



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

MAR/APR 2009

SENIOR PATTERN PILOTS make SMOOTH PASSES !

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Bruce Underwood—
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Mike Robinson-
Sec/Tres

MICKEY WALKER-
Founder Emeritus

Ed Hartley-
Webmaster

Jamie Strong-
Chair Special Projects

Keith Watson-
Appointed

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CONTEST DIRECTORS—Look at this info below for obtaining your computer scoring program for an SPA contest. Courtesy Mr. Gene Maurice. Please advise Gene of our appreciation of his computer expertise and help.

CONTEST DIRECTORS—NEED A SCORING PROGRAM? READ THIS:
Bruce,
I have had a number of inquiries about using the PACSS system to score SPA contests and the difficulty folks had setting up the data on their own. Working with Phil Spelt and Ken Knotts, I've gone ahead and created a special version of the system for use at an SPA event.

Ken has done some testing on this version and after a minor repair, he states that it appears to be working correctly.

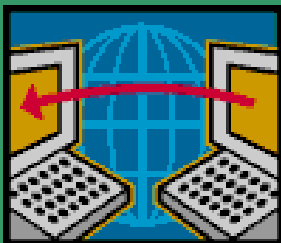
I wasn't sure how to get this information out to your constituents so I am writing you directly.

As it is for AMA Pattern, the system is completely free to anyone.
This can be downloaded from the PACSS web site at <http://pacss.sgmservice.com/> and follow the “Download” link (<http://pacss.sgmservice.com/download.htm>).
Please share this information with your membership as you see fit.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Gene Maurice
Plano, TX
AMA 3408 NSRCA 877
PACSS.sgmservice.com
gene.maurice@sgmservice.com

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.



Bruce & Jane Underwood

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2ND YEAR TO MEET WITH THE GOOD FOLKS AT THE OAKWOOD CAFÉ IN DALTON, GA



DIRECTORS—2009



IT WAS RAINY AND COLD UPON ARRIVAL, SO HOST MIKE, WHO MADE THE ARRANGEMENTS MET US WITH AN UMBRELLA. GENUINE GEORGIA HOSPITALITY !!
-0-

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - JANUARY 24, 2009 DALTON, GA.

No wonder your Board meeting was held again at the OAKWOOD CAFÉ in Dalton, GA...the food was simply delicious, the folks serving it so nice and hospitable and service was simply the "greatest".

Board attendance was 100%. All 7 present and all participated in parts of discussion and items of business. Mike Robinson, SEC/TRES hosted again this year and opened with a "blessing" of the food, the meeting, the season and a heartfelt thanks to the Chief in prayer.

Not only did the 7 Directors attend but these members attended as well:

Rebekah Walker, Dan Dougherty, Janie Dougherty, Bill Collins, Mike Miller, Karl Gerth, Jim Slocum, Bob Wetzel, Sammy Hamrick, Gary Linder, Carolyn Spelt and Randall Cashon.

The usual greetings, laughing, talking and sharing of stories preceded any real business, which Mike will share with his MINUTES of the meeting on the following page. We talked and laughed of prior side-events conducted by SPA such as the TOP DAWG standings (if you don't recall this, ask an ole-timer) and the TALL-TALE contest, the "Best Slogan" event, etc. This led to establishment of a "LIFETIME SPA MEMBERSHIP" proposal which carried immediately with a gigantic "attaboy" to Mike or whoever came up with the idea. Ed Hartley quickly drew out a "C-NOTE" from his "mad money" stash and garnered the very first lifetime membership which will have his number preceded with an "L" as does the AMA. Mike said there had been some requests to "reserve" the soon to be issued SPA number 500 so he suggested an "auction" be staged with the highest bidder being issued that prized number SPA 500. Bids may be posted via the SPA Discussion List which, if you're not already a subscriber, may be joined from within the SPA website at www.seniorpattern.com. These "side-events" are fund-stimulators for the SPA treasury and will be used for MASTERS awards, advertisements, and needed items such as the wattmeter, etc.

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting January 24, 2009 The Oakwood Café, Dalton, Georgia

Bruce Underwood, President of the SPA, called the meeting to order. All Directors were present. Scott Sappington, Vice President Mike Robinson, Secretary/Treasurer Jamie Strong, Chairman of Special Projects Phil Spelt, Guide editor, Mickey Walker, Founder Emeritus and Ed Hartley, Webmaster.

The board approved the following rule changes.

