



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 MAY/JUNE 2014

PRECISION AEROBATICS from PATTERN'S Golden Age

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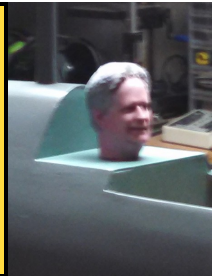
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NEXT ISSUE—KNOXVILLE and JUNE CONTESTS

HOLY “MINI ME” Batman!!!

Whoa—Look at that!! Les Smith, while visiting the Toledo show in April, saw a display where they are now able to “3-D PRINT” a life-like pilot figure by taking a picture from 16 different angles, and putting the info into a 3-D printer. Les plans on using it in his 55cc Spitfire. Costs range from \$75 to well over \$100 depending on options ordered.



Says Les—“I believe the small head looks better because he doesn’t have on glasses (and has only one chin)” They’re pretty smart aren’t they to make us look better than we are.

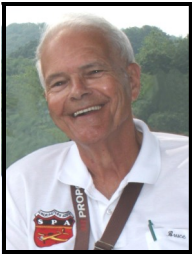
Photo Tribute to Linda—The caption on the center picture said “..Linda bravely pretends she is enjoying herself...” It was a joke because she always enjoyed herself and was totally involved in SPA like the rest of us, and always there helping Jeff.



Pictures from SPA newsletters and Jeff’s favorites show Linda loved life...



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.



FROM THE PRESIDENT.....Welcome to the May/June SPA Newsletter. You're gonna love this edition for it contains the initial contest photos, results and stories of the young new season.

The WEST region outnumbered the EAST in attendance with the Thunderbird contest the same weekend of April, but only by 2 or 3 entries. This might be a good answer to the much discussed question of whether or not a 1 day event would fare as well as a two day contest. The two day partisans, I am sure, will argue that most of the entries in the one day event resided in the immediate area. One day or two day, I am in favor of having SPA events, *either* at least one per month during the flying season and maybe in some cases, two per month if both are within a reasonable driving distance. Just whatever the hosting club can provide with their sponsorship.

Dave Phillips of the Alabaster, AL club used, for his first time, the ONLINE method of obtaining the AMA sanction for the event, I think the West may have done the same. Dave, while explaining to me his experience with AMA, said the lady at AMA was so "helpful". "She even pulled up the previous contest sanction apps our club had had in the past and got much of the information, like location, etc. from those, simply adding current info to the new app". SPA events are labeled Class C (non rule-book) events. He concluded, "that plus one other question was about the only info needed prior to the Sanction being issued".

Prior to our initial contest, we in the EAST were literally "jolted" by the untimely death of one of our loveliest and most loyal attendees and helpers of the past few years. Mrs. Linda Owens, Tallahassee, FL, wife of VP Jeff Owens passed away at the home of her brother, while attending to the arrangements, with her brother and immediate family, of their Father. Duane (Editor), as a MEMORIAL in this edition, has put together a photo tribute. She was one of the most frequently photographed SPA enthusiasts because she was one of the most ACTIVE in the organization, even helping Jeff prepare these newsletters for mailing. VP Owens has received many showings of love and support for him and their family, and the absence of Linda in his life will not only be evident for him and his family, but the SPA family as well. Our condolences again, her memory will live forever.



Here's hoping the weather is "breaking" toward comfortable temps and diminishing winds at your flying field leading to excellent conditions for much practice and participation in SPA events in your "neck of the woods".

So why don't you dive into this edition and enjoy the reports, color and excellent stories amassed for your' consumption.



