



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 **JULY/AUG 2012**

PRECISION AEROBATICS from *PATTERN'S Golden Age*

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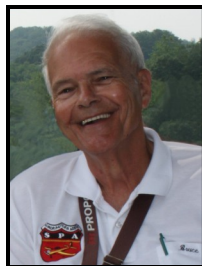
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SPA CONTEST SCHEDULE

July 21-22	Asheville, NC. (Pat Hagan Memorial)	Will Hicks, CD
August 11	Arkansas - LAFFS club field -	Richard Tibbitts CD
August 25-26	Chattanooga, Tn. (SPA Classic)	Mike Robinson, CD
Sept. 15-16	Ft. Worth, TX (SPA-West Open)	Ken Knotts, CD
Sept. 15-16	Prattville, AL	Jamie Strong, CD
October 6-7	Chattanooga, Tn. (SPA East Masters)	Mike Robinson CD



FROM THE PRESIDENT...Bruce Underwood SPA L15

Shortly, you'll be receiving your (August edition) of AMA's *MODEL AVIATION* magazine with an article honoring our SPA Founder, Mickey Walker. I can only imagine the tough time the columnist had “whittling” down the lengthy material to fit into the limited pages of the magazine.

Mickey's vision of a continuation of competing in model aeronautics just like the “golden era” led to his formulation of the SPA in 1991. He and a few of his stalwarts in the PCMA (Paulding County Model Association), took the project of contacting followers of pre-turnaround pattern and urged them to join as a Charter Member. One of them contacted me during a “work-day” at my insurance agency recruiting, he didn't have to “twist-my-arm” for at that very time, I was District 3 VP for NSRCA and was in the process of writing my bi-monthly column reluctantly publishing my views regarding the archiving of great and affordable non-turnaround pattern. It didn't take but a “jiffy” to write a check for my initial dues, address and mail (6 cents then) a number 10 envelope to initial Sec/Treasurer Frank Stewart. He returned my charter membership card bearing the number 15, which I possess this day, only preceded by an L (for Lifetime).

Many of us “old-timers” are so grateful for the efforts Mickey and his fellow club members expended toward the initiation and preservation of SPA. Many a year my late Son, Cass, and I have driven to a suburb of Atlanta, GA for the early annual meetings, usually held in Roy Thompson's office of Georgia Aerial Surveys. Mickey, you grabbed a handful of snow, rolled it over and over and it grew to be one of the most “highly-regarded SIG's in all of AMA. A snowball we hope continues to . If it wasn't for YOU—we'd have a lot more time on our hands and a lot less miles on our vehicle odometers.....Bruce PIO



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

TOP NOTCH TROPHIES

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Dan Quinten Memorial



Twelve pilots gathered at the Tulsa Gluedobber field to have fellowship, fly, and enjoy memories of one the originators of SPA West. Saturday was a strong test to the skill and mettle of the pilots as they were greeted with a 22 mph wind and gusts in excess of 30 mph. While a few planes found the tall grass around the runway as they were battered on approach, not a single plane was lost, a real testament to the focus of the pilots and the encouragement of the callers and judges. At the beginning of round 3, the wind began to swirl—it became clear that fate should be tempted no more. Flying ended early, as the group gathered at a popular Mexican restaurant and swapped stories of the day, listened to live music, and kept the blenders for the frozen margaritas in motion.

Sunday the pilots were greeted with an overcast sky and winds around 4 to 6 mph— they poured through three rounds of great flying, bringing the total to five completed rounds for the first annual Dan Quinten Memorial SPA Classic. Brian Chapman and Brice Crawford admirably negotiated the winds in Novice B with Brian taking first and Brice second.

Novice was a real shootout, as Gary Nelson, Mark Ehlers, and Richard Tibbits stayed within 10 normalized points of each other throughout most of the contest, at one point first and second were .0025 apart! The last three rounds, every maneuver mattered as the smallest differences in scoring had an immediate impact on the standings. It was a joy to watch these pilots fly their hearts out. In the end, Gary pulled out the win followed by Mark in second and Richard in third.

Sportsman's 2 pilots, Gary Alphin and Gene Hodges, not only flew well, but with the absence of any dedicated judges scored all five of the expert rounds. Gary picked up his first win in Sportsman class, negotiating his blazing fast Phoenix 7 with skill, and Gene showed marked improvement in his second outing since moving up from Novice.

