



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

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Dedicated to the building, flying and competition of vintage Pattern aircraft

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

Nov/Dec 2004

Precision Aerobatics - like the “good-ole-days”

THE PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE



Bruce Underwood
SPA—15

At the outset of this bit of input, allow me to be among the first to extend wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday season to all.

This season (2004) has literally flown by (notice the play on words there). I can't, seriously, recall a season I have enjoyed any more than this one.

The numerous laughs and good times shared underneath the suntents between rounds, fellowshipping at Saturday night restaurant gatherings, swapping good-natured ribbing with each other while judging or competing along the flightlines. I can't help but quote my longtime late friend, Dick Austin, who used to say “I can't understand why **everybody** doesn't fly RC airplanes”.

Rather than maintain a melancholy mood, let's “hit the ground” running on those winter building projects, make some good plans for enjoying more of the same in the coming season.

This issue is the annual “Election Issue”...ballot is on page 7 and may be clipped easily, selections checked, returned in the provided envelope along with annual dues of \$20.00 to Steve in time for he and the voting custodians to count and announce on New Years Eve. Thanks in advance for your support of whomever you prefer and your' rapid return of your' ballots and dues payment.

Our tables have already been reserved for the 2005 Hobby Show in Perry, GA...and some sanctions have already gone to AMA for the coming season. Soon as the election is complete, your Board will meet to decide on patterns for the new 2 year cycle, a few regs, etc. Thanks and **Happy Holidays**.

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VEEP—VOCALS
by
Scott Sappington

Greetings,

What an absolutely wonderful competition season! From Cullman to Knoxville the true spirit of SPA was evident at every single contest. Before this past season we really stood at an important cross road relative to the continuation of SPA. The leadership team and board of directors had to make decisive decisions because the status quo of the past was simply no longer working. Above that I believe all of those of us who have participated in the competitions this season exhibited a sense of appreciation of the organization we have in SPA. I applaud Bruce for the dedicated efforts he has displayed this season leading our group. The sense of dedication to promoting SPA and spreading the organization will pay dividends in the future of increased participation in contests. Had it not been for circumstances beyond our control there would have been 40 contestants at the Masters this year. The addition of the Auburn contest is another example of the growth this year. I believe it is clear that we have turned the corner in excellent fashion this year. I believe we can build on this even more next year. In my opinion the key is cooperation. Thanks to you all who got in the game this year and participated in a contest. I am looking forward to next season anticipating the abundant joy of participating in competition with one of the finest groups in aero modeling. May all of you and your families have a safe and blessed holiday season.

God Bless

Scott



From the desk of:

Sec/Tres

Steve Byrum

The season is completed now, so I have too much time to think about what might have been. I might have scored much higher than I did. Hmmmm, whose fault is it that I didn't? In honesty, it's mine. I might also have practiced more than I did. I did note, however, that I normalized consistently higher at the Masters than I did earlier in the season. I guess that shows improvement. That's what I look for in myself, so it's been a good season, personally.

What needs to be fixed for next year? The pattern committee has begun discussions about what we might change. My personal feeling is that we ought not change a lot. We've discussed that Traffic Pattern in Novice for several years. It is much more difficult to fly than most Novices understand. It's also difficult to judge according to the rules. If each deduction were taken as available on every flight, an awful lot of 0s would result. It also takes a very long time to fly. It might be better to use that time for two more maneuvers and give the Novices a little more foundation for the move to Sportsman.

In Sportsman, we might leave things mostly as they are. There are a lot of guys flying the class and competition is very tight. The contest at the Masters had to be seen to be believed. Each of the first four rounds had a different winner.

TOP NOTCH TROPHIES

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All Occasion Plaques

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**TNT for all your awards
&
Engraving**

Only John Gausby and Robby Walker won two rounds, but they had to tie the fifth round to accomplish that. A good thing was that the pilots sorted themselves out by the way they flew. Neither weather nor judging played a part. The pilots who did not win each made clear mistakes. The pattern presents a good group of skills. We may make a change or two just to keep interest going and to ease the transition to Expert.

