

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT-

Bruce Underwood

VICE PRESIDENT-

leff Owens

SEC/TREASURER-

Eric Nessler

FOUNDER EMERITUS-

Mickey Walker

WEBMASTER-

Lindy Quinten

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dan Dougherty

APPOINTED-

Phil Spelt

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.

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 2014

PRECISION AEROBATICS from PATTERN'S Golden Age

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year !!!

'Tis Also the Season to Vote for <u>Vice President (</u>See Page 2)



FROM THE PRESIDENT...Colder where you are?? Same here in Dixie. I'm writing this on election day, November 4, 2014. Geez, in the commercial radio business, the last few weeks and months have been similar to Christmas. Everyone wants to advertise, and they all want prime time. I am referring to the National and State political scene and not elective office in the SPA, but it just so happens to be that time in SPA as well. Thank goodness for the absence of "political correctness" and "cutthroat politics" within our ranks!!!!

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This edition contains a ballot for ONLY ONE of our elective offices as two of the three up for "grabs" will be settled with no opposition. I am so grateful for Jeff's assistance as

VP and his willingness to "move up" and assume our Presidency effective with the new year. It goes without saying, (but I'll say it anyway), that Eric Nessler has never questioned a request for this, that, or whatever I've asked of him since he grabbed ahold of our Secretary/Treasurer duties when first asked. This office is, without a doubt, the most challenging and time-consuming administrative function of our organization. You two, you're the "cream of the crop" and I'll remain an active member of your team forever.

The only contest this election cycle is for the position of SPA Vice-President. Two

The only contest this election cycle is for the position of SPA Vice-President. Two good modelers have been nominated for that position. I personally phoned Mr. Ken Knotts and asked if I might nominate him for VP. He informed me he desired a day or so to "talk it over with Mrs. Knotts". I was delighted when he phoned me the next day and declared "I'll be happy to give it my best efforts." Dan Dougherty, our CSP and Board of Directors member nominated former SPA Vice President Scott Sappington, and both have enclosed statements outlining their qualifications, experience, and views on issues facing SPA in the future in this edition. Please read each and return IMMEDIATELY, (hopefully with your \$20 dues for 2015) to Eric (who is Election Judge). He'll count the ballots and report on the outcome on January I, 2015. Those of us who are Lifetime members will return only the ballot to Eric during December since our dues have been paid for a lifetime. By the way, for information on how you can forego the yearly dues and become a Lifetime, (i.e. "L") member yourself, please contact Eric for details.

It's that season of the year where "Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year" greetings are heard amongst friends and associates. As soon-to-be-outgoing SPA president, let me wish all SPA folks, the most happy, most merry, and certainly the <u>loudest and most</u> <u>heartfelt greetings</u> of the season extended from the Underwoods, (Mama Jane and myself). Our wish is that <u>all</u> your wants and needs are fulfilled, and that your resolutions are sincere and fulfilled. Ours have, and will be, as we advance into the Emeritus phase.



Bruce & Jane Underwood

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VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

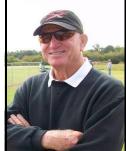
Well, it's election time (again), to elect the single available

Underwood has decided not to run this time. The president's position was assumed by Jeff Owens when there were no other candidates for President. This leaves Jeff's V.P. position open with two candidates, (see statements below). The Secretary/

Treasurer was unopposed, so Eric will continue in the fine job he has been doing. Carefully consider the importance of the position of Vice President before voting—remember, he can become **President of SPA** at any time if the elected President is

unable to serve for any reason. MAKEYOUR OPINION COUNT—HAVE A SAY—-VOTE!!...Duane (editor)

Vice-Presidential Candidate Statements



KEN KNOTTS....I want to be your vice president and believe I have the management and modeling qualifications to make you proud of the office. Before my retirement, I was a Deputy

Fire Chief in the City of Dallas. I then became head of the fire departments 911 system. I have had leadership roles in my local RC club. First I was secretary, then president, the latter as we moved into a new half million dollar flying field. There were many issues in making a new field "work", and I believe I have helped our club make that happen. I assisted with the establishment of a new

website, I have supervised the maintenance of the flying field, and I established Senior Pattern as a prime event in the club. I have also led the club efforts twice to host more than 400 college engineering students for design and flying competitions.

