

# 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

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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.

### SPA NEWSLETTER www.seniorpattern.com JULY/AUG 2013 PRECISION AEROBATICS from PATTERN'S Golden Age



<u>Hope you all had a great July 4th !!</u> celebrating the birth of this nation with family,

friends, and maybe some holiday flying. Notice one of our Board of Directors, (and all around good guy) Phil Spelt. For as long as I can remember, Phil has adopted a unique flag-like color scheme, a variation of which he uses on each of his planes—the latest to get the patriotic treatment was Ed Hartley's former Curare. With this color

scheme, Phil celebrates July 4th <u>all year long!</u> Phil is dealing with some back pain issues this season, but he'll be back on the circuit ASAP. SPA's best wishes are with you for a quick recovery.

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT...Bruce Underwood SPA L15 After a late start** due to cancellations and hard luck....SPA East is "on a roll" with reports of 2 completed contests in the EAST and another in the WEST. One of them was directed by a first time CD Warren Oliver in Knoxville, TN (Warren stepped in at the last minute to save the contest when Phil Spelt had to cancel suddenly). Dandy Dan Dougherty who CD'd the Hodges contest and Richard

Tibbitts in Arkansas are seasoned veterans. **All deserve** cheers for great shows. Now the EAST is preparing for the annual HOTLANTA contest which has moved this year to the Douglasville, GA club field. Douglasville is a suburb of Atlanta and we've heard nothing but

good things about the site. Mike Robinson is already laying the groundwork for the annual Chattanooga, TN contest August 24th and 25th. What a joy to see the "registration" page on the website and note that at least two and maybe more of you WEST pilots are planning to make the journey to Choo-Choo city along with your delightful wives. This makes Chattanooga SPECIAL! WEST pilots are anticipating Tim Reed's TEXAS WINGS contest September 7th & 8th. Our usual practice sessions here in the South have been minimized due to the enormous

amounts of rainfall here. Just the overnight hours of July 10....one of my radio station weather statistic keepers measured 4.20 inches in a period of less than 4 hours. The drought of 2012 is no longer the talk as HE has made up the slack with an excess.

I encourage you to visit our website at: <u>www.seniorpattern.com</u> as Lindy Quinten just keeps

adding amenities to enhance its' volume of SPA info. The DISCUSSION LIST is constantly used by SPA'ers to share info on various and sundry topics. Lot's has been discussed lately regarding the 2.4 Ghz systems. Interesting stuff. <u>Enjoy this issue, but please be advised (as</u> <u>nicely as I can say it), this may be the last if you've overlooked payment of your dues.</u> If you're in doubt, please email Eric Nessler for an update......All 10's......Bruce Underwood

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When the odds are "bad weather", cancer surgery for Mrs. CD, all the bad things the SPA East had encountered leading to the cancellation of it's two initial contests..the 3<sup>rd</sup> one was the CHARM!

The week-end of May 18 & 19 was a genuine joy contesting at the "most scenic site in the South". Warren Oliver and fellow KCRC clubbers just "took the bull by the horn" when it was learned that it may have to be cancelled due to Mrs. Carolyn's very serious surgery scheduled for Friday. (She came through it well), and the surgeon was optimistic about success.

Friday afternoon saw some sunshine and pleasant temps (the calm before the storms) and several of us took advantage of it with "trim" flights and socializing. Friday night is when the lightening flashed and the thunder rolled and the skies poured buckets and buckets of rain. Fog at the site, about 1150 feet according to Oliver, delayed the start, but between showers the cloudy sky provided the ideal backdrop for pleasant flying. No sunshine in the eyes which would have been the case had it been clear. Wind never exceeded 10 MPH except during the thunderstorms.

"B Novice" came into play with newcomers Bill Leonard and Andy Keeley both getting their first taste of SPA Competition. Bill with an ARF and Andy flew an Ugly-Stik. Both were nervous but, who of us isn't? "Jumpin" Jim Johns also got his feet wet SPA—wise, joining us from Alabama. I think Jim is (as we say on the circuit)—"hooked" on SPA. Welcome Jim!

Friday afternoon, after practice, the Nesslers, in Dad's brand new Chevy were negotiating one of the severe curves to the field when another vehicle, with a very young jockey was apparently going too fast for the wet conditions, applied his brakes and slid into the Nessler car. No one injured, but the Nessler car halted just shy of a precipice with a drop of many feet. Whew!

