Richmond*

16 *PCC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Dave Chetcuti Rm, Millbrae*

18.20 *Heli Jamboree, SCCMAS, Giroy,*

24.27 *IMAA West Coast Mini-Fest, Castle Airport, Atwater*

LAKE HENNESSEY FLOAT FLY.

Jake Chichilitti

Date line: February 4th, 2012



Ellsworth and I arrived at the lake about 9:45 and there were already several cars in the parking lot and our retrieval boat was already inflated and ready to go. I guess we had some early birds that were anxious to get flying.

As it turned out we had twenty pilots and probably thirty or more floatplanes in attendance. The weather was perfect all day and after a chilly morning the temperature climbed into the comfortable 60s.

Lots of good flying all morning and I got to test fly the new Icon A5 float plane that was brought by one of the PCC members for a maiden flight. It handles very nicely on the water and in the air.

The highlight of the day was Keith Costas' PMB Mariner which spans 100 inches and weighed approximately 17 lbs. It is made from blue foam and sheeted and fiber glassed. The power comes from two O.S. .52 four stroke engines and has on board ignition. The plane is nicely weathered and looked great. After a bit of engine tuning Keith gave the OK to put it in the lake for some taxi testing. Everything went well and after one aborted take off he got it on the step and was airborne. What a great sound and look in the air, just spectacular! After a couple of trim passes he brought it down for the photo passes. It's very realistic in the air and flew very smoothly. Keith is one good pilot. The landing was uneventful and a round of applause was given in appreciation for a great flight. Keith took a breather and later in the day he flew it again just to prove it wasn't luck the first time. It wasn't, the second flight was as good as the first and Keith wasn't as nervous this time. I hope he brings it up to the lake again, great job Keith!

Anyway it was a great day and only had a few minor dunking and no crashes. At about four o'clock we folded up the boat and headed to Big D's in Napa for some food and drinks.

A note from Keith:

The PBM Mariner was built by Martin and first flown in 1939. This particular model is a PBM-3 and was designed by Keith Sparks. It has a 101" wingspan with a fuselage length of 75". The model is built from blue foam and is fiber glassed with 3/4 oz glass and painted with Perfect paint. It flies on (2) O.S. 52 four strokes has a standard 5 channel configuration running on 2.4 GHz. Recently an onboard ignition system from Switchglo (<http://www.switchglo.com/>) was added. I have not officially weighed the aircraft but it is very light for its size. My guess is it weighs in less than 16 lbs.

Thanks to all the folks who showed up and made it such a wonderful time and thanks to Ray Squires for lugging the boat and motor and stuff to the lake for us to use.

See you next time,

Jake



Keith with the Mariner.



John's Sikorsky 3-39 flying boat.



Eric lands the Seawind EP. (note the wind condition!!)



People and models everywhere!!



More people and more models.....

MORE FLOAT FLY AT HENNESSEY!

Jake, the Float Master

Ray Squires is planning on a float fly event at Lake Hennessey on Saturday March 31. You are all invited to join us. We will have a retrieval boat. There are rest rooms at the boat dock, but that is about the only thing there. You need to bring a chair, water, lunch, etc.

We usually start flying around 9:30 or 10:00 and stay until 15:00 or so.

I will send out an email on Wednesday March 28 with a weather report and confirm if we are going.

For those of you not familiar with the lake it is located near Rutherford on Hwy 128 also known as Sage Canyon Rd.

We had great weather the last two float flies and hopefully that trend will continue.



Martin's Seamaster (Submariner?) landing.



Someone try to keep his feet dry at all costs!



Ray's LearJet flyby for the camera.



Greg's offset motor mounted to eliminate side-thrust issue.



Albert's turbine powered Mig on approach.



Peninsula Channel Commanders

113 Starlite Drive,
San Mateo, Ca 94402
<http://flypcc.org>

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 21st, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

J&M

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