



The *SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION*

Official S I G (Special Interest Group) of AMA

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

SPA NEWSLETTER

NOV/DEC 2007

SENIOR PATTERN PILOTS make SMOOTH PASSES !

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SPA website is:

www.seniorpattern.com



Join our Discussion list from within the webpage or inform any officer and we'll "sign you up". It's like a gigantic Mailing-list, but at NO CHARGE. A service to membership and potentials from SPA.



KITE
Chattanooga 2006
07/04/32 - 09/01/07

SPA # 75

IN LOVING MEMORY

Mr. Bill Kite,
His life touched

many of us model pilots and builders in all parts of the country, as he often traveled hundreds of miles from his home in Kingsport to participate in model events. Kite was a devoted model enthusiast who loved to promote and participate in Model airplane events of ALL kinds. He was a "spark" that ignited model flyers to excel in a number of model competition venues.

Our heartfelt prayers for Divine consolation for Mrs. Ola and family members as we jointly grieve the passing of our "Kite". Kite has left pleasant memories associated with our sport/hobby, that will be relived over and over and never forgotten.

A memorial was conducted Sunday Sept. 23 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kingsport, TN. Honorary pallbearers were members of the former Tri-Cities Aeormodelers.

Kite lived all his life in Kingsport, TN. He was a 1950 graduate of Dobyns-Bennett High School. In 1955, he received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He retired as Executive Director from Greater Kingsport Area United Way.

Bill and Mrs. Ola were married 55 years were parents of three daughters with families and loads of relatives.

Kite's family suggested in lieu of flowers, donations be made the Food Pantry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church or the Kingsport Diabetes Association.

SPA PIO

Cass E.
Underwood
IN
MEMORIAM

06/27/1960—
09/08/2007

(Scott &
Cass shown
at right at
Hodges in
Anderson-
ville, GA)



A few days ago September 8, 2007 we were all shocked from our normal routines to learn of the passing of our friend, son, brother, cousin, uncle, competitor, beloved Cass Underwood.

To each of us there is a memory that we hold close in this difficult time. There's a treasure of time, a smile, a comment, a word, a laugh that defines this man. To me there are many, but the lasting one was in 100+ degree heat in Prattville on Friday afternoon for over two hours trying to get the cover Rabbit trimmed for Expert maneuvers.

In my view that is what the Senior Pattern Association has become. Two friends in the same class working to solve problems that on the next morning could possibly enhance the competition. Beyond SPA that is what truly enriched living is. Our heart aches that in this life we have lost that opportunity to experience new memories. However, our lives have been blessed that we have all known Cass. What a wonderful testimony that so many people were touched by his life. Today, we hold Bruce and Jane, Kim, (Jimmy) Mike, (Pam) B.J. and Chance in our prayers. We look forward to the time when we will all be able to compete again.

Most sincerely, *Scott Sappington*

2044 O'Brig Avenue—Guntersville, AL 35976



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**"STRONG" comments
on 2007 season and
POINTS champs
by:
Jamie Strong—CSP**

Here we are at the end of what proved to be a wonderful, yet very heart wrenching 2007 SPA season. It ends

with a very heavy Heart that we mourn the loss of our not only competitors, but friends like Family. This void of not having our Buddies, Cass, Jim, and Bill around will not be quickly filled, but over time it will. You'd just have to be at one of our events to see the Love and Fellowship expressed each and every time we get together. Its something, I've not felt with any other club or organization to date.

The 2007 SPA Season was a TOTAL Success with 61 pilots competing in all classes for the entire season, and what a season it was. The class fly offs, while still maybe a bit not understood to all, proved to be just what it was cracked up to be. One Perfect example was the expert class, with a tie for second place points, thus creating a three way fly off for the fly off trophy. Here's how it finished, Jerry Black and Randy Roberts were tied for second in points for the year, with my self in a slim lead. Jerry Black took the

fly off trophy for 07, with Randy R. taking the first place trophy for the Masters Weekend, and Me taking the points trophy for the year, all in one class. It just can't get any better finish than that.