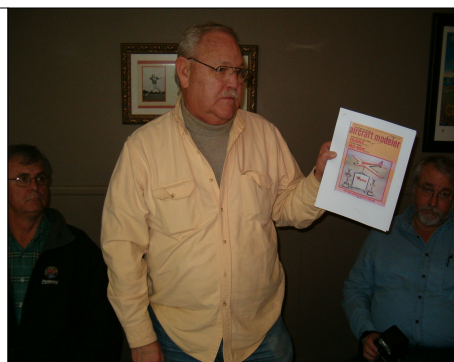
1. In section 6 of the Competitors Guide "Point System" the following is added. **(5) All classes except Novice shall be eligible for the points championship. There shall be no fly-off for the Novice class.**
2. In section 1 of the Competitors Guide "1.General" this is added. **If you fly in Novice and wish to compete for trophies you must be an SPA member. If you are not a member you will receive a certificate of participation. Different awards may be presented at the discretion of the Contest Director.**
3. In section 3 "Contestant Classification" the following is added to the end of item "b." **Any Novice contestant who accumulates a score of fifty points or more in their best four contests during the regular contest season must move to the next highest or higher class no later than the end of the season that the points were accumulated.**
4. In Section 1 of the Competitors Guide "1. General" The following is added. **To qualify for points or official standing within SPA all aircraft and classes of contestants shall use approved equipment.**
5. In Section 1, C. Aircraft/Engines (1) Regular Pattern , item "D" is replaced with the following. **Electric motor powered aircraft weighing no less than 5 pounds, ready to fly, and generating no more than 1400 watts on a fully charged battery, and meeting all other SPA specifications, shall be allowed.**
6. In Section 1 of the Competitors Guide "1.General (2) Senior Expert. is replaced with the following. **Any pilot age 60 years and older may elect once each year which of the classes they will fly.**

In other business the BOD approved:

1. The purchase of a wattmeter that may be used by Contest Directors. Jamie Strong to make recommendation as to type and instructions.
 2. That one card be issued to new SPA members once per year.
 3. That a current list of members in good standing be available to Contest Directors by posting on the SPA web site.
 4. That the Secretary/Treasurer may auction SPA #500 to a qualified bidder.
 5. That lifetime memberships be made available for the following cost.
 - a. Less than 50 years old \$250.00 dollars
 - b. 50 through 54 years old \$200.00 dollars
 - c. 55 through 59 years old \$175.00 dollars
 - d. 60 through 64 years old \$150.00 dollars
 - e. 65 through 69 years old \$125.00 dollars
 - f. 70 or more years old \$100.00 dollars
 6. That Lifetime membership numbers shall be preceded by the letter L and that the member may retain their current number and use the L, or that the Secretary issue a new number as deemed appropriate.
- Being no further business before the board the meeting was adjourned.

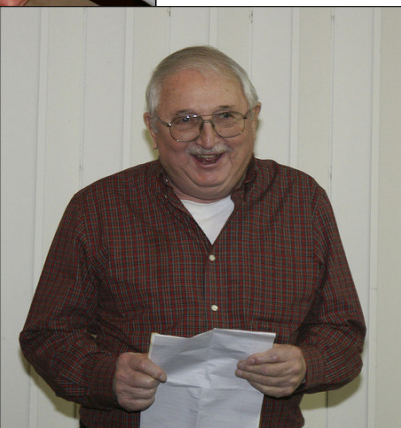


At left, Ed Hartley dipped into his "Mad Money" quickly and handed the C-Note to Mike to insure he got the initial Lifetime Membership. Mike didn't linger long taking his money and assured him of Lifetime membership number L—2.



Left: Newest Board member Phil Spelt shares story in 1973 Model Magazine regarding the use of "electric" powered models to substantiate the question as to the use of electric power for models in our "era".

At right: Founder—Emeritus Mickey Walker defines PREAMBLE and explains much of the history of the SPA plus thanked the Board and the membership for all the efforts and time put into the furthering of SPA. "I really didn't envision the Association becoming this big and am genuinely happy so many modelers are enjoying our Sport/Hobby.



Randall Cashon of Chattanooga, TN RC Club confirms definite contest in 09 in the CHOO-CHOO City. Welcome news indeed. Ideal location and very nice facility !



The Contest Cycle



by: **STEVE BYRUM**

Ed Note: Steve has personally CD'd more SPA and AMA contests than any current SPA member and CD, to my knowledge. ALL successful !

