

# EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB



SEPTEMBER 2023

## *Chairman's Corner- Mark Chomyn*

Here we are in September and Mr. Howard Haupt, the editor in chief of our favorite publication (El Torbellino), is patiently awaiting the submittal of my monthly diatribe. I don't know if you've had the pleasure of meeting Howard, but he has the patience of a saint. I know. I have tested his composure several times with my procrastination (i.e. the dog ate my homework) regarding the deadline for this column and he still abides my tardiness. Howard has been the heartbeat of El Torbellino for many years and really deserves our gratitude for getting out this newsletter each month. So, when he emails you your next copy of the El Torbellino why not take the time to do a "thank you" reply.

Since we are on the topic of expressing our thanks to those who keep the heartbeat of free flight beating, John Hutchison (President) and Kathy McLaughlin (Secretary) of the Scale Staffel of San Diego have stepped down as the Scale Staffel's club and event organizers after a long-term involvement in those duties. I have a special spot in my modeling heart for Kathy and John. Kathy and I worked for the same company and on a road trip to a company meeting we engaged in some casual discussion, and I found out that Kathy's husband John Hutchison (a retiree of the same company) was involved with model aviation. That touched off a barrage of questions from me to Kathy. Where do you fly? How can I get involved? How do I join? From Kathy, I learned the name of the club, the flying field location (good old Otay Mesa) and I showed up at the next outdoor contest. Who was the first person to welcome me to the fold? That would be Mr. Hutchison. I brought a crude all balsa plane which I wound by hand, and it flew horribly but nobody derided my efforts. Several members said they were glad to see me out there and hoped I would return. After seeing the planes flown by Fudo Takagi, John Oldenkamp, Charlie Yost, Jud Saba, Charlie Primbs, Larry Miller, Larry Bagalini, Mr. Hutchison and others I was hooked. And I knew if I wanted to be part of the club, I needed to watch, listen, and learn. At the next outdoor, I showed up with my newly built One Night 28 which I'd purchased at Peck Polymers in Santee. I still hand wound it and flew without a dethermalizer, but I think I was getting flights of more than 30 seconds. And that's all it took, I was hooked. I was a kid again and a member of the Orbiteers.

So, thank you John and Kathy for keeping the Scale Staffel flying and a big thank you for getting me back into the hobby and enjoying my second childhood. For those who wonder what will become of the Scale Staffel you'll be glad to know that William Scott (Mr. PT Aviation) who has been the Vice President of the Scale Staffel has taken over the reins for the Staffel going forward. Thank you, William. If you attended the September 9-10 Two Day CD'd by William, you know that the Staffel is on firm ground going forward. Let's do all we can to help keep it going.

As for the Orbiteers, our next outdoor contest is Sunday, September 24. Check your email for a contest announcement from our Contest Director Mike Pykelny. Events will be Coupe, Power (elect. or gas) and Glider (HL CL and towline). So, get those planes out and tend to the motors, DT timers, and trim for September 24th will get here faster than you think, and no one wants to show up with a less than airworthy ship.

For you National Cup contest flyers the U.S. Free Flight Champs will be held September 15-17 at Lost Hills CA. Though I personally don't have the skill set necessary to compete at that high level of competition, I

wish all of those who do attend and compete save travels to the site and the best of luck of luck in competing for some of the most prestigious titles in free flight. Thermals to all.

In closing, thanks to all those designers, builders and flyers (yes you) who help to keep the spirit of free flight alive. Some (those ARF R/C guys?) may view us as luddites but we are the keepers of the flame for free flight model aviation. Yes, we may be considered by some as an unusual dying breed in model aviation but isn't it cool to be a rebel with a cause?