**FROM THE VICE PRESIDENTJeff Owens
Pattern Committee Interim Report**

At this year's Board of Directors meeting there was extensive discussion about using "post-1975" maneuvers – see the minutes in the March-April 2014 Newsletter. Two restrictions are key: any such maneuvers "should not be significantly different and should add no new elements." New maneuvers are to be considered by the Board on a case-by-case basis. Two maneuvers – Double Stall Turn and Figure M with 1/4 Rolls were approved. The Board further directed the Pattern Committee to search for other maneuvers that met the stated criteria. Here is a list of maneuvers similar to those we fly that are being considered:

1. **Three Reverse Inside Loops and Three Outside Loops (these both are entered from the top and would be downwind maneuvers, thereby adding flexibility to the sequence construction.)**
2. **Cobra Roll with 1/2 Rolls (we already have one with full rolls.)**
3. **Reverse Double Immelmann**
4. **Two Rolls in Opposite Directions**
5. **Square Loop and Square Loop with 1/2 Rolls**
6. **Square Horizontal Eight**
7. **Triangle Rolling Loop**
8. **Reverse Top Hat**

I should stress that these are proposed for addition to the list of available maneuvers – they do not all have to be used in a given cycle. Also, maneuvers three through eight are clearly of a degree of difficulty that they would only be used in the upper classes (you Novices and Sportsmen can heave a collective sigh of relief!)

I recently made copies of many of the rule book segments for RC Pattern available on my club's web site <http://www.seminolerc.com>. Use the menu on the left side of the Home page and go to "Pattern Rule Books." I invite you to take a look at the maneuvers. If there are additional ones you would like to see included, please let one of us on the Pattern Committee (Eric Nessler, Phil Spelt, and me) know. Also, if you have suggestions for the 2015-16 sequences, please feel free to contact members of the Pattern Committee.



Bruce & Jane Underwood

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ALABASTER 2014 EAST OPENER APRIL 26-27TH

By Bruce Underwood PIO

The SPA EAST season is underway in earnest with the weekend at the lovely Alabaster, AL flying field just inside the cities limits which are adjacent to Calera, AL...both suburbs of Birmingham.

CD Dave Phillips echoed the accolades of the US Weather Bureau in Birmingham promising a beautiful Saturday but said

Sunday wasn't too promising. He was accurate. Saturday with just ideal with temps to 83 degrees and just about 10 MPH winds out of the East, Northeast. This lovely day was sandwiched in between a blustery Friday and a stormy Sunday. Dave, wisely called it about mid morning Sunday as the storm was moving in.

20 pilots arrived, most on Friday, 18 survived Friday's practice to "go-the-route". Keith Watson's 8103 DSM transmitter displayed faulty RF emission eliminating his participation as a competitor but he did his chores as judge and remained all day Saturday to "fellowship".

Tom Stennis lost a lovely bird when his RF stream elected to fail as he was on final approach early in the weekend. Tom's plane was retrieved by L'il Daves' retrieval service about 8 hours after the "thud". Note Little Dave's feet in the photos. Fred Robertson, a local modeler and Newsletter editor lost a nice KAOS when taking off after a host of repairs and evidently it was way out of trim.

We've covered the bad stuff, now about the good.....four lovely rounds on Saturday completed by 3:30PM then the fellowshipping began for real. Several feasted together at a local Mexican restaurant.

Jim Johns and helpers from the club scored every round with results swiftly posted each round. Not only did Johns tally every flight, he flew his initial contest as a Senior Expert. Welcome Jim and thanks for lending your talents in so many ways to SPA.

Pete Coleman, posting a Kung Fu almost like Jim Slocum's took first in NOVICE winning 3 of the four rounds. Larry Hill won round one and took second. Third place went to newcomer Dr. Aftab Khan, a Birmingham psychiatrist, who flew his electric 55 powered foam model SPLENDOR. Welcome Doc Khan, hope the exposure to Senior Pattern was as much a pleasure for you as it was to us to have you participate. What a battle in Sportsman,

total of 5 entries, with Bob Wetzel nipping Doug Harvel by 10 "normalized" points. **Bob and Doug had a "virtual" fly-off" Sunday morning (make-believe), see photo.** Wetzel won 1 round, Harvel two, and 3rd place pilot Jim Slocum took one of the K's in that class. Roy Thompson and Tom Stennis filled the class. In Advanced class, Mr. May, Scott Sappington, with his "back-up" KAOS (bad engine bearings in his new Phantom) K'd all 4 rounds. Ken Blackwell, Michael Wiczorek and Dave Phillips III kept him honest. In EXPERT...it was a duel of the CURARE's (new ARF's from Germany)....only 14 "normalized points separated Jamie Strong and Kevin Clark. Strong's total was 2978 to Clark's 2964. The Senior EXPERTS were pretty close but Jeff Owens copped 3 of the four rounds for a perfect score of 3,000. Bruce

Underwood nudged him with 2972 and Jim Johns amassed 2357 in his 1st Sr. Expert contest.