Thanks to all you guys for making me a part of your flying life, I've enjoyed every minute of it.

SPA, We're not just Flyers, We're Family !!! JAMIE

2007 POINTS CHAMPS

NOVICE

- | | |
|--------------------|------|
| 1. Mike Robinson | 93 |
| 2. Don Eiler | 62.5 |
| 3. Steve Vergamini | 54 |
| 4. Bob Wetzel | 34 |
| 4. Duane Wilson | 34 |
| 5. Sam Hamrick | 33 |
| 5. Doug Whitaker | 33 |

SPORTSMAN

- | | |
|------------------|----|
| 1. Chris Gregory | 66 |
| 2. Jim Rogers | 49 |
| 3. Phil Spelt | 26 |

EXPERT

- | | |
|------------------|----|
| 1. Jamie Strong | 41 |
| 2. Randy Roberts | 33 |
| 3. Jerry Black | 27 |

SENIOR EXPERT

- | | |
|--------------------|------|
| 1. Bruce Underwood | 48.5 |
| 2. Ed Hartley | 26 |
| 3. Mickey Walker | 19.5 |

RESOLUTIONS for a "great" 2008

1. Solicit "flying buddies" to join SPA.
2. Tell the SPA "story" at all Model events.
3. Burn more fuel practicing SPA maneuvers.
4. Read and study Competitors Guide.
5. Ask Santa for an SPA related model gift.
6. Give a flying buddy an RC related gift.
7. Bring friends & family to SPA contests.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to our SPA "family" !!

2nd Bill Johnston Memorial Prattville, AL Aug. 18 & 19

The "oppressive" heat of this weekend was SECONDARY to the good times, good flying and GREAT fellowship enjoyed by contestants who flew in the LARGEST SPA contest to this point in the 2007 season.

The reason for the success of this tremendous contest had to be the promotion by SPA Chairman of Special Projects, Jamie Strong and his workmates in the Fountain City RC Flyers Club. Many of the participants came as a result of Jamie's demos at neighboring clubs and his personal solicitation. Six flyers entered their first SPA contest ever!

The temperatures were made "bearable" by the presence of electric fans for the judges as well as a number of them under the club covered area. Ice water and Gatorade was always near. This was one contest that all hoped for abundant winds to blow, some did, very lightly and mostly from the South.

Highlights include HOMEMADE ice cream provided early arrivals on Friday evening, there were plenty of them. Mrs. Matt Hampton provided samples of the "dips" she and Matt sell commercially. A "gift-pack" of the dips was donated and won by Mrs. Rebekah Walker. EVERY contestant was provided a "sticker" of the CALVIN SPA cartoon (see photo) and a gift of one was made all 29 flyers. Following showers a crowd of 40 convened at the FANTAIL, a seafood buffet and fellowship on Saturday evening.

Due to the heat and the huge number of contestants, officials opted for 3 total rounds on Saturday and two on Sunday. What a genuine JOY to meet and associate with many "newbies" who now have been exposed to SPA contest fellowship. As you view the results please note the LONG list of NOVICE flyers. Isn't this a pleasure? Nearly all of them declared "this may be my first, but it definitely won't be my last"!

The last sentence on the 2nd Bill Johnston Memorial contest flyer was "COME OUT AND ENJOY THE FUN !!!!!!!"

We did, it was just that!



Gennie & Matt Hampton
donated "door" prize
their own DIPS



Television Coverage
featured JAMIE

The photo above was made during a local TV newscast from the State Capitol of Montgomery not far from Prattville. Jamie and the Fountain City Flyers enjoyed coverage by at least two TV stations and two newspapers. Loads of local spectators attended the event as a result of the media coverage. Excellent public relations.



