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The **SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION** *News Letter*

Bruce Underwood - President

Tom Atkins-Vice President

Steve Byrum-Secretary Treasurer

Terry Carlton-Chairman Special Projects

Jeff Hannah-Appointed Member

Ralph Jones-Appointed Member

**Dedicated to the building,
Flying and Competition of
Vintage Pattern Aircraft**

Ed Hartley-Web Site—Newsletter Editor

George Truett-Newsletter

Mickey Walker-FOUNDER EMERITUS

Roy Thompson-Photographer

Sept/Oct 2003

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

If you like the old way, stay in the SPA

THE PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE

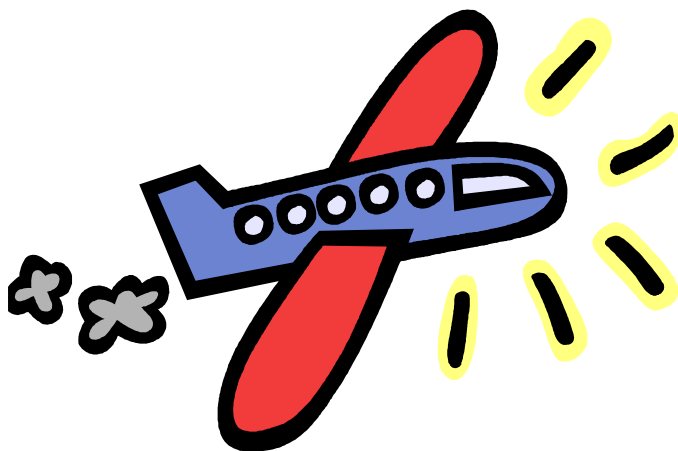


This is my initial try at putting together a newsletter. Believe me, I am now aware of the time and effort put into this project by Ed and George.

George requested some vacation time from the NL assembly due to vocation demands. Truett's, thanks so very much.

There's been lots of "fun" and "fellowship" on the contest circuit this season culminating with the annual MASTERS' contest on Sept. 20 & 21 in Cullman.

Steve did his traditional super job CD'ing the Masters and has remarks and results elsewhere in this publication.



Keith Watson's COMPENSATOR pictured above.....wins MEMORIAL TROPHY "FLY-OFF" powered by a 2-stroke pre-weedwhacker!!

MASTERS ANNUAL BANQUET MEETING

Directors Present: Ed Hartley – Webmaster
Steve Byrum – Sec./Treas.
Bruce Underwood – Pres.

Five 8-foot tables were used by those present at Jack's Truck Stop Restaurant in Cullman, AL on Sat. Sept. 20, 2003. At one time or other, most ALL members present spoke their feelings before the gathering regarding the evident demise of interest and participation in SPA.

Keith Watson opened remarks saying in essence "many of our clubmembers feel that the organization is advancing beyond its' reason for being".

Watsons' initial statement provided a continual discussion of little "intricates" that most all felt were, or were NOT, healthy for the Association.

It was a mutual concensus that simplification of classes, regs and rules would more than likely lead to more growth and participation. A unanimous voice echoed "adherence to the basic formulation" modified slightly for the passage of time, aging of pilots, improvement to equipment and skills, would likely spark membership and participation.

The two Boardmembers, Byrum and Hartley, both boldly stated, "I was against the recent age groupings proposed by Bruce, however, I was wrong now that I have seen the results of my actions, wish I had voted FOR the proposal".

ALL in attendance agreed that what is needed is an EMERGENCY meeting of the incoming BOARD of DIRECTORS to rescind some current regulations such as AGE-GROUPINGS that were called for in the original Constitution yet expanded to include potential pilots.

IE....Scott Sappington suggested ALL ages be combined in both NOVICE and SPORTSMAN and 0 to 60 Senior Expert, 60 and above Super Senior Expert. All agreed.

All agreed that the 3% rule needs to just be deleted from future Guides as its' unenforceable.