At the opening briefing, CD Dave inserted a passionate salute and memorial to Mrs. Linda Owens who died just a few days ago. Phillips said "she was one of us and most times was more active than us with the donations of time and talent to our events". Jamie Strong who voiced the opening prayer avowed she, and he named many other of our membership who are in Paradise, was part of the Angelic souls in His Kingdom.

The awards ceremony was under the great pavilion provided the Alabaster Club by the City about mid-morning when it was determined the rain and storm was moving toward us. Phillips and Club President Bob Anderson named the helper and handled the ceremony.

Raffle winners were: Cool Power 20% Pro-Pattern Fuel donated by Fred Lewis at Morgan fuels....Scott Sappington, Jim Johns, Dave Phillips III, Bruce Underwood. Scott Sappington won the DB supplied by the club. This kit has the original DB Canopy. Roy Thompson won \$200 service from Carolina Kits whose sales rep is Kevin Clark. Carolina Custom Kits laser cuts kits, they offer kits and plans. They do CAD designs, scale original plans up or down, have custom canopies, quality balsa and ply, etc. Mark Ackerman is the designer. Their website is: CarolinaCustomKits.com.

E-mail is: CarolinaCustomKits@mail.com. Phone 828-407-0668.

The Alabaster RC Club has us "rollin" with the 2014 season with a terrific opening in the EAST. Dave, and club we are most grateful that even with the pain of an evidently moving KS (Kidney Stone) you hosted us for a delightful weekend "kick-of". PIO



When the action lags, make it up!! Bob Wetzel gets a virtual 9 on take-off, as POD Harvel gets an 8.5. The virtual planes were lost immediately afterward. Below CCK is donating a prize to each SPA contest this season-be sure to "give them the business"



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Email: CarolinaCustomKits@gmail.com

Be COOL in spite of the SUMMER HEAT—fly SPA



What a great time I had this weekend. Good friends, good fellowship. Can hardly wait to see everyone again soon. Thanks to everyone that made it work, it's a challenge to make it happen at the right time. Larry Hill L 368

NOVICE	
PETE COLEMAN	3000
LARRY HILL	2749
AFTAB KHAN	1714
FRED ROBERTSON	DNF

SPORTSMAN	
BOB WETZEL	2985
DOUG HARVEL	2975
JIM SLOCUM	2937
ROY THOMPSON	2929
TOM STENNIS	823

ADVANCED	
SCOTT SAPPINGTON	3000
KEN BLACKWELL	2894
MICHAEL WIECZOREK	2888
DAVE PHILLIPS III	2777

EXPERT	
JAMIE STRONG	2978
KEVIN CLARK	2964

SR. EXPERT	
JEFF OWENS	3000
BRUCE UNDERWOOD	2972
JIM JOHNS	2357



AMA EVENT PARTICIPATION LIST FORM 11

Event Name: ALABASTER RC SPA
Sanction No: 1495 Date(s): APR 26 & 27 No of Entries - This Event