In the Expert class, we have a tradition which presents a problem at any flying site that faces east. We have traditionally started with a very tall vertical maneuver. This has caused us to either delay our morning start time or use sun blockers. I'm going to suggest we either eliminate the vertical maneuver in favor of something horizontal or use a non-rolling Figure M to fly around the sun. Either solution would allow a 30-45 minute earlier start without having to fly in the sun.

The pattern committee will sort these issues out. Please feel free to provide your input online.

Money – Do we have any? Yes we do. For the last several years, SPA has run consistently around 100 dues paying members. We have used the dues money to support our newsletter and to provide support to the Masters contest. We run regularly at about a break-even rate. We've made a few dollars, but only a few each year since I've been Secretary/Treasurer. This is as it should be. The January/February issue will contain a full financial report.

Steve

Campaign Statements

I'm **Keith Watson** and I'm running for SPA President. If I am elected I don't plan to sponsor any major changes in rules or on the Board of Directors.

Our participation and cooperation have been very good this year and I hope I can help to continue the positive energy we felt on the contest trail.

Vintage Pattern flying and the friendships among competitors are the reasons the SPA exists. Our pilots enjoy good competition and sportsmanship and they are the heart of the organization.

If you decide to vote for me, your support is very much appreciated. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the field in '05.

Thanks,
Keith

Bruce Underwood here, thanks much in advance for your vote and support. I'm obliged to continue, if you'd like. Gratefully, **BRUCE**

SPA—Really ALIVE—in two thousand five !

AUBURN is AWE-SOME!

The Auburn Tigers football team that embarrassed the Tennessee Vols in Neyland Stadium the week-end of the Auburn SPA contest **was awesome as well as the AUBURN PLANESMEN RC Club.**

Both executed with precision the weekend of October 2 & 3, 2004.

Julian Gomez, Club President, Rick Helmke, CD, and the Auburn RC Clubbers hosted one of the seasons' most enjoyable contests.

Just imagine a golf-green 175' wide by 2600' long and you've envisioned the Auburn flying field. During a break in the flying Saturday afternoon, a full-scale pilot visited the contest via his Cessna which he landed with room to spare on this strip. The take-off consumed about 1/2 the fields length.

Six full rounds were flown....TOC style (one flight line)...evidently many pilots elected to skip this week-end, perhaps to concentrate on next week-end's Masters contest. The ten of us that contested were treated like HONORED guests by the club.....imagine, **club judging!** Contestants just enjoyed mucho fellowship not to mention "club-provided" bubbly-libation and delicious Pizza at the field Saturday evening. Lunch was brought in and provided. yum-yum

Four from the sponsoring group (workers and sponsors outnumbered contestants) either renewed or joined SPA for the ensuing year with dues and applications.

One of the highlights of the week-end was strictly spontaneous.....
(*Mama Jane who accompanied your PIO on Sunday morning was overheard yelling from underneath our tent.....**Hey.....no.....no.....get away from there !!!!!**naturally, all hustled to the area curious as can be.....she blushinglly relayed..... "I was yelling at that huge black dog (resembled a coalblack Husky **that hiested** his leg and did.....er.....er.....uh,*

*P E E D on that flight box and the JR transmitter next to it). **The tent was our next door neighbors'.....currently the holder of our SPA MEMORIAL TROPHY!** Guess how long it took K W to grab his roll of paper towels and a bottle of water and start cleaning chores.*

Golly, what a tremendous week-end at a grand and glorious flying site and one of the most cordial and helpful RC Clubs in existence.

AUBURN PLANESMEN.....we are so humbly grateful for your' hospitality, your' treats and your execution of your' initial SPA contest. It was "**terrific**"!

Can't hardly wait til 2005.....



BLACKIE (right side of the photo) is the culprit!



Look at this shot.....isn't that a beautiful site for the 2005 MASTERS contest? This site is indeed a modelers dream flying-site !!

AUBURN VIDEO SHOTS (WAR-EAGLE)



Operation HQ

Hurricane IVAN totally destroyed the HQ above just two weeks prior to the contest. Clubmembers restored it.



L-R Rick, Pam, Julian, Mike, Pam
Perfect Hosts and Hostesses !!

