



# The SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION News Letter

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**Bruce Underwood—President**                      **Scott Sappington — Vice President**  
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Dedicated to the building, flying and competition of vintage Pattern aircraft

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

MAY/JUNE 2006

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

### THE PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE



**Bruce Underwood**  
**SPA 15**  
[bunderwo@bellsouth.net](mailto:bunderwo@bellsouth.net)

The entire nation and several other countries are keenly aware of the SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION as a result of the penmanship and camera work of Duane Wilson’s Cover Photo and feature story in the May issue of Model Aviation. As that magazine hit the newsstands and mailboxes our E-Mail volume and phone calls regarding the association increased immensely. This AMA publication is, IMHO, a GEM because of Duane’s input. It’s a KEEPER. More on how this came about deeper in this edition of the Newsletter.

Following the Cullman contest in late April, I received a personal Email from David Johnson in Chattanooga, TN that requested we share his families’ gratitude to all of SPA via this newsletter. See photos of the Johnsons on page 6. He said: (Cut & Pasted from his E-Mail) :

*Hello Bruce, just caught my breath and sit down to send you an email. This weekend was great, beautiful weather and good friends. They say everyone gets 15 min. of pure happiness and joy in life, mine was Sunday when you gave Robert that KAOS, my heart stopped. I’m grateful and blessed to be associated with SPA and all its’ members, so if not too late for the newsletter I would like to thank a few people. Joe Holton, Scott Sappington, John Baxter, Skip Getelman and a special thanks to Steve for hosting a great contest!*

*THANKS EVERYONE, WE LOVE YOU ALL 1111  
The JOHNSON Family*

Leaves nothing else to be said, does it? Hope you’ll enjoy this edition of the NL. Some good stuff in it. B U

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**Tha’ “VEEP’S” Voice**  
by:  
**Scott Sappington**

It has been an interesting time lately. Thanks to Duane Wilson SPA is receiving some great coverage. Thanks to what Mickey envisioned and Bruce has perpetuated we have a great endeavor going.

The last two contests in Prattville and Cullman were incredible examples of this group doing what we were formed to do. HAVE FUN!! The caps were seeing Mickey Walker laughing and telling great stories from the past as well as doing some good flying and experiencing Bruce's gesture after winning the "logo KAOS" presenting it to Robert Johnson a young man who has recently joined SPA and the impact on him and his family. What class and a typical gesture of what is being experienced contest after contest. We are all out there trying to help each other get better and to me that is a very key element. You cannot know through the words I use exactly what I am trying to convey. Come on out and see for yourself. Experience what SPA has become!!!

Scott

aka. MR MAY

Scott’s E-Mail address is:  
[sappingt@bellsouth.net](mailto:sappingt@bellsouth.net)

NEW Website is: [www.topnotchtrophies.net](http://www.topnotchtrophies.net)



**TOP NOTCH TROPHIES**

*Awards and Engraving*

2044 O'Brig Avenue—Guntersville, AL 35976

**(256) 582-0606**

**Trophies for ALL events  
Desk Plates—Name Badges**

**NEW SERVICES—SCREENPRINTING**

**Banners—Signs—Embroidery**

**Cass Underwood**

**[topnotchtrophies@bellsouth.net](mailto:topnotchtrophies@bellsouth.net)**



The above shot is Donna (10) and Mary (7)...daughters of SPA # 178, Mike Riggs of Boise, Idaho. This was made in March of this year. While we in the South were preparing to open our season in Prattville, AL...Mike says there was over two feet of fresh snow near his home in Idaho. The girls and the family are avid snow-ski fans. Mike says the girls, for some strange reason, prefer skiing to Park model flying.

**WANTED TO BUY—RC Electronics prior to 1975**

Ed Crotty, age 55 year old Dad and Sport Flier and his 12 year old son want very much to buy (reasonably priced) older RC Xmtrs, Receivers, etc in hopes of eventually establishing a museum of older RC electronics to show their friends and neighbors and preserve memories of the "good old days" of RC modeling.

Items wanted are Pro-Line, Kraft, Citizenship, Space Control, Sampey, Quadraplex, C & S, Orbit, Oterian, etc. electronics prior to 1975. (Bonner, Babcock, etc.)

