



SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION

News Letter

Bruce Underwood - President

Steve Byrum-Secretary Treasurer

Jeff Hannah-Appointed Member

Ed Hartley-Web Site—Newsletter Editor

Roy Thompson—Photographer

Tom Atkins-Vice President

Mickey Walker-Past President

Jim Ivey-Chairman Special Projects

Ralph Jones—Appointed Member

Volume 12 Number 1

January February 2002

WEB SITE-<http://www.rcpattern.net/spa/>

SPA Simply Better-Watch Us Grow

FROM THE PRESIDENT



At the outset of this new Year, 2002, things are looking good for the fortunes of the Senior Pattern Association.

There are more clubs talking of sponsoring SPA Pattern Contests this season than last (we had 5 last season). We are in hopes of a total of 7 contests in the region this year.

Let me encourage CDs to get with the AMA District Contest Coordinator as soon as possible for securing definite dates for your contest. Steve is working intently with most all CDs who have been in touch with him to keep up with intended dates, etc.

Regarding Contest Coordinators...in AMA District 5 the CC is: Dick Tonan, 639 Knollwood Dr. Lavergne, TN 37086. AMA says Tonan is CC for these states in District 5....Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia and Puerto Rico. The CC for RC in the state of Florida is: Judi Dunlap, 14711 SE 1st Avenue Rd., Summerfield, FL 34491. In District 6 which includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri, the CC is Randy Cameron, 2134 S. Hillcrest Av., Springfield, MO 65807.

Our Chairman of Special Projects, Jim Ivey in Mableton, GA is keeping abreast of contest dates and will be happy to help CD's with suggested dates, info, etc. Jim's E-mail address is: jivey61@msn.com and that is the fastest method of communicating with Jim. Dick Tonan's email address is dtonan@aol.com

Let me thank all who participated in the election back in December for this years slate. It was a "landslide" victory for the same slate as this past year and we all do appreciate your votes of confidence and pledge our best efforts this year same as last.

Our only change in your leadership this year is the addition of Mr. Ralph Jones SPA # 105 of Augusta, Georgia as an appointed member of your Board of Directors. At SPA's annual Board meeting in Chattanooga on January 12, Mr. Frank Stewart, long time Secretary- Treasurer asked to be "recused" from his Board position citing other endeavors

that had interfered with his sport/hobby this past year and would just "feel better being a fairly active member for awhile". Frank had given much to not only the organization of SPA but its' yearly functions for many years for which we are most grateful. I asked Ralph to fill the Stewart vacancy...he accepted...and a solid red carpet was laid out for him in the hallway of SPA Administration. Welcome aboard Ralph.

This is the 2nd year of our 2 year Pattern cycle...our patterns utilized this season will be the same as last so don't hesitate to visit the SPA Website and download all the copies of the patterns you need to hasten into early practice. For the benefit of non-computer members, we'll print the patterns again in a forthcoming newsletter if not included in this one by the editor Ed.

Rest assured there will be much expertise in the selection of the patterns for the coming two years (2003 & 2004). Your Board has named an experienced committee of six to practice fly, formulate and compose suggested patterns for the coming cycle. It's hoped that this group will provide a pair (2)...of maneuver schedules for each of our three classes for selection by the general membership prior to the end of this year. The members of the PATTERN COMMITTEE complete with E-Mail addresses are as follows:

Curt Diggs scurtd@mindspring.com

Ed Hartley roho@rcpattern.net

Jeff Hannah jahannah@peoplepc.com

Malcolm Rutledge mmrutledge@mindspring.com

Roy Thompson ret55@bellsouth.net

Tom Atkins t2a@mindspring.com

These folks have rulebooks with maneuvers flown during our time periods and plan to put a lot of effort into these schedules and welcome your input or suggestions. They have a distribution list set aside for them by Webmaster Ed, allowing them to visit with each other via computer like they were all seated in the same room.