I have participated in most all West SPA events and a number of East, so I have familiarity with the people and issues in both areas. So I value the knowledge I can gain from the "veteran" SPA members. I think it would be great to have an "East Meets West" event, and I will include that on my agenda. Flying at a contest or for fun is ten minutes of flying and an hour of socializing. Meeting people and hearing the story of "Why it happened" is a real part of model flying, especially the SPA group.

My management philosophy is "Don't fix it if it's working", and I would maintain that if elected. I will work to continue the fun, flying and fellowship that SPA events provide. The low pressure, yet high challenge atmosphere is what I believe gets people to try senior pattern and keeps them coming back. Keeping the rules simple, the aircraft cost effective and allowing only the technology that keeps the foundation of what Mickey Walker started is important to the existence of the hobby we enjoy. Calm winds and safe flying...........Ken Knotts



SCOTT SAPPINGTON...To My SPA Friends,

Allow me to introduce myself to those that do not know me. I have flown pattern in SPA since 2002 and served as Vice President from 2004-2010. I would appreciate your consideration to allow me to serve this wonderful organization again. I strongly believe in the core values that Mickey Walker established as the foundation of this organization. However, over the past several years some changes have been introduced that have allowed growth. It has been incredible to see the strong presence of friends in the Dallas/ Ft. Worth area and the growth there. I also believe we need to continue to promote the novice events as we saw a regeneration this past year. The competition over the last several years has really been over shadowed by how much fun everyone

is having at the contest and to me that is the most important element and is vital to communicate to those that have not flown with us in several years. I would lend over thirty years of professional management experience to this wonderful organization and would look forward to serving with leff and the board of directors as we all continue to enjoy the Senior Pattern Association......Sincerely, Scott Sappington aka Mr May 2006



Fellow SPA Members,

The Pattern Committee consisting of Phil Spelt, Eric Nessler, and Jeff Owens has completed its task of

- a) Reviewing the list of possible maneuvers and expanding it as described in the Newsletters this year
- b) Putting together the new sequences for 2015-16.

We had a lot of member input and, judging from the responses at the Masters contest at Cullman; I think we hit the sweet spot in all classes. I am attaching a spreadsheet with all the new sequences. There are some features that you should be aware of.

CHANGES FOR 2015:

- The former Novice-B class is now the Introductory Class (Intro for short), since that more accurately describes its purpose.
- The sequences have been rearranged so that you can read across the spreadsheet to see how particular maneuvers evolve, e.g. Double Stall Turn --> Figure M --> Figure M with 1/4 rolls. This will help folks understand what skills are needed to move up.
- The K-factors have been changed to be in agreement with the 1978 FAI K-factors. We had made ours up since AMA didn't use K-factors until the late 70s and some of our numbers didn't make a whole lot of sense. The new scheme runs 1-5 instead of 1-4. This primarily affects Expert where we really needed a way to spread out the scores.

We will be putting together a new Competitors Guide to reflect the new maneuvers. Meanwhile, please enjoy! By the way, if you want to see the descriptions of the maneuvers from 1978-79 go to www.seminolerc.com and use the last link on the menu on the left. The rule books are rotated, but you can rotate them for easy viewing in Acrobat.

