

THE VALLEY FLYER



Photo by Mike Stecker

JOHN PAHLOW won the November Model of the Month award for the second time in 1976 with his original design, scratch built Hodge-Podge. It is a sport pattern design with a 67" span, 670 sq. in. symmetrical airfoil wing which like the stab is balsa over foam. The fuselage is balsa covered with glass cloth, resin and K&B Superpoxy. The 8 1/4 lb. airplane is powered by a K&B Lee Custom .61 pumper with P.D.P. and is guided by a Kraft radio. John reports it flies "great." Standing in the picture from left to right are Tom Cone with his U.K. Fokker, Bob Wilde with Sonny Meyer's Cricket and Angus Crosbie with Tom Barbour's Shrike who tied for second.

January 77

PRESIDENT: GEORGE FINCH

VICE PRES: JOHN ELGIN

SECRETARY: BERT SMITH

ASS.T SECRETARY: GARY McPIKE

TREASURER: TONY MacLANE ASS'T. TREAS: JOHN PAHLOW

This is the start of a new and I hope successful year for the Valley Flyers. Our format in the newsletter is going to be a little different starting with this issue. The president, George Finch, will continue to write "Finch's Flak" and I will try to write this column every month if I can come up with enough ideas to make it worthwhile. This brings up the key problem faced by any Board of Directors or Officers in a club like the Valley Flyers. The problem is simply, how to find out what the club members want; how to be responsive to these desires and how to get the money and help to implement the worthwhile programs.

I don't know the answers but this year's Board will put together a positive approach to try to find out what the members want the club to do; we will then try to implement as many worthwhile programs or events or whatever as is possible. Every Board of Directors, since the club was formed, has tried relatively unsuccessfully to get participation by the members. We need articles for the newsletter, people to work at contests, new ideas for club activities during meetings, flying field improvements, committee chairmen, contest directors, teachers to help beginners learn to fly, etc, etc, etc. Consequently, I am attaching to this newsletter a fairly comprehensive form to be filled out by the members, to get ideas, help and suggestions from the members. Get it off your chest, I want to hear anything you have to say. You can fill out any part or all of the form and you can attach additional ideas, comments, "bitches", or anything else you want. However, please try to make it constructive, if possible. If you don't like something, tell us but also tell us your idea of what needs to be done to fix the problem.

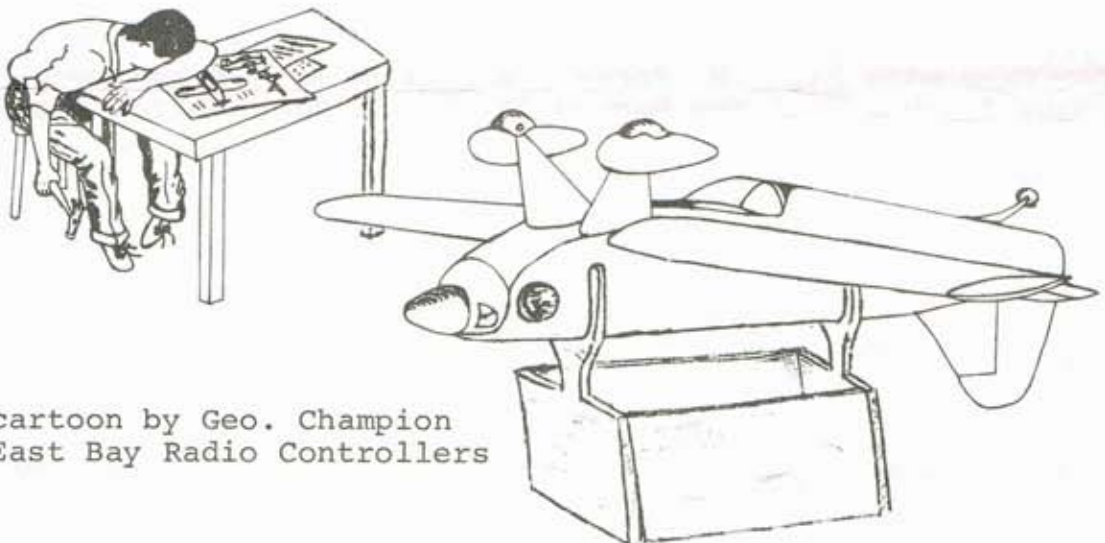
Now, here is the kicker. If I don't get any response from the membership, then I guess the Board will consider that everyone is happy with things as is. Also, if you don't tell us what you want or what needs to be done, the Board will not be very receptive to criticism of its programs later in the year. So help us out, fill out one of the supplied forms. These forms will be available every meeting so if you get ideas later on, feel free to comment any time during the year. Turn your comments and/or the forms in to the writer, John Elgin, at any meeting.