Five experts put their planes through their paces as the competition was close amongst the top three. Ken Knotts performed admirably in his first contest in Expert. A loose firewall in his Phoenix 7 did not deter him as he completed his last 3 rounds with his back-up Tower Kaos. Lindy Quinten struggled with some inconsistent engine runs to finish fourth, but with the help of Chris White, Dave Dingman and Gary Alphin finally had things sorted out for rounds 4 and 5 and made their best flights of the young season. The top three performed exceptionally well. Blake Arnold continued to show why he will be a real factor for years to come in the class, piloting his immaculately finished Kaos through the first three rounds, and after some trouble, completed round 4 with an Ugly Stik and round 5 with Dave Dingmans Phoenix 7. With that he still finished a strong third! Dave Dingman continued his strong smooth flying in the 2012 season, flying his Phoenix 7 to second place, winning two rounds. Those two round were the first rounds eventual winner Chris White has lost in the last three years. Chris piloted the Dirty Birdy his father built for him with his usual smooth precision, winning three rounds and scoring highly enough to bring home first.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who worked to provide scoring, run the flight line, and feed the pilots throughout the event!



Dan Quinten SPA Memorial Results

Novice B

1. **Brian Chapman - 4000**
2. **Brice Crawford - 3202.93**

Novice

1. **Gary Nelson - 3942.46**
2. **Mark Ehlers - 3939.54**
3. **Richard Tibbits - 3856.71**

Sportsman

1. **Gary Alphin - 4000**
2. **Gene Hodges - 3820.66**

Expert

1. **Chris White - 3984.87**
2. **Dave Dingman - 3973.33**
3. **Blake Arnold - 3850.58**
4. **Lindy Quinten - 3809.44**
5. **Ken Knotts - 3578.62**



THE BEN OLIVER MEMORIAL CONTEST

What a glorious place to be!!

Knoxville, TN...the weekend of May 19 & 20 at the “South’s Most Scenic Flying Sight” was one for the “memory scrapbook”. From arrival on Friday afternoon until departure a bit after noon on Sunday, it was like the CD, Co-CD and the sponsoring club had ordered it from a menu prepared by the most experienced Chef in the universe.

Co-CD Phil and several club members welcomed arrivals on Friday and assisted in tent erection, location, etc. At this time of year, the afternoon sun poses no problem, and practice continued as long as there was daylight...then the visiting began, story-telling and the like. Weather for Saturday and Sunday was absolutely outstanding -- sunshine with broken clouds. Haze gave pilots some visibility problems in turnarounds, but the clouds also gave us markers to get loops on top of each other and Cuban 8 cross-overs in the right place. Winds were "light and variable," which is weathermen's lingo for "always blowing in the wrong direction!"

Saturday, Dennis and Phil decided to execute from a single flight line which kept on flying right through lunch on Saturday and a precise starting time on Sunday. The single flight line allowed for attention to every flight from every attendee, (and no chance of “mid-air” —ed). Light winds, (max 5mph), allowed pilots to fly their best. Competition was keen in most classes. What a “great job” by the last cycle’s pattern committee -- the top-heavy Novice entries of the last few years has been replaced with almost even numbers of entries in the above classes thus far this season.

Mr. Ken Antos of KY had the Novice class all to himself and thoroughly enjoyed eyeballing the “K’s” by his name on the scoreboard for all 5 rounds. So did, we, Mr. Ken’s admirers. Ken flew well to outclass “the field” in Novice (grin). Dennis Sams started off winning the first three rounds in Sportsman, then Phil Spelt came on to win the last two, salvaging second from “Papa” John Nessler, Jr. The Experts did battle, (minus Jerry Black who was missing this weekend) for the top spot. In the end, Eric Nessler nipped Ellis Newkirk, (all the way from Texas), to grab top spot, with John Nessler, III, in third. Bruce says, “This season has seen the best Expert Class flights I’ve ever seen for this early in a season”. I was “privy” to judging 3 of 5 rounds between these guys, and it was nip-&-tuck to find downgrades by any of them. Mr. Barry Hunt (Dennis’ Son) borrowed one of Dad’s Panzers and flew with the Expert crowd. What a joy to have him visiting Dad and Mom from Africa and electing to participate. In Senior Expert, our esteemed PIO grabbed the first place trophy, with Russ Chiles in second and KCRC's Bill Dodge in third.