INTRODUCTORY	NOVICE	SPORTSMAN	ADVANCED	EXPERT
Take Off - I	Take Off - I	Take Off - I	Take Off - I	Take Off (U) - I
St. Flight Out - I Proc. Turn - 2 St. Flight Back - I Stall Turn - 2 Immelmann Turn - 2 I/2 Cuban Eight - 2	St. Flight Out - I Proc. Turn - 2 St. Flight Back - I Immelmann Turn - 2 3 Inside Loops - 2 180 Degree Turn - 3	Double St. Turn - 3 3 Horiz. Rolls - 2 Double Immel - 2 Slow Roll - 3 3 Inside Loops - 2 180 Degree Turn - 3	Figure M - 3 3 Horiz. Rolls - 2 Double Immel - 2 Slow Roll- 3 3 Rev. Out. Loops- 3 180 Degree Turn- 3	Fig M 1/4 rolls (U) - 5 2 Rolls in Opp Direction- 3 Double Immel 2 Slow Roll- 3 3 Rev. Out. Loops- 3 4 Point Roll- 4
Inside Loop - 2 One Horizontal Roll - 2 Landing Perfection - I K=16	St. Inverted Flight - 2 Stall Turn (U) - 2	Cobra Roll 1/2 Rolls - 2 I Rev. Outside Loop-2 Rev. Cuban 8 - 2 3 Turn Spin -2 Landing Perfection - I	Triple Roll. Loop- 4 Vertical 8- 2 4 Point Roll- 4 3 Turn Spin - 2 Landing Perfection- I K=30	Inverted Rev. Cuban 8 - 3 8 point roll- 4 Square Loop w/1/2 Rolls - 5 180 Degree Turn- 3 Tri. Roll. Loop- 4 Inverted 3 Turn Spin- 3 Landing Perfection- 1

PRELIMINARY 2015 SPA-EAST SCHEDULE



AlabasterApril 25-26 CullmanJuly 18-19
KnoxvilleMay 16-17 AtlantaAug 15-16
Hodges-Antique... June 19
Hodges (C.U.M)... June 20-21 Chattanooga Masters...Oct 3-4

PARTIAL 2015 SPA-WEST SCHEDULE



Thunderbirds (Spring)......April 25th Thunderbirds Open (Fall)......October 26-27

Only a few months left to build those new secret weapons & practice the new schedules for 2015 —better get going!!



Top Novice 2014

"Thanks to "The Daves", Gary, Scott, Jim and the others who put up a great event! It was my first time competing in an SPA event and I want to say that you made it a very special occasion for me! I really enjoyed flying at Alabaster where

all involved had two things clearly in mind... I. Having a great time, and 2. Safety, Safety! In the mid "80s (I) used to fly, (pattern) ...it was nice to be back in the area! See Y'all next year! ... Cesar Perez

Maybe when SPA was first formed, <u>most members</u> had previous pattern experience, but now a large proportion of pilots start their SPA careers in NOVICE. We were top-heavy with NOVICEs back around 2005-2009, but then they started "moving up" and the NOVICE rolls got smaller. The future of SPA depends a great deal on how actively we recruit new members now—we can't just concern ourselves with our own competition class if we want SPA to grow and be healthy in the future-we need to tell others about SPA—<u>and most will start as NOVICEs.</u>

The reason for "Top Novice," the "out-of-the-box" thinking of <u>Paul Wright</u> at the Chattanooga club, and the recent <u>Introductory</u> <u>class</u> in SPA is to try to get more great letters like this one from Cesar Perez. Dave Phillips and his selfless volunteers have done a lot to promote new SPA growth with his "Novice Only" contests over the years...see below Dave's comments from this year's event...(editor)



Many thanks to Jim Johns and his wife for the outstanding photos, and for Jim doing the scoring for the contest!! I also must thank all the Alabaster club members that helped with the chores of putting on this event!!!! Thanks also to Gary Singleton and Scott Anderson for helping out with the judging!! This was Lil Dave's first pattern contest to CD, he did an outstanding job keeping the show moving along. We had six full rounds with a nice lunch break!!

I can tell you everyone seemed to have a great time. The competition was very close, and no one was a clear cut winner until the last round. John Davis K'd the first round, then Joe Grant K'd the next two, Pete

Coleman threw his name in the hat with a K in round 5! Fred Robertson (first time to fly novice), was doing very well as he had 3 or 4 of his flights in the 900+. After all the smoke cleared Joe Grant came out on top with a total score of 3976 over John Davis with 3962 in 2nd, Pete Coleman with 3899 in 3rd, Fred Robertson finished in 4th 3637!!