Well, you get the idea, if you want a good club you have to participate, so here is your chance, let's hear from you.

John Elgin

CLASSIFIED * * * * *

WANTED 1 small gas or electric heater for a poor suffering V/F's wife whose husband spends all the extra money on his hobby leaving poor wife and her orchids to freeze. Must be reasonable. Finders fee of sniff of the first blooming orchid from her blooming orchid plants.



from a cartoon by Geo. Champion in the East Bay Radio Controllers CARRIER

SELECT YOUR PREFERENCES ON A SCALE OF 1, 2, 3, 4, with 4 high and 1 low or PROVIDE YOUR COMMENT OR SUGGESTION

I MEETINGS

1. SHOW AND TELL:

- A. Trophy for winner and winner picture in newsletter _____
- B. Feature picture of winner and others showing model 3
- C. Combination of A and B above 4
- D. Comment or suggestion _____

2. ENTERTAINMENT:

- A. Movies or slides about modeling _____
- B. Movies or slides about full size airplanes _____
- C. How-To sessions _____
- D. Manufacturers talks _____
- E. Technical talks _____
- F. Auction _____
- G. Other SOME OF EACH; A thru F! _____

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES:

II FIELD

1. FLYING INSTRUCTION:

(BEGINNER)

- A. Club Instructors _____
- B. Hobby Shop owners _____
- C. Paid Instructors N/C _____
- D. Other _____

(AVERAGE FLYER)

- A. Racing instruction _____
- B. Pattern instruction N/C _____
- C. Sport Flying instruction _____
- D. Other _____

2. FIELD IMPROVEMENTS:

- A. Lavatories 4
- B. Frequency monitor _____
- C. Grass 3
- D. Other MORE PROMINENT SIGNS TO KEEP SPECTATORS AWAY FROM FLT-LINE; AMBE AT EAST END OF PITS, in various pos _____
- E. How much money per month will you commit to out of your pocket for your preferred improvement(s) \$ 5 per mo.

3. OTHER FIELD RELATED ITEMS COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS

① SEMI-IMPROVEMENT OF PARKING AREA TO ELIMINATE SEASONAL "SWAMP" ... GRAVEL?
② GRASS AREA ADJACENT TO RWY, TO BELLY LAND 1/2 A's, etc.

III SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

1. CONTESTS:

(Only check those you participate in or those you plan to participate in in 1977)

- A. Formula I _____
- B. Quarter Midget _____
- C. Scale X
- D. Formula 500 _____
- E. 1/2 A X
- F. Speed Trials _____
- G. Pattern X
- H. Cross Country _____
- I. Other BIPLANE! The prettiest show of all; why does it always bomb? Suggest pre-paid registration and only 7 _____

(HOPEFULLY) (I crashed my Bipe 1/2 A + Pattern ships within a few days of the respective contests, Least-watched Bipe Aerobatics last year.)
→ partially responsible if cancelled. Everybody

III SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

2. MISCELLANEOUS:

- A. Fun Fly 1
- B. Club Ladder(s) _____
- C. Club Races _____
- D. Other _____

3. PARTIES:

- A. Xmas For: Against: _____
- B. Other _____

4. OTHER SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS

^① I THINK THAT
RE FUN FLY EVENTS WHICH PUT A PREMIUM ON DOING
SOMETHING IN A MINIMUM TIME DISCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY
NOVICE/SPORT FLYERS. OR AT VERY LOW ALTITUDES (LIMBS)

IV YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO CLUB
 (Indicate By A "Yes" In
 The Space Provided)

1. NEWSLETTER:

- A. Editor _____
- B. Write articles _____
- C. Assist Editor _____
- D. Typing _____
- E. Contest Reports _____
- F. Other _____

2. MEETINGS:

- A. Committee Chairman _____
- B. Committee Member _____
- C. Help with cleanup after meeting _____
- D. Give "How-To" talks _____
- E. Give presentation _____
 Subject _____
- F. Other _____

3. CONTESTS:

- A. Contest Director _____
- B. Contest Worker _____
- C. Prize Donations _____
- D. Other _____

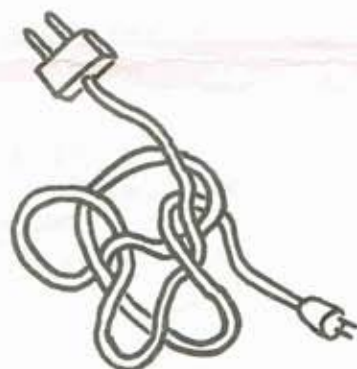
4. CLUB OPERATIONS:

- A. LAMA REP. _____
 (1 meeting 1 mo.)
- B. Publicity man _____
- C. Flight instruction _____
- D. Other _____

V OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS: ADD ON ATTACHED SHEET

YOUR NAME _____ PHONE NO.: _____

Stan Gordon always has trouble untangling his charging cords. This is one of Stan's cords and he wants to know whether he will knot it if he pulls on the opposite ends.
 Help good ole Stan out.



FINCH'S FLAK

Don't miss the January meeting which will start at 8:00 PM Tuesday, the 11th at the Encino Womens Club. Our Program Chairman Rod Taylor as arranged for RCM Contributing Editor, Valley Flyer and all around good guy Dick Sonheim to show his movies of the last Reno races. This year Dick recorded the big engine sounds to go with the movies. Model of the Month, Raffle, and all the other normal club functions such as the Treasurer being present to collect your dues for 1977 will occur.

You will also be asked to sign up to help out at at least one of our contests or at the NATS.

While I'm on the subject, if you don't have a personal Class C FCC License, forms will be available to get one at the Treasurer's table. The club license will only be available on an emergency basis until your personal license is granted. Why? Class C Licenses are now FREE. The free license period will not last forever so get yours now.

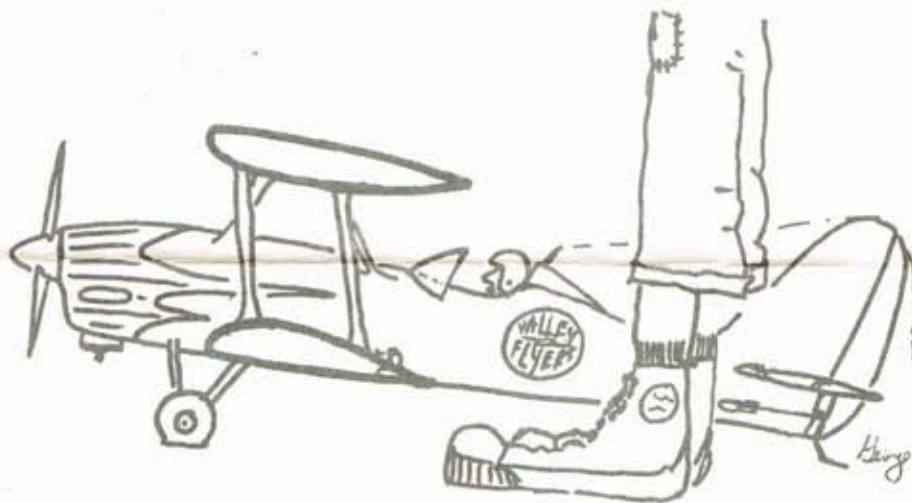
I want to thank Bob Owens, Tom Swift and Scott Johnson for their work on the Board for the Valley Flyers. If you get the chance, you might thank them personally for the good job they did.