Co-CDs Dennis Hunt & Phil Spelt. This year we were happy to have Dennis’s son Barry fly with us.

Trophies were created as usual by Jane and Bruce Underwood. They should get a trophy themselves for these awards— wooden plaques in the shape of Tennessee, with the KCRC logo on the left and the information plate in the middle, and a round wheat-sheaf-framed SPA logo up toward the Tri-Cities area. The trophies were a hit with the pilots, for sure.

Co-CD Phil reserved a room at a Calhoun’s Restaurant Saturday night—prided for the “the best ribs in the nation”. We had 22 folks in attendance, and the evening was filled with luscious foods and good fellowship. Dr/Mrs. Warren Oliver shared a luscious ice-cream/banana desert with all at the table. Excellent. We swapped tales ‘till way after our normal bedtime.

The highlight of the weekend came at the awards on Sunday. There was a drawing for special prizes along with the awards, the winners were:

Gallons of Cool Power fuel: Dennis Sams, Mike Robinson, Barry Hunt, Warren Oliver and Bill Dodge.

A-6 Intruder short-kit donated by Phil: which also went to lucky Dodge. Dodge actually managed a “smile” when Mrs. Heather Nessler drew his name.



“Smiling” Bill Dodge

Many photos were “snapped” and are available for memories both on the web site and other locations on the Internet. Thanks to the photo-shooters for pre serving the good-times shared with KCRC this weekend.

KCRC—you guys and gals never fail to produce the **finest** an SPA precision pattern contest can offer. It was such a GRAND week-end, and we missed those of you who couldn’t come. **By.....Phil Spelt and Bruce Underwood** 3



“Calhoun’s was a real hit on Saturday night as the new place to get together.

NOVICE

1. Ken Antos 3000

SPORTSMAN

1. Dennis Sams 3000

2. Phil Spelt 2921

3. John Nessler, Jr. 2827

4. Vic Koenig 2500

EXPERT

1. Eric Nessler 3000

2. Ellis Newkirk 2975

3. John Nessler III 2957

4. Warren Oliver 2880

5. Barry Hunt 2498

SENIOR EXPERT

1. Bruce Underwood 3000

2. Russ Chiles 2771

3. Bill Dodge 2697

4. Mike Robinson 2615



Here's to the SPA "Womenfolk" who make the contests even MORE enjoyable to attend. We've had more wives attend in 2012 than ever before. If *they're happy*,.....we're happy.

Joel Ebert's dog Sam was a big hit. Joel says Sam thinks everyone is there **just to see him**. (Above) Bruce & trophy

(Above left) Bruce displays latest "Rabbit" and Ellis holds Ed Hartley's former Curare. Phil is putting that Curare to good use this season. (Middle) John Nessler III holds up Dad's new Phantom prior to flight. (Below) "Ace" Knoxville scorekeeper Joel and doggie #2 Sam. Sam just takes it all in stride.

Aviation 101: Aviation "Pearls" to Ponder During Quiet Moments

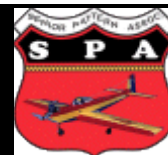
Courtesy Ed Lyerly—for large planes, but it still applies

- Flying is not dangerous - crashing is dangerous.
- If God meant man to fly, He'd have given him more money.
- A fool and his money are soon flying more airplane than he can handle.
- It's easy to make a small fortune in aviation. You start with a large fortune.
- It's better to be down here wishing you were up there, than up there wishing you were down here.
- Always remember you fly an airplane with your head, not your hands. Never let an airplane take you somewhere your brain didn't get to five seconds earlier.
- Speed is life, altitude is life insurance. No one has ever collided with the sky.
- The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.
- You know you've landed with the wheels up when it takes full power to taxi.
- A male pilot is a confused soul who talks about women when he's flying, and about flying when he's with a woman.



Senior Pattern Association

Fort Worth Thunderbirds



Here are 16 of the 18 pilots and airplanes. There are always some late arrivals and one airplane was completed the morning of the event and made its maiden flight in round one! There was a wide range of airplanes and color schemes for the competition. The weather was beautiful with enough wind to keep it cool.

