



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 www.seniorpattern.com **NOV/DEC 2011**

PRECISION AEROBATICS from PATTERN'S Golden Age

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT-

Bruce Underwood

VICE PRESIDENT-

Jeff Owens

SEC/TREASURER-

Mike Robinson

FOUNDER EMERITUS-

Mickey Walker

WEBMASTER-

Acting: Mike Robinson

SPECIAL PROJECTS-

Jamie Strong

APPOINTED-

Phil Spelt

Eric Nessler

EDITOR-

Duane Wilson

avlwilsons@charter.net



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.

IN THIS ISSUE

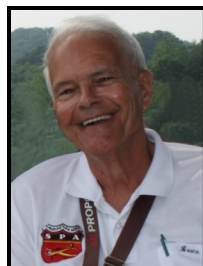
FROM THE PRESIDENT.....Page 1
SPA 20th ANNIVERSARYPages 2-3
THUNDERBIRDS (fall edition)..Page 4
TEXAS WINGS.....Page 5
MASTERS COVERAGE.....Pages 6-7

TODAY NOVICE-B—TOMORROW WHO KNOWS??
Who represents the future of our hobby??—look above at 10 y.o. Parker Gaines' enthusiasm as he poses with



SPA "Farm System" SEE PAGE 5

his plane while flying Novice-B . It looks to me like Parker may have "caught the fever". SPA is not just a "vintage/nostalgia" organization—we concentrate on friendly competition, and competition is AGELESS. Our "vintage" planes are all new (and hopefully cool), to him. We need a lot more young pilots like Parker Gaines(s) in SPA for us to remain strong as a growing organization dedicated to precision aerobatics.



FROM THE PRESIDENT.....Bruce Underwood LI5

2011 saw some of the best weather for SPA events ever, after settling down following the cancellation of the Cullman "season opener" due to the tragic April 27th tornadoes.

While judging at the initial contest in Prattville, AL, Karl Gerth remarked "I've never flown in this much wind before. He handled that model masterfully and not one single crash occurred due to the strong winds. Each contest following was graced by delightful weather and excellent participation.

Chances are good that CSP Jamie Strong will have received confirmations from CDs around the circuit for most of the 2012 contests for this or the succeeding edition of the SPA newsletter. He was pleading with CD's for input as early as back in October.

SPA is enjoying delightful "growing pains" to other parts of our good country and has received a request for "updated" info and details regarding regulations, etc. Our Board of Directors member Phil Spelt, a classroom university professor has graciously volunteered to assemble a DVD with specifics of SPA maneuvers, organization, etc. which will be available to RC model clubs for showings and discussions at club meetings and gatherings. The video cassettes of same have been placed in the archives since the DVD high-tech discs have become more practical and usable. Mr. Spelt will probably have them available for interested clubs and organizers in early spring 2012.

Spelt assembled our current Competitors Guide and CD's. The aforementioned have been available for a slight cost.....the forthcoming DVD's will be "at no cost".

This is the Christmas edition of this publication, chances are good you're already involved in Christmas shopping . You might make certain your family members see this column as I remind wives, children and loved ones....."nothing is appreciated more by active SPA pilots than model airplane goodies". How do I know this? I interviewed Santa Claus just a few days ago

Thanks all for a great season during 2011. It is the sincere wish of your officers and BOD that you have a delightful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Bruce U.

"THINGS WILL BE SWELL IN 2012"

Senior Pattern Association —20 Years and Going Strong

Chapter 1 Celebrates Anniversary with Nostalgia Contest



Twenty years ago Mickey Walker was just launching his great experiment into returning to the kind of pattern he liked best. Mickey had left pattern when "Turnaround" took over, but still fondly remembered and all the fun and challenge of competing before the judges. He finally called a bunch of friends of his and managed to find enough of them who shared his vision, and SPA was born in "Hotlanta", in 1991. This weekend we met to celebrate his brainchild, (can you believe it's been 20 years)? It seemed to me to be more a "homecoming" or "family reunion" than a contest, with many folks I haven't seen in some time, (some I met for the first time), including Ron Reed, Keith Watson, Marty Barry, (who hadn't flown in over two years), Frank Chick, Tim Fielding, Bryan Brown, Scott Sappington, (obviously not a stranger to the Paulding County Club), and Roy Thompson. Many of these were former "circuit riders", and were personally invited by phone by Mickey-- they took the time and effort to come "home" and observe this special contest milestone. It was great to see these guys again, and I hope we see them on the "circuit" a lot more in the future. Yes, there will no doubt be a 25th year event five years from now, but who knows what the future will bring? This was the time to gather together and honor Mickey for creating such a wonderful outlet for R/C competition.