Proposal

Proposing a contest is a two phase operation. You'll need club approval to host the event and SPA coordination of the date. For a first time contest, the club is the biggest issue. You'll need to describe how the event is conducted. Make sure the club understands the field will be tied up from about noon on Friday till early afternoon on Sunday for a two-day contest. They should expect about four rounds to be flown on Saturday, taking up most of the day. Two more rounds are normal on Sunday with competition being complete with competition and clean-up done by about 2:00 PM. Club members should expect to help with concession and scoring. For its help, the club will be exposed to a new form of R/C fun, make an interesting group of new friends and profit a few hundred dollars. Initially, profit is stressed least because turnout can be unpredictable. Once a contest becomes established, \$300-500 can be made to benefit other club activities.

Preparation

A sanction from AMA submitted by a licensed contest director is essential to protect both the club and the land owner. SPA contests are sanctioned as Class C Restricted because we have no official rules in the AMA rule book. Class C makes us technically a Fun Fly event. SPA contests are Restricted in that we have specific rules as to what kind of equipment can be used. Cost of sanctioning is around \$20. Sanctioning should be done as soon as club approval is granted and the SPA schedule coordinator has fit the contest into the schedule.

You'll need some folks to help. First, the contest director should plan to have no real function on contest day. That will leave him free to handle all the little stuff that invariably happens and still keep things running smoothly. You need a scorekeeper, at least one person to help with pilot registration (usually the club treasurer because he'll hold the money), a person to run each flight line and several folks to handle concessions.

You'll need some equipment. All that's needed can be borrowed from club members for the weekend. You need some sort of cover for a headquarters. It is best to have some sort of shade and a couple of chairs for the judges on each flight line. You need a full set of frequency pins. You need some way to post standings and a way to post flight orders that can be easily adjusted. You need a computer, printer and software for scoring. All clubs have someone with a machine they're willing to risk for a day or two. Software is either inexpensive or free. Concessions can be handled by members running a grill and dispensing drinks for coolers or having food brought in. Carefully done, concessions is a way to boost club profits.

The field should be freshly mowed. Some sort of barrier or markers should be present to establish safety lines so pilots unfamiliar with local rules don't setup improperly. Safety netting, ropes or lines of streamers all satisfy this need. Most flying sites already have something of this nature in place for regular operations. Do take advantage of pre-registration as offered on the SPA website. This service allows a contest director to know, within one or two, how many pilots he'll have on Saturday morning. The CD can better plan for lunch, have the computer setup, begin to establish flight orders and get a preliminary idea of who he'll be using to judge.

Do not forget to order awards. Plan for three places in each class. Many clubs give awards to fifth place in Novice to encourage participation. Awards can vary from framed computer generated certificates to commercially produced plaques or trophies.

Production

Most clubs close the field for contest practice on Friday afternoon. Early arrivals will fly a flight or two to familiarize themselves with the field while they renew old friendships and establish new ones. The CD or some club official can use this time to begin regulating parking and where pilots setup their own tents.

Final setup is completed early on Saturday morning. No matter how carefully you plan, there are always little glitches to be ironed out. Set up registration so pilots can sign the AMA forms and pay entry fees. Hang your sanction form for public display. The forms and sanction protect everyone in case of an accident. During this time, final computer setup is completed. Just enter pilot information collected from those who did not pre-register.

Starting time is dictated by local conditions. Usually, a pilots' meeting is held around 9:00AM. Conduct whatever type of opening ceremony suits your personal taste, then review any local rules so all pilots are informed. There may be some discussion of individual maneuvers. Find answers for everyone's questions at this point. Describe which classes will fly on what flight line and who will start the judging. Tell your pilots what time they should be ready to start flying.

After flying starts, keep the flight order board in a place where pilots can keep themselves informed as to when they'll fly. Also, have someone assigned to keep each flight line running. His job will be to keep at least the next two or three pilots near the flight line with their equipment so they're ready to go in the event of a short flight or the next guy's inability to start his engine. This duty is critical during the first couple of rounds to insure there are no delays. Once your contest gets rolling, most pilots are pretty good at keeping track of when they're to fly, but it's still necessary to have someone running the line to make adjustments as needed.

The contest director should keep track of who is judging which classes and how many times they've been used. It is way too easy to use the same guys over and over because they're qualified and will do it without complaint. It's also unfair to everyone. It wears your judge out. No matter who the judge is, scores are also more fair when many eyes have seen the class. Everyone judges a little different. The best result comes from the average of a broad range of scores.