- **First time contestant Easton Carson was the only Novice-B participant and this kid can really fly. Watch out for him in the future!**
- **Jonathan Efinger won Novice winning 3 of 4 rounds besting 7 other pilots.**
- **Chuck Lee won Sportsman topping a field of 4 by winning 3 of 4 rounds with this beautiful airplane.**
- **Expert was won by Dave Dingman besting Lindy Quinten 3,000 to 2,973.**
- **The only fatality was when Gene Hodges lost orientation in the morning sun and his airplane went into the lake. It was retrieved by a passing boater.**

Ft. Worth Results June 16th, 2012

Novice B

1. Easton Carson - 3000

Novice

1. Jonathan Efinger- 3000
2. Tony Stelly - 2786
3. Mark Ehlers - 2760
4. Richard Tibbits - 2755
5. Nathan Haycock - 2744
6. Gary Nelson - 2703
7. Frank Halpin - 2469
8. Garry Rife - 1942

Sportsman

1. Chuck Lee - 3000
2. Murry Adams - 2815
3. Gary Alphin - 2654
4. Gene Hodges - 777

Expert

1. Dave Dingman - 3000
2. Lindy Quinten - 2973
3. Ken Knotts - 2478
4. Michael Clements - 2281



PHOTOS

HODGES HOBBIES

With an open grass field like a golf course fairway, what could be better? Well, how about adding a lake and an air-conditioned, fully stocked hobby shop on site?



5th Annual

Cass Underwood Memorial

The largest number of pilots this season, so far, gathered at this little bit of Heaven on Earth the weekend of June 23 & 24, 2012 for the Annual Cass Underwood Memorial contest. Was it a good one? Just read on and allow your eyes to ingest the happy faces on each of the photos displayed elsewhere in the newsletter and online.



"Friendly Jeff" had a perpetual wave for everybody he met due to the injury he toughed out. Everyone waved back.

Your PIO was stunned to learn of the rugged incident that occurred just before I arrived on Friday afternoon, I am referring to VP Jeff Owens having gotten his hand into the spinning prop on his Long Stroke SF .61, slicing his pointing finger on his rudder hand. Jeff and Linda had been to the emergency room for an hour or more....returning about an hour later saying, "the folks in that Americus, GA hospital were just great and Jeff had a splint and bandage covering 12 stitches in the finger. He flew using two other fingers on the one stick and became acclimated to the situation flying his bird to victory in the Senior Expert Division. We all felt for Jeff as he held that hand above his heart all weekend (to alleviate the throbbing).



Dan, Mac and Bruce pose together during this year's Cass Underwood Memorial event. "Hodges" as it is also known, is a favorite place on the circuit to fly.

Weather was great, a bit hot, as was expected...but the wind off Tropical Storm Debbie which was moving toward the Gulf Coast provided some protection from the heat and a cloudy sky on Sunday which helped.

Dan Dougherty exhibited his "seasoned" expertise for contest running, at no time did the two flight lines shut down after flying started. Jamie Strong handled the Chief Judge chores with two experienced judges electing not to fly but to help with those chores, those were Mr. Ray Craig and Mr. Bill Collins, both have years of experience seeking maneuver errors. That chore, finding errors, was very difficult as the flying, especially in that super EXPERT class was just a delight to observe and to judge. All classes were a delight....I just singled out that class, since this year, the spotlight has been on the competition, for real, in that division. The other classes were delightful, as well.

CD Dan announced in the briefing "a new pond has been constructed about 100 yards out from the flight path, and there is a fifty dollar prize for the first airplane to go in that pond"! Nobody went in the pond...so DD put the names of the pilots wives in attendance in a box, had me draw at random, and the \$50.00 was awarded Linda Owens. Good gesture, wasn't it.

Dan revealed a special SPORTSMANSHIP award was given Dr. Charles Gray who drove from North of the Mason-Dixon to fly with us and brought fellow clubber Duwayne Lindsey whose airplane developed trouble before the start...so, the good Doctor had Duwayne fly his KAOS all weekend, called for him and exhibited true SPA Sportsmanship. Congrats, Doc, proud of you.

