



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 MAR/APRIL 2015

PRECISION AEROBATICS from PATTERN'S Golden Age

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Scott Sappington

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Duane Wilson

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NO ELECTION NECESSARY

Scott Sappington Returns to Board of Directors

When Board of Directors, (BOD) candidate Jamie Strong learned that long-time SPA member and former VICE PRESIDENT Scott Sappington was the other candidate running for the open position on the BOD, he decided to withdraw from the race in favor of Scott. This makes Scott the new BOD member by default, and eliminates the need for a second election in three months, (thank goodness).

To provide some background, this BOD position was originally created back in 2011 in response to membership input requesting we have more directly elected membership representation. The composition of the BOD now becomes even between elected and appointed members, (most appointed members hold "working" positions corresponding to needed SPA functions, (i.e. Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, and Chairman of Special Projects). There is one member, (presently Phil Spelt), directly appointed by the president as a "member at large" without a specified job, (although he would say he has worked harder than the rest of us put together this past winter by volunteering to update and modernize the "Competitor's Guide". More about that later.

With Jamie's withdrawal, we now have a ten member Board of Directors, (according to the bylaws, Bruce remains on the BOD joining Mickey Walker as former presidents of SPA).

As mentioned, before, for those of you new to SPA, Scott previously served as vice-president of SPA for many years, and brings with him that experience. Please welcome Scott, (aka Mr. May 2006) back to the SPA Board.



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.

 <p>TOP NOTCH TROPHIES Awards and Engraving</p> <p>Work: 256.582.0606 Home: 256.582.3742 Email: topnotchtrophies@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>Bruce & Jane Underwood</p> <p>TOP NOTCH TROPHIES 2044 O'Brig Avenue Guntersville, Alabama</p>	 <p>Carolina Custom Kits</p> <p>Mark Ackerman Designer</p> <p>Carolina Custom Kits PO Box 417 Skyland, NC 28776</p> <p>Phone: 828-407-0668 Web: CarolinaCustomKits.com Email: CarolinaCustomKits@gmail.com</p> <p>Laser Cutting Plans/Kits CAD Design Scale Up of Down Quality Balsa/Ply Custom Fiberglass</p>
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FROM THE PRESIDENT– The weather is (slowly) improving for most of our membership and reports of practice sessions are starting to come in. Here in North Florida the pollen is out, leaves are sprouting, and the temperatures are climbing a bit. I was able to put some more flights on my Curare (ARF from Germany) and I am getting used to it. The spin exit is amazing – about 1/8 of a turn! At 6 lbs it is a bit light and the gusts cause it to bounce a bit. Towards the end of the afternoon it calmed down and the plane really got into its groove in the calm air. My biggest problem is getting used to making much smaller corrections since there is very little coupling and the plane is very responsive. You just need to whisper on the controls – sort of like flying a helicopter where you just have to think what you want done.

The new Competition Guide is now online thanks to a masterful job by Phil Spelt with detailed proofreading by our Webmaster Jim Johns, VP Ken Knotts, and others on the Board.

Speaking of the Web, Jim is busily adding new features, the latest being a photo gallery. Be sure to check it out! Jim has also spearheaded the purchase of SPA patches. They have our logo on either a red or white background. They will be available at a nominal cost at the contests – all the more reason to come to them!

The Perry Swap Meet was again a fun-filled affair with many SPA members digging for bargains. It was great seeing so many SPA members there and doing some hangar flying. Thanks to John Baxter for bringing some SPA logo decals to be handed out – they look great! Thanks also to those members who helped with the display including, but not limited to, Jim and Bobbie Johns, Duane Wilson, Dan Dougherty, and Bruce Underwood.



President Jeff Owens with friend Lori Bush. This was Lori's first SPA exposure. She certainly encountered lots of SPA people and airplane-related stuff. Hope she wasn't scared away!!

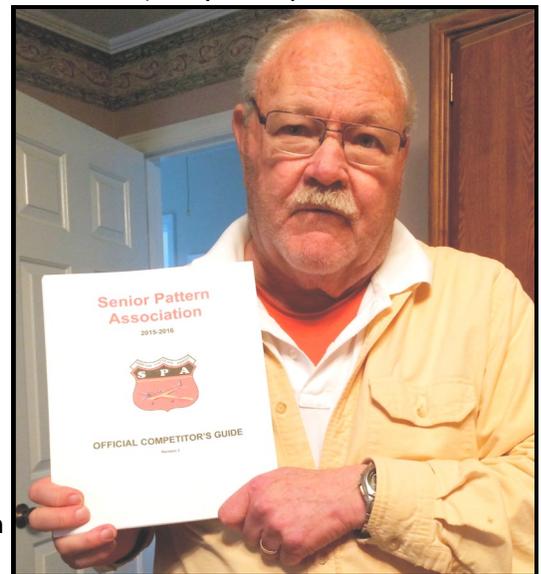
We got four new or renewing memberships. There are some pictures in the Photo Gallery on the web site.

