



The SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION

News Letter

Bruce Underwood - President

Steve Byrum-Secretary Treasurer

Jeff Hannah-Appointed Member

Ed Hartley-Appointed Member

George Truett - Newsletter

WEB SITE-<http://www.seniorpattern.com>

Tom Atkins-Vice President

Mickey Walker-Chairman of the Board

Terry Carlson-Chairman Special Projects

Ralph Jones-Appointed Member

Roy Thompson-Appointed Member

Ron Reed-Appointed Member

July—August 2003

Volume 13 Number 4

If you like the old way, stay in the SPA

THE PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE



THE PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE

The HOTLANTA contest in July was perhaps the very best. "weatherwise" that we've had in the last 6 to 8 years in my humble opinion. Some of our Alabama gang have been known to bring a huge electric fan and a gas-fueled generator for use under the tent there....but that just wasn't needed this year.

You'll note elsewhere the favorable report on the environmental conditions in Hotlanta this year....but that's just the beginning of verbal salutations from many to the PCMA for this year's contest. The food, the fellowship, the competition...it was just "the greatest". See that contest report elsewhere in this edition. One of the happiest attendees to the contest was Jim Slocum, as it was he who won the OS 91 raffle prize. Some of the crowd at the drawing was overheard saying "Ken Nix wasn't here?". Nix, as some of us know, won 3 engines in one season at similar raffles. His purchase of massive numbers of raffle tickets for these events has really been a "boon" to the sponsoring club's treasuries.

Mike Hare of the RAMM club in Montgomery, Alabama has already assured all of ideal weather conditions for the last weekend in August contest in Alabama's Capitol City.

There's been a good bit of "chatter" on the SPA Mail-list regarding two of this and next years Expert pattern maneuvers and the execution of them. One is the Loop with 1 ½ snaps at the top....a difficult maneuver to execute precisely. Most of the difficulty, I have found is maintaining symmetry....IE: making the loop remain ROUND rather than stretched horizontally. I have yet to award a 10 or perfect score for this maneuver.... however, I do recall having awarded a 9 for one of our SENIOR or PRE-SENIORS....don't recall which, was very close to per-

fect. His symmetry was almost right-on as he snapped into the incoming crosswind...and it just so happened the drift imposed by the strong crosswind was just right to stop the airplane dead on heading. I was set to award that perfect score....when the pilot (evidently awe-struck by the perfect heading at the snap-and-a-half conclusion)....delayed his ½ rollout at the completion of his loop resulting in the one point deduction.

The other expertise-testing maneuver is the Reverse Spin. I have found that releasing ones' up-elevator at the center of the two spins is very "gutsy" and most times I will refrain from releasing it....and accept a downgrade for the models' creeping upwind rather than chancing a zero by trying to force the nose of the airplane vertical and re-entering a stall condition for the 2nd set of spins.

The current EXPERT pattern with these two maneuvers may not *flow* as well as those in past years....but isn't it a "hoot" trying to master it?

The time for the Memorial Trophy Fly-off..is drawing nigh. This, is the pinnacle of the annual Masters contest.this September in Cullman, AL. I recently revisited the 2002 Masters results on the SPA Webpage to determine the participants in the "Fly-Off" this year. According to the qualifications at the 2002 Masters, the qualifiers this year with scores from last year are: Ed Hartley 1000, Malcolm Rutledge 929, from the Super Senior Class....Jamie Strong 984, Curt Diggs 976 from the Senior Class. In event one or more of the aforementioned qualifiers cannot compete...1st Reserve Senior pilot would be Keith Watson 950, 2nd would be Jim Ivey 946. 1st Reserve Super Senior would be Frank Chick 910, 2nd would be Dennis Hunt with 906. What a line-up of talent.....I wouldn't want to miss this "shoot-out" on a bet! Enjoy the reports, results, photos, etc. in this issue of the SPA Newsletter after today's visit to the practice field and a few good flights. Best to all.

Bruce Underwood

1412 Patterson St.
Guntersville, AL 35976
(256)582-3742
Bunderwo@hiwaay.net

From the Vice President

Well guys, here I am casting about for a topic for the newsletter article again. Two months fly by and it can be really difficult to generate ideas to write about. Could we possibly get by with a quarterly newsletter? It would save 33% on postage and not strain our collective intellect as much as is currently the case.

To say that this year has been a pivotal one for SPA is a gross understatement. The founder of the organization has resigned from the board of directors and many of the Chapter 1 members who were charter members of SPA and were in at the beginning have decided that the event has become something that it was never meant to be and have stopped participating in SPA events. This is very regrettable to me, as these are all close friends and flying buddies.