This was a "nostalgia" contest, meant to be as much like the original 1991 event as possible, and NOT a "points", or "official" contest; some of us got the word later than others, but those that came had a wonderful time. It was supposed to be unique and special, and it was. Competitors were divided by age bracket as they were in the first event which made for some interesting competitive groupings compared to the way we do it now.

Weather was truly IDEAL this whole weekend, (and for me to say that it means a lot), that's why I'm not going to refer to Atlanta, as "Hotlanta" anymore in this report. Temperatures were on the warm side of perfect, with light breezes mostly down the runway. Again as Phil said, Sunday was even better than Saturday--the weather didn't adversely affect flying at all.

The Paulding County club members, (with their club badges proudly displayed), seemed to be everywhere, both as competitors and support staff for the event--well over 20 talented people from the club, (used to the SPA contest routine), pitched in for support in food, scoring, running and entering scores etc. to make this contest a very smoothly run event--like clockwork--the 30 registered pilots managed to fly a full six rounds, and it seemed to pass very quickly and efficiently.

This season is also the last for the Paulding County flying site we have been flying from (for all the years I've been associated with SPA). Losing a flying site is normally a time for sad faces, and anxiety about the future, but all the Paulding County folk (to a man), were excited about the new field, which will be a big improvement over the "obstacle course" field they have now. Personally I've lost or damaged more planes there than anywhere else--either to the 10-15 foot sheer wall drop-off, or the pine trees on the left side of the field waiting to jump in front of unsuspecting planes when least expected. In addition to these "booby traps" for unsuspecting pilots from other areas, you had to deal with unexpected guns going off, (gunfire pointed at who-knows-what), during your flights. An interesting place to fly--I'm looking forward to the new field as well.



Keith Watson and Mickey Walker were at that first contest. I was there too watching, and joined SPA—but first flew 14 years later. (ed)



Bruce & Jane Underwood

TOP NOTCH TROPHIES
2044 O'Brig Avenue
Guntersville, Alabama

Work: 256.582.0606 Home: 256.582.3742
Email: topnotchtrophies@bellsouth.net




Dalton Print Shop

For all your printing needs.
daltonprintshop@gmail.com

..... This was a rough weekend in terms of the toll of planes lost as the field tried its best to grab all it could during this last major event. There were seven planes lost during the contest proper, and another the Friday before for a total of 8--can you believe 8? Losing aircraft were Jay Marshall, Bryan Brown, Roy Thompson(2), Ray Craig, Marty Barry, (who had "wowed" the crowd earlier with death-defying flying, in one case below the tree line, (I could swear I heard the sound of "swishing" leaves), and last but not least, a horrific mid-air involving Julio Arrietta, and Joe Clark, (who happened to share the same canopy). I was calling for Joe at the time, and following his plane. All of a sudden, from out of nowhere, there were two planes and a "cracking" sound. The sky is a big place, but somehow between Julio's loops and Joe's preparation for the next maneuver, the sky got a whole lot smaller very quickly. I had heard of many "mid-air's", but had never seen one first-hand--this one was unbelievable, as Julio's plane headed straight down at full throttle, while Joe's continued on a few yards further before spiraling down. Part of Julio's wing fluttered down a few minutes later. WOW!! Both planes were recovered, (along with a wing from another plane lost earlier and a pair of women's glasses). Joe's plane is repairable (though the fuselage was in two pieces), but Julio gathered his valuables in a box, and is already making plans for a new Compensator.

The main raffle prize of a Spektrum 8 radio was won by DD, "Dan the Man" Dougherty-- (hmmmm). There was also a "Sweetater" kit and some other goodies. Awards were given for up to 5th place in all classes, so everybody took home hardware, with professionally taken photos--classy.