ALMOST THERE

RESULTS—Prattville, AL 08/18 & 19

NOVICE

1. 3874	Kurtis Waites	Montgomery, AL
2. 3866	Karl Gerth	Oak Ridge, TN
3. 3800	Bob Wetzel	Temple, GA
4. 3773	S. Vergamini	Greensboro, SC
5. 3765	Don Eiler	Knoxville, TN
6. 3747	Doug Whitaker	Morristown, TN
7. 3724	Corey Tanner	Prattville, AL
8. 3708	Don Wade	Helena, AL
9. 3652	Mike Williams	Alabaster, AL
10. 3636	Doug Harvel	Forest, MS
11. 3569	Dan Dougherty	Powder Spr, GA
12. 3437	Matt Hampton	Marietta, GA
13. 3253	David Phillips	Birmingham, AL
14. 3174	Gary Lindner	Lenior City, TN
15. 2994	Tom Stennis	Starkville, MS
16. 2821	Mike Miller	Knoxville, TN

SPORTSMAN

1. 4000	Chris Gregory	Resaca, GA
2. 3886	Jim Rogers	Marietta, GA
3. 3458	Phil Spelt	Oliver Spr, TN
4. 3455	Jim Slocum	Temple, GA
5. 3355	Chris Tomberlin	Prattville, AL

EXPERT

1. 4000	Cass Underwood	Guntersville, AL
2. 3548	Robbie Walker	Cullman, AL
3. 3452	Steve Byrum	Cullman, AL
4. 3388	Randy Roberts	Cullman, AL
5. 3209	Scott Sappington	Dallas, GA

SENIOR EXPERT

1. 3986	Bruce Underwood	Guntersville, AL
2. 3790	Keith Watson	Marietta, GA
3. 3514	Mickey Walker	Kennesaw, GA

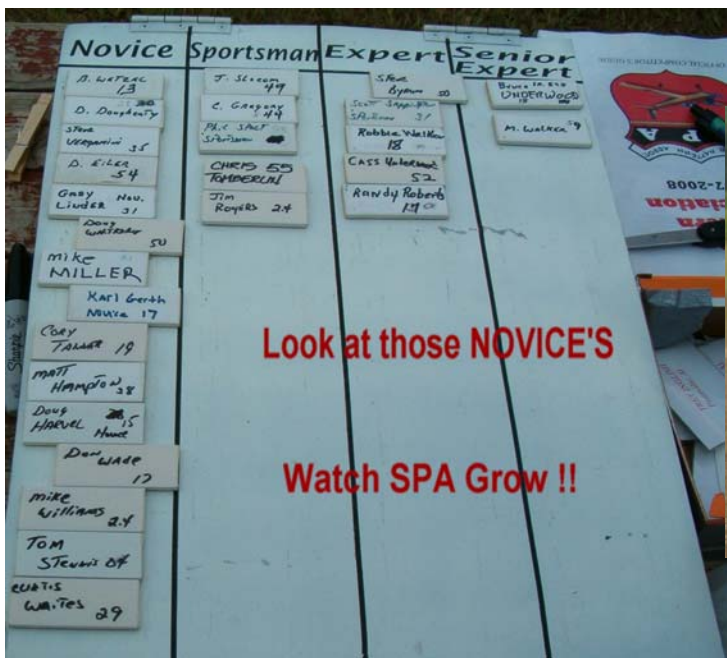
Below are photos made by MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER photo journalist who covered contest for Capitol daily newspaper:



Aug. 18 -- Don Wade, left, Helena, AL, goes over flight plans with David Phillips, Hueytown, AL, before flying his Steerman replica in the 2nd Annual Bill Johnston Memorial Senior Pattern Association contest. The Fountain City Flyers, hosted the event at their N. B. Reynolds Field in Autaugaville, Ala. (Lloyd Gallman)



Aug. 18 -- An electric starter pushed against the prop helped start a model plane at The Fountain City Flyers' N. B. Reynolds Field in Autaugaville, AL. The FCFlyers club hosted the 2nd Annual Bill Johnston Memorial Senior Pattern Association contest. (Montgomery Advertiser, Lloyd Gallman)



Chris Tomberlin, left, Montgomery, Ala., Chris Gregory, Dalton, GA., prepare their planes at the ready line during the 2nd Annual Bill Johnston Memorial Senior Pattern Association meet.