Contact Ed via phone: (216) 371-5136

E-Mail at: [ccrotty2003@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ccrotty2003@sbcglobal.net)

or U.S. Mail at: Ed Crotty

2905 Fairmount Blvd

Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

**2006 REMAINING CONTEST SCHEDULE**

**Knoxville, TN -May 20 & 21 Dennis Hunt CD**

**Hotlanta, GA -June 17 & 18 John Baxter, CD**

**Chattanooga, TN Aug. 19 & 20 Dave Johnson**

**Ashville, N.C. Sept. 16 Sat. only Duane says keep watching for details**

**Hotlanta, GA (Masters)...Oct. 14 & 15**

**The Contest schedule is current and often updated on the Senior Pattern Website at:**

**[WWW.Seniorpattern.com](http://WWW.Seniorpattern.com)**

**More details of each contest and photos can be seen on the website under "CONTESTS".**



## Marty King

**IMAC—AMA  
EAA**

Precision Aerobatic  
pilot and restorer of  
full scale aircraft

Elkhart County, IN

**The art of Aerobatics is the Quest for perfection using ones skill in the execution of Aerobatic maneuvers.**

From: [mking46516@yahoo.com](mailto:mking46516@yahoo.com)  
[WWW.fancyflying.150m.com](http://WWW.fancyflying.150m.com)

The following applies to IMAC, Pattern and full scale competition.

1)Attitude is everything. You can fly great, have a bad attitude, and hate what you did. You can fly so, so and feel good because of the accomplishments made, sometimes just surviving the flight. Here are a few tips I've learned in the 29 years that I have been flying. Some are so simple that we tend to forget them.

2) Plan what you want to accomplish before you arrive at the field to fly.  
Ponder over what you need to work on. Critique your previous flights in your head and pick out the weak points. You can do this as you drive to the field.

3)Practice, practice, practice! If you are having problems with a certain figure, set that figure as the goal for that flight. Don't be discouraged if the figure just does not fall into place, at least try. When you feel progress has been made move on to the next problem area.

Remember, Aerobatics start when the airplane is at its limits!

4)Some start out flying everyday and lose interest when they don't make the progress they feel they should. I have followed the 3 on 3 principle. Fly three times a week making 3 flight each day. This allows time between flying sessions to reflect on the last practice session. This is only a guideline not a rule written in stone.

5)Enlist the help of another flyer that will help by calling and coaching.  
This helps where we, the flyer, may not have the same perspective or view as our helper.

6)Know when to Quit. If you are distracted by work or possibly a health problem take time and get to feel better before bending the sticks. Normally you can't remain focused under these pressures and you may not only disappoint yourself in how your flying but may lose a nice ship too!

7)Accept constructive counsel from other flyers and weigh it carefully.

8)Watch other flyers and mentally track and grade them.

9)If others ask for your assistance, help them. My instructor always said "You never really know a subject until you have to explain to someone else how to do it"!

**Share the membership application on Page 8 of this publication with one of your' flying buddies. He'll love the SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION**

## **PRATTVILLE CONTEST RESULTS 3/25 and 3/26, 2006 FOUNTAIN CITY FLYERS**

### **NOVICE**

1. 4000	Chris Tomberlin	Cecil, AL
2. 3943	John Johnson	Ft. Benning, GA
3. 3652	David Johnson	Soddy Daisy, TN
4. 3527	Dean Siems	Prattville, AL

### **SPORTSMAN**

1. 4000	Scott Sappington	Dallas, GA
2. 3839	Joe Holton	Acworth, GA
3. 3763	John Baxter	Dallas, GA
4. 3678	Phil Spelt	Oliver Spr, TN

### **EXPERT**

1. 2992	Cass Underwood	Guntersville, AL
2. 2870	Jamie Strong	Prattville, AL

### **SENIOR EXPERT**

1. 4000	Bruce Underwood	Guntersville, AL
2. 3857	Ed Hartley	Knoxville, TN
3. 3417	Dennis Hunt	Oak Ridge, TN

**Congratulations to Joe Holton SPA # 40 of Acworth, GA who won the RAFFLE (World Models A6 INTRUDER)**

**PRATTVILLE, AL—SEASON OPENER**

Prattville, AL was home to the 2006 SPA “season opening” contest on March 25 & 26th. All the good elements of a week-end in March were evident. Coolish temperatures, low humidity, early Spring sunshine and yes, lots of wind, just like you associate with the month of March.