Most all gathered at the Ruby Tuesday restaurant both nights for some good food and fellowship before deserved rest. On Saturday night, one table convinced the waitress it was Jerry Black's birthday (it wasn't), she and your PIO led the 50 or so folks surrounding that table in a loud singing of "Happy Birth-day, Dear Jer-ry". They gave him a birthday cake (a cupcake with icing)....my 1/4th of it was very good, it was carrot cake).

DD called Carolyn Spelt to come draw a ticket at the raffle for a \$100 gift certificate from Hodges Hobbies (they opened on Sunday afternoon a bit for redemption of the prize certificates).....wouldn't you know she drew one of Phil's tickets.....he even embraced her with one arm as Dan handed him the certificate. Two more \$100 certificates were given....one to Becky Chiles (Mrs. Russ) and the other to John Nessler III. An Evolution 60 engine from Hodges went to Doc Gray. DD split the raffle awards each side of the awards presentation to keep the interest of all alive. Your PIO cherished the chance to express gratitude to all for the splendid memory of Son Cass who participated in the SPA contest there in 2007, only two months prior to his passing.

Mike Robinson, not only participated in competition, but input every score sheet into the computerized program and had the scores posted within 5 minutes of each round. His able assistant running the scores was Linda Owens.

Dan, the event was like your name with a "dy" at the end of it.....**DANDY**. We are so grateful for your shepherding of the "flock" this weekend and your excellent wisdom in your selection of assistants. Ya' really dun good!!!!.....PIO

Overcoming Adversity

"A throbbing hand ??—no problem!!"

Below—Here are some pictures of the incident that Bruce referred to in his excellent write-up of the Cass Underwood Memorial Contest. I stuck my left thumb in the prop of my OS 61 when trying to remove the glo plug clip. Here you see the fine work done by the folks at the Americus hospital - 11 stitches in my thumb. Linda and I returned to the field to collect the plane and equipment. I figured out that I could still fly if I used my first and second fingers to pinch the left stick, as in picture two.



Far Right—I put in three practice flights after coming back from the Emergency Room and then flew the six rounds at the contest. What a great time we all had (except for the thumb).....Jeff



Left Above--It took some time to figure out how to use the throttle and rudder - I had to think about the rudder rather than rely on "muscle memory". Maybe that's a good thing.



Phil Spelt had a great day. Besides winning his first Sportsman contest, his wife Carolyn drew the winning ticket for 1 of 3 \$100 gift certificates from Hodges Hobbies



THE DRAWINGS



(Lt.) Linda Owens bravely pretends she is enjoying herself. (Rt.) CD Dan (the man) Dougherty also had a good day as Linda is overwhelmed with gratitude in winning the \$50 gas money drawing.



SR EXPERT

1. Jeff Owens3980
2. Bill Dodge3714
3. Russ Chiles3695
4. Mike Robinson3569
5. Bruce Underwood (3 rounds)....3000

EXPERT

1. Jerry Black3996
2. Eric Nessler3983
3. John Nessler III3866
4. Ellis Newkirk3847
5. Jamie Strong3720
6. Greg Hoke3641

SPORTSMAN

1. Phil Spelt4000
2. John Nessler Jr.3960
3. Duane Wilson3788
4. Gary Singleton3754
5. Ron Underwood3671
6. Jim Slocum3636
7. Dan Dougherty3503
8. Charles Gray2944

NOVICE

1. John Wolfe4000
2. Roy Thompson3844
3. Pete Coleman3614
4. Duwayne Lindsey3579



Here is a panoramic view of the wide-open, manicured runway and grounds at Hodges Hobbies RIC flying site. Amenities include a covered viewing area behind the pits—there are a number of electrical outlets for battery chargers or "creature comforts" like fans.



Of course the number one feature at Hodges is the fully equipped Air-Conditioned HOBBY SHOP just steps away from the flying action. Americus Ga. gets hot-hot-hot toward the end of June, and you simply can't understate the value of that air-conditioning and hobby shop. In the picture to the left, the unidentified, (but ruggedly handsome) pilot leaves no doubt about his appreciation for Mac's place. I buy my fuel for the year, (and stuff that I probably shouldn't), while getting out of the heat between rounds.....Duane Wilson

SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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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
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Dalton, Ga. 30720