07 MASTERS -- MASTER-FULL
Knoxville Tennessee September 15-16 2007

You usually define event officials as "masterful"...but this year's MASTERS at KCRC were, as the title above suggests, FULL of all the things you attend an SPA contest for. Flying, funnin', fellowshiping, joking around, serious competition, and this Masters.....more of the usual show of affection for each other, precipitated by the recent loss of our beloved members, Jim Ivey, Bill Kite and Cass Underwood. One of our Senior members was overheard saying "if there's a closer knit group than the SPA members, they'd have to be held together with one of Granny's old garters".

Golly, what a week-end.....four full rounds of regular competition and those delightful, "knee-knockin'" FLY_OFF championships. The fly-off for the Memorial Trophy and each of the other classes, is, without a doubt, the pinnacle of SPA participation. Ed Hartley and Mrs. Rachel graded the score sheets for each of the classes THREE (3) times to assure accuracy. Wait'll you see the scores, especially the Memorial Trophy competition to validate the need for this scrutiny on behalf of the Hartleys.

When MASTERS Skipper Dennis Hunt became incapacitated due to his illnesses, First Mate Ed stepped right up to the helm and drove the MASTERS ship, directed by Navigator Phil Spelt, right in to the contest port known as SUCCESS. I am "privvy" to the detailed financial report shared privately with me by Hartley.....and this, not only was the most successful Masters contest in the field of just plain "enjoyment", but durned if KCRC didn't fare VERY well in the receipts department as well, thanks to you good folks purchasing the raffle tickets and **Pyramid Hobbies** making most of the prizes available. Others came from other sources (Dan)....Ed, Phil, Dennis and KCRC are mucho grateful !!

At the MASTERS banquet, this year the main speaker for the event was none other than our own **FOUNDER**, Mickey Walker. Mickey detailed the formulation of SPA and answered questions, with no reservations, to all during a Q & A session. He said "SPA is growing now like I had hoped it would at its' origin"! He was so grateful for the leadership and direction. Whatta guy!

What a delight to see the NOVICE class with a whopping 16 entries and all dealing with the strong winds of Saturday with skilled finesse.....er uh, in MOST rounds. Check with a certain flier from D GA. for a bit of a "mod" from the above sentence. The "practice" that reveals itself this late in a season was evident with much improved flying from the seasons' beginning. Had there been a "hard-luck" trophy, it would have been won by our beloved friend and companion from Kingsport, TN, Mr. Rhea Starnes,....you recall the tall poplar tree that Jim Ivey was able to recoup and land after having flown thru the top of....that's the very one that grabbed Mr. Rhea's airplane. Show you what kind of fellow Starnes is, he remained on the scene all day Saturday rooting for ALL participants. Starnes, like all of us, sorely missed our late "flying buddies" but recalled the "good" times we'd shared with them in the past.

I'm trying to recall the last Masters entry from Texas, before this season. Seems it was quite a while ago, maybe the mid 90's when Cal Scully and his Son-in-Law came from the Lone Star state to a Masters in Hotlanta. This year it was a joy to have Ellis "Kinky" Newkirk, a prominent pattern patron from the 70's and 80's rekindle his talents with a Jerry Black DB. Newkirk said, "I must stimulate some of this SPA activity around Dallas".

What excellent EXPERT competition....only 23 "normalized" points separating 1st and 3rd with the winner winning only round 3 but the high scores of rounds 2 and 4 totaling enough "booty" to crown him the winner. What a class this is going to be in 08. Jamie Strong (CSP) in handing out the "points" trophies said "what a great job these winners have done this season, I have a feeling the consistent winners are in for a surprise in 08". Strong was of course, directing his remarks to those that will "move up".