Our first contests of the year are coming up soon: April 11 in Little Rock, AR for SPA West and April 25-26 in Alabaster, AL for SPA East. Check out the Contest Calendar on the web site for more details.

The Board of Directors scheduled an election for a new member of the Board. Although some interest was shown by several members, as it turned out we only had one candidate by the deadline for

nominations. Congratulations to Scott Sappington as the newest member of the Board of Directors!

That's it for this month – time to get practicing and rubbing some of the rust off the thumbs, as well as learning the new maneuvers! Jeff Owens SPA L243



When I put out the call asking for "pictures of winter projects," this was what Phil sent me....no time for building airplanes. There were times when we all thought Phil was about to "melt down" because of the frustrating conversion from "Publisher" to "Word", and the proofreaders taking their job so seriously, and coming up with little changes in the text. Please give Phil some "at-a-boys" for a job well done .

Southeastern Model Show "Perry 2015"

***By Bruce Underwood
& Duane Wilson***

Saturday Mar. 7, 2015..... Just home from Perry, GA and GAMA SMS.....Had a GREAT time visiting, fellowshipping, buying some new and used model "goodies"....wish ALL could have been with us. Vendors from as far west as California and Michigan to the North. The parking lots were all filled to the brim...many of the vehicles with trailers to haul the huge models like flown at the TOC.

GAMA told Eric some few months ago that all the tables in the McGill building had been rented so we moved back to the original table locations in the Miller Building. Had a great location and for us "aged" or "seasoned" modelers, close to the urinals and water fountains.



I think we enrolled one new member and had three renewals. Thanks to all that came by to fraternize with us.

The photo on the following page is of Stephen Davis a brand new member from Enterprise, Alabama-welcome to SPA.

The first person to greet us at the tables when we arrived Friday afternoon was, charter member Keith Watson from Marietta who was manning the tables with recent injuries very visible (see photo). His blood pressure sometimes fluctuates and went very low about two or three days before, and he unfortunately fell with the left side of his head impacting concrete. He has since adjusted his medication to prevent (hopefully), this sort of thing happening in the future. Thank you Keith, for the



"PR", despite the evident discomfort. Our prayers are for a quick recovery and nothing like this in your future.

Take a look at the excellent banner display and the CURARE (German ARF) of Jeff's and that beautiful KING ALTAIR of Duane's both of which drew scads of "oooooh's and Awwww's" from spectators.

Perry, (and probably other large swap meets) can be thought of as a field full of rocks that holds a few hidden "gold nuggets." The definition of "golden nugget" varies from person to person—one man's



junk is another's treasure. That's why it is important for folks to haul out the old kits (and other "stuff"), that will never be built and bring it to make someone happy—and make a few bucks in the process. Many of these kits are like out of print books that wait to be discovered by someone with a sharp eye who knows what he wants. There is nothing like finding a kit you've always wanted that somehow wasn't purchased when it was available. Dan bought a kit he wanted for just \$10 bucks, and JJ, (Jim Johns), picked up a Kaos for \$40.

In the past I went to Perry looking for particular items I needed like NIB OS .91s, (and I found them). Over the past 2-3 years however I've gone there without searching for anything in particular, and just walked the aisles with an open mind—expecting, (hoping) something will "jump out" at me. After seeing nothing the first day, my luck changed Saturday, (the time when most of the good deals are supposed to be gone). I came away with a **Miss Norway** kit the hard way, (see sidebar on the next page), and a Bobcat pusher sport aircraft, (something I had in the back of my mind,

Continued.....

....but didn't want to pay full price for). You may care nothing about these items, but that's what I mean when I say that "rare treasure" is different for everybody.

One of the quickest turnovers of a purchased item was that MISS NORWAY original kit....Jeff bought it, brought it back to our tables. Duane's eyes "bugged out", then after he put them back, he offered him a decent "profit" over what he had paid for it and carried it home to North Carolina. (See the photo of the money exchange between the two. It always seems like a lot more when you count out the cash rather than use "plastic").

What a pleasure meeting LORI, Jeff's lady-friend from Florida, what a delightful lady. She and Bobbie Johns spent lots of time together chatting, and Jeff was kind enough to bring Lori to our gathering Friday night at the packed Red Lobster. Our table wait was almost 1-1/2 hours, but was well worth the time we 8 folks spent chatting and visiting with each other. Jim & Bobbie Johns, Jeff & Lori, Duane Wilson, Bill Collins, Bob Wilkes and myself made up the group at the one table.