VP Scott Sappington upon arrival Friday afternoon took a long look at the beautiful grassed field and exclaimed, this is a PRISTINE flying sight, everybody ought to love this field. They did ! Take a look:



**FCF FIELD - PRATTVILLE, AL**

900 X 200 and smoothen’ a baby’s posterior! Paradise. The field is a MEMORIAL to departed local RC pilots.



Probably remembered by most, as he was active in pattern in the 70’s and 80’s would be Bill Johnston, who owned and managed KRAFT SOUTHEAST. Great guys, all of them.

Thirteen pilots contested however many more RC flyers did attend to just expose themselves to the contest environment.

Despite the windy conditions, no one crashed and only 1 or 2 allowed their models to be windswept to the runway edge.

John Baxter prepared an excellent slideshow video of the contest and shared with our SPA Discussion list (81 strong) within 24 hours of the contests’ conclusion. Good show!

Senior Expert flew 5 rounds, Expert three, Sportsman and Novice flew six full rounds. Jamie and the Fountain City Flyers put on a genuine “GEM”.



Dick Lambert, inside CD's camper was accurate and very fast .



Charles Duke-Chuck Goodrum



Chris won Novice with the TALON ARF which he kits...see it at website:

Chris Tomberlin  
TALON  
Golden Eagle Aircraft

[www.goldeneagleaircraft.com](http://www.goldeneagleaircraft.com)

Power in model pictured was a DA-50 “gassie”.



CD defines a "pair"



DEAN & CHRIS  
Hand flyin'



Dennis Hunt's  
"Wabbit"



HAPPY Holton  
wins Raffle



**Award Winners - Prattville**

**CULLMAN COURTESY**

CULLMAN, AL - April 23, 2006.....Cullman's Courtesy was indeed CONTAGIOUS this week-end. Perhaps the delightful weather, maybe the good flying with very few minor mishaps (chipped props, , etc), or the typical SPA FELLOWSHIP. **Attendees were definitely tipsy on "good-time" association.**

Steve Byrum and the CULLMAN AEROMODELLERS continued their longtime tradition of hosting a delightful SPA Precision Aerobatic contest. Matter of fact this was their 10th Annual SPA Championships. The first thing to greet contestants and spectators was a brand new BURDESHAW FIELD sign at the entrance. That was just the beginning of a fun-filled format of contesting.

24 contestants entered the competition and they couldn't have been spaced any more competitively...6 in NOVICE, 7 in SPORTSMAN, 6 in EXPERT and 5 in SENIOR EXERT.

At the Pilots' briefing on Saturday, Steve announced, "this is the last contest off the roller coaster"....referring to the hilled and gullied asphalt runway...he continued "we're going to tear up the asphalt, level and plant grass...we have obtained water and power already.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the line of autograph-seekers obtaining the autograph of Scott Sappington, our esteemed Vice-President whose full-length photo (shot by Duane Wilson) appeared on the cover of the May issue of MODEL AVIATION. Scott was so humble and expressed over and over his gratitude to Duane Wilson ,author of the story, for the good story and the worldwide exposure for the SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION. Scott refused to enter his pictured DADDY RABBIT this week-end but opted to fly his backup KAOS. Hmmmmm

6 full rounds of pattern were flown, 4 on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. Temps moderated to the point that most competitors were clad in shorts and colorful SPA shirts.

At the awards ceremony Sunday afternoon, special SPA mugs were given to John and Eric Nessler who made the long drive to Alabama from Dublin, OH to exhibit their skills with their beautiful new A6 Intruders assembled during the past winter. The mugs were provided by Cass Underwood of Top Notch Trophies in addition to a \$100 cash presentation to the SPA Treasury from the sale of SPA shirts.

The original LOGO KAOS model went North to Sale Creek, Tennessee with Robert Johnson who entered his first-ever SPA contest this weekend in Cullman. He and his brother John outpointed their dad, David slightly as all three flew in the NOVICE class. Robert and Curtis Comer of Huntsville, AL were two "first-timers" in SPA competition this weekend....congratulations to both. Thanks much to Mickey Walker, Founder Emeritus of SPA, SPA # 1, for the donation of the proceeds to the SPA treasury.