Results are elsewhere, the trophies are going to be cherished for many years to come and it's hoped that each time they are viewed, or just the results for those of you who will "hone" your skills and garner the gold in future events, that your memories of this event are as delightful as a crisp early Fall morning.

Ed Hartley, you Old F__ you, you still direct a Good event , just like years ago when you did it at the old Knoxville site just off Lovell Road. Ed told me privately, it was a joy working with Co-CD Phil Spelt. We're just "give-out" but its' a pleasant feeling "give-out" and we're gonna be constantly by Dennis's side as he continues his return to good health which "hopefully is gonna be soon". (Did YOU teach Joel Hebert to sing that beautifully, and Phil, what an inspiration your petition to the Chief was). I'm just glad to associate with a group like KCRC.

SPA PIO



Mickey Walker wins MEMORIAL TROPHY for the 2nd time.

MASTERS FLY-OFF RESULTS

SR. EXPERT (Memorial Trophy)

- 1. Mickey Walker 324.3
- 2. Keith Watson 320.3

EXPERT

- 1. Jerry Black 358.5
- 2. Randy Roberts 350.8
- 3. Jamie Strong 333.0

SPORTSMAN

- 1. Chris Gregory 310.5
- 2. Jim Rogers 283

NOVICE

- 1. Mike Robinson 175.1
- 2. Don Eiler 169.5

The "Fly-off's" are judged by 5 (five) seasoned judges with both the HIGH and LOW scores tossed out to determine winner.



L to R: Phil Spelt, B. Underwood Tom Stennis, Steve Byrum and Ed Hartley. CD Ed said he and Rachel in grading scores were in "awe" of the closeness of the finished scores for each flyer.



Above, Duane Wilson calls for Mr. Rhea Starnes in Round one. Note the jacket on Starnes, was "coolish" for a few hours each morning, then warmed up nicely.

2007 MASTERS CONTEST RESULTS

NOVICE

1. Mike Robinson	3000
2. Marc Sobolewski	2918
3. Steve Vergamini	2852
4. Don Eiler	2841
5. Doug Whitaker	2815
6. Sam Hamrick	2811
7. Matt Hampton	2907
8. Duane Wilson	2806
9. Doug Harvel	2750
10. Bob Wetzel	2746
11. Leslie Smith	2717
12. Dan Dougherty	2681
13. Mike Miller	2665
14. Tom Stennis	2554
15. Vic Koenig	1707
16. Rhea Starnes	733

SPORTSMAN

1. Chris Gregory	3000
2. Jim Rogers	2932
3. Richard Witt	2652
4. Phil Spelt	2627
5. Warren Oliver	2581
6. Skip Getelman	2540
7. Jim Slocum	2478
8. Bill Dodge	2396

EXPERT

1. Randy Roberts	2976
2. Jamie Strong	2970
3. Jerry Black	2953
4. Robbie Walker	2788
5. Ellis Newkirk	2750
6. Steve Byrum	2552

SENIOR EXPERT

1. Bruce Underwood	3000
2. Keith Watson	2806
3. Mickey Walker	2591

This has been a **GREAT** year for **NOVICE** participation. A good indicator of the future **SPA** competition.



What a GREAT shot of the CURARE "on the wing" at KCRC Masters.



The shirt to the left was worn by Mike & Jerilyn Robinsons Daughter.

Many photo bugs took a shot of the GEM.

Factual??



Robbie got the A6 INTRUDER ARF

Newkirk wins SS RADIO. \$100.00 Gift certificates to PYRAMID Hobbies went with Jamie Strong, Phil Spelt & Steve Byrum.



Yum-Yum Great Banquet



Isn't this a BEAUTIFUL shot ?