Dick Cline SPA # 161 proposed to the Board that rules be amended that would allow models flown up to 25 years of the current year be allowed to legally compete. Our Board is eyeing Clines proposal with perhaps an inclusion of models in 5 year increments up to 25 years prior to the current

year. No action was taken pending more study of the models which might become available for inclusion plus some specific information relating to "pre-turnaround" time periods.

It seems that the question of "allowing retracts" comes as regularly before our Board as does the daily shower-bath. It was interesting to note that this particular suggestion has almost always come from outside the boundaries of SPA membership. Your Board has again decided to recognize suggested rules proposals from within our SPA membership. SPA and its' current leadership is proud of the rules composition as exists since it retains its' foundation guidelines as relates to "affordability", relative "simplicity" and an "almost level playing field".

In North Alabama...our weather has been, for the most part, cold and wet....but, thank goodness for the trickle-charger...when one of the unusually warm days in mid-winter arrives...almost unannounced, we can go get in a flight or two. Hope you've had a few of those kind of days where you are.

Til next edition,
Bruce Underwood - SPA 15 - Pres.
1412 Patterson St. Guntersville, AL 35976
bunderwo@hiwaay.net

Cass Underwood and his USA 2002 Rabbit!



From the Chairman of the Board



Well this is the start of our twelfth year, it sure is fun to sit back and think of all the fun we have had in this time. And not so much fun when one remembers all the good friends we have lost in this time. One remembers all the good friends and I was thinking (yes I know this is dangerous) but anyway, I can not for the life of me remember the first model I built

for the SPA. A couple of years back I quit counting SPA models I have built since we started at 40.

Yes I can hear some of you now, this guy is the biggest liar in the world but I have pictures of all of them, and also friends who can back up this claim.

Most were sold or given to people to try and get interest in the SPA going. Also in this time I built many free flight models, as I still compete in the SAM free flight events. Why am I telling you this? As I said, I was reflecting over the last twelve years. I sure hope every one else has enjoyed the many contest, and friends made over the years as I have.

Our president has said we will have more contest this year, that is good news, I sure hope I can make them all.

I have seen on my email some clubs around the country are having contest using SPA rules. I am really happy to see this, it can only help the SPA movement.

As I write this I am looking forward to the big bash in Perry Ga. I will be in the SPA booth to pull my turn, and look forward to seeing all who can come. We get a lot of good exposure from this show. I also look forward to seeing you all on the contest circuit this year.

MICKEY

From the Treasurer



Another successful election has passed. Two years ago, Frank Stewart sent stamped addressed return envelopes with the December newsletter/ballot. Response was very high. We did this again this past year, and expanded the effort by sending a newsletter to anyone who had ever had an SPA number, whether they had paid dues recently or not. We sent out

110 stamped return envelopes. To date, we have received dues from 80 of these members. Even as late as mid-February, I still get several renewals each week.

We also sent 106 newsletters to inactive members. Bruce and I felt it might be good just to let them know SPA was still active. Cost on this mailing was about \$100. We have received 12 renewals as a result, bringing \$240 in the Treasury. Several of these members requested additional information for friends, so we may net as many as 20 members we didn't have last year. We'll repeat this excise, also, at the end of this year. It's a good thing to let old friends know you remember them.

The contest schedule is beginning to develop. Cullman, April 27-28, Hotlanta, July 27-28 and the Masters at the Paulding County field September 14-15 are confirmed. We also have proposed contests at Huntsville, AL, Chattanooga, TN, and Bowling Green, KY awaiting final club approval. With Montgomery returning to its usual August date and a return to Cave Springs, we could have nine contests this year. Get ready to travel! It's important to support every club that stages a contest. Jeff Hannah told us in the January Board Meeting that the Chattanooga club has a new site being prepared, but was just a little short of total fund-

ing. We know an SPA contest will help, if we all attend. Bowling Green is an expansion out of our normal area of operation, but is only about an hour north of Nashville. That's about the same distance as traveling to Knoxville. SPA leadership will participate heavily in contest operations to help this club have a smooth first contest. Cave Springs will be running their own contest this year and needs good attendance to encourage them to continue. Huntsville is also new, and has a great flying site. The bottom line is we have the membership to make each of these contests a success. We only need to commit to some travel with friends to support each club offering us the chance to fly.