Mark

*“Sal (Taibi) told me that before dethermalizer days, he had a model that was catching small thermals, staying only about 50-100 feet high, but drifting off the field. He threw a clod of dirt which punctured the covering of the wing without damaging the structure. The additional drag caused the model to come down. How can I doubt a figure in many Halls of Fame?”*

Grant Carson, Reminiscing With Sal, SAM Speaks April-June 2023

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## APPLE VALLEY AIRSHOW - R.Espolt

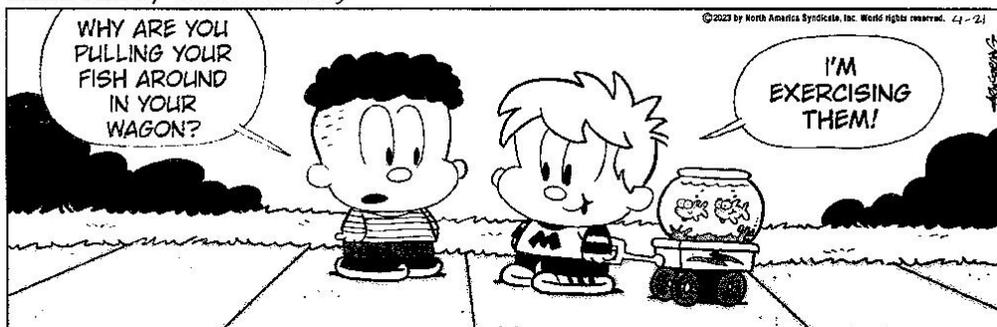
I will be running a youth and education pavilion at Apple Valley Air Show. Would love for club members to come up for the day. I recommend early arrival.

Ronnie Espolt



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## Marvin by Tom Armstrong



## Hook-to-Peg Distance

By Mike Jester



The "hook-to-peg" (HTP) distance is an important factor in both the design and performance of rubber powered airplanes. A longer HTP distance can more easily accommodate a longer rubber motor which should give longer flights. However, in terms of stability and efficiency, it is best to keep the weight forward and the tail light. If the rubber motor extends too far aft then either the wing must be moved rearward or nose weight added to locate the CG in the optimum location. Maximizing the distance between the wing and the stab is beneficial. However, the location of the wing cannot be moved on a scale model.

The rules for F1B (Wakefield) and F1G (Coupe) models have no length or span limits. With the utilization of high-tech materials, modern high-tech F1B and F1G feature a wide high aspect ratio wing, a long tail boom, and a small stab. Their HTP distance is relatively short, e.g., 9-inches in the case of a Coupe. P-30 models are limited to an overall length of 30-inches. In a typical P-30 model the HTP distance is around 19-inches which is roughly the same as the length of the commonly used 6 x 1/8-inch P-30 rubber motor.

A longer rubber motor will take more turns than a shorter rubber motor with the same cross-section. However, if the length of the unwound rubber motor exceeds the HTP distance by too much, there can be problems in motor bunching as the motor unwinds. This can undesirably shift the CG and lead to stalls or dives. In scale events, where you cannot move the wing, this problem can be alleviated by braiding the rubber motor and using a wobbly motor peg. Many times, scale builders move the rear peg forward to avoid having to place ballast in the nose to get the CG in the optimum location. Even after shortening the HTP shown on a scale model plan, good scale flyers can still fly their models with rubber motors that are 3-4 times the HTP distance.