I took this shot out the front of the motor home early Sunday morning at the KCRC field...
Doug Harvel



The Ladies took time for a photo. L to R: Jerrilyn, Mama Jane, Janell, Rebekah, Jill, Frances. -0- Apologies for the misspellings but hope the ID's are "in the ball park" -0- We appreciate Ya'll !!



Doug Harvel & Tom Stennis, Mississippi Duo between rounds



Assistant CD's Ed and Phil ran a GREAT MASTERS subbing for Dennis Hunt. Thanks KCRC for an excellent MASTERS



THINGS I'VE LEARNED ABOUT SPREAD SPECTRUM

Sec/Tres Steve Byrum

First, you can't say that three times fast without spitting on yourself. It'll get nicknames shortly that are easier to say.

Second, there is a different feel to the plane flying an SS system. I'm not positive the feel is real and not just because I want it to feel better. That being said, both my Taurus and Curare seem to be just a bit more positive in their response to control inputs. I currently fly both without any expo on any control. Both planes have digital servos all around. I have not noticed any huge increase in sensitivity in either plane, though the elevator on the Curare may get turned down a point or two.

I had been flying the 7 channel receivers in the Taurus as a test bed before installing them in the Curare. I made the change last weekend and put an AR6200 6 channel receiver. I range checked the Curare and got the same range I had gotten from the receiver in the Taurus. I conducted the range check as described in the instructions. I walked out thirty paces, pressed the button and all was well. I continued checking as I walked out further in the pace increments. Horizon says range is sufficient at 30 paces with the power limiting button on the module pressed. I found complete control at 140 paces with the button pressed. Range on the 7 channel receiver was not a problem.

When I conducted the range test on the AR6200, I was great at 30 paces and had nothing at 40. Remembering that 30 paces is sufficient, I still looked for a reason for the huge difference in range between the receiver sets. I found I had not oriented the main receiver exactly the way the AR7000 had been placed in the Taurus. First, one side of the antenna was laying next to the battery lead. Further, the antenna was running length wise in the fuselage as it had been with the AR7000, but was in the center of the fuselage where the antenna for the AR7000 had been in the top of the fuselage. I corrected both situations and reran the range check. Now I found range clear out to 85 paces with the AR6200.

Several conclusions can be drawn. First, a normal person would not have found any of this because the range check was good at 30 paces on both systems. Second, it seems good to place the antenna of the primary receiver high in the fuselage. Finally, the AR7000 seems to have significantly more range than the AR6200, but it would probably only make a difference if you chose to fly your model several miles away.

The happiest of Holidays to all from the Cullman bunch.

Steve

This is the annual election issue of the SPA Newsletter and in keeping with our Bylaws includes a request for your' election of officers for 2008.

Please vote your preference via this ballot or duplicate (if you don't want to deface your newsletter) and submit to Steve along with your dues payment for the coming year. Steve and two "monitors" will open and tabulate returns for tallying and announcing New Years Eve, 2007. The announced candidates below have indicated a desire to continue in their present positions. Should the "announced" slate be reelected, all the current *appointed* positions IE: Directors, CSP, etc. will remain the same as current. Dues for 2008 remain the same, \$20.00.

PRESIDENT Bruce Underwood ()
Other _____()

VICE PRES: Scott Sappington ()
Other _____()

SEC/TRES: Steve Byrum ()
Other _____()

Thank you for your' prompt attention and remittance.

May the WARMTH and JOY of this Holiday season pervade your entire household and endure throughout the coming year.

May ALL your wishes come true!

From your' SPA Officers and Directors:

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Visit

our

website

at

www.seniorpattern.com

SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City-State-Zip _____

AMA Number _____ Club Affiliation _____

Membership dues \$20. Make check payable to **SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION**

Mail to:

Steve Byrum

1326 3rd St. SE

Cullman, Alabama 35055

**Bruce Underwood
1412 Patterson St.
Guntersville, AL 35976**

