

PCC NEWSLETTER

PENINSULA CHANNEL COMMANDERS INC.



November 2012

Next Meeting:

November 21st, 2012

AMA Chartered Club # 139

Web Site: <http://flypcc.org/>

Field Phone: 650-712-4423

President	Mike Solaegui	415-314-6261	mikes@perfectedgecutlery.com
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Editor/Flight Proficiency Chairman	Brian Chan	650-867-8813	pcceditor@gmail.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING @PCC

The rain is here and the field is turning green again. The weather is cooler but it is dry. I was there with Jim R. last Friday and we were the only souls there. The flying was great and the wind is calm. The temperature is around 55°F, so don't go too early. We went to the field after a good breakfast! Days after the rain are not bad at all. This is *California*; we don't stop flying after Halloween! Our flying season is as long as the building season, 12 months long!

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Mike Solaegui

29 members in attendance. No Guest

Minutes approved.

Raffle prize donated by Pete Johnson, a pretty close to ready to fly high wing with floats. J and M Hobby house donated a Vapor with lights.

SCRATS first annual invitational fly PCC is Saturday Oct 20, Ray Granz offered the cook the burgers.

Treasurer says we are OK.

Membership is 106 plus a few on the cusp.

November 3 is both Lake Hennessey Float Fly and Tomcats Swap Meet.

Indoor flying participation at Oceana HS is dropping below the go or no go level; let's use it, first Thursday.

Matt Abrams lost a big Gasser in Stockton at the annual "Huckfest", better known as a place to break planes.

Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City will be the site for our Holiday party, January 19th.

Matt Abrams is using a newer Go Pro high Res camera with Slo-motion with remote viewing.

Greg Romine showed a new ARF Ugly Stick, as usual the Physics master can fly and charge at the same time.

Mike for Dennis Lowery

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Yes, how time flies when you are having fun! It is that time again, slowly approaching Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas! It is time to renew your PCC and AMA membership.

Renew your AMA membership now in order to get the 2012 Card before January. AMA renewal can be done online @

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/joinrenew.aspx>

You will need the 2013 AMA license to renew your 2013 PCC membership, NO EXCEPTION.

You can also visit <http://www.modelaircraft.org> to learn about special options for AMA members including alphanumeric AMA numbers.

When you receive your 2013 AMA card, mail a copy of it along with your **\$125.00** (\$100.00 membership fee + \$25.00 field surcharge) check made out to "PCC" to:

**PCC Treasurer
1779 Woodland Ave., Ste. #28
Palo Alto, CA 94303**

Or bring your AMA card and a check (or cash!) to the next PCC meeting (save you 45 cents and an envelope!) **Dues are \$125.00 if paid before the New Year, \$135.00 after January 1st 2013. It will be \$145.00 if paid after February 1st!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

3 *Tomcat Swap Meet, SCCMAS Morgan Hill.*

3 *Lake Hennessey Float Fly, J. Chichilitti*

11 *Veteran's Day.*

21 *PCC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Dave Chetcuti Rm, Millbrae
2013 PCC Membership Due. Pay at meeting.*

22 *Thanksgiving Day.*

December

19 *PCC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Dave Chetcuti Rm, Millbrae
2013 PCC Membership Due. Pay at meeting.*

25 *Christmas Day. Merry Christmas*

January 2013

19 *PCC Holiday Party at Harry's Hofbrau, Redwood City.*

THE PCC-SACRC FUN FLY

Mike Solaegui

Forty pilots made it out to the PCC Field on Saturday, the 20th of October. The sky opened up just after noon and flying was great with only 3 to 5 MPH of wind with a little cross.

The food was great and we hosted about 15 SACRATS members. Even Mr. Rico Dalmau and his lovely wife Gloria spent the day with us.

Mike

LAKE HENNESSEY FLOAT FLY

Jake Chichilitti

Ellsworth and I arrived at the lake about 9:00 and found an eager float flier already waiting there for us. By the time we were finished there were about thirteen pilots and a whole bunch of float planes. We flew every thing from electrics to glow to gasoline-powered planes.

Flying commenced about 9:30 and the weather was perfect all day. We had pilots from Bayside R/C Club, Livermore Flying Electrons, Tomcats and of course PCC.

We had to retrieve a few downed aircraft, but for the most part there were no disasters. Thanks to Ray Squires for bringing the retrieval boat, we couldn't do it without you.

We'll keep you all posted on the next float fly session.





A Mini Aeronca Champ (14.2" span) with a Cub.



Seamaster glider! Motor Pylon snapped off on landing!



A modified RV-4 on float.



Jake the rescuer was employed several times that day.



Rich is having a talk with his Pilatus Porter.



Keith's Martin PBM Mariner.