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION LEGIBLY

Name	Place	AMA #	Home Address or E-Mail Address
1. Larry Hill		4717	502 NW 20th St, Wetumpka, AL
2. Ken Blackwell		3272	2024 Wood Creek Rd, Columbus, AL
3. Mike Clark		34237	114 East Jones Blvd, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33302
4. Bruce Underwood		5977	142 Lakeshore Dr, Euclid, OH 44116
5. Doug Harvel		66281	904 NE Lakeland Rd, Forest Hills, AL 35746
6. Roy Thompson		95200	35 Hickory St, Jacksonville, AL 36204
7. Tom Stennis		47908	1012 Polo Club Dr, Marietta, GA 30066
8. Bob Wetzel		4119	6200 Shure Dr, Dacula, GA 30070
9. Pete Coleman		65628	2108 Pleasant Grove, Temple, GA 30170
10. Jim Slocum		13815	1915 Palmy Springs Ct, Waller, TX 77884
11. Jeff Owens		582181	545 Ellwood Rd, Temple, GA 30179
12. Kevin Clark		32651	3333 Brantwood Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309
13. Scott Sappington		2354	1411 Farmington St, Marietta, GA 30066
14. Aftab Khan		7830	204 Misty Hill Dr, Dallas, TX 75208
15. Jamie Strong		169532	3010 Summit Place, Birmingham, AL
16. Mike Wiecek		72358	489 Hunter Loop, Prattville, AL
17. David Phillips III		821574	
18. Fred Robertson		881566	371 Anderson Cir, Rd. 35006
19.		144957	NG3000 @ AOL.COM
20.			
21.			
22.			



2014 SCHEDULE	SPA EAST	2014 SCHEDULE
JUNE 21ST—22ND	AMERICUS, GA (HODGES)	CD TBA
JULY 19TH—20TH	“HOTLANTA”, GA	CD TBA
AUGUST 16TH—17TH	CHATTANOOGA, TN	CD PROVIDED BY CLUB
SEPTEMBER 13TH—14TH	ASHEVILLE, NC	WILL HICKS CD
SEPTEMBER 27TH (1 DAY)	ALABASTER (TOP NOVICE)	DAVE PHILLIPS CD
OCTOBER 4TH—5TH	CULLMAN, AL (SPA MASTERS)	STEVE BYRUM CD
	SPA WEST	
JUNE 28TH-29TH	GOLDEN TRIANGLE, TX	FRANK COX, CD
JULY 12TH—13TH	ARKANSAS FARM, AK	RICHARD TIBBITTS CD
AUGUST 2ND	GSW, HURST, TX	TIM LOVETT CD
SEPTEMBER 27TH—28TH	FT. WORTH, TX (SPA OPEN)	KEN KNOTTS CD

Senior Pattern April 26, 2014 *Thunderbird Field*

The Thunderbird Senior Pattern contest blew in on the back of winds gusting and 23 brave pilots showing their skills. It was a great turnout and a lot of good flying despite the strong winds. We had visions of getting in 6 rounds, but Mother Nature talked us into having 4 good rounds. Winds were clocked at 20 mph with gust to 29. Sometimes it was hard to stand-up!



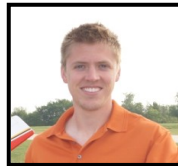
We had three first time SPA flyers and Scott Murry again made the trip from Kansas to join the fun in Ft. Worth. Scott also walked away with second place in B-Novice.

We had only one airplane lost and it wasn't because of the wind. Tim Reed's custom Dirty Birdy is one of the prettiest airplanes to ever grace our event. He got disoriented doing downwind inverted flight and it went in at full power.

It was really good to see the novice and b-novice flyers handle the wind and land safely on the on the We even saw a graceful helicopter landing by a Kaos righth in the middle of the runway.



Tradition holds strong and once again we made a group picture of all the pilots.



First time SPA pilot Logan Rigby took first place in B-Novice ahead of 4 other pilots. It is really neat to see young pilots join in the fun and they are usually very good pilots.

Woody Lake won the Novice and he said he benefited from some of his fiercest competition moving up to a higher class. It will not be long before his competitors are telling him to move up also. **Jonathan Efinger** beat out five other pilots to win the sportsman event. This was Jonathan's first time to compete in sportsman and it didn't bother him a bit as he flew very well against some seasoned competition.



Ken Knotts won the advanced division after beating long time nemesis and very good pilot Chuck Lee. And again the points were very close as Ken won by a margin of only 20 points.



First time SPA flyer **Pat Ensia** won the expert division beating Dave Dingman who is a very good expert pilot. The scores would have been closer if Dave could have made his Dirty Birdy do the inverted spin!

Despite the winds, there was good competition in all classes. While the wind blew hard all day, there was a lot of good maneuvers performed and a lot of good fellowship. Everyone worked to keep the contest running and the airplanes in the air most all the time.