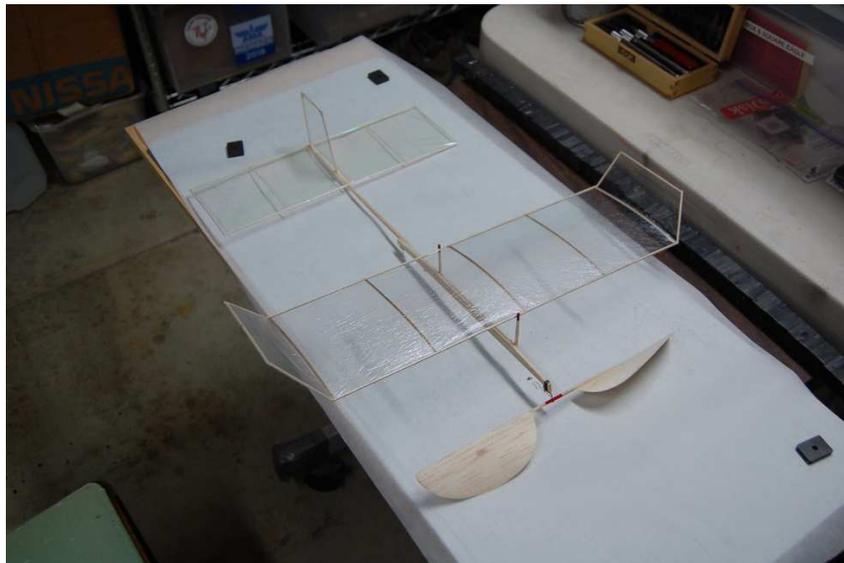
**New Beginning P-30 by Mike Jester**

Spring tensioners, such as that used in the Gizmo Geezer (GG) prop assembly, can be used to alleviate the motor bunching problem and eliminate any need for braiding. My New Beginning P-30 pictured above has a GG prop assembly and an HTP of around 12 inches, which allows the wing and stab to be separated significantly further than a conventional P-30 model.

I braid most of my rubber motors for both my scale and non-scale models since they are typically longer than the HTP distance, even after braiding. A braided motor stores nicely in a plastic bag. A long, unbraided rubber motor with lots of strands, e.g., a 12 x 1/16-inch P-30 motor, can get tangled in storage unless you slip over and tighten a number of dental rubber bands along the length of the rubber motor.

Some indoor stick duration model classes have an overall length limit, such as Limited Penny Plane (LPP). Indoor models of this type must land with unused turns in order to achieve maximum flight duration

so motor bunching and CG shifting are usually not a problem with such models. However, in general, if the unwound rubber motor is more than about 1 ½ times the HTP distance problems can develop in terms of the rubber motor binding against the motor stick. Once the optimum motor stick length has been determined usually the remaining portion of the maximum overall length allowed is taken up by the prop and a lightweight tail boom.



**Limited Penny Plane by Mike Jester**

The optimum HTP distance is related to the optimum size of the rubber motor in terms of cross-section and weight, which determine its length. A longer rubber motor produces a longer motor run and a thicker rubber motor produces more torque. But a bigger rubber motor is heavier and this offsets the benefits of more turns and/or more torque. I have written several articles on how to determine the optimum rubber motor size that have been published in earlier editions of this newsletter. In the end, optimizing the design and performance of a rubber powered free flight model airplane comes down to finding the sweet spot in a lot of tradeoffs.



**Pickles** by Brian Crane



# San Diego Orbiteers

## Flying Schedule 2023

### Taibi Field Perris, Ca

<u>Primary Date</u>	<u>Rain Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>CD</u>
January 22	January 29	P-30/Glider/Power	
February 19	February 26	Coupe/Glider/Power	Mike P.
March 19	March 26	OT/NOS	
April 16	April 30	P-30/One design Event Glider/Power Oldenkamp Memorial	
May 21	May 28	Coupe/Glider/Power	
June 11	June 25	OT/NOS Rubber/Glider/ Power	
July 16	July 23	P-30/Glider/Power	
August	Aug 27	P-30/Glider/Power	Mark
September	15,16,17	Free Flight Champions Lost Hills	
September 24		Coupe/Glider/Power	
October 15	October 22	OT/NOS/Glider/Power	
November	10,11,12	Dual Club, Lost Hill, Ca.	
November 19	November 26	P-30/Glider/Power	
December 17		Make-up	

MP 3/23

## San Diego Orbiteers Board of Trustees Meeting - Sept. 6, 2023

Held at the home of John and Ann Merrill, with 8 in attendance.  
Meeting called to order at 6:50 p.m.