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One of the highlights of Friday and all day Saturday was to visit and chat with Mr. Rhea Starnes, 88 in October of this year. Vic Koenig convinced him to ride from Kingsport, TN with him, a great gesture. Warren even had him judge a round on Saturday.

One of the worst casualties of the week-end was the loss of Mr. Ken Anto's DB. He confessed to reaching for the "trim" on the throttle during the final approach and inadvertently allowing his finger to shut off the X-mttr switch. He said "by the time I realized it had gone to fail-safe and turned the transmitter back on, I lost sight of it behind the trees. Some boaters retrieved the model from the Tennessee River below.

First time SPA CD Warren Oliver did a great job stepping in for Phil Spelt **The Saturday night feast was at famed Calhoun's Rib Restaurant**. For years this restaurant held the title of the "best ribs in the USA". Food and model fellowshipping, it just doesn't get any better than this.

Mike Robinson, despite terrible sinus condition, worked like a KCRC clubber rather than flying on Saturday, then brought his Daddy Rabbit back and put in two rounds on Sunday. This was just an example of the type of support Warren received, and he was quick to acknowledge his supporters at the awards ceremony.

The raffle prize, one of Warren's late Dad's Southern RC Compensator kits, in the original box went home, by air, in the Cessna Skylane Jeff and Linda Owens of Florida came in. Jeff defined the skirting of numerous storms during the flight back to Gatorland on Sunday. Not only is Jeff an outstanding model pilot, but excellent full-scale skipper as well.

I must comment on the EXPERT class. I have judged USA Team selections, TOC, many regionals, etc. and honestly do not recall seeing such precision as the five experts in this contest presented. Jeff Owens, while judging with me commented, "it's just hard to find errors when these guys fly". Thanks experts (all for that matter), for your participation and giving us such perfect demos of exact execution. You are certainly worth of your class name...EXPERTS.

Just as we departed, the heaven's just erupted with torrents, but, weren't they kind enough to allow a tremendous weekend of what we enjoy doing the most.

KCRC, Mr. Ben Oliver would be proud of his honors and your efforts to make them REAL! Bruce Underwood SPA L 15







Lots of rain, and lots of helping each other—typical of SPA. Team of Eiler & Gerth were back—missed you guys.

SR EXPERT	
Bruce Underwood	4000
Jeff Owens	3960
EXPERT	
John Nessler III	3991
Jerry Black	3981
Eric Nessler	3969
Warren Oliver	3918
Ellis Newkirk	3865
ADVANCED	
John Nessler Jr.	3935
Bill Dodge	2082
Mike Robinson	2000
SPORTSMAN	
Duane Wilson	4000
Vic Koenig	3954
Charles Gray	3579
NOVICE	
Don Eiler	4000
Karl Gerth	3754
Jim Johns	3357
Ken Antos	1816
<b>B NOVICE</b>	
Bill Leonard	4000
Andy Keeley	3748





**New faces at Knoxville**: Jim Johns, Andy Keeley and Bill Leonard—all flying Novice. <sub>3</sub> Hope they will fly with us at future contests!!

# Viva Arkansas!! LAFFS Flying Field



LAFFS (Lake Area Fun Flyer Squadron) field up in the mountains of Shirley, Arkansas hosted the 2nd Annual SPA Arkansas Contests. What a great weekend of fellowship, fun, and great flying! 14 pilots gathered to test their skill and enjoy the experience that is uniquely SPA.

All classes were represented, and CD Richard Tibbitts prepared a special weekend for all attendees. Saturday morning saw a

table full of prizes from props, to glow plugs, to hats, and various other goodies that all the pilots got to pick from just for attending! All in all the raffle consisted of over \$500 worth of prizes, which nearly every pilot won something as the tickets were drawn Saturday Night.

The weather was comfortable, although under a foggy haze all day Saturday, even though sun was forecasted. The winds were light as forecasted, but the heavy fog and cloud cover created problems in round 3 as pilots all agreed to drop one to two

maneuvers to stay out of the low ceiling. Ken Knotts Dirty Birdy completely disappeared into the ceiling for several seconds. It felt a lot longer to those of us watching and probably felt like an eternity to Ken! The plane eventually reappeared and Ken kept his composure and finished the round.