Every good event has hard workers in the background and a special thanks to everyone who helped including field maintenance, registration, scoring, running score sheets, getting the pilots in queue and getting drinks, water and lunch and all others who helped including the Thunderbird members who loaned us the field for a great day of flying.

Looks like the "Thunderbirds" preparing for an air show- Hope they don't all fly at the same time!!! Could be a "mess"-

Ken Knotts



Texas Wings—May 10, 2014



The weather on Friday, the day before the Texas Wings SPA contest, was perfect with mild temperatures and very light winds. Then comes contest day. Winds of 20 MPH with gust to 27. Just a regular contest day. A lot of good flying by the 12 pilots who exhibited their flying skills. Competition was very close as you can see that of the 12 pilots, 10 won at least one round. There were no crashes during the competition, but Rex Misak landed wide of the runway on a practice flight and ripped the wing off of his Kaos. A little CA and some kicker, he was ready for the first round. Jerry Joiner's Intruder had a fuel tank just big enough to complete the Sportsman pattern on a calm day. He had a dead-stick landing, then on his last flight the clevis came off the throttle and the rest of his pattern was at full throttle! Tim Reed and Tony Stelly had a really close battle in Sportsman with Tim winning by less than 14 points. Most pilots were ready to call it a day after 4 rounds. Most but not all. The Sportsman voted to go one more round so you will see that have 5 rounds scored.

Tim Reed and the Texas Wings volunteers did a good job of organizing the event and keeping planes in the air. Lunch was ready around noon with sandwiches, chips and drinks. With only one flight line, each pilot had the sky to himself. The awards are beautifully done with really good photo paper. After the contest, many pilots and spouses gathered to take in some Tex-Mex to finish the day happy and full.Ken Knotts

B-NOVICE

1 Frank Reed 3000
2 Greg Fierst 2633

NOVICE

1 Frank Halpin 2943
2 Rex Misak 2896

SPORTSMAN

1 Tim Reed 3936
2 Anthony Stelly 3920
3 Gary Nelson 3869
4 Jerry Joyner 3866

ADVANCED

1 Ken Knotts 3000
2 Gary Alphin 2908
3 Jonathan Efinger 2901

EXPERT

1 Pat Ensign 3000





Scorekeeping for SPA Contests – Scorekeeping Made Easier, Part 3

Last time we went through entering scores, printing round results, backing up and restoring your files, and the **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** topic of Crash Recognition and Recovery. I'll be posting my complete PACSS Instruction Manual and the SPA Specific Files on the SPA website very soon. I'll post this information and a link to it on the Email List as soon as they are ready to be downloaded. The Instruction Manual consists of seven large PDF files – about 1 Mb each. You can download any of them individually or all of them and print them for reference. I'd definitely recommend that you download at least the last one – PACSS - 7) Crash

Recovery. CDs - I'd definitely recommend printing this one and making sure your scorekeeper has the information handy during the contest. Here's why.

Two weeks ago I attended the Alabaster SPA East Opener. I flew Sr. Expert and also did all the scorekeeping with the able assistance of Alabaster club Pres. Bob Anderson. I started the day by explaining how the crash occurs to Bob. We had just started entering 1st Round scores when the program crashed exactly as I described. I showed this to Bob, then recovered as I described last time. This happened **FOUR MORE TIMES** early in the 1st Round before the program finally settled down. It then behaved and worked like a charm for the rest of the weekend. I don't know what the problem is, but it always seems to happen at the worst possible time.

I feel the program crash is so significant and can have such a negative impact on your contest that I'm repeating the portion of my last article dealing with it here. Please read this if nothing else in this article.

PROGRAM CRASH

It's time to talk about that program crash I mentioned earlier. The PACSS program can crash while entering scores. This can result in an unrecoverable corruption of the databases if not handled correctly because the databases will not close properly. The fix for this corruption is to completely reinstall the entire program and Restore the database from the latest backup. If you've backed up recently, you'll lose only the data entered since the last backup. If you haven't backup up, you'll lose all of your previously entered contest and score data. This happened Sunday morning at Hotlanta in 2013 and required re-entry of ALL SCORES from the first day of competition. I was the scorekeeper that day and it turned into a nightmare for me and all the competitors. Since that time I've learned how to handle this problem properly and allow the databases will be closed gracefully. All you will need to do then is restart the program and continue.