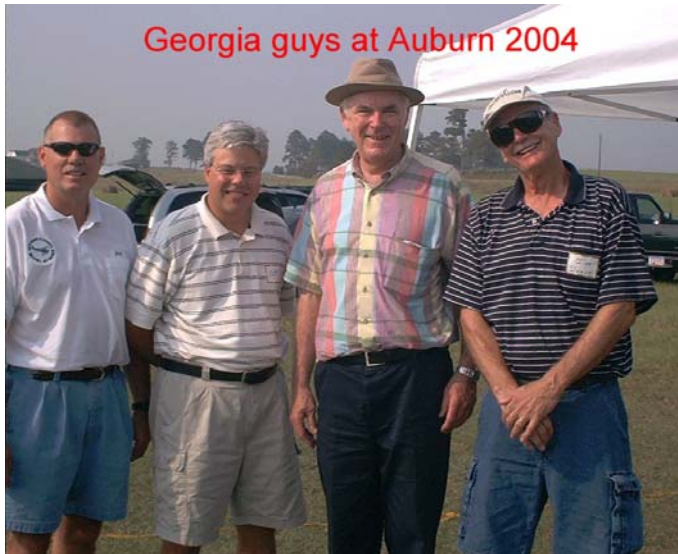
Look at the PIZZAS on the table....sausage, pepperoni, plain, special peppers, etc. Coolers full of BUD LIGHT. Fun-Fun!



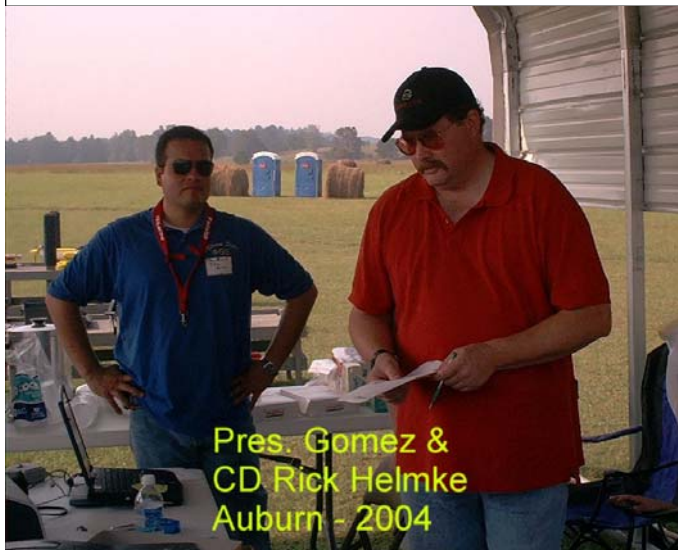
HAY - "his & hers"

The "Astro-Turf" leads right to the entrance !

Georgia guys at Auburn 2004



Shall we do an encore ?



Pres. Gomez &
CD Rick Helmke
Auburn - 2004

AUBURN SCORES: Special *thanks* to Jamie Strong and Keith Watson who allowed Oldster Underwood to fly with the younguns' in EXPERT since he would have had Senior all by himself otherwise.

- Novice** *Jim Oliver-4000*
 Jim Slocum-3925
 Kyle Helmke-3549
 Julian Gomez-788

- Sportsman**
 John Baxter-4000
 Scott Sappington-3940

- Expert** *Bruce Underwood-4000*
 Jamie Strong- 3969
 Keith Watson- 3829



JUDGING 101

by

Tom Atkins

Hi All,

We will discuss the judging of the 180 degree turn this month. We may see it in the pattern one day soon.

The 180 degree turn begins in straight and level flight for 50 feet, a quarter inside loop is done to put the airplane in a vertical climb, 1/4 roll is executed followed by a half outside loop, which places the airplane on a vertical down line, a 1/4 roll in the direction opposite of the first is executed and the airplane executes a 1/4 inside loop and exits the maneuver on a heading opposite the entry. The exit is 50 feet straight and level.