B Novice	
Brice Crawford	4000
Tom Johnson	3898
NOVICE	
Gary Nelson	3996
Bernie Olson	3949
Tim Reed	3849
Steve Ehlers	3640
Richard Tibbitts	769
SPORTSMAN	
Gary Alphin	4000
Mark Ehlers	3945
ADVANCED	
Ken Knotts	3997
Ken Blackwell	3958
EXPERT	
Lindy Quinten	3999
Blake Arnold	3962
Dave Dingman	3840

Tom Johnson and Brice Crawford flew in B-Novice, and flew very well with Brice nudging Tom in the final results. These two guys are going to be good! Novice continued the shootout started at Thunderbird field in April. Gary Nelson edged Bernie Olson and Tim Reed for the win, with Steve Ehlers flying his best to date to take fourth. CD Richard Tibbitts had a broken wing that couldn't get repaired and completed two rounds. Sportsman saw Gary Alphin edge FT. Worth winner Mark Ehlers, both guys looking very strong and smooth. It looks to be a hotly contested class this year. The new advanced class saw Ken Knotts and Kenneth Blackwell, who graced the west with his presence and friendliness, go back and forth in a very tight battle, with Knotts finally edging in front the last round to score the win. In the expert class Lindy Quinten flew his brand

new Compensator to the win with Blake Arnold taking second and Dave Dingman coming in third. Saturday night all the pilots and spouses were treated to some very special entertainment as
Richard brought a Elvis Tribute Artist for all to enjoy. He was fantastic! Sang many of the great
Elvis songs and concluded the show with a patriotic trilogy that brought tears to the eyes and a
standing ovation as we honored those who have fought and fight now to defend our freedom.
What a spectacular weekend for SPA West, and a great start to 2013!







(L.. Top) Richard Tibbitts is head dude in Arkansas for SPA. He volunteered to stage an event, and the rest is history—that's how SPA grows. (Center) Lindy shows off his shiny new Compensator—it seems to work since he came in 1st! (Rt.) Gary Alphin keeps his distance as he calls for Ken Knotts. (Gary, don't give the judges too good a view). (Left) I'll let Lindy explain about Elvis and the girls...(editor)

# Cass Underwood Memorial

HODGES HOBDIES

By Bruce Underwood—photos by Bruce and others

6th Annual

This place has it all—an open grass runway like a golf course fairway, and a well-stocked hobby shop with AIR CONDITIONING !! Dandy Dan & crew worked hard to make it happen. We appreciate it—so would Cass!!







ANDERSONVILLE, GA......Recall many of the scenes in the movie, "Gone with the Wind"? Many were filmed in these flatlands of Southwest Georgia. Hodges Hobbies is located right in the midst of masses of farmland famous for it's peanut crops until the use of corn expanded to the fuel market...and many of the peanut producers switched to the latter. Switches may have been made by the farming industry, but nothing has changed at Hodges Hobbies field...it's still gigantic in

size with loved accommodations such as several thousand feet of covered area with paved flooring providing cooling shade, electrical outlets, and work area for scoring, tables for assembly of models, covered with astro-turf leading, at one end, to the restrooms and bath houses for both genders. Note, both of them are air-conditioned. Ask for more? You got it, one of the best stocked Hobby Shops in the South right there on the premises.

Now, you have the scenic setting in which the annual Cass Underwood Memorial SPA contest was held June 22 and 23rd. The weather was just ideal with a NW wind of 3 to 10 MPH, just enough to keep one comfortable. Even the gnats that inhabit this area seemed fewer in number than at past events. They were well handled with a new product discovered by some, a "bugs-off" towelette made by "Deep Woods". (see related article on the little "beasties" p. 7)

towelette made by "Deep Woods". (see related article on the little "beasties" p. 7) Typical of the "reunion" type atmosphere that encompasses each SPA contest, this contest was another example, beginning with many Cass stories shared along with practice 'till almost dark. Groups dined at their pleasure Friday night, with an organized jaunt to the Ruby Tuesday Restaurant in Americus, GA on Saturday. For those not familiar, Americus is just 6 miles from Hodges and is where most everyone stayed, and Ruby Tuesday's nice restaurant is adjacent to them. See photo of gathering.