(Fig 14) Let's start by identifying when a CRASH has occurred. Notice the top line of the two pictures. The upper shows the program in normal operation with the icons showing. The lower shows the crashed

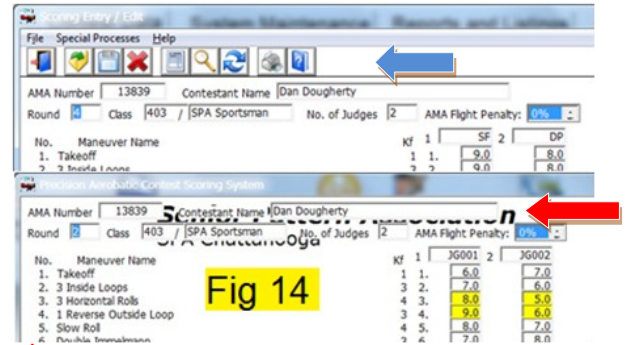


Fig 14

condition with score sheet data overlaid where the icons should be. At this point you won't be able to do anything – continue, exit, type, nothing. This is usually your first indication that a crash has occurred. This is the critical point that determines if your databases will be corrupted or not. Follow these steps EXACTLY and all will come out fine. Fail to follow them and you will get to reinstall the program and reenter all the scores. Been there, done that!

(Fig 15) **IMMEDIATELY** Go to the bottom right corner of your PC screen and find the clock. Right click on the clock then Left click on Start Task Manager. Click the PROCESSES tab at the top and scroll through until you find **PACSS.EXE *32** in the Image Name column, Right Click on it then Click on **End Process Tree** in the dialog box.

(Fig 16). You'll get this dialog box. Verify that the correct program is selected (PACSS.EXE *32) and click End Process Tree.

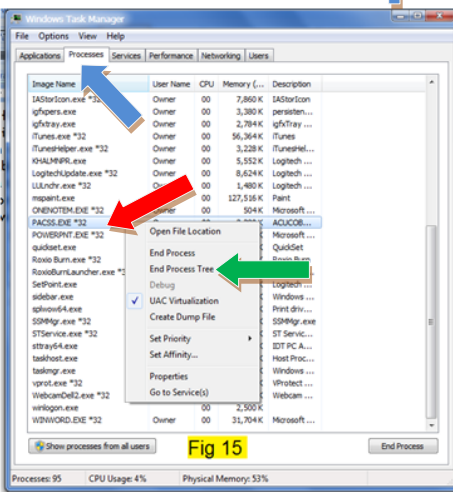


Fig 15

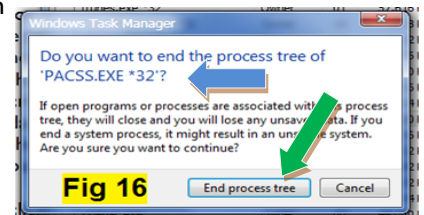


Fig 16

DO NOT SELECT END PROCESS in Fig 15!!!! This will end the program without closing the databases and corrupt them. This will require reinstallation of the program and reentry of your data.

Well, that's about all there is to say about the basics of PACSS without getting too esoteric. For all of you in the SPA East, I plan to attend every contest this year and will bring the Instruction Manual and SPA Specific Files with me on a USB flash drive so that I can share them with anyone who would like them. Feel free to email me ANYTIME you have any questions about PACSS at the address below. DO NOT hesitate to ask me anything you need to know before it becomes a problem. I will also be happy to speak to you on the phone if you need help or clarification. Sometimes that's the quickest and best way to get things squared away because I sometimes don't get my point across the first time via email. Email me with your phone number and I'll call you back.

Thanks for reading along on these highly technical articles. Hopefully I've tossed out a nugget or two that might make your life easier without totally boring you to tears. Here's wishing you a pleasant and successful contest season. Smooth Landings!—

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