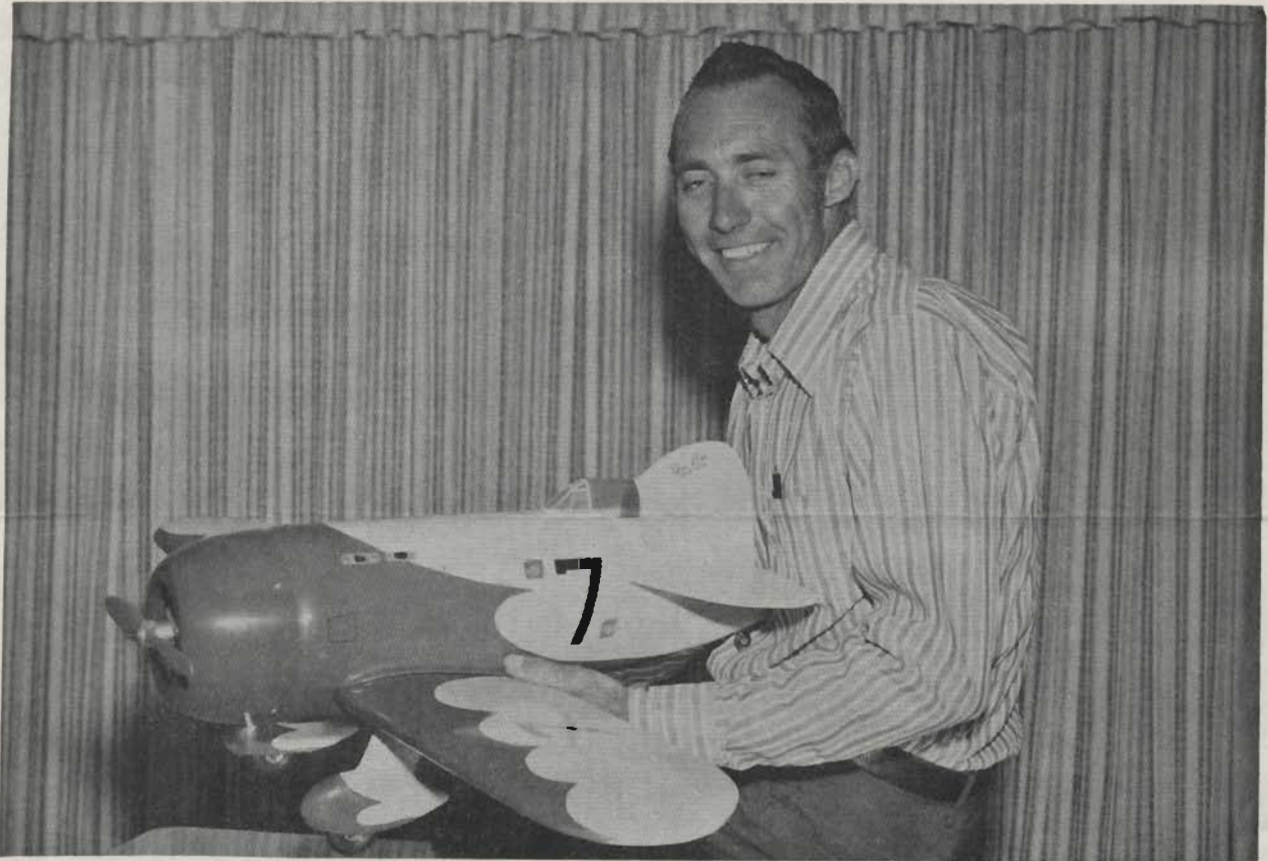


# VALLEY FLYERS

## NEWSLETTER '72



PACKARD PHOTOGRAPHY  
BURBANK

Our Model of the Month winner for June '72. Tom Cone showing off his Gee Bee R2. A beautiful scratch building job by one of our most prolific modelers. Looks like a rear intake Supertigre powering this beauty. Tom looks sleepy because he seems to be averaging about two new models a month. Nice job Tom, does it fly ?

JULY

PRESIDENT: RON SCHORR

SECRETARY: JAY REPLOGLE

VICE PRESIDENT: LARRY LEONARD

TREASURER: TOM CONE

EDITOR: LARRY ROSENBERG  
12772 Jolette Ave  
Granada Hills, Calif  
91344



NEWS ITEMS AND EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We gained four new members at the June meeting. They are:

Charles Perrine  
Michael Stecker

Robert Stockwell (old but new)  
William Falsey

Welcome to the Valley Flyers fellows.

There has been, and continues to be, much going on with respect to the field situation. The Van Nuys tower is presently drafting a letter to the Valley Flyers to the effect that a 200 foot altitude limit exists. This 200 foot limit will exist at all times. While it may seem a bit unreal to picture the Valley Flyers as guardians of the field, since we have no control over it officially, the fact remains that this altitude ceiling has been stated and we must live with it if we want to retain the basin. It seems reasonable that we can live with that altitude ceiling if we have to, and clearly WE HAVE TO!!!!!! If any full sized aircraft are in the vicinity, please avoid them at all costs, they have the right of way even if they are shooting touch and goes on your head. I kid you not fellows, we are as close to losing our flying site as we have ever been and some restraint on our part will go a long way towards our retaining a place to fly.

It is really unfortunate that a hobby as fine as RC modelling is in such dire straits when it comes to finding a place to fly. We have a hobby that encompasses a wide range of disciplines in its execution and one that has a large proportion of family (father-son or daughter) participation, a rare thing in this day and age. The really unfortunate aspect of the hobby is that it carries a social stigma, that being that the participants are "adults" playing with kid's toys. I fear that our leisure hour recreation is well established as a socially unacceptable one. If I were to ask my boss for an afternoon off to play golf, he would probably join me. If I were to ask this same individual for an afternoon off to fly my new model aircraft, he would laugh himself sick. It is a genuine shame that this attitude prevails. I for one don't know of a ready solution to this problem of identity, but a start would probably be a real public relations effort on our part.