Grandpa Ken Blackwell, recovering from eye surgery just shy of two weeks prior, assisted his 15 year old Grandson, Will Blackwell in the B-Novice class. New blood with a famous SPA pattern name. Jim Johns kept scores with the computer program provided by Mike Robinson while acing the first four rounds in the Novice class. Duwayne Lindsey who traveled with Doc Charles Gray from Indiana earned the 2nd spot in the Novice category. Duane Wilson from Asheville, NC aced all six rounds in Sportsman with Dan Dougherty, Roy Thompson and Charles Gray finishing in that order.

Mr. May, Scott Sappington flew a replica of his famed Daddy Rabbit (cover photo Model Aviation May 2006) to victory, winning 3 of his 4 rounds on Saturday. Mike Robinson was within 11 "normalized" points of Sappington with Charlie Johns placing 3rd with his "bandaged" single-stick transmitter. Friday afternoon in practice, his elevator spring broke it's perch in the gimble of his trans-

mitter, with his prowess as an engineer, he improvised a "fix" that got him through the contest. Our Vice President, Jeff Owens won the Senior Expert class with very nice flying of his 2 Stroke powered Dirty Birdy. Bruce

Underwood and Keith Watson, with their 4-strokers just couldn't equal Owens' execution. That is the order of finish. The closest competition was in Expert class; it was all that one could expect...."Nip-n-Tuck". All 4 executing the sequences just

like our <u>Competitors Guide</u> pictures them. Eric Nessler evened the score with Brother John who won in Knoxville last month, but only by 11 "normalized" points with Jerry Black only 2 " points behind John. Greg Hoke, from Warner Robins pushed this trio all weekend with his Evo 60 powered DB. What a joy to see this guartet perform the Expert patterns. Each flight was a GEM!

weekend with his Evo 60 powered DB. What a joy to see this quartet perform the Expert patterns. Each flight was a GEM! CD Dan called the flying to a "halt" about mid afternoon Saturday (since the Hobby Shop was going to close in a couple hours), to hold the raffle. Prizes, for the most part were gift certificates to Hodges Hobbies.....Lucky winners of the \$100 gift certificates were Jim Johns and John Nessler. They redeemed them almost immediately. Gas money of \$50.00 went to Dan

Dougherty and the "ladies" prize of \$25.00 cash went to Debbie (Mrs. Greg) Hoke. This was a nice gesture by Dan and very timely. At the awards ceremony, Dan exclaimed, "this has been a totally casualty-free weekend, without so much as a broken

prop". At the pilots briefing Saturday morning, he had announced the \$50 cash prize for the model that first went in the pond (see in the distance), but nobody went fishing...so the reason for the drawing. Most deservedly, he won the "fifty". Greg and Debbie's Granddaughters did the drawing and earned a "hug" from Lincle Dan for drawing his ticket.

Granddaughters did the drawing and earned a "hug" from Uncle Dan for drawing his ticket. Take a while and view the photos and lets "relive" this pleasant weekend over and over. It's another that ended with hugs and "I'll see you in Douglasville, GA in a month" departing remarks. Five hours into the 6 hour drive home found your PIO exclaiming, "when does a weekend over and this pleasant hous to and". Thereby Dep and the help are used for yours' and drive home found your PIO exclaiming,

"why does a weekend this pleasant have to end". Thanks Dan and the helpers you named for your' traditional great CDing job.

## **\*\*JOIN THE SPA DISCUSSION LIST ON THE WEB SITE\*\***



## \*\*\*\*\* "BUG WARS" \*\*\*\*\* ....by Duane Wilson

### **GNATS DRIVING YOU "BUGGY"?**

Over the years, we within SPA have developed many traditions. At the Cass Underwood Memorial, nicknamed by many of us simply as "Hodges", (because of owner Mac Hodges), there is one "tradition" that comes with the territory--SPA's own annual "gnats" event. We compete with and among the gnats in South Georgia.

For those not familiar with it, Mac's contest location is one of the best on the circuit, with a beautiful large grass runway, and air-conditioned hobby shop on site--it is one of my favorite places to fly, and we always have a good time there. I don't think the gnats actually bite (much), or anything like that, so it is well worth contending with the little critters, and you (kind-of) get used to them. Still, they are a pain when you're trying to concentrate on your flight, (or whatever else you are doing).

Being from the "Nawth" (as Dan Dougherty might say), I had never heard of or experienced something called the Gnat Line, (for those of you unfamiliar with it, Google it). Basically, if you are south of that line, you are faced with lots of pesky little gnats in the sandy soil if you're out in open fields like we are -- (sometimes more and sometimes less depending on the year and time of year). The gnat challenge is just "one of those things", similar to other challenges we face like the asphalt runway that leads to bad things happening if you land too "hot" at Knoxville, or the "cliff wall" and treeline at the former Paulding field at "Hotlanta", or the Tower at Asheville. These are factors you contend with when you fly there--you just deal with them.