The problem seems to be that we have strayed pretty far from the original SPA concept. The actions have been gradual and may have seemed innocuous enough at the time, but the overall effect is one that some think is ruining SPA. This whole effort has been a learning experience for everyone involved. It was believed at the beginning that everyone would embrace the original concept and keep it pure. Unfortunately, the competitive urge took over and we now have creeping erosion of all that has made SPA a success in the past. It has been pointed out that SPA should have had a constitution that prevented 3% rules and other rules changes that create the divergence from what was intended. This constitution would have to be written in stone and not subject to indiscriminate change. It is amazing how little change is required to completely kill an entire concept, particularly when that concept is for simplicity and simplicity. These two things seem to be anathema to some competitors.

Because what was envisioned as a stable and constant competitive environment doesn't seem to exist within the current framework of SPA, there has been preliminary discussion of starting a new organization with the original SPA objectives and the aforementioned cast-in-stone constitution to make sure that the event doesn't go the way of so many competitive events. Only time will tell whether this will happen. Maybe, just maybe, things can be worked out to everyone's satisfaction. I hope this is the case, but frankly it is hard to be optimistic. Competition is a cannibalistic animal. Without serious restraints it will invariably eat itself

Keep the greasy side down.

Tom

Top Notch Trophies Awards and Engraving Trophies, Plaques & Plastic Signs

We have been supplying the South with the best in plaques and Trophies for the last 8 years....Tired of paying to much \$\$\$\$ \$.....???? That's what we are here for..On the average, An SPA meet uses 21 plaques.... WOW!!!!!!.. Lot of money you say??...Not if you call **TNT**.... We can use your club logo on the plaque or the SPA logo....PRICE, you say....how about \$250.00 on average.....PLUS, I'll throw in a 4th & 5th place plaque for Novice. **FREE!!.....You read it right.... FREE!!!!!!**

No matter what the event may be, WE PROVIDE THE **BEST** FOR ANY EVENT... That's why we are **TOP NOTCH**..... Cass Underwood

Top Notch Trophies
Guntersville, AL 35976
(256)582-0606

LSK Pattern 2003 by Allan Worrest, SPA 201

The Lincoln Sky Knights, located in Lincoln, NE, held their annual Pattern contest on July 27. It is a modified SPA contest where SPA schedules are flown but the Sportsman and Expert classes are open to all AMA aircraft. There are no age groups. We have been doing this for about three years. Sixteen people flew. Seven entered Novice, three entered Sportsman, and six flew Expert. Half of the contestants were from outside of the club. One person, Jerry Voth, drove in from Kansas. The rest were from eastern Nebraska.

The contest leadership changed this year. John Willman and Rich Boelts were in charge. Rich was the official CD and cook. John organized the contest and ran it.

Rain caused the contest to have a late start. It would have started somewhat late even if the weather had been good. The LSK runway is oriented north-south. Early morning fliers are forced to look into the sun if they are not to fly over the pits. The entire first round was threatened by ominous clouds. It cleared by the end of the last round. The wind was unusually light. After the first round, contestants took a lunch break. We were able to complete three rounds of flying.

Trophies were awarded to the top three fliers in each class. Every contestant had a chance in a random drawing for prizes. Hobby-Town USA in Lincoln donated gift certificates. Waverly R/C (Waverly, NE) gave a glow booster. John Willman provide some other merchandise.

Top three winners in each class are listed below. Interestingly, the winner of each class was a visitor.

Novice

John Van Brocklin
Roger Hinrichs
Justin Handa

Sportsman

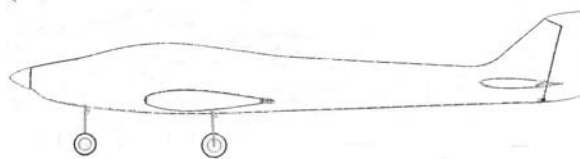
John Boord Sr.
David Franzen
Mark Bergt

Expert

Nick Reiss
John Willman
Jerry Voth

Kits by

George Truett (formerly Aztec Airplane Factory)



We offer 6 SPA Legal Kits

Tom Atkins' T2A
Jim Kirkland's A-6 Intruder
The Patricia
The Equalizer
Tanglefoot
New Orleanian

Call (770)592-4676
E-mail gltruett@aol.com

The LSK Pattern contest is the third of four similar contests to be held in the state this year. What this form of pattern will evolve into is hard to predict. I doubt that it becomes a pure SPA contest. There is really no nostalgia for flying 70's aircraft. In Expert, Nick Reiss flew a Hanson Runaround with a piped YS61 long stroke. Willman had a state-of-the-art, wide body Excellence powered by a YS140L, and Jerry Voth had a Hanson Excess with a ST2300 up front. I had the only legal SPA aircraft, a Bridi Killer Chaos with an OS61FX, entered in the contest.