**Minutes** of the previous meeting were approved as published.

**Treasurer's Report:** under review, will contact the Treasurer for clarification.

**Membership Report:** Addressing inquiries as they come in via our website.

### Old Business:

Alternative outdoor field locations: Ramona site needs further research.

Search for indoor flying sites is ongoing. There are a few potentials, one being quite expensive.

SDSU AE123 Flying and Trimming Demo. On Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> in the main gymnasium. Volunteers welcome.

More volunteers will be needed on Wednesday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at SDSU for timing students.

The Porta-Potty at the Perris flying field has been removed, and its unlikely to be reinstated.

New Scale Staffel President: William Scott has volunteered, to which we are all grateful.

### New Business:

Discussion concerning how the club can help get more junior flyers interested, and possibly more event dates for junior flyers at Perris.

Discussion about the preparations for the annual banquet. Will keep you posted when confirmations are made with a venue.

### Contest Corner:

Orbiteer August P-30 contest had seven entries, and there was a lot of glider action. At that contest, there was an event for junior flyers that was very well attended. Orbiteers helped with balance, trim, and timing of flights. The winning flight was over 50 seconds. Many thanks to Ronny Espolt for organizing the event for the juniors and providing the kits which were made at the field, as well as a considerable amount of mentoring. It appeared that all the kids had a great time.

Scale Staffel held its 2-day contest on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in Perris. The contest was very well run by new President William Scott. John Hutchison was expected to be there to help and mentor William, but he was spending time in the hospital. We all wish John a speedy recovery!

The U.S. Free Flight Champs will be Sept. 15-17 in Lost Hills. It will be a National Cup event as well as an America's Cup event.

**Contest Reports:** none

**Open Discussion:** Dual Clubs contest is held over 3 days, Nov. 10-12, 2023.

**Good of the Order:** Schedule the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter board meeting. Will be at the Bartick's home 12/13/23 at noon.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John R. Merrill, Secretary