The contestant should call the maneuver "beginning now", fly 50 feet straight and level, pull up into a 1/4 inside loop which should be constant radius with the wings parallel to the axis of the 1/4 loop. The 1/4 loop should place the airplane in a perfectly vertical climb. The 1/4 roll may be in either direction and should be exactly 1/4 roll. A 1/2 outside loop is performed. The 1/2 outside loop should be the same constant radius as the 1/4 loop with the wings parallel to the 1/2 loop axis. The 1/2 outside loop should begin from a perfectly vertical climb and end in a perfectly vertical dive. The airplane will be heading directly toward you or directly away from you during the 1/2 outside loop. A 1/4 roll is executed in the direction opposite the entry at the same roll rate as the first roll and the rolls should be at the same altitude. A 1/4 inside loop is performed with the same radius and at the same altitude as the first one and the airplane exits the maneuver on a heading exactly opposite the entry in straight and level flight. After 50 feet of straight and level, the contestant calls "maneuver

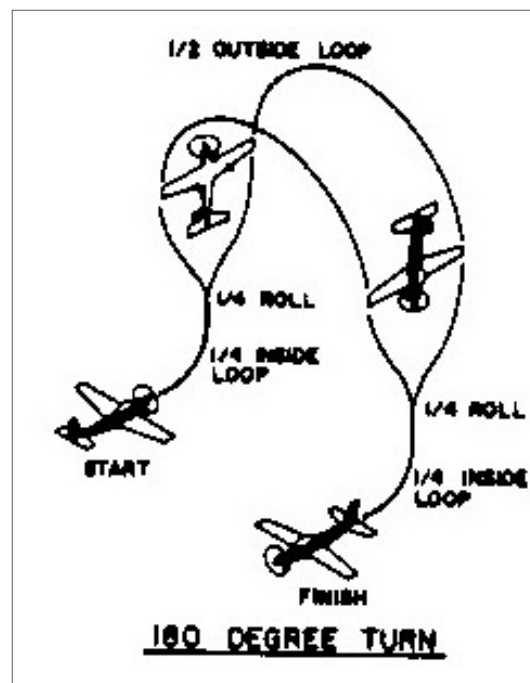
complete.

As with most maneuvers, there is no loop size or roll rate stipulated. The sizes and rates should be the same and have full scale qualities. The rules state that we are trying to emulate full scale flight.

The downgrades would be for wing waggle, not hitting the verticals, not rolling exactly 1/4 roll at the same height and rate on the vertical lines and varying the size of the looping parts of the maneuver. The maneuver should be done with smoothness and precision.

This is the last newsletter of the year so I wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR and may the SPA be even bigger and better next year.

Tom



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
to all !!**

Marvelous Masters

From the season-opening contest in Cullman, AL.....this 2004 SPA contest season has just been a "*crescendo*"...building toward the Masters finale contest this Oct. 9 & 10 in Knoxville, TN.

Yes, the delay thrust upon the event by hurricane IVAN had a minute effect on the gathering...but not bad.

At the outset, CD Dennis Hunt declared, "had all showed up that preregistered, this would have been the largest MASTERS in years with 40 pilots. There were 10 "no-show's" according to the CD...but due to the rescheduling, that was understandable.

From the opening invocation by Chaplain Denny Evans to the dismissal admonition to "drive home safely" by Hunt....."nary a NEGATIVE was encountered....with one exception". On about Round 3 Saturday, Keith Watson and Matt Hampton elected to fly in the same airspace at precisely the same instant.....and all heard that yukky THUD.....and glared at the debris flipping and flopping like a presidential candidate toward river occupied Terra-Firma. These guys, despite their innermost hurts, maintained their cool, forced smiles, and accepted with sincerity all the sentiments voiced them by all. Jim Rogers invited Keith to fly his new Atlas, Keith did fly it, even flew it in the Memorial Trophy Fly-Off. What a nice gesture from fellow PCMA member, Jim.

One, with knowledge of contest-holding, couldn't help but notice the depth of detail in planning by Hunt, his Co-CD Hartley and all the stalwart KCRC clubbers. An electric raffle-ticket mixer ran almost all day Saturday mixing the raffle tickets for the Radio won by lucky Carl Sten of Alcoa, TN. Banquet tickets were professionally designed for this event with graphic designs on them. Absolutely NO delay in starting both days.....KCRC even arranged for the morning sunshine to be out of the flying area covered by neatly-placed clouds far above max altitudes. (Suppose Chaplain Denny arranged this ?) Nearly all computer entries were already made in advance thanks to the "pre-entries" motivated by the incentive of an additional raffle ticket for having pre-registered.