Finishing on Sunday should be done quickly and politely. Keep scores processed so there is no delay when the contest ends. Pilots who are finished will be packing their stuff during the last round. Talk a little during award presentation, but keep it short. Your pilots have to drive home. Get them down the road as quickly as possible. **Steve Byrum**

Steve may be reached for any additional assistance via e-mail at: stevebyrum@bellsouth.net

ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN HOBBY AND TRADE SHOW

Georgia Agri-Center Perry, Georgia

March 6 & 7, 2009

SPA tables are G8-I2/H8-I2 in

the HERITAGE BUILDING.



SPA National Points Race

Hello fellow SPA members. My name is Bob Wetzel and I am the SPA's "Keeper of the Points". I am going to attempt to give y'all an overview of the points system and how it works. The National Points Race runs from the Masters contest of the prior year to the Masters Contest of the current year. This means the 2009 Points Race began with any sanctioned SPA event that started AFTER the 2008 Masters Contest, which was held in Prattville, AL, the end of September, 2008. **To qualify for points or official standing within SPA, all aircraft and classes of contestants shall use approved equipment.**

Here is how the points earned are determined. In every class, you earn one point for competing, and one point for everyone in your class that you beat. In addition to this:

- 1st place gets a five point bonus
- 2nd place gets a four point bonus
- 3rd place gets a three point bonus
- 4th place gets a two point bonus
- 5th place gets a one point bonus

Here is an example; there are 10 contestants in a class, First place would get:

- 1 point for competing
- 9 points for the 9 contestants you beat
- 5 bonus points for 1st place

TOTAL 15 points

Second place would get:

- 1 point for competing
- 8 points for the 8 contestants you beat
- 4 bonus points for 2nd place

TOTAL 13 points

And so on..... Last place would earn 1 point.

Throughout the season (Masters to Masters), we tally all contestants points and post them on the SPA website. The spreadsheet will show the contestant's name, the contests you flew in and the points earned in that contest. It will also give you a total of all points earned for the season and a total of your BEST four contest points. This is **THE** number used to determine your official standings in the SPA National Points Race. At the Masters, points earned will be multiplied times 1.5 If you scored 8 points you would earn 12 points for the Masters contest. These points will be added to your BEST four contest points for your seasons **TOTAL POINTS**. This total determines your standings for the season and your placement for a Master's Trophy.

At the Masters for the current year, the top two contestants from each class, except Novice, will participate in a "fly off" for a special Trophy. The Senior Experts will be flying for the Memorial Trophy which they will get to keep for the year. You can only win this trophy 3 times.

There is no "fly off" at the Masters in the Novice class. We keep track of points earned in the Novice Class for the purpose of determining when a novice flyer needs to "move up" to a higher class. The official wording is as follows: Any Novice contestant who accumulates a score of fifty points or more in their best four contests during the regular contest season must move to the next highest or higher class no later than the end of the season that the points were accumulated.

I hope I conveyed the message in easy to understand terms. If you have any questions, please send me an email --

bobwetzel@bellsouth.net

Our SPA website keeper, Ed Hartley is asking CD's for total information for website PRE-REGISTRATION....he says.....

For those who want to Pre-Register a contest, here is the rule, you coordinate your date with Jamie Strong. Once this is done and you are ready for your info to go on the web site, email me with a contest flyer, it can be in Microsoft Word, Publisher or a PDF. Along with the flyer, I need a **ZIP CODE for the field and **ONE** email address for the preregistration email to go to. Without this information, I can't do a good job for you.**

Pre-registration is such a big help in receiving accurate information, spelling, frequencies, etc. to reach Ed:

roho3a@gmail.com



THE INSIDE SCOOP by Jamie Strong —Chair Special Projects

As our almost unbelievable 2008 season was starting to wind down in late summer, my wheels were already turning as to how could it possibly get much better than 2008. As I started laying things out for the 2009 season, a decision to hold a March event loomed important on the list of early decisions to be made. After trying the March date for 2 years now, and having either 20 MPH winds and cold, or rain occurring (very often associated with the change of seasons here in the South), I made the move to go with a 7 contest season, vs an 8. One things for sure, when contest time

comes around, folks will show, but how many, well, lots of factors play a part, but none more important than the weather. It can be your best friend, or your worst enemy, as all CD's know.