In B Novice, (renamed INTRODUCTORY-editor), we had two pilots getting a taste of pattern flying! Both completed every

round with out breaking a prop!! Cesar Perez was first with 4000 points, Greg Helms finished 2nd with 3763 total points. We had several very nice raffle prizes to end the day. One thing in particular about the raffle—when we came to the T-34 Mentor! A double winner, Dale Gerbec, gave the Kit to 11 year old, (soon to be SPA Pattern Pilot!) Beau Senkbeil who had been drooling over that airplane all day (the box was wet)! **Beau is what the SPA needs to help it grow as he never stopped**

watching the guys flying! How many II year olds have you seen do that! If he had an I phone I didn't see it!! A Bootlegger Kit was donated by Scott Anderson, of Performance Aviation! The airplane was won by Pete Coleman who had just bought a kit from Scott, Pete gave the kit back and we redrew with the winner being Chattanooga NOVICE "leader" John Davis!

I must mention the three guys that came <u>just to watch this contest</u>, Mike Davis, Dale Gerbec and Mike Senkbeil, from Valley Alabama, and if you don't know where Valley Al. is located, look it up as we will have a SPA contest at that site next year along with 3 new members! What a great bunch of guys.

SPA West Championships

Thunderbird Field - Ft. Worth, Texas



CONTINUED...

September 27-28, 2014.....Light winds, mild temperatures and partly cloudy skies greeted the pilots competing for places in the 2014 SPA West Championships. Eighteen pilots came to show their skills and enjoy the fun and fellowship that is so evident at SPA meets.

All airplanes survived the six rounds of competition, although a few dead-stick landings had to be make after engine failures. The light winds switched blowing from the north to the south and from northeast to southeast but mostly directly into our face from

the east. That made for some interesting landing approaches.

Tim Reed started things early with a judges school beginning at 8:00 am and covered some specifics that really helped judging. Judging correctly is really tough, especially if the judges do not know the specifics of every maneuver in the class they are judging. Thanks to Tim and I hope we can make this a tradition.

Flying started in **Novice** with first time contestant 14 year old Grant Schroeder putting in a very good flight. Grant finished like he started besting good pilot and excellent builder Bernie Olson with Gerry Stanford taking third place and accumulating enough points to win the 2014 Novice Points Championship. Upper classes better watch for Grant as this kid can really fly.

Sportsman class had six contestants and some really close competition. Tony Stelly took first place and the 2014 Points Championship. Tony bested Bobby Zikes by less than 17 points for second place. Only five points separated third place winner Tim Reed from Bill Vogeley who took fourth.

In **Advanced class**, AMA pattern pilot Wayne Galligan flew his electric Dirty Birty ARF to a first place victory over Gary Alphin who took second and Chris Berardi took third. Gary earned enough points to win the 2014 Points Championship. Advanced had six contestants with three different pilots winning a round.

Expert class had fierce competition between winner Bill Rutledge and Pat Ensign. Bill flew a beautiful Intruder with an OS .91 that ran beautifully. Pat won the 2014 Points.

Championship. Ken Knotts was a distant third. Ken did however win the ARF Dirty Birdy raffle prize. To have a great contest always takes a lot of people in the background. Gary Alphin and I had great support from the grounds crew, cooks, registration, raffle ticket sellers, air bosses, score data entry, award certificate printing, pilot judges, and helpers of all kinds. A lot of thanks to everyone who flew and a special

thank you to
everyone who
pre-registered.
That makes life
a lot easier for
the CD to have
that done
before the rush
on Saturday
morning.
...Ken Knotts





	Bernie Olson	3851
	Gerry Stanford	3381
	SPORTSMAN	
	Tony Stelly	3987
	Bobby Zikes	3971
	Tim Reed	3886
	William Vogeley	3581
×	Jerry Joyner	3493
34	Je / Je/e.	•
1.00	Gary Nelson	3276
	Gary Nelson	
	Gary Nelson ADVANCED	3276
	Gary Nelson ADVANCED Wayne Galligan	3276 3986
	Gary Nelson ADVANCED Wayne Galligan Gary Alphin	3276 3986 3938 3735
	Gary Nelson ADVANCED Wayne Galligan Gary Alphin Chris Berardi	3276 3986 3938 3735

EXPERT

Pat Ensign

Ken Knotts

William Rutledge

4000

3976

3600

NOVICE

Grant Schroeder

4000



MASTERS 2014

CULLMAN, AL October 4 & 5, 2014... Your PIO (Oldest Continuous Radio DJ Show in Dixie)... couldn't help but open his show on Monday morning Oct. 6 with a duet by Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton titled YOU CAN'T MAKE OLD FRIENDS. The motivation behind this particular selection was the weekend of honest-to-goodness fellowship with the, IMHO, finest folks to ever fly Radio Controlled Model Airplanes, members of the Senior Pattern Association at the 2014 MASTERS.