Now, speaking as 1st person...I, Bruce, had my chance to voice my opines before the group and was met with 100% agreement.

I thanked very humbly the two other Boardmembers present for their honesty in their statements of my previously introduced Amendment No. 1. This took humility on their part and thats the way I accepted it, very humbly.

I vowed to the group, that if they saw fit to re-elect me as the President of SPA for the coming year, I would immediately call a meeting of the newly elected officers and the appointed Boardmembers (according to the ByLaws) and institute these changes.

I informed them that I was going to, at Mickey's request, accept his resignation as active Chairman of the Board (since there was no provision for this position in the BL's)...and suggest he be named FOUNDER EMERITUS which he has so aptly earned and deserves for as long as SPA exists! This suggestion was unanimous among the attendees. I have since submitted the idea to the Board of Directors who have approved. (See other story).

I named a Nomination committee for suggested officers for the coming year consisting of:
Joe Holton – Georgia, Ben Oliver – Tennessee, Jamie Strong – Alabama. On Sunday, this is their suggested slate:

Bruce Underwood – Alabama – President
Scott Sappington – Georgia – Vice President
Steve Byrum – Alabama – Sec/Treas.

I have personally received committals from each of these members of their willingness to *actively* serve if elected and to promote, as a team, with the appointed new Board in 2004, the adherence to the original ideas, intents and structures of the SPA "FOUNDING FATHERS".



Bruce—SPA 15

In a post dated 09-23-03 I asked for response to a proposal from the MASTERS business meeting obliging our Founder, Mickey Walker and accepting his request to resign his position of active member of the SPA Board of Directors.

In accepting Mickey's request....a majority of the now 10 members of the BOD has opted to promote Walker to FOUNDER EMERITUS, a title he shall retain so long as the Senior Pattern Association exists.

The simple majority of the 10 is as follows:
Ed Hartley - YES
Terry Carlson - YES
Mickey Walker - YES
Ralph Jones - YES
Bruce Underwood - YES
Ron Reed - YES

6 of 10 constituting a majority....Roberts Rules are that we accept Mickey's resignation as ACTIVE Boardmember and with a greater "WHOOOOOM" than an Atlas booster elevate him to the aforementioned position. Mickey, congrats and a sincere and humble thanks for all your' ideas and work. "We're gonna continue earnest efforts to cultivate YOUR' organization"!



FOUNDER-EMERITUS

AMA HALL of FAME

July 28, 2002



From the desk of:

**SECRETARY-
TREASURER
&
MASTERS CD**

Steve Byrum

Who says you can't teach an old dawg new tricks? The PIO decided he would take a crack at doing the newsletter himself. He went on his very own to the office supply store and spent actual cash money on not one, but two computer programs to produce the newsletter. Now, I own those programs, too, and I know he parted with enough cash for two or three real good digital servos. It just boogles my mind (kinda like when I'm flying). I can remember at one of the first AMA contests I ever flew watching in awe as this very same PIO put together sleek hotrod powered by a thing called a Hanno. It had this great long muffler thing that made it just SCREAM. No weedwackers for him, he said. The same guy lived for years with a 12mhz AT clone because he loved his email program so much. Said he wouldn't know what to do with all those windows opened at once. There is a silver lining to this dark cloud. We all know how addictive this multi ghz computers can be. Maybe, just maybe, we've found something that might keep him home from the field once in a while.

All that being said, I think congratulations are in order for an excellent first effort. Next year, it'll be Bruce sneaking around with a digital camera trying to get a scoop for the newsletter. I'll bet we see some real tall tales.

For those of you who've seen the newsletters of some of the other SIGs, you know ours is one of the best looking, most informative newsletters around. Ed Hartley pioneered the full color layout using Microsoft Publisher, then Adobe Acrobat to produce it in a PDF format for easy transmission. The finished product is emailed to me. It seems we've got a print shop in Cullman where the lady running the shop thinks I'm cute (or something). Anyway, she prints it for us for \$1.00 per sheet in full color front and back. Try getting Kinkos to do that. The reason it's so cheap is because we make it easy for her. All she has to do is feed paper to a huge Canon color laser printer and press the print button. The machine reads the PDF and puts out about 15 pages per minute in full color. Thanks, Ed for producing the format, George for carrying it on, and now Bruce for tackling the job.