--Well, After making the decision to skip March for a contest, the idea of Judging clinics at both Chattanooga, as well as Prattville on April 4th and 5th, (think Chattanooga will be the 4th only as of this writing). I'm planning on a 2 hour or so indoor class Saturday AM, follow by lunch, then off to the field for some one on one student/instructor tutoring, then wrapping up a day of flying up about sundown. The fun probably won't stop there, we'll get out the night flying planes an then fly a few more hours :). Then Sunday morning do a mock, one to two round Novice contest, just for folks to shake off some of those early contest butterflies, and to put into practice some of the things learned the previous day.

After contacting all our CD's, the Months and venues started falling in place. and as tradition of the past 12 years or so, Cullman will open our first Spring contest, falling on (APRIL) 18th- 19th, with Ft. Worth Texas falling the next Saturday on April 25th, and Greensboro North Carolina holding their first SPA contest, with Steve Vergamini CD'ing, going on the same 25th and 26th weekend as Ft. Worth.

(MAY) starts us off in Tulsa Oklahoma for they're first time SPA contest on Saturday the 23rd, with Alabaster Alabama running on the 23rd and 24th as well, with Dave Phillips, CD'ing the event. Dave Goes back to the good Ole days of pattern flying in the 70's for real, like several of us OLE timers do.

(JUNE), We'll head to the mountains of Knoxville Tennessee, to visit with some good Ole Volunteers and to enjoy some of the best views you'll see on the planet. Think you can see close to 50-75 miles ,and is just AW SOME site to behold, not counting some pretty good hosts, and lots of my good ole buddy's as well.

(JUNE) 27th and 28th will also see us heading for Hotlanta for an Antique patten event. SPA has always had a antique place in the SPA books, but due to the work required to keep the regular SPA pattern stuff up and going, its been kinda on the back burner for many years. Thanks to Dan Dougherty and many others the past year bringing this venue of flying a little higher up the scales, and now a reality, good work Dan.

(JULY) 18th and 19th, we retreat to another just beautiful part of the country in Asheville North Carolina for their 3 rd annual SPA contest, with Duane Wilson CD'ing, and the Asheville flyers hosting (go see the Biltmore Mansion, largest home in the world).

(AUGUST) we head back to Chattanooga for their 2nd annual SPA contest the 15th and 16th, with Mike Robinson CD'ing and centralizing our venues a bit, (at least for the Northern bunch). Mike and I had talked at length with dates, and I, just being totally against trying to squeeze anymore events into our already tight schedule, I decided to give Mike our Prattville date this year, that maybe we can rotate year to year with each other to accommodate both the Northern folks as well as my Southern and Mississippi folk.

(Sept) 19th-20th, we're off to my Favorite place, HODGES HOBBYS, Andersonville Georgia, home of the best flying facility anywhere, hobby shop, rocking Chairs, REAL air conditioned flushing bathrooms, and total hookups for campers. The field is Macs private airport/ model facility for all to enjoy. Scott Sappington will CD this event, with his side kick John Baxter, (Hotlantas, and Masters CD). Scott has taken this venue on almost single handed the last two years, and with the help of everyone pitching in to help, really has made this trip a treat for all. Also on Sept. 26th (Saturday) is the second of the year Ft. Worth Texas SPA event (see website for details).

(Oct) 10th 11th is the BIG MASTERS FINN ALLY, where we could see upwards of forty, YEP FORTY contestants show, for what always proves to be the Cherry on top of the already wonderful pie :). As everyone should know by now, this is where the SPA all began, with Mr. Mickey Walker, dreaming a dream, and is certainty fitting to be the host what always is the biggest and best of the year. But we're not through yet, Broken Arrow Oklahoma will be holding a SPA contest on October 17th Saturday to wrap us up for a short break..

The season takes a short 6 week break and finds us right back down in Apopka Florida in December for the Tangerines, a combined AMA/BPA/and SPA contest. If this don't get your fix for pattern, or just plain drooling, nothing will. When this combination was tried for the first time just a few months back in 08, we saw some of the best talent in the Southeast show up with Jason Shulman (one of the top three in the US, if not the world), and West Coast Champ Chip Hyde flying flight for flight just a few points apart, with many others a lot closer than you might have thought.

Well, I better wrap this thing up cause my vocabulary has been maxed out with these few paragraphs, and looking forward to seeing everyone on the trail real soon.

Contact Jamie via E-Mail at:

jstrong@charter.net

Visit

our

website

at

www.seniorpattern.com

SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

E-Mail address _____

City-State-Zip _____

AMA Number _____ Club Affiliation _____

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

Mail to:

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Bruce Underwood
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Guntersville,AL 35976