From The Vice President

Hello SPA'ers,

Well here it is. The year 2002 is upon us and it is time to make good on all the rash resolutions made at the end of 2001. My resolution was to find time and energy to practice the SPA pattern.



If you have a pattern airplane that just doesn't seem to track properly, you might take a look at sealing ALL the control surfaces. This is frequently done with a strip of MonoKote or a clear plastic tape. These work

ok but are not a permanent solution to the problem. They eventually succumb to fuel and age. For a permanent seal try this:

Get yourself a tube of GE RTV. RTV is a thin silicone rubber kinda stuff and cures to a very flexible and clear film. Make an application tool out of a 2" long piece of aluminum tubing that will fit snugly over the spout on the RTV tube. Squeeze one end closed with a pair of pliers. Soften the edges of the flattened tube with sandpaper and open the squeezed end a bit, only about 1/64", with an X-Acto knife blade. The tool can now be slipped over the tube spout and you are ready to start sealing.

To seal the surface gaps, deflect each surface UP and apply a thin bead of RTV into the hinge line from the bottom. When you think you have a nice continuous bead applied, hold the thing up to a light and make sure there are no voids. If all is well, just let the RTV cure for 24 hours with the surfaces in the neutral position. After the 24 hour cure cycle, flex the surfaces full up and down a few times to break the seal in, and you are done.

It is surprising how many weird little trim problems can be eliminated by sealing all the surfaces. This includes the rudder, too.

If you use CA to install hinges, as I do, you might combine the hinge installation and sealing into one opera-

tion.

The big problem with using CA to install hinges is that the tiny drop you apply to the hinge really loves to run the full length of the hinge line, effectively gluing the surfaces together. If you tape the surfaces in place and apply the TV BETWEEN the hinges, you can then apply the CA and the RTV will prevent the CA from running down the hinge line.

If you feel the need to tool the RTV, you can do so with a paper towel moistened with a bit of lighter fluid, naphtha or other petroleum based distillates.

I am looking forward to seeing every one of you at the contests this year. We will find out how seriously I took my new years resolution.

Tom

Aztec Airplane Factory-SPA Legal Kits

Tanglefoot \$195 plus shipping

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Jim Kirkland's A-6 Intruder \$210 plus shipping

The Equalizer \$195.00 plus shipping

Tom Atkins T2A \$210.00 plus shipping

The original T2A by Tom Atkins is now Available. We have five different kits. The kits are fiberglass, carbon fiber reinforced fuselages with foam wings. Deluxe kits are also available which include sheeted wings and stabs and precut bulkheads for an additional \$130.00.

**George Truett-PO Box 1699-Chiefland, FL
32644**

(352) 493-9656-gltruett@svic.net

GET A FRIEND TO JOIN

Senior Pattern Association Membership Application

Name _____ **Date of Birth** _____

Address _____ **Phone** _____

City-State-Zip _____

Current Club Affiliation _____

AMA Number _____

Membership Dues \$20.00 Make checks payable to Senior Pattern Association

Mail to:

Steve Byrum

1326 3RD St. SE

Cullman, Alabama 35055

Pictures from Here And There



We had a lot more to use, I will try and get them in the next issue! Be sure and get your SPA decals from Steve Byrum for your new or old project!

Steve Byrum

1326 3rd St SE

\$1.00 Each

Cullman, AL 35055

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Cass Underwood's TOP NOTCH Trophies

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A T-2A Deluxe Kit with wings and tail sheeted! I paid \$350.00 for it and you can buy it for **\$300.00!**

Contact Mickey Walker

mickeywalker@mindspring.com

Ed Hartley
221 Oran Road
Knoxville, TN 37922