It was a wonderful weekend, and a chance for everyone to convey their thanks and best wishes to Mickey for a "job" well done. Thanks "Chapter ONE" for a tremendous, fun contest, "walk down Memory Lane" -----and a great time.Duane

NOVICE		SR NOVICE	
Bob Bixby	4000	Charles Gray	3986
Joe Grant	3793	Porter Harvey	3746
Pete Coleman	3635	Vic Koenig	3000
Brian Brown	94	Roy Thompson	2425
		Jay Marshall	626
SPORTSMAN		SR SPORTSMAN	
Bob Wetzel	4000	Phil Spelt	3979
Mike Wiczorek	3970	Joseph Holton	3930
John Baxter	3813	Jim Slocum	3896
Duane Wilson	3710	Dan Dougherty	3709
Tim Fielden	3572	Ron Underwood	3685
EXPERT		SR EXPERT	
Warren Oliver	4000	Russ Chiles	4000
Scott Sappington	3936	Keith Watson	3968
Dave Phillips	3658	Julio Arrieta	3869
		Ray Craig	3866
		Bill Dodge	3795
		Marty Berry	3324
		Mickey Walker	1570



This 20th Anniversary contest truly was all about SPA founder Mickey Walker with everyone gathering to honor him. Without Mickey, we'd still be out there "froggin' around" flying random loops and rolls, or flying AMA turnaround or IMAC at a lot more cost, while probably not having as much fun--thanks again Mickey for everything!!!



LT. Marty Berry was a real crowd pleaser . He hadn't flown in two years and literally "worked out the rust on-the-fly". His plane was one of the 8 casualties of the event.

Ft. Worth Thunderbirds *...By Ken Knotts* Sept 17, 2011

The Thunderbird Senior Pattern Association contest was greeted with beautiful weather and wind from the south right down the runway. Twenty one contestants signed up for the event with many having their first-time in front of judges. Pilots got to fly four rounds with two flight lines going at the same time (and no mid-air). The only airplane lost was in a practice flight before the judging began.

Contestants came from as far as Savanna, Georgia and Cabot, Arkansas and pilots ranged in age from 10 years to 69. Murry Adams, Chuck Ezell, Dale Sparks and Bob Hoover provided judging so no contestants had to be judges. Benny Throne took over for Bob Hoover in the afternoon.

Novice-B was won by Tony Steely with Tim Reed second and 10 year old Parker Gaines third. Logan Davis finished a close third and Richard Tilton was fifth when his firewall came loose and he didn't get to fly the last two rounds. Gary Nelson won the Novice class with Richard Tibbits second and Gene Hodges Third. There were seven pilots in that hard fought class. Sportsman class was a runaway for Blake Arnold with Chuck Lee second and Gary Alphin third. Chuck's Tiger Tail stood out with it's outstanding finish, a true work of art and a beautiful airplane. Ellis Newkirk couldn't get to the field in time for the first round of Expert class and flew the last three rounds and won them all, taking first place. Lindy Quinten took second followed closely by Dave Dingman. Michael Clements overcame crashing his two primary planes in the week before the contest to finish all four rounds in his first competition in the expert class.

This was our first year to have a Senior Expert class (age 65 and over) and Julio Arrieta assisted by his wife Petra from Savanna taking first with Ken Knotts second.

Many different vintage airplanes were flown and some with beautiful color schemes. Steve Ehlers rounded up some really nice door prizes for pilots. Thanks for all the help from Thunderbirds who made the contest a success.....Ken Knotts



Sr. Expert	Sportsman	Novice	B-Novice
Julio Arrieta 1st	Blake Arnold 1st	Gary Nelson 1st	Tony Stelly 1st
Ken Knotts 2nd	Chuck Lee 2nd	Richard Tibbits 2nd	Tim Reed 2nd
	Gary Alphin 3rd	Gene Hodges 3rd	Parker Gaines 3rd
Expert	<i>Unfortunately, I don't have text to go with most of the pictures, but you folks know who you are.....</i>	Mark Ehlers 4th	Logan Davis 4th
Ellis Newkirk 1st		Woody Lake 5th	Richard Tilton 5th
Lindy Quinton 2nd		Terry Thorpe 6th	
Dave Dingman 3rd		Steve Ehlers 7th	
Mike Clements 4th	<i>As said earlier, youth competing in SPA events is a great thing. This "video game" generation will likely "clean our clocks."</i>		



Nice Dirty Birdy....Dan Dougherty take note.