Friday afternoon, to have the chance to associate with our members from the SPA West, and a "newbie" from NW Alabama, Tim and Tonia Reed plus the CD and workers from the Cullman Aeromodellers. That was just the beginning of the CHERRY ON TOP of the 2014 contest season. Lots of practicing was marred by the demise of Vic Koenig's number I electric Dirty-Birdy when Vic took off with his transmitter set to another of his models with opposite aileron programmed. He proceeded with his back-up model. On Sunday morning the bright sunshine blinded Phil Spelt resulting in the total destruction of his lovely Curare which was a memento from the Late Ed Hartley. Phil had lots of sympathy from all us who helped gather up the pieces.

Steve Byrum, the most experienced CD on the contest circuit, had lots of help from Marilyn Lutzsky, age 87, seasoned registration lady who checked us in Saturday while we awaited the bright sunshine from the East to commence a bit to the West.

Other clubbers pitched in for the cooking, running of score sheets, tabulated by Scorekeeper Jim Johns and wife Bobbie. It was about 10:30AM when the wind off the huge frontal system, at times twisting and swirling but mostly from the NW, reached speeds of 56 MPH which was the impetus for the National Weather Service to declare a WIND WARNING. Two classes, Novice and Sportsman elected to call off after two rounds and continue Sunday. The other classes managed to keep the landing damage to some gear broken as well as props.

We'll get to the scores shortly, but let me inform of what, IMHO, was the highlight of the MASTERS contest....the Senior Expert SUDDEN DEATH FLY-OFF FOR THE SPA MEMORIAL TROPHY. Current MT holder Jeff Owens was challenged by Keith Watson who became the challenger only after Dave Phillips' engine failed him. A coin toss determined Watson would fly first. He did and amassed a pretty respectable score in the howling winds. Jeff was attempting his take-off when is model was just picked up and literally slammed into the edge of the runway breaking off his right main gear. Realizing this was a sudden-death round....Keith Watson said, "let him repair it and go from there". Keith's traveling buddy, Dandy Dan Dougherty, known for his "field-repair" expertise, had Jeff's DB standing on 3 feet again within about 25 minutes. Owens proceeded to put in a winning flight which becomes his 2nd win of the MT. Once a Senior Pilot wins it 3 times, he is no longer a candidate and becomes a permanent member of the SPA HALL OF FAME. That unselfish deed by Keith Watson earned him the SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD on Sunday. A more deserving individual just doesn't exist. A gigantic round of applause accompanied the presentation of the SA to Keith. Your PIO detected a few TEARS OF JOY as the award was made by CD Steve!

The competition on Saturday was in as blustery-of-conditions as your PIO can recall. Matter of fact, it was like years ago at a Huntsville, AL SPA contest, when two of us were in the air at the same time the NWS siren sounded off indicating a tornado was on the ground in the northern part of Madison County. Landing was TUFF! Sunday morning was beautiful with winds light out of the SW, thusly, upwinds were 180 degrees different than on Saturday.

What a joy to have the SPA WEST pilots with us at the EAST MASTERS. Texans included: Tim Reed, Ft. Worth, Gary Alphin, Azle, Michael Clements, Mesquite and Ken Knotts, Alverado. We, in the EAST, are so grateful for your attendance. Hope this will be a weekend you'll always remember.

this will be a weekend you'll always remember.
We'll get to scores shortly...but, the raffle winners included David Briscoe, won a kit of some kind, Dad John Nessler won an old Webra engine, David Briscoe of the Cullman club had lots of tickets and also won the ILLUSION kit. The Dirty-Birdy went to Ken Knotts, who evidently had the horseshoe because I hear he had won another the week before at the SPA WEST OPEN.