Nor is the contest likely to turn into AMA pattern. Too many of the senior contestants had flown AMA pattern and expressed a dislike for the turnaround schedule. Frankly, I find the SPA Expert schedule more fun than the AMA Advanced. The present format has encouraged old and new fliers to try pattern again.

Maybe that is success enough.

RAMMS' - Lucky 13
6th Annual RAMMS' SPA contest
 Aug. 30 & 31, 2003 Montgomery, Alabama

MONTGOMERY, AL.....August 31, 2003: A "Bakers Dozen" of the luckiest SPA Precision Aerobatics Pilots in the South just spent one of the most enjoyable week-ends of the current season.

They were *lucky* for several reasons.....# 1.... they opted to participate in the annual RAMMS SPA Pattern contest where the weather at the beautiful site on the shores of Pirdles Puddle.was nicest of any of the previous five gatherings. Not a single drop of rain....partly cloudy skies screening the morning Eastern Sun allowing for punctual starts each day. Very little perspiring with temps, for the most part, in the upper 80's and gentle to strong winds from the NE providing supplemental cooling to the huge electric fans trained on the judges These fans, (3 total) didn't even phase the powerful 7,000 watt generator provided by Ken Hardin.

2.....They opted to fly model airplanes rather than attend the Auburn vs. Southern California football game season opener. Even though the Sporting News magazine had pictured the Tigers four running backs and dubbed them "the most talented RBs in College football this season"....Orange and Blue clad fans were unusually quiet....sort of like they smelled a *skunk* SC shutout the Aubie Kitties 23 to 0 ! These fans talked a lot of RC airplane talk rather than sports.

3....Some of the lucky 13 even got to enjoy the "YEE-HAWS" extended from the Staffers at the Longhorn Steak house on Friday night...and the antics of the Japanese chef as he prepared the delectable goodies at Shoguns' on Saturday night. Got any idea how much rice Jim Slocum can consume? When Keith Watson is partying and yells to the oriental hostess....."Mickey Lite, please".....he ain't begging our founder to go on a diet!

#4.....These attendees got to view a single round in which...*every Expert pilot who flew the round.....EVERY one got at least one ZERO on a maneuver!!* (Just an enormous wind in your face that lasted for about the hour-and-a-half consumed by that round)

#5....Not a single crash all week-end....and the DADDY-RABBIT was not the most popular airplane to compete. Only two DR's....the model of choice this week-end was the ARF A6 Intruder. There was a Duke's mixture of others...but the Intruder numbered about 1/2 dozen.

What a GREAT job of CDing, judging, running sheets, scheduling and just excellent overseeing of the event by Mike and Pam Hare. The Hares' handsome son and lovely daughter graced the gathering with their presence. These youngsters are so cute, well-behaved and intelligent....reflects most admirably their "raisin"!

Sooper Dave Carlton, Ed Sims, Gene Hannah, Tom Stewart and other RAMM clubbers whose names I can't recall exactly (apologize)...all serving for props on the contest stage were SO gracious and saw that all wants and needs for the "Lucky-13" were met.

On the trip home to North Alabama, Bill Collins said..."ya know, it just seems like the contest season isn't complete until we come to Montgomery for that annual week-end of SPA fellowship....those folks know how to run a show!!" To which, I replied.....AMEN !

Many, Many thanks RAMM.

RESULTS

NOVICE (5)

1. Robbie Walker	4000
2. Jim Oliver	3855
3. Jim Slocum	3737
4. Thomas Stewart	3715
5. Gene Hannah	2749

PRE-SR SPORTSMAN (2)

1. Joseph Clemons	3981
2. Randy Roberts	3934

SENIOR SPORTSMAN (1)

1. Ken Hardin	4000
---------------	------

SENIOR EXPERT (3)

1. Keith Watson	4000
2. Jamie Strong	3932
3. Ralph Jones	3748

SUPER SR. EXPERT (2)

1. Bruce Underwood	4000
2. Darrell Kampschror	3301

Points earned in Montgomery

NOVICE

Robbie Walker	+9
Jim Oliver	+7
Jim Slocum	+5

PRE SENIOR SPORTSMAN

Joseph Clemons	+6
Randy Roberts	+4

Note: Loads of interest in this race, both are gonna try their best to win this one!)