Judges Murry, Chuck, Dale, Bob and Benny volunteered to free participants from judging. These guys look like they take their jobs very seriously. (Above LT) Monte Smith's Super Lucky Fly (see May/June 2010 feature story).





TEXAS WINGS SPA CONTEST

SECOND LOCATION IN FT WORTH AREA PROVES TEXAS IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF A NEW SPA REGION....

By Billy Talmadge / Tim Reed



Ft. Worth, October 8th Marks the third Texas contest and the 4th for "SPA WEST" this season. A while back, maybe without EVEN meaning to, Steve Ehlers first coined the catchy phrase "SPA WEST", (one organization/two regions) when referring to the rapidly-growing group of SPA members west of the Mississippi. The region (for now), covers not only Texas, but Oklahoma and Arkansas. We in "SPA SOUTHEAST" wish nothing but the best as the "SPA WEST" region grows in the future. Two-day contests can't be too far off. (ed)

The Texas Wings Flying Club hosted its first Senior Pattern Association contest. Whew, I never knew hosting our own Pattern Event would be so draining but what a blast! A new member to our field Lou Corderoran the computer scoring program and with the support of the Thunderbird guys our event, although starting out a bit rough, ran smooth after lunch. A very special thank you to Ken Knotts and Gary Alphin, of the Fort Worth Thunderbirds, for their instructional assistance on the judging and use of the P.A.C.S.S. program. There were too many other supporters to mention here, but I want to say "Thank YOU" to all. The day was greeted with cloudy weather with fifteen to twenty mile per hour winds gusting to as high as twenty-nine, but the



Competition with vintage airplanes is the same everywhere. "SPA-West" region contestants pose with their models during the second contest of the season in the Ft Worth area, and the third for the region. There is enthusiasm for a possible contest in Arkansas next season.

wind was from the south right down the runway. The rain was taunting, but held off until later that night. Seventeen contestants coming from as far as Arkansas and Mississippi signed up for the event. Elton Rhoten, John Fischer, Roman Partz and John Ebert, provided the judging so no contestants had to be judges.

Pilots got to fly four rounds with two flight lines going at the same time (and no mid-air). The winds did not deter anybody from flying and they were a pleasure to watch. Mechanical problems frustrated some pilots, two planes downed with fuel tank problems, one with a broken engine mount (windy landings can be entertaining), and one due to a lost muffler.

Novice-B was won by Tony Steely with Tim Reed second but disqualified themselves, (next year they will move up novice class) This made 10 year old Parker Gaines the winner. Ronald Kosar took second and Logan Davis finished third. Gene Hodges won the Novice class. He will be moving up to sportsman next year. Mark Ehlers finished second with Jonathan Efinger taking third. There were eight pilots in that hard fought class. Sportsman class was won by Blake Arnold (will Blake be moving up to expert? (ed—we just shout "move up" and they usually get the point). Ken Knotts second place and Gary Alphin third. Our friends from Oklahoma couldn't make it to this event, so Dave Dingman was left to battle the winds of expert class by himself.

Prizes included two fiberglass short kits for a Dirty Birdy airplane made and donated by Tim Reed and Tony Stelly, (congratulations to Mark Ehlers and Dave Dingman). We had one DB drawing just for registered pilots and one as a raffle. We had a couple gifts from Hobbico (thank you guys very much) All donated gifts from Hobbico were in the pilot's drawing and the raffle items consisted of club and member donated gifts. We can't wait till next year. Happy building season everyone!!



The mark of a true pilot, Parker Gaines, (10), working on his plane oblivious to the cameraman.

NOVICE-B		NOVICE		SPORTSMAN	
A.Stelly **	2972	GeneHodges	3000	Blake Arnold	3000
Tim Reed **	2772	Mark Ehlers	2952	Ken Knotts	2862
Parker Gaines**	2700	Jon Efinger	2882	Gary Alphin	2391
Ron Kosar	2626	Rich Tibbits	2867	EXPERT	
Logan Davis	2508	Gary Nelson	2685	David Dingman	3000
Frank Reed	2494	Les Smith	2664		
		Terry Thorpe	2650		
** Parker WINS					

2011 SPA Masters*Alabaster

...by PIO Bruce Underwood (edited)



Competition was very keen at this year's Masters, as is usually the case. Traditionally flying isn't nearly as precise at the early contests...but with the "honing" of skills during the season, it always "peaks" at the MASTERS as pilots benefit from an entire season of practice. The pilots were at their best this past weekend, as was the weather... exactly what CD Mike Williams and the Alabaster club ordered. Thanks again, Chief!