Len Katz has agreed to continue as our LAMA representative and Rod Taylor will continue to provide our entertainment. New member, Larry Laulom (Crazy to his caller) has agreed to run a Formula 500 contest, Tom Mead the Speed Trials and Jim Oddino and/or his partner at S&O Radios Bill Salkowski the pattern contest.

By meeting night we will have the contest schedule worked out. We are planning to hold the following contests: March, 1/2 A Pylon; April, Pattern (2 day); May, Club Formula 500 Training Day and Formula 500 two weeks later; June, Scale; July, alternate for April pattern contest; 7-14 August, the NATS at March AFB; September, 1/2 A Pylon Championships (2 day); and October, The Speed Trials.

It looks like three or four Formula 1 races and perhaps a 1/4 Midget race will have to be held at the Basin also because Whittier is torn up. We have talked to the Parks and Recs. and it is doubtful that they will issue contest permits for more than three days per month or for contests on consecutive weekends. This is in response to objecting sport flyers. Not counting Formula 1 contests that we may be allowed to hold, our traditional contests will take 12 of the available 21 contest days so the scheduling problem is obvious. It looks like the contest season will have to start early to get all the races in before the NMPRA cutoff date.

Geary



HAVE YA FLOWN IT YET MISTER?

The Permagloss Coverite is great stuff but a person using it for the first time should definitely read the instruction sheet which comes with each roll. It requires much higher heat for application than Monokote or Solarfilm and the sealing iron has to be re-set higher than the normal maximum setting. The instructions explain how to do this. Also, because the surface is less slippery than Monokote it is difficult to slide the iron over it without catching. I found that a pressing action works much better than sliding.

Another thing that they don't tell you in the instructions is that the stuff has grain, that is, it shrinks more in one direction than the other. The direction of greatest shrinkage is parallel to the edge that first comes off the roll. Cutting wing panels with the span in this direction will give you a surface that stays flat over open structure. Cutting panels 90° to this direction will give you a surface that swoops in-between the ribs like my Stearman. Just be sure you cut all panels in the same direction once you decide which appearance you prefer.

The panel lines and surface details such as trim tab outlines, fuel tanks, etc. were applied with a standard technical or drafting pen and a straightedge. The ink is the type used for working on mylar and is NOT waterproof. There are several reasons for this. First, errors can be wetted and erased easily. Second, while not fuel proof, it will stand up to a sealing coat of clear dope, acrylic lacquer or urethane varnish. Standard waterproof inks will not "take" to the Coverite, are not fuel proof, and will run when hit with lacquer.

One final note. Since I couldn't find decals of the proper size for the registration numbers and aircraft type to go on the vertical fin and rudder, I made my own. To do this, you take a short length of gummed tape like they use to hold the brown paper wrapping on parcels to be mailed. With the dried glue side up, apply a couple of coats of clear dope over the glue. Then lay out your number and letter sequence with a sheet of Prestype. These are the ones that come off when you rub the back of the sheet, available at stationery stores. Cover the letters with a couple more coats of clear dope. Now when you soak this strip in a dish of water the glue will soften and the dope film and letters will slide off like a decal. You can make any custom decal in a similar manner! Simple, heh?

John Pallew

THE VALLEY FLYER
George Finch, Editor
18127 Wakecrest Drive
Malibu, CA 90265

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**DATED
MATERIAL**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