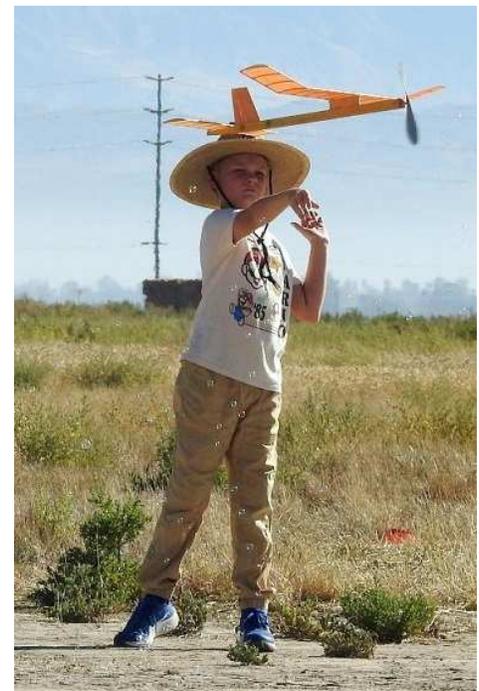
Brad Terrell



Chris Reck



Don Bartick assisting Science Olympiad Participant



Henry Kruse

Continued Next Page



Tom with Science Olympiad participants



Tim Batiuk



Stan Buddenbohm

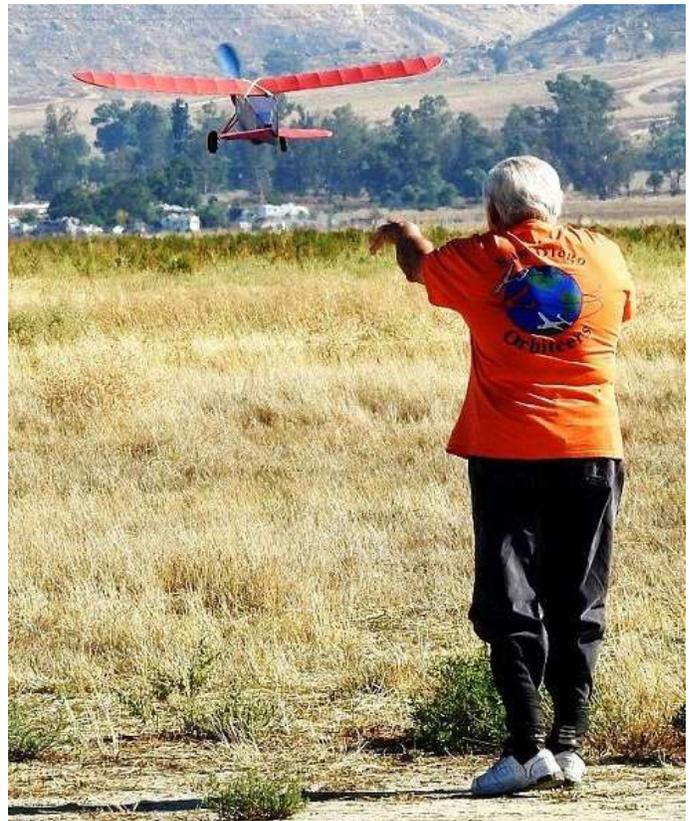


Mike Pykelny

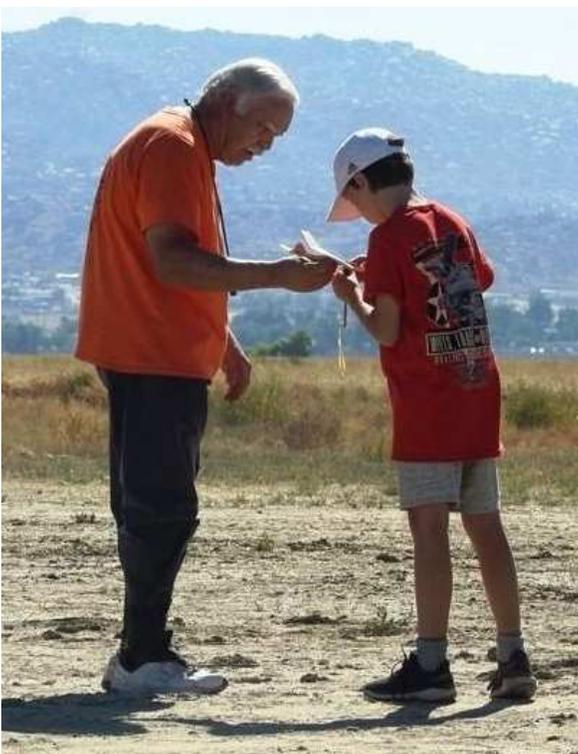
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Mike Pykelny



Mark Chomyn



Guy Menanno

← Mark Chomyn  
Assisting a Science Olympiad participant

# DUAL-CLUBS

## FREE FLIGHT BONANZA

*\*A National Cup Points Event\**

**AMA SANCTION 14992-CLASS AA, CATEGORY 2**

**SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS 64<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL - SPONSOR OF AMA & FAC EVENTS**

\*

**FRESNO GAS MODEL CLUB 83<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL - SPONSOR OF NOSTALGIA,  
TEXACO & OLD TIME EVENTS**

**\* November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023\***

**\* LOST HILLS, CA \***

**FRIDAY ONLY**  
7 AM – NOON, 1 - 5 PM  
1 HOUR LUNCH BREAK WITH  
ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**NO OFFICIAL FLIGHTS DURING THE BREAK**

**SATURDAY**  
7AM-4PM  
5PM FOOD FEST

**SUNDAY**  
7 AM – 3 PM  
3:15 AWARDS CEREMONY

**FLY ANY REGULAR EVENT, ANY DAY, BUT MUST FINISH EVENT THE SAME DAY**

1/2A GAS (1)  
A GAS  
B GAS  
C/D GAS COMBINED  
1/2A NOS  
A/B NOS COMBINED  
C NOS  
EARLY 1/2A NO

1/2A CLASSIC POWER  
1/2A GOLDEN AGE  
RUBBER/WAKEFIELD NOS  
VINTAGE FAI POWER  
VINTAGE WAKEFIELD  
HAND LAUNCH GLIDER (1)  
CATAPULT LAUNCH GLIDER (1)  
P-30 (1)