One special acknowledgement needs to be made. Two Texans made the long cross-country pilgrimage and attended the 2011 MASTERS in Alabaster...glad to have both you "podnuhs"! With us this year, and we hope to have more visitation back and forth next year.

Let's review the competition class by class. In NOVICE class, Garry Singleton K'd 4 of the 5 rounds for a total score of 4000 and earned enough season points to receive runner up in the points race for the season. Ken Antos showed a tremendous amount of improvement in his flying this season, and bested Garry in round 4. Ken participated in the restored-for-2011 Novice class "fly-off and ended up in 2nd in the regular contest followed by Pete Coleman, Charles Gray and Joe Kutcher, in that order. A super Novice class and Singleton will be joining the ranks of Sportsman class come 2012. Only one point separated Garry Singleton and Vic Koenig for the Novice Points Championship. Vic had 30, Singleton 29. What a race!

What a tight competition among the leaders in Sportsman class with Michael Wiczorek winning the class, but just barely. Mike's score was 3922 after winning round 5, with Charlie Johns only 12 points back after winning round 4 for a total score of 3910. Victor Diaz copped 3rd place with early victories but tough luck in rounds 4 and 5 dropped him to a very respectable 3rd place score of 3908 (only two points out of second). Dave Phillips #3 was 4th, Ron Underwood 5th, then Dan Dougherty 6th and Bob Andrews 7th.

Just as it has been all this season, the EXPERT class was as good as has been reported here all year. Jerry Black won rounds 1, 2 & 4 and had a back-up score of 3998 to take the 1st place award. Ellis Newkirk, flying a Jerry Black Dirty Birdy won round 6 (after changing flight direction) and captured 2nd with a total score of 3891. Jamie Strong (with a 2 stroke in that beautiful airplane of Mikes) won round 3...his 3rd place finish score was only two points back at 3889. Jeff Owens, Bill Dodge and Dave Phillips kept the pressure on these guys with their finish in the order listed.

In Senior EXPERT...Keith Watson summoned his "skills" of the past and won rounds 2 and 4 and supplemented with two other high scores to win the class with a 4 round total of 3956. 2nd place went to Russ Chiles who won round 3 and ended with a total score of 3868. 3rd place went to Ray Craig who K'd round 5 on Sunday morning. Other finishers were, Julio Arrietta 4th, Kenneth Blackwell 5th and Bruce Underwood 6th.

Let me share a "foto-sized" picture of a highly efficient CD and his lovely wife who, along with others already mentioned put a great week-end together. This photo was the morning after their 38th anniversary. The club had coffee and goodies which were so welcomed in the coolness of the morning.

I apologize for my "bits and pieces" coverage....but I had the pleasure of participating in my Step Granddaughters' wedding Saturday afternoon in Oneonta, AL and made it to Alabaster just about time for the dinner meeting and judging and enjoying the final two rounds on Sunday morning.



Thanks again all for a very good 2011 and a super MASTERS event, and looking forward to 2012....Bruce Underwood SPA PIO



Left: A look at the prizes, trophies and other good stuff with a backdrop of the field and runway.

Right: Frank Comer's wife Kay receives the special memorial plaque in loving memory of her husband at the dinner Saturday night.

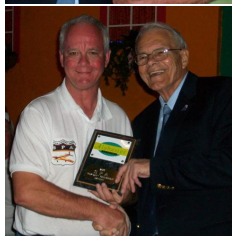




Special Masters memorial given in memory of Frank Comer to his wife Kay



Russ Chiles wins his 2nd Memorial Trophy — Way to go Russ!!



SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**COME
VISIT
OUR
WEBSITE**

@

**WWW.
seniorpattern.
com**

www.seniorpattern.com

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth: ____ — ____ — ____ AMA Number _____

Telephone (____) _____ E-Mail _____

Mail this form along with check/money order made out to The Senior Pattern Association for \$20.00 to: Mike Robinson, 2006 West Brookhaven Circle, Dalton, Ga 30720

Mike Robinson
2006 Brookhaven Circle
Dalton, Ga. 30720