I have been building and flying model airplanes for 30 of my 38 years, and I have two daughters and a small son who regularly go flying with me. My wife occasionally makes the trip, although she relishes a quiet morning alone, and my father flies RC as well and generally goes too. That adds up to three generations of us at the field at once, not bad. I doubt if you can find that kind of family participation in many recreational activities. I hate to see something like this go down the tubes for lack of a patch of ground. We not only must do all in our power to retain the field in the basin, we must attempt to inform the general public that our endeavors are worthwhile and as valuable as any other recreational activity.

Congratulations to Bob Bleaden for becoming the new LAHMA President. I know that he will do all he can on the behalf of the local modelers. His is a tough job and he certainly deserves all of the help that we can give to him.

The July meeting will be our annual Fly In at the basin. The meeting is on Tuesday, July 11th from fiveish on. There will be fun events scheduled, such as a balloon bust, timed take-off event, maybe hidden spot landing, etc. For entertainment we may have Tom Cone's Folly, the Gee Bee. We are going to try talking Tom into test flying it.



I have been trying to round up enough  $\frac{1}{2}$ A Pylon racers to put on a short demonstration race, but all of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ A racers seem to have perished. If you have one, bring it along.

Reed Packard will be there to take our annual club picture. His group pictures have received wide magazine publication in past years so here is your chance to see yourself in the mags. There also will be a raffle as a final enticement. Be there.

I received a letter from Dan Reiss, who is now in Taiwan. He is on a two year tour with the TRW service company, but he keeps in touch with the club through me. He tells me that there is an awful lot of RC activity in Formosa and that the base PX has a very complete hobby shop in it, but that you had better restrict your modeling needs to the available items. It is difficult to obtain things that are not normally stocked. He also remarked that the civilian hobby shops are not too well equipped, and that the prices are out of sight for the locals. Not an unusual occurrence, I've even seen it that way around here.

I feel that I had better report on my buddy's DuBro chopper that I mentioned in the last newsletter. It is complete and we attempted to fly it this past weekend. A helicopter seems to be a difficult thing to fly at best, and when you couple the inherent difficulty of a new control system with a fore/aft pitch control that is hooked up backwards you really have a handful. We did manage to get about one inch of altitude, but the beast has a real tendency to back up and chase the pilot. It also seems to love to flip over inverted and crash. I really think that most of our difficulties were due to inexperience and the chopper has shown itself to be mighty rugged. The only damage to date, after three attempts at inverted flight, has been three broken 10 X 6 props. Not bad. I'll keep you posted.

That is about it for this month gang, the newsletter is short because inputs this month have been conspicuous by their absence. I informed all of the members at the beginning of the year that they would get out of the newsletter exactly what they put into it. This month the deposits have been rather meager.

SEE YOU AT THE FIELD!!!!!!!!!!

NEXT MEETING: AT THE BASIN ON JULY 11th

TIME: FROM ABOUT 5:00 pm ON. BE THERE !!!!!!!!!!!



HELPING AT CONTESTS by: Rod Taylor

(The following editorial was submitted last month, but too late for the newsletter, the subject is still current and the writer is one of those who does help- editor)

At our last meeting we were again subjected to the same verbal abuse which follows each contest. Where was all of the help from the club members? Some analysis of this situation is in order.

- 1- This problem is not unique to our club but has been experienced to a greater or lesser extent by all clubs.
- 2- Continued verbal abuse will not correct the situation.
- 3- Until club members learn to work together in harmony and unity in matters that provide benefit for all, they will not willingly support a request to work while other club members pursue their hobby.

I would like to emphasize that although it might not have appeared so from discussions at the meeting, there was sufficient help available to run the last contest—even though the help was made up of paid Boy Scouts and unpaid volunteers from other clubs. President Ron Schorr objected to having to pay for the help, but considering that the contest did not go into the hole financially, I think the affair was a success. I for one was not aware that the purpose of holding contests was to make money for the club.

The complaint levied at the club members was that belonging to the Valley Flyers obligates the membership to work at the club sponsored events, namely contests. I would point out that anyone who thinks that even a small percentage of the membership would honor such an obligation has been sniffing glue too long. That kind of motivation exists in very few clubs. There are several reasons:

- 1- Over half of the Valley Flyers are beginners or sport flyers only, and because of this they don't enter contests to fly with guys like Prather, Smith, Leonars, etc.
- 2- A two day contest cuts into one's schedule and any non-contestant cannot or will not devote that much working time while others do their thing.
- 3- It is a long way from the valley to Mile Square. Few people drive half that far to earn a living, let alone donate two days of work when they could be flying at the basin, a mile from home.
- 4- Without super-motivation, each club member will only support those activities where there is some direct benefit to him in return.

The answer then is very simple. Next time get the Boy Scouts out again and don't bother asking the club members for help because they won't support the request any better than the last time. In addition, if we really want to raise money, a direct assessment of \$1.00 per member in lieu of working at the contest would provide the required income and this would be much cheaper than a trip to mile square.

The kind of motivation it takes to get club members to work at contests comes only after they learn to enjoy their association with other club members to the extent that they would rather be with them than anyone else—we of the Valley Flyers are a long way from that state! Hopefully, someday maybe we can approach that utopian condition but until then, let us knock off the verbal abuse which only serves to alienate the members further.

Rod