2014 Points champions were presented big loving cups adorned with "the Goddess of Victory". They were, **NOVICE** Pete Coleman, **SPORTSMAN** Dan Dougherty, **ADVANCED**, Mr. May Scott Sappington, **EXPERT** John Nessler, III and **SENIOR EXPERT** leff Owens.

Final scores revealed Joe Grant besting Pete Coleman in **NOVICE**, Tim Reed from Ft. Worth topped the **SPORTSMAN** class of 6. Dennis Sams got the "move-up" chant when he claimed number 1 out of 9 **ADVANCED** pilots, John Nessler III graphed the **EXPERT** championship for 2014 and left Owens won gold in **SENIOR EXPERT** from a field of 6.

grabbed the **EXPERT** championship for 2014 and Jeff Owens won gold in **SENIOR EXPERT** from a field of 6. In an earlier paragraph, I stated Steve Byrum was "seasoned" in the art of CD'ing pattern RC model contests. It showed (his experience) as he kept things moving despite the weather-makers fighting him every step of the way on Friday and Saturday. These Cullman Aeromodelers are due every accolade in the book for their efficiency and hospitality. That's what us SPA'ers enjoyed a "heap" of.

This contest ended with the longest period of before-leaving conversation than any of the 2014 season. There were numbers of hugs and "see you next season", happy holidays and "the very best to you and yours" and even a few tears of expressions of love for folks who live lots of miles from each other and the realization that this was the FINALE of the season. If there's ANY group that enjoys each others fellowship, companionship and camaraderie anymore than SPA, I haven't found it. It was like the ending to a good Roy Rogers B&W movie, "Happy Trails to you, until we meet again"!

Take a good look at these two guys holding the esteemed MEMORIAL trophy



.. Jeff Owens, L, MEMORIAL TROPHY, Keith Watson R This photo was shot BEFORE the "fly-off" for the esteemed trophy. The fly-off is a SUDDEN-DEATH one round match reserved for the current holder vs. the holder of the highest points

Dr. Dan operates on Jeff's Dirty Birdy prior to his flyoff. Dan can fix anything!!

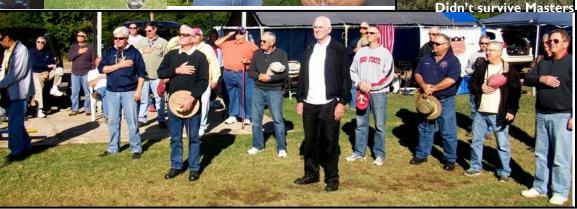
(SENIOR EXPERT) going into the MASTERS. Dave Phillips was unable to participate, so that honor went to the next-highest point pilot, Mr. Keith Watson who had won this trophy some few years ago. The fly-off was held on Saturday during a period which the National Weather Service had issued a WIND-WARNING for gusts in excess of 50 MPH, they clocked some gusts to 56 MPH right around the time of the fly-off. A coin toss determined Watson was to fly first, he did and garnered a good score despite the incredible conditions. Then, came Owen's time to fly. As he was attempting his take-off, a swirling gust blew his model into the side of the runway breaking his right main gear right out of the wing.

John Nessler III Marilyn Lutsky, age 87, **East and West SPORTSMEN** a Cullman "fixture". Vic Koenig and Tim Reed **CD** Steve

leff Owens 4000 **Bruce Underwood** 3699 Keith Watson 3579 Ken Knotts Jim Johns Dave Phillips III







2944 Joe Grant Pete Coleman 2803

SPORTSMAN

Tim Reed 2983 Richard Witt 2918 Duane Wilson 2907 Dan Dougherty 2845 Vic Koenig 2803 Roy Thompson 2723

ADVANCED

4000 Dennis Sams John Nessler Jr 3633 Scott Sappington 3606 3291 Gary Alphin Dave Phillips III 2864 DNF Phil Spelt 2300 DNF Ken Blackwell 1624 DNF

SR EXPERT

EXPERT

3207 DNF 1488 DNF 563 DNF

1000

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SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail this form along with check/money order made out to <u>The Senior Pattern Association</u> for \$20.00 to: Eric Nessler 2080 Smokymill Rd. Dublin, Ohio 43016

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