To CD Steve and CULLMAN AEROMODELLERS, it was a genuine treat participating in your' 10th Annual SPA contest this weekend. You folks are prime examples of "how a great contest is hosted!"

SPA PIO

**CULLMAN April 22 & 23, 2006 (10th Annual)**

**NOVICE**

1. 4000	John Johnson	Sale Creek, TN
2. 3656	Wendell Cornelius	Guntersville, AL
3. .3431	Robert Johnson	Sale Creek, TN
4. 3418	David Johnson	Chattanooga, TN
5. 3261	Rhea Starnes	Kingsport, TN
6. 3127	Curtis Comer	Huntsville, AL

**SPORTSMAN**

1. 4000	Scott Sappington	Dallas, GA
2. 3904	Bill Kite	Kingsport, TN
3. 3883	John Baxter	Dallas, GA
4. 3876	Joe Holton	Acworth, GA
5. 3612	Philip Spelt	Oliver Spg, TN
6. 3492	Skip Getelman	Fayetteville, GA
7. 3329	Jim Slocum	Temple, GA

**EXPERT**

1. 4000	Cass Underwood	Guntersville, AL
2. 3778	Jamie Strong	Prattville, AL
3. 3749	Eric Nessler	Dublin, OH
4. 3735	John Nessler	Dublin, OH
5. 3603	Randy Roberts	Cullman, AL
6. 0000	Steve Byrum	Cullman, AL

**SENIOR EXPERT**

1. 3973	Ed Hartley	Knoxville, TN
2. 3773	Keith Watson	Marietta, GA
3. 3382	Dennis Hunt	Oak Ridge, TN
4. 3285	Mickey Walker	Kennesaw, GA
5. 3000	Bruce Underwood	Guntersville, AL



Early Sat. morning at Cullman  
First Lady Rebekah holds  
Logo KAOS



Weather was ideal both days!  
-0-  
6 full rounds of flying  
-0-



SKIP Getelman and new PATRICIA

Skip's new PATRICIA - Said his wife wanted to know, "Who is this Patricia Babe?" He showed her the article in Model Airplane Magazine!



Purvis Comer - Huntsville, AL - Cullman was first contest!



The Johnsons - Chattanooga, TN Robert David John



OHIO pilots LUV the SOUTH -- See rear of Nesslers' shirt!



Mugs for "Longest Distance" John & Eric Nessler from Dublin, Ohio



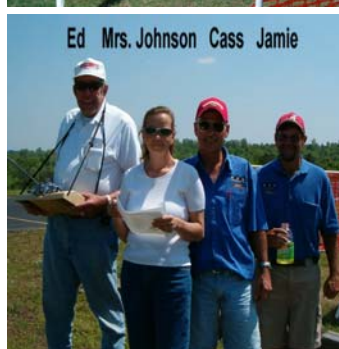
Jim Slocum responds to Randy and Steve's funny adlibs prior to flight!



FOUNDER & FIRST LADY



Dennis & Margret Hunt Marilyn Lutzsky



Ed Mrs. Johnson Cass Jamie



Nessler's "INKER" with 4 S engine

Dennis Hunt's DADDY-RABBIT

John Baxter shooting pix for CULLMAN slideshow



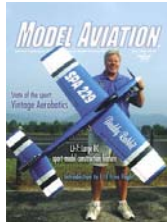
SPA planes sold by Jamie "REAL BARGAINS"



Robert Johnson takes Logo KAOS to Tenn.