E-36  
A/B ELECTRIC COMBINED  
NIGHT GAS COMBINED  
MULVIHILL  
CLASSIC TOWLINE  
SMALL OT RUBBER STICK/  
CABIN COMBINED  
LARGE OT RUBBER STICK/  
CABIN COMBINED

.020 REPLICA  
A/B PYLON/FUSELAGE  
COMBINED  
C PYLON/FUSELAGE  
COMBINED  
1/2A TEXACO  
FULL SIZE TEXACO  
1 MINUTE TARGET

*(1) Junior & Senior/Open Event*

*See Special Instructions on backside*

### SCHEDULED EVENTS

#### FRIDAY

9:00AM – FAC WORLD WAR I COMBAT  
11:00AM FAC WORLD WAR II COMBAT

#### SATURDAY

8:30AM P-30 MASS LAUNCH  
9:30AM -GOLLYWOCK MASS LAUNCH  
11:00AM TWIN PUSHER MASS LAUNCH

#### SUNDAY

8:00-8:15AM DAWN MULVIHILL  
9:00AM FAC GREVE/THOMPSON RACE

**CASH AWARD FOR 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE with 3 or more entries.**  
Certificates awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**\$20 REGISTRATION Sr. & Open / \$2 Jr, includes 1<sup>st</sup> event**

**\$5 per Event Sr. & Open / \$1 Junior –**

**OPTIONAL: \$40 For Registration and Unlimited events**

CD: Don Bartick, - San Diego Orbiters  
(858)774-2941

[dbartick@4-warddesign.com](mailto:dbartick@4-warddesign.com)

NOS/OT: Doss Porter, Fresno GMC  
(559)-251-0787

[Steve93612@comcast.net](mailto:Steve93612@comcast.net)

# **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

**(LOST HILLS FF MODEL AIRFIELD ASSOCIATION CARD REQUIRED (\$25 AT FIELD TO JOIN))**

## **SATURDAY NOON to 1 PM LUNCH BREAK & SUNDAE SOCIAL**

The contest will be suspended for 1 hour for lunch and the San Diego Orbiters famous ice cream social. This is a great time to relax, cool off, have lunch and enjoy the ice cream sundaes. We will provide ice cream, & sundae fixings, napkins, plates and plastic ware.

## **PRIZE DRAWING**

The Fresno GMC once again has collected an enormous amount of model stuff for their drawing. For up to 3 events entered that are sponsored by them, the contestant will receive a drawing ticket. Drawing to be held right after Sunday's award ceremony.

## **BILL BOOTH, SR. MEMORIAL**

High time in Old Time Gas. Includes 020 Replica, but not Texaco. Winner will receive a special award from the Fresno GMC.

## **HAND LAUNCH GLIDER & CATAPULT GLIDER**

Hand Launch Glider & Catapult Glider will to be launched from an established glider pen on the field. Max's are 90 seconds Hand Launch and 120 seconds Catapult All flights count.

## **NIGHT GAS FLYING**

All engine classes combined. Event window between 6:30 pm – 9pm. Engine runs in accordance with aircraft classification; i.e., AMA or Nostalgia.

## **VINTAGE FAI POWER**

For rules, please go to this website: [https:// freeflight.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NFFS-Competition-Rules-2021-2022-Release-3.pdf](https://freeflight.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NFFS-Competition-Rules-2021-2022-Release-3.pdf) A copy of the rules will be available at the CD's table. First five (5) flights must be flown from the established line between 7:00AM – 11:30 PM.