Back to "Hodges". A few years ago we tried to combat these little SOBs, (sons of bugs), by means of "Bounce" sheets that somebody said would repel them. They seemed to work, (kind of--we weren't sure how much but it certainly couldn't hurt). Everyone had them sticking out of their pants and shirts—we wore them like bibs etc. We looked a little goofy, but if there was a chance it helped, we didn't care. We breathed in a lot of Bounce vapor. The "Bounce" fad faded over time, and for the past couple years we haven't been using anything special and just "laughed them off" so to speak—but this year as we arrived it was plain the gnats were there in force and bringing their "A Game".

I wasn't totally unprepared when I arrived. I had brought a bottle of <u>Cutter's "Skinsations"</u>, which has a note on the bottle saying that it "Makes you INVISIBLE to Bugs". It contains a sinister sounding ingredient **N, N diethyl-m-toluamide.** Well, they must have developed x-ray vision. Within 1-2 minutes I was no longer "invisible", and if you listened very carefully, you could hear the

little varmints laughing their little butts off at **N**, **N diethyl-m-toluamide** as if to say, "is that the best you can do"?



Things changed for the better the next morning when I was assigned to judge with Roy Thompson. Just after we sat down, I looked down at the scoresheet clip board and saw there were at least a dozen of the little beasts on the score sheets, and all around my head in general. I looked over at Roy and he sat there serenely without one little "beastie" anywhere near him. He told me they were selling something new, (at least I didn't know about it), at the hobby shop--but it wasn't cheap. Still, Roy took pity on me, and before the first pilot fired up, he got his bottle of stuff for me to try. Immediately after putting it on, both the score sheets and I were clear -- this stuff really worked--what a dramatic demonstration. It didn't last for hours, but certainly long enough to get you through a flight or judging session.

Later I went in to get some of this miracle stuff, (Mac had a brisk business going), and was surprised to see the ingredients--no lethal sounding chemicals, only Rosemary Oil, and Lemongrass Oil as active ingredients--all organic yet the "beasties" didn't like it. With the consistency of baby oil, and natural scents that women love, (just kidding). You are now able to

keep your skin soft and moisturized while attracting women at the same time, (again-just kidding). The only problem was that there were two products, <u>No Natz</u> and <u>No Mosquitoz,</u> (the no Mosquitoz contained Citronella instead of Rosemary, so you smell a little like a candle). Which to

get? For the sake of "science" and journalism I decided to test both of them. They both seemed to work well on the gnats. At \$5.95/2oz, be sure to save it for "special occasions". (www.nonatz.com and phone (478)676-3459). THE RIDE HOME

The game changes on the trip home, when "the boys" change their tactics. As I shut the car door, all that are present in the car seem to head for the exits, (windows) at once. After opening and closing the windows 4-5 times, (shooing away some while letting in others), there comes a point when the windows shut for the last time, and I'm sealed in with about 25 or so of my BGBs, (best gnat buddies) for what would normally be a solitary 320 mile, sojourn back to Asheville. The "guys" went straight for the windshield and seemed to prefer the area right in front of me. I could feel my eyes cross when I focused on the road, (then you see two of the distracting little boogers—and out of focus). This is a royal "pain in the arse" to mess with all the way home. So what do I do? Well, one has two choices, I) be mature and try to ignore them or 2) play a lively little game called "Squash the Bug on the Windshield" when they come "into play", (all while driving at expressway speeds). I don't know what the rest of you mature people do, but I "play the game" for about 3/4 of the nearly six hour trip home from Hodges. One good thing is that this activity tends to keep me awake while driving. The little guys are amazingly agile, and able to jump out of the way in the last millisecond. I guess it's a little like "dodge ball" for them.

When I stopped for gas, at least one of them was "liberated" in Greenville, SC--I felt like saying, "the best to you my little friend --we had a merry chase didn't we"?

Upon arrival home, any survivors that remain will have a hard time finding a mate in Asheville, but I don't feel sorry for them— I would have preferred leaving them back in Americus in the first place. They wouldn't listen, and insisted on coming along.

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