SENIOR SPORTSMAN

Ken Hardin	+5
------------	----

SENIOR EXPERT

Keith Watson	+7
Jamie Strong	+5
Ralph Jones	+3

Loads of interest in this one, Strong is swapping modes in hopes of winning in Cullman.

SUPER SR EXPERT

Bruce Underwood	+6
Darrell Kampschror	+4

HOTLANTA 2003

As usual, PCMA really runs a "good contest". but this years' 2003 Hotlanta has got to rank up there with the best of em' at the Paulding County Model Airport.

Mickey Walker, CD.and Co-CD John Baxter operated with as much precision as a U.S. Navy Skipper and his "first-mate" maneuvering the week-ends' events. They were very quick to modestly say, like the Coach of the Super Bowl victors, "the credit should go to the team...not us coaches"!

Well buddy, that "team" was well-oiled and performed flawlessly. Not a single contestant nor supporter of contestants went wanting for nuthin'. Hotdogs and hamburgers were shortkitted and individually wrapped in sanitary aluminum foil, accessories right alongside for tailoring to ones' particular preferences. Ice cold drinks of lots of kinds, even desserts ranging from Krispy Kreams to blueberry muffins and Granma's huge cookie delights. Mickey and Rebecca introduced the Littles and others who dished up the goodies for the throng.

John Baxter keyed the computer with accuracy checks by Frank and Danny and scores were available within minutes of flight with PCMA "runners" waiting with an outstretched hand as a flyer's landing was scored.

The lucky pilot who won the raffled OS .91 engine was Jim Slocum, and what a deserving individual. A local clubber told me that Jim had crashed a model just this past week, while practicing for this contest. Jim's got one of the most pleasing smiles, especially after having won the new engine. He and several of the "locals" in the PCMA club are already planning on "winning" at Mikes' contest in late August in Montgomery, AL and then the Masters in Sept. in Cullman.

Nine of the 24 pilots who entered were Novices....it is SO comforting to see the new folks migrating to SPA....where they say " I love making my airplane go where I mean for it to go....sted of just hoping I can guide it around for awhile and then land it on the field".

Ed will more than likely have the results on the website within 24 hours. John Baxter shot some excellent still shots which are posted on the website in a few days as well as appearing in this newsletter. Ed shot some more of that "streaming video" at the awards presentation and will make it available soon.

Something about ATLAS models and this week-end wasn't compatible. Darrell Kampschor lost his Friday afternoon when the motor came "uncranked" way downwind of the field and Jack Dunn lost one (reminded me of one Ron Reed had once) when a tent and tall trees got between our eyeballs and that airplane. Darrell and Jo Ann went back to Augusta to save

their motel money for a future contest with another ship from Darrells' fleet. Jack showed up Sunday with a beautiful King Altaire that favored Rusty Miller. We've all experienced losses like this guys, we sympathize greatly.

Thanks PCMA for a wonderful contest. Even the weatherman smiled on you with temperatures about 10 degrees cooler than is normally the case. I dunno how you arranged that, .but would surely like your secret.

HOTLANTA RESULTS

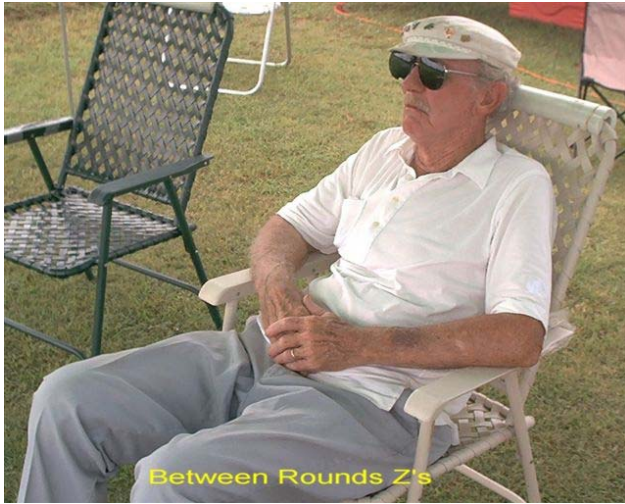
Super Senior Expert	
1. Bruce Underwood 4000	Guntersville, AL
2. Ed Hartley 3660	Knoxville, TN
3. Dennis Hunt 3293	Knoxville, TN
4. Ben Oliver 3128	Knoxville, TN
5. Jack Dunn 2005	Hood River, OR
Senior Expert	
1. Keith Watson 3730	Marietta, GA
2. Tom Atkins 3694	Marietta, GA
3. Marty Barry 3615	Hiawasee, GA
4. Jamie Strong 3501	Prattville, AL
5. Jim Ivey 3394	Mabelton, GA
Pre-Senior Expert	
1. Cass Underwood 4000 (flew with Senior Expert)	Guntersville, AL
Senior Sportsman	
1. John Gausby 3987	Glen Allen, VA
2. Joe Holton 3904	Marietta, GA
3. John Baxter 3805	Dallas, GA
4. Tim Fielden 3444	
Novice	
1. Scott Anderson 4000	Knoxville, TN
2. Jake May 3942	Knoxville, TN
3. Scott Sappington 3819	Marietta, GA
4. Bill Starnes 3725	Kingsport, TN
5. Richard LeClaire 3712	Cartersville, GA
6. Berry Roper 3660	Smyrna, GA
7. Mark Crabtree 3530	Marietta, GA
8. Jim Slocum 3410	Marietta, GA
9. Steve Vergamina 3248	Cartersville, GA