## **VINTAGE WAKEFIELD**

For rules, please go to this website: https:// freeflight.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NFFS-Competition-Rules-2021-2022-Release-3.pdf A copy of the rules will be available at the CD's table. First five (5) flights must be flown from the established line between 7:00AM – 11:30 PM.

## **P-30 MASS LAUNCH**

Saturday morning 8:30 AM sharp. Mass launch in front of Headquarters; 1 flight, no max.

## **DAWN MULVIHILL (Timer can ride with contestant)**

Sunday morning 8:00 – 8:15 AM launch window, 1 flight, no max.

## **TWIN PUSHER MASS LAUNCH**

Saturday morning 11:00AM sharp. Mass launch in front of Headquarters; 1 flight, no max.

## **GOLLYWOCK MASS LAUNCH**

Sunday morning at 9:30AM sharp. Mass launch in front of Headquarters; 1 flight, no max.

## **TEXACO (Timer can ride with contestant)**

## **1 MINUTE TARGET**

Any Sport Plane, such as: Dakota, Sniffer, Tom Boy, Sioux. Even Peewee 30.

6 official flights. All count. Flight duration must be equal to or over 1 minute. Score will be the number of seconds over 1 minute for each of the 6 official flights. Flights under 1 minute will be an attempt. No limit on attempts. Lowest total of 6 official flights wins.

## WestFAC 2023 Schedule of Events

*Featuring Unlimited Reno Racers*

Thurs. 26 October noon - 5 pm	Fri. 27 October 8 am - 5 pm	Sat. 28 October 8 am - 5 pm	Sun. 29 October 8 am - 3:30 pm
<b>Registration and FAC Scale Judging</b>  <b>Vendors</b>  <b>Refreshments</b>	<u><b>Mass Launch Events</b></u> 9:00 WW1 11:00 Thompson Trophy  The following events can be flown on Friday or Saturday:  <u><b>TOTF Scale Events</b></u> WW1 Aircraft Double Trouble Golden Age Monoplane/Biplane Combined WW2 Aircraft Simplified Scale Dime Scale Goodyear Racers*  <u><b>TOTF Non-Scale Events</b></u> OT Rubber Stick Jimmy Allen & 2-Bit+1 Combined (ROG) Jimmy Allen & 2-Bit+1 Combined (ROG) NBM Embryo (ROG) Embryo (ROG) NBM  <u><b>Judged Scale Events</b></u> FAC Peanut Scale FAC Jumbo Scale FAC Rubber Scale	<u><b>Mass Launch Events</b></u> 9:00 WW2 11:00 Goodyear Racers*	<u><b>Mass Launch Events</b></u> 9:00 Post-War Unlimited Racers* 11:00 Flying Horde NBM 3:00 B.L.U.R. Race   <u><b>TOTF Scale Events</b></u> Post-War Unlimited Racers* Modern Military Modern Civilian  <u><b>TOTF Non-Scale Events</b></u> OT Rubber Fuselage (ROG)  <u><b>Judged Scale Events</b></u> FAC Power Scale FAC Jet Catapult   <b>Awards Ceremony on the field at the completion of the B.L.U.R. Race</b>   <b>Informal dinner at local restaurant – self-pay Time and place TBD</b>

### General Contest Notes

For Mass Launch events, depending on the drift, a delayed launch procedure may be used to reduce chase times.

\* Special racing events - no wingspan restrictions.

NBM: Non Blue Max events

Note: If 3 or more flyers have a class of models not shown on the event schedule, check with the CD to see if a special event can be arranged.

Once again, arrangements have been made with the Comfort Suites Hotel in Goodyear for a special room rate of \$109/night.