AMA GUIDELINES ON FPV FLYING

Radio Controlled Model Aircraft Operation

Utilizing “First Person View” Systems

1. DEFINITIONS:

- a) FIRST PERSON VIEW (FPV) refers to the operation of a radio controlled (R/C) model aircraft using an onboard camera’s cockpit view to orient and control the aircraft.
- b) FPV AIRCRAFT is an RC model aircraft equipped with a video transmitter to send real-time video images from an onboard camera to a ground based receiver for display on a pilot’s video monitor/goggles. (*FPV model aircraft types include: Fixed Wing, Rotary Wing, and Multi-Rotor Platform*)
- c) VISUAL LINE OF SIGHT (VLOS) is the distance at which the pilot is able to maintain visual contact with the aircraft and determine its orientation without enhancements other than corrective lenses
- d) FPV SPOTTER is an experienced AMA RC pilot who has been briefed by the FPV pilot on the tasks, responsibilities and procedures involved in being a spotter; is capable and mature enough to perform the duties and is able to assume conventional VLOS control of the aircraft.
- e) FPV NOVICE PILOT is an AMA member learning to fly FPV utilizing a buddy-box system with an experienced AMA RC pilot operating the master transmitter and serving as the FPV spotter.
- f) AMA FPV PILOT is an AMA member who is capable of maintaining control of stability and orientation of FPV model aircraft when flown FPV without losing control or having a collision.

2. GENERAL:

- a) FPV flying of radio control model aircraft by AMA members is allowed only for noncommercial purposes as a hobby/recreational and/or competition activity.
- b) All FPV flights must be conducted in accordance with AMA’s current National Model Aircraft Safety Code and any additional rules specific to the flying site/location.

3. OPERATIONS – REQUIREMENTS - LIMITATIONS:

- a) AMA FPV novice pilots must use a buddy-box system with an FPV spotter while learning to fly FPV.
- b) All FPV flights require an AMA FPV pilot to have an AMA FPV spotter next to him/her maintaining VLOS with the FPV aircraft throughout its flight. c) The FPV pilot must brief the FPV spotter on the FPV spotter’s duties, communications and hand-over control procedures before FPV flight.
- d) The AMA FPV spotter must communicate with the FPV pilot to ensure the FPV aircraft remains within VLOS,

warning the FPV pilot of approaching aircraft, and when avoidance techniques are necessary.

- e) The FPV spotter may at any time during an FPV flight acquire the transmitter from the FPV pilot and assume VLOS control of the aircraft.
- f) If the FPV pilot experiences a problem due to a loss of video link, orientation, or is unable to safely fly, he/she must abandon FPV mode and fly VLOS or pass the RC transmitter to the FPV spotter to assume VLOS control of the aircraft.
- g) Before initial FPV flight and after any flight system changes or repairs, FPV model aircraft must be test flown by conventional VLOS to determine that flight systems are working properly.
- h) FPV model aircraft must use frequencies approved by the FCC for both the RC system and the wireless video system. Pilots must meet applicable FCC licensing requirements if they choose to operate the RC flight control system or the wireless video system on Amateur Band frequencies

4. RANGE – ALTITUDE – WEIGHT – SPEED:

- a) One of the requirements in Federal Law (Public Law 112-95 Sec 336 (c) (2) February 14, 2012) for model aircraft to be excluded from FAA regulations is that model aircraft be flown within VLOS of the operator.
- b) Model aircraft flown using FPV must remain at or below 400 feet AGL when within 3 miles of an airport as specified in the AMA Safety Code.
- c) Model aircraft flown FPV are limited to a weight (including fuel, batteries, and onboard FPV equipment) of 15lbs. and a speed of 70mph.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS & INFORMATION:

- a) AMA FPV novice pilots should consider using a cockpit view flight simulator to become accustomed to FPV flight.
- b) AMA FPV pilots should consider using a programmable autopilot (AMA Document #560) with a failsafe “return to launch point” feature that will maintain control of the aircraft in the event of signal loss.
- c) An onboard camera equipped with a pan and tilt mount that is positioned by “head tracking” goggles, will improve the FPV pilot’s situational awareness of the airspace surrounding the FPV aircraft during flight, but does not replace the requirement for an AMA FPV spotter.
- d) When purchasing FPV operational systems, always try to select quality equipment, verify its compatibility, install components for interference rejection, and determine that signal range is adequate for maximum VLOS range.

6. PRIVACY PROTECTION SAFEGUARDS:

- a) The use of imaging technology on radio control model aircraft with the capability of obtaining high-resolution

photographs and/or video, or using any types of sensors, for the collection, retention, or dissemination of aerial surveillance data/information on individuals, homes, businesses or property, is strictly prohibited by the AMA unless expressed written permission is obtained from the individuals, property owners or managers.

NEW FIELD CAM IN OPERATION

You probably noticed that the PCC field cam was not in operation in the last few weeks. Well, Steve is working hard on upgrading the equipment to make it better.

You should notice the weather information is overlaid on the top edge of the image. Now you can see the time stamp, temperature, wind direction and wind speed on the image. You need not to call the field phone to get the information. Thanks, Steve!

Here is a screen shot of the PCC Field cam.



PREVIEW: PCC HOLIDAY PARTY

The 2012 Holiday party will be held at the usual place, **Harry's Hofbrau** in Redwood City on January 19th, 2013.

Stay tuned for more information.

FLUGTAG IN SAN FRANCISCO

Martin Chorley

On Nov 10, I went to San Francisco to watch test pilots (in their craziest costumes) redefine air travel when they launch their homemade, human-powered flying machines off a 30-foot ramp into the chilly McCovey Cove waters in “hopes” of achieving flight at the 2012 Red Bull Flugtag event.

Here are some photographs I took....



Red Bull Flugtag event in San Francisco.



These things remotely resembles an aircraft!



This one is more like one!



Peninsula Channel Commanders

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



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

Holiday Party: January 19th, 2013 at Harry's Hofbrau, mark your calendar.

J&M

HOBBY HOUSE

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