Thanks again to all that came by the SPA tables at Perry (note the banner display and sign) the models from Jeff and Duane and the wonderful PR carried on by the Officers and members who manned the tables, passed out old newsletters up to the present JAN/FEB edition, solicited the new members and helped spread the SPA story at the 2015 model show. I shouted a long distance to Dave and Peggy Phillips (seasoning opening CD and Spouse) Friday afternoon. We're all looking forward to being with them and the "season-opener" in Alabaster come April. Best wishes to all. PIO



Painful but worth it "dough transfer" for Miss Norway kit in the closing hours.



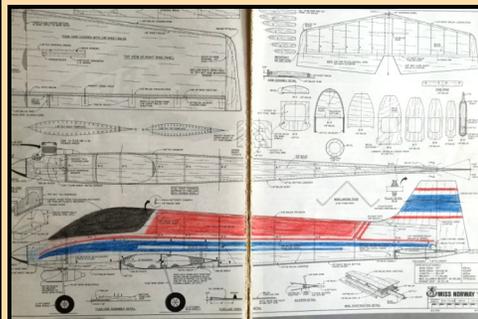
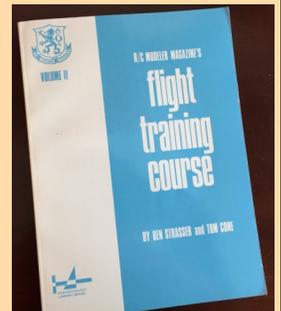
Stephen Davis

MISS NORWAY KIT The "treasure" we find at a large swap meet like Perry is sometimes a very personal thing. Such was the case when I saw that our president Jeff Owens had picked up a Miss Norway kit late in the show after negotiating forty dollars off the asking price. He brought the kit over to the SPA table, and after I lifted my jaw back off the floor, I later asked if he'd consider selling it to me at a profit. It turns out that Jeff had only a passing interest in the kit—mainly because of its history of being featured as a construction article in the 1974 **RCM Flight Training Course, Volume 2**, the second in a series of instructional books put out by the editors of the now defunct Radio Control Modeler magazine. Fortunately for me, he wasn't sure whether or not he would ever build the kit, and let me have it when I offered him the full asking price. He made a quick \$40, which was fine with me!

These "Flight Training" books are now collector's items of sorts, (Volume II was re-released a few years ago in **CD form**. I don't know if it is still available). Much of the material is still useful today. By the way, I handed some of them out as prizes at one of the Asheville contests a few years back.

As a brief refresher, the RCM Flight Training Course, (both Volumes I and II), were very popular from the mid 70s-early 80s when RC modeling was growing rapidly, and people needed a comprehensive manual for the beginner. Volume I dealt with the basics for a "newbie" to RC—the proper way to do everything in the set-up and flying of an RC trainer. Volume II was designed for the pattern pilot, and was devoted to more advanced set-up, and a detailed description with diagrams of the AMA maneuvers at the time, (our maneuvers). It was the first book about aerobatics that I know of. BTW, I found a second copy at Perry a few years ago.

I loved the Miss Norway article, and thought the plane was "tre-cool". I even ordered plans at the time from RCM. In my original VOLM II copy, I even took the time to draw out a color scheme for the model I eventually planned to build, (see below); actually I still do that—but the plane was never built—other things took over in importance. I never knew the plane had been kitted, and the idea of building from scratch and fabricating the canopy from nothing was a negative for me at the time. Now I have the chance to build the plane from a kit that comes with a canopy! It can't get any better than that!



(Left) My original pencil drawing of my proposed Miss Norway from 30-35 years ago. The RCM Flight Training Manual Volume II is still a good reference to have for learning the maneuvers. (Right) The label from the Miss Norway kit box.

The Making of a Canopy Mold

....By Dan Dougherty



So why do we want to make a canopy mold in the first place? The answer of course is to reproduce an existing canopy. For example, I wanted to make a canopy for my Curare kit because the one that came with it was too thin. Most often it is to make canopies for long gone and out of production planes from canopies I borrow from original kits....all without damaging the original canopy. Without a mold or "plug" you cannot vacuum form a new canopy. This process will not let you create a new shape of canopy. So let's get started!

The following procedure lays out the steps-one-by-one showing how you make a canopy mold, (known as a plug), from an original untrimmed canopy. The canopy is never trimmed or harmed in this process.

Step 1 : Make a bottomless/topless box from 1x4 wood, with inside area bigger than the untrimmed canopy. I usually screw it together with drywall screws. Cut a 1/4 inch plywood cover or top to the outside dimensions of the box.

Step 2 : Lay the canopy on the plywood cover and mark the outline of the trimmed edge of the canopy by lifting the edge and looking through the clear canopy. Make it close, but about 1/16 in. larger than the original. Use your Dremel scroll saw to cut out the outline you have drawn on your 1/4 inch plywood cover. Be neat and smooth.