Call: (520) 257-3134 – ask for the *Flying Aces Club* rate  
**Comfort Suites Goodyear-West Phoenix**  
 15775 West Roosevelt Street  
 Goodyear AZ 85338



Clint Brooks



David Wade



John Alling



One competitors scale airplane squadron





John Merrill



Mark Chomyn



The World War I Fleet

Continued Next Page



Walter Ainslie



Don Bartick



The World War II Fleet



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Chairman

Mark Chomyn .....(760) 753-7164  
[chomyn@roadrunner.com](mailto:chomyn@roadrunner.com)

### Vice Chairman

John Hutchison.....(619) 303-0785  
[johnhutchison1@cox.net](mailto:johnhutchison1@cox.net)

### Secretary

John Merrill .....(619) 449-4047  
[johnrmerrill@yahoo.com](mailto:johnrmerrill@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer (Trustee at Large)

Howard Haupt .....(858) 272-5656  
[hlhaupt1033@att.net](mailto:hlhaupt1033@att.net)

Don Bartick ..... (760) 789-3773  
[dbartick@4-warddesign.com](mailto:dbartick@4-warddesign.com)

Mike Jester .....(775) 831-8303  
[michaeljester@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljester@gmail.com)

Mike Pykelny .....(858) 748-6235  
[MPykelny@dslextreme.com](mailto:MPykelny@dslextreme.com)

Tim Batiuk .....(949) 547-4644  
[tbatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:tbatiuk@gmail.com)

## ORBITEER TASK LEADERS

### Competition Director and Score Keeper

Mike Pykelny.....(858) 748-6235  
[MPykelny@dslextreme.com](mailto:MPykelny@dslextreme.com)

### Banquet and Social Activity Coordinator

Linda Piazza.....(858) 748-6235  
[MPykelny@dslextreme.com](mailto:MPykelny@dslextreme.com)

### Safety Officer & Field Marshall

**Open Position** .....(xxx) xxx-xxxx  
yourname@volunteer

### Web Master

Kathy McLaughlin.....(619) 303-0785  
[kamclaughlin1@cox.net](mailto:kamclaughlin1@cox.net)

### Newsletter Editor / Membership Coordinator

Howard Haupt .....(858) 272-5656  
[hlhaupt1033@att.net](mailto:hlhaupt1033@att.net)

## ORBITEERS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual Membership - \$20  
Lifetime Membership - \$250  
Non-Member Newsletter Subscription - \$15  
Junior Members 16 years old or younger - Free

### Submit Dues to Club Treasurer:

Howard Haupt  
3860 Ecochee Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92117-4622

## THE FINE PRINT THE FINE PRINT

El Torbellino is the official newsletter of the San Diego Orbiteers, an Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) Charter Club (#1113) and a California not for Profit Corporation. This newsletter is sent monthly to all paid members, selected exchange and magazine editors. Non-Members may subscribe at \$15.00 per year within the U.S.A., offshore price will be adjusted to reflect the postage required. Materials from El Torbellino may be reproduced on an unlimited basis by other publications, but proper credit is requested.

## ORBITEER WEB SITE

[www.SanDiegoOrbiteers.com](http://www.SanDiegoOrbiteers.com)

Webmaster: Kathy McLaughlin

## CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE:

Mark Chomyn  
Ronnie Esposit  
Mike Jester  
John Merrill  
Robert Hodes

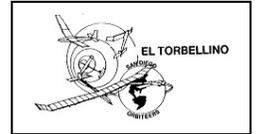


## PHOTO CREDITS THIS ISSUE :

Mike Jester p3, 4  
Arline Bartick p7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15



SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS  
Howard L. Haupt / Editor  
3860 Ecochee Avenue  
San Diego, California 92117-4266



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING - September / October 2023**

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September (15,16,17) Free Flight Championship at Lost Hills

September 24 - San Diego Orbiter Outdoor Monthly  
Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, 7:30 am  
Events: **COUPE / GLIDER / POWER**

October 15 - San Diego Orbiter Outdoor Monthly  
Taibi Flying Field, Perris CA, 7:30 am  
Events: **OT / NOS / GLIDER / POWER**

November (10, 11, 12) Dual Clubs Free Flight Bonanza Contest  
See enclosed flyer for details