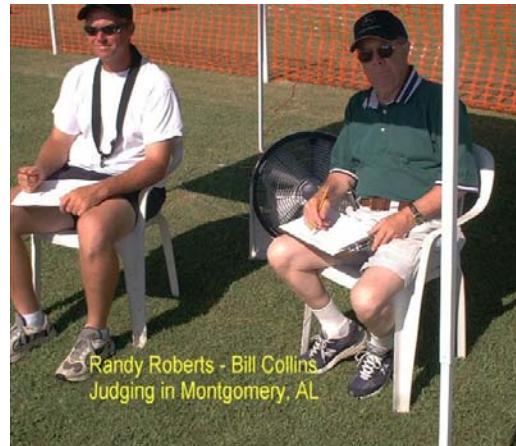
Mike, Pam, Michael & Meagan
CD's Montgomery, AL - 6 years



Pair o' Hares - Mtgy 2003



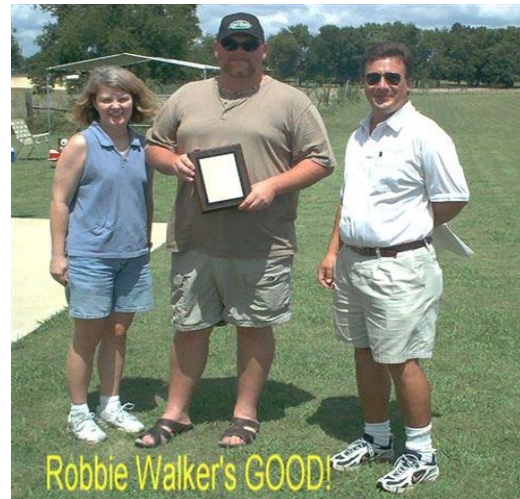
Between Rounds Z's



Randy Roberts - Bill Collins
Judging in Montgomery, AL



The Strongs - Jim & Jamie



Robbie Walker's GOOD!

**ANNUAL POINTS CHAMPIONSHIP
(3 contests-RCRC, KCRC, HOTLANTA)**

Super Senior Expert

- 1. Bruce Underwood 23
- 2. Ed Hartley 12
- 3. Ben Oliver 11
- 4. Dennis Hunt 8
- 5. Jack Dunn 1

Super Senior Sportsman

- 1. Ken Nix 8
- 2. Phil Spelt 6

Senior Expert

- 1. Jamie Strong 14
- 2. Keith Watson 14
- 3. Mike Wingo 3
- 4. Tom Atkins 7
- 5. Marty Barry 5

Pre-Senior Expert

- 1 Cass Underwood 16
- 2 Sid Austin 11

Senior Sportsman

- 1 Ken Hardin 14
- 2 Phil Cope 7
- 3 Joe Holton 11
- 4 Don Peck 5
- 5 John Gausby 9
- 6 Bob Bixby 1
- 7 John Baxter 4
- 8 Tim Fielden 2

Pre-Senior Sportsman

- 1 Joseph Clemons 9
- 2 Randy Roberts 6

Novice

- 1 Robbie Walker 25
- 2 Jake May 24
- 3 Scott Anderson 22
- 4 Mark Crabtree 13
- 5 Carl Sten 11
- 6 Scott Sappington 9
- 7 Tony Coberly 8
- 8 Berry Roper 7
- 9 W.Rhea Starnes 7
- 10 Warren Tomme 6
- 11 Bill Starnes 5
- 12 Richard Leclair 5
- 13 Don Eilor 3
- 14 David Johnson 2
- 15 Jim Oliver 2
- 16 Vic Koenig 1
- 17 Jim Slocum 1

SCENES FROM HOTLANTA 2003



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

George Truett
3006 Old Virginia Trail
Woodstock, GA 30189