Step 3 : No canopy is really symmetrical so flip the unmarked side of the plywood cover over so it is up. Now drop the canopy in the hole and see if it fits well. This step is important. 1/4 ply is cheap. If you do not have a good, close fit that does not distort the canopy, do it over. You now have a 1/4 inch plywood support plate for your canopy.

Step 4 : Next you need 3/4 inch long, smooth shank, brads, (miniature nails with flat heads). Do not use panel nails you have lying around the house. They have serrated shanks that are near impossible to pull out. You can now nail the plywood pattern to the box.

Step 5 : With as few nails as possible nail the canopy upside down into the support box. One nail at the small end, 2 at the big end and 1 or 2 on each side usually is enough. Be careful, you must not flex the canopy and you must pull these nails later. Nail heads must be down to the level of the canopy but do not squash it.

Step 6 : Go to the craft store (Michaels or Hobby Lobby) and get some spray mold release. Coat the canopy inside but do not let it pool. Let it dry.

Step 7 : Go to Loews or Home Depot and buy a can of Duckham's Water putty, (paint dept) and get a wood paint stir stick. Stop at Dollar Tree and buy a \$1 bucket to mix in and throw away later.

Step 8 : Mix water with the Duckhams outside with your garden hose like making Plaster of Paris. Do not even wash up utensils or hands in the sink. Duckhams will clog your plumbing. Mix up too much Duckhams, fill the mold/canopy with the mix. Use the paint stick to scrape it off level.

Step 9 : Now we have arrived at the place where you can blow the whole thing. We need the plaster surface touching the inside of the canopy to be perfect which means no bubbles. Bounce the box on the concrete driveway/walkway or whatever to vibrate all the bubbles to the top. You will see the bubbles as they come up to the surface. Do it a little more after you think you are done.

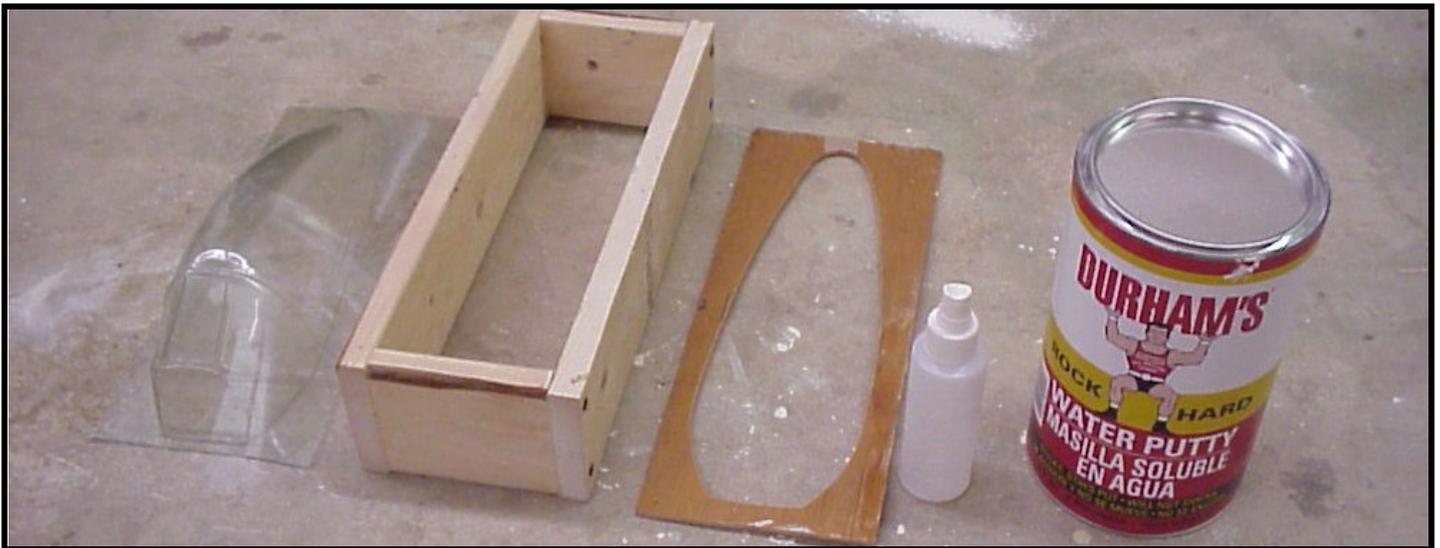
Step 10 : Set the full, wet mold on a level surface and re-scrape the putty, level with the plywood. It will set up in an hour or so.

Step 11 : Use a heavy kitchen knife to lift the nails in the