**Past President Ron Reed SPA # 14
has already reserved 4 tables for SPA
at the annual Southeastern Hobby and
Trade Show in Perry, Georgia.**

Show dates are March 5 & 6, 2004



This doggone DELL is robbing me of practice time at the field. (Reckon it'll fly with a ROSSI up front?????)



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WATSON WINS MEMORIAL TROPHY



Keith Watson receiving the “most prestigious” award for an SPA Pilot—SPA’s Memorial Trophy.

The Memorial Trophy “Fly-Off...as always, was the very highlight of the Masters Contest activity the week-end of Sept. 20 & 21 in Cullman.

5 judges seated spaced along the runway diligently seeking errors in the qualifiers flights (there weren’t many). We five judges agreed amongst us, neither of the 3 qualifiers flew such errorless flights in regular competition as they did this flight. Only 3-4 raw points separated 1st and 2nd place after the “high” and “low” scores were discarded and the others tallied.

Every precision aerobatic RC pilot “wannabee” should have viewed this round. The poise and execution demonstrated by these excellent pilots was admired and appreciated by a throng of spectators that lined the area behind the judges. These guys were SHINING examples of the kind of skills and expertise we all hope to achieve.

The SPA Memorial Trophy is competed for each year at the Masters contest by the top two pilots from Senior Expert and Super Senior Expert at the previous Masters. It is in remembrance of departed members:

Curtis Moates
Jim Jones
R.E.Walker
Richard (Dick) Austin

When its’ won three times by a member, he/she may no longer compete in the competition. This is Keith’s first win of the Huge beloved award.

2003 MASTERS CONTEST

If there is a “how-to” publication on effective and efficient contest running in the future, it will no-doubt be authored by our H E (Highly Efficient) SPA Sec/Tres. Steve Byrum.

This years’ MASTERS was delightful, at least for all day Saturday with pleasant temperatures and loads of good flying. As planned, four complete rounds were flown on Saturday plus the Memorial Fly-Off with ample time to shower and shove off to the Annual Masters Business meeting and banquet.

The “not-forecast” rain started about 9:30 AM Sunday morning and never quit....so Steve MC’d a delightful big awards ceremony under the covered pavilion. Congrats to all the winners and thanks so much for the interest and participation in the Points Championships for this season. At least two of the Point Championships were determined at the MASTERS.



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John Baxter's **MASTERS 2003** Photos



MEMORIAL TROPHY PILOTS—Keith...Ed...Jamie



Coyote Joe almost as tall as "Mama Pam" Cullman MASTERS-03

MASTERS results are on the SPA Website at:

WWW.SENIORPATTERN.COM

VIRGINIA'S 1ST "SPA-LIKE" EVENT

John Gausby and Richard Witt

Va's first SPA contest primer was held on Sunday 9/28 and hosted by N.N.P.R.C. (Newport News Park Radio Control Club). This was a nonsanctioned event to acclimate the local flyers to SPA rules, and the fun and fellowship that is a big part of our organization. Richard Whitt was acting CD and did a great job coordinating all the necessary elements it takes to run a successful event.

The weather was overcast most of the day, however the air was excellent with a light wind blowing straight down the runway from left to right. The Newport News field is county owned and has a very nice large paved runway marked with a center line. A very beautiful and spacious model field that would be the envy of any R/C club.

7 contestants (4 Novice and 3 Sportsman) entered with one dropping out due to engine problems. I understand from Richard that there are approximately 5 SPA approved aircraft currently flying in the club, but due to hurricane "Isabel"; several of these pilots were still cutting up trees in their yards and decided not to attend.