Special guest speaker for the annual MASTERS banquet Saturday night at an Oriental Buffet restaurant in nearby Oak Ridge, TN was former AMA President (9 years)....active RC pattern pilot and model kit designer.....Don Lowe. Don flew competition in this years MASTERS, he had only flown in our SPA contest in Gadsden, AL one day back in 1995. He and son Jon shared Jon's A6 Intruder. He still has what it takes to execute those maneuvers beautifully. Mrs. Lowe (Clara) did the drawing for the raffle radio, provided in part by Pyramid Hobbies in Cullman, AL.

Lowe's address was scored a "10" by the attendees.....he commented in depth on the formulation of RC modeling and its' growth to present. Don has an article forthcoming titled "WHY IS COMPETITION IMPORTANT?" Our PIO has a

verbal commitment for a draft of it just as soon as it is transcribed by Mrs. Clara (the typist). He opened himself to questions following his address and opined "you guys have a good thing going, your' format is ideal". He was asked, "other than having the big event in Carolina named the Don Lowe Masters Tournament" and served 9 years as AMA President, what is the most memorable event for you?". He gleefully answered.....*the contest in (Ohio, I think) when I beat Jim Whitley!*

The highlight of the Masters contest each year is the fly-off for the Memorial Trophy...this year, the fly-off followed round 6 on Sunday. It was a TOC like replication. Results from the "fly-off" and contest results will be posted on the SPA website shortly. Kudos to the 4 qualifiers who contended for this "most prestigious SPA award".....just imagine the pressure...flying for not 2 but 5 of your' peers.....high and low scores discarded.....nobody in the air but you with a loud-mouthed PA announcer encouraging every spectators' eye to become focused on your flight. Each of you 4 qualifiers deserve compliments. You are the "super-heroes" of our sport/hobby. Your dedication and talents are manifested by your execution.

There were a number of doorprizes given contestants....prizes solicited by Scott Anderson and given via a draw from that motorized ticket-mixer. Contest addendums such as this require much time and effort.....KCRC invested that time and effort, as opined here in this report.....the result.. an event that'll be relived and enjoyed via memories way beyond the ensuing season.



MASTERS 2004 RESULTS

NOVICE

1. Warren Oliver 3966
2. Jon Lowe 3906
3. Jake May 3881
4. William Dodge 3810
5. Jim Oliver 3731
6. Jim Slocum 3643
7. Don Eiler 3577
8. Dan Toombs 3541
9. Rhea Starnes 3524
10. Denny Evans 2822
11. Vic Koenig 2679
12. Matt Hampton 1735

SPORTSMAN

1. John Gausby 3969
2. Robbie Walker 3960
3. Phil Cope 3891
4. Bill Kite 3721
5. Scott Sappington 3776
6. Joe Holton 3549
7. Richard Witt 3538
8. Jim Rogers 3505
9. Carl Sten 2998
10. Scott Anderson 2578

EXPERT

1. Cass Underwood 4000
2. Jamie Strong 3905
3. Keith Watson 3797
4. Steve Byrum 3445

SENIOR EXPERT

1. Bruce Underwood 4000
2. Ed Hartley 3855
3. Don Lowe 3790
4. Dennis Hunt 3549

MEMORIAL TROPHY FLY-OFF

1. Ed Hartley 1000
2. Jamie Strong 948
3. Dennis Hunt 905
4. Keith Watson 841



2004 Season Points Championships

NOVICE

1. Jon Lowe
2. Jim Oliver
3. Warren Oliver
4. Jake May
5. William Dodge

SPORTSMAN

1. Robbie Walker
2. Bill Kite
3. Richard Witt

EXPERT

1. Cass Underwood
2. Jamie Strong
3. Keith Watson

SENIOR EXPERT

1. Bruce Underwood
2. Ed Hartley
3. Dennis Hunt

GREAT YEAR GUYS, **Jamie Strong**—C S P



AUBURN PLANESMEN
will HOST 2005 MASTERS
(Beautiful—Spacious Site)

2005 SPA OFFICERS OFFICIAL BALLOT
(complete just the ballot and return with annual dues payment of \$20.00 in Prepaid & addressed envelope)
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