**SPA/VRCS**  
Tribute Story  
by  
*Duane Wilson*  
May—Model Aviation



First, my sincere hope is that the article in this month's issue will generate a lot of interest among readers, (and the AMA itself), and that editor Bob Hunt will be happy he decided to run the story. The word needs to go out about both VR/CS and SPA as the "best kept secrets" in AMA for the average Sunday flyer interested in R/C history, and precision aerobatics, (without breaking the bank). The responses I've had thus far have been very positive--no negatives--not yet at least. Several have said "...it's about time that we talked about.... (fill in the blank)". I hope that BOTH organizations get increased participation because of raised awareness. Writing an article like this one, (something I haven't done in 18 years), seemed like the natural thing to do at the time. After my second meet in three weeks, I just kept thinking to myself, "...SPA and VR/CS are the greatest things since sliced bread...more people need to know about what they are missing". I not only wanted to write about SPA and VR/CS, I felt I needed to. I started writing it a week after the Cave Spring meet, (where I was particularly impressed at the level of help given to those experiencing airplane/radio problems). I was originally going to submit the article to all the magazines in the hope one of them might be picked up---fortunately my first call was to Bob at Model Aviation, who happened to grab hold of the idea right away since M.A. had never done an in-depth article on these SIGs before. As an aside, in his editorial from this month's issue, Bob says he "convinced me to change the nature of the article to a "state of the sport". That's really not true---what he wanted was exactly what I had in mind from the beginning; I didn't have to change a thing. Bob also let me "run with it", not limiting the article to any particular length--that was great, and the final product turned out to be almost 4,000 words long, (six pages).

The article must have been rewritten at least four times, and was submitted last September; I interviewed both Bruce and Dennis Hunt for their input to try to make the facts as accurate as possible, (remember I'm a newcomer). When submitted, I felt it was *perfect*, (-:)), however when I read the final version in the magazine, (just the other day--I was away on business), I saw that Bob had taken some "editorial license" with the text, and had changed some things around, .....so if there are any English professors out there, and you find choppy sentence structure and grammatical errors---that's probably something Bob did in the editing process, (**shift blame whenever possible**), but almost all the intent of the article is still there. The title had also been changed---the original was:

**Blast From the Past-----Rediscovering the Fun of Flying Vintage R/C** -----An "AMA Specialty Group" newcomer finds his place in history,

but overall I was very happy with the end result, and the

photo selection. Publication was delayed several times as other stories kept taking the lead slot, but I feel the end result, (and the fact the piece was the FEATURED ARTICLE in the May issue, rather than just being one of several in an earlier issue), made the wait worthwhile.

The cover photo of Scott, (sorry for what I did to you Scott--ruining your life and all with that "Mr. May" stuff), was taken way back in Knoxville last year with the cover in mind--leaving extra "sky" in the picture for the Model Aviation logo. I knew I wanted that particular picture for the cover since Scott's plane was beautifully finished, and was "plastered" with all kinds of SPA graffiti. He was wearing a matching SPA shirt etc, etc--and was indeed the "poster boy" for the SPA, and what I wanted to say.

I also wanted to promote the production of vintage model kits, so that each plane doesn't have to be "scratch-built" in a "time-consuming labor of love", (as the article says). Building is fine and all, but it's sometimes nice, (and more accurate), not to have to hand-cut and sand each piece. There have already been reports of kit manufacturers mentioned in the article having greatly increased sales. Jeff Petroski of Home and Hobby Solutions doesn't have a Primus, (Taurus replica), left on the shelf, and the entire first run of his Kwik Fly III has sold out.

The competition aspect of SPA is only part of the reason behind my desire to promote both SPA and VR/CS---it's the PEOPLE THEMSELVES that really make these organizations what they are. I have never seen so many people go out of their way so often in an effort to try to make the experience of going to a meet as enjoyable for everyone as possible. I have a sense, (I don't think I'm wrong here), that the emphasis on the positive experience of the individual participants outweighs who wins or loses. The memories you take home last a lot longer than the trophies themselves anyway. I've said all this-----to say that it's because of YOU--individual SPA members from the top on down that make SPA a very special organization--one worth writing and telling others about. As Scott has said, the article is a tribute to the dream of Mickey Walker and what I've always considered the "genius" of avoiding the pitfalls of traditional AMA pattern, such as the human tendency to continually push the technology envelope, resulting in increased complexity, and continually escalating costs---these have the effect of driving participants out of competition. Bruce should also be commended for the way he has guided SPA, and the care he pays to the small details of human nature--like sensitivity to new members wanting to be accepted and included in the group. Bruce has a way of taking the "newbies" "under his wing", and making them feel special. Nobody's perfect, but I feel he sets an example to all of us about how we should treat one another in SPA, and in life in general.

I now intend to drift into relative obscurity, and start taking flying lessons, so please go easy on me if I happen to "cartwheel" any more planes on the asphalt runway at Knoxville, (or elsewhere) in 2006.

See you at Knoxville.....Duane

## 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**