There were at least 8 club volunteers that didn't even fly. They judged, tabulated scores, cooked hotdogs and hamburgers and above all made the day most pleasant. We also had a demo flight from one of the clubs IMAC flyers with his 40% Extra 300 that was impressive. Glad our SPA models only cost a fraction of what his model was worth.

The entry fee was a whopping \$3 for the day with a little extra paid for food. Award ribbons were given out to all contestants by Richard during an official award ceremony. A great time was had by all. Hip Hip Hooray for SPA. *John Gausby*

NOVICE CLASS

1. Joe Lupton
2. Gene Dritz
3. Marshall Tucker

SPORTSMAN

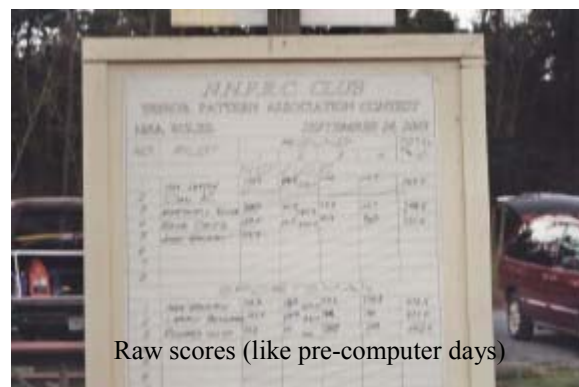
1. John Gausby
2. Richard Witt
3. Larry Botsford

Larry Botsford flew a non-SPA approved model in SPORTSMAN and

Joe Lupton flew a very nice (I am saying this??) KAOS in NOVICE.



Club volunteers that scored, judged, cooked and made sure all attending enjoyed.



Raw scores (like pre-computer days)

2003 CONTEST REPORT

	Cullman	Huntsville	Knoxville	Hotlanta	Montgy	Masters
Novice	4	6	11	9	5	7
Pre Sr Sptmn	2	2	1	0	2	2
Pre Sr Expt	2	2	2	1	0	1
Sr. Sptsmn	2	1	5	4	1	6
Sr. Expert	4	3	1	5	3	3
Spr Sr Sptsmn	1	1	2	0	0	1
Spr Sr Expt	5	3	3	5	2	3
TOTAL	20	18	25	24	13	23

FROM the VICE PRESIDENT— TOM AFFKINS, SR

Hi SPA;

In every organization there are a few good men who go way above and beyond in their service to that organization.

The SPA is fortunate to have some willing to go the extra mile. The 2003 competition season is over and I would like to express my personal thanks to those who made it all possible.

The Contest Directors at our contests were:

Ken Nix was CD at Huntsville
 Dennis Hunt was CD at Knoxville
 Mickey Walker was CD at Hotlanta
 Michael Hare was CD at Montgomery
 Steve Byrum was CD at Cullman

These gentlemen did an outstanding job of organizing and running our contests. Let's all give them a big hand and our eternal gratitude for their efforts on our behalf.

We have a really great website that we are indebted to Ed Hartley for. I can't imagine the time & talent that must be required to set up and maintain such a site.

Ed has also been involved in the publication of the SPA newsletter. Ed, we thank you for your efforts on both fronts.

Steve Byrum, in addition to being a Contest Director, has been getting the newsletter printed for some time. Steve, we thank you.

When we have a really great season in 2004, we will owe it to a small group of selfless individuals who have again gone above and beyond. Let us be sure to express our gratitude to them as well.

Tom

Visited the WEBSITE lately?
 it's
www.seniorpattern.com

Join the SPA mail list from
 within the SPA website.

**Santa Claus monitors
 the SPA mail list!!**

Senior Pattern Association Membership Application

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City-State-Zip _____

AMA Number _____ Club affiliation _____

Membership Dues \$20.00 Make Check payable to Senior Pattern Association. Mail to:

Steve Byrum
1326 3rd St. SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Bruce Underwood
1412 Patterson Street
Guntersville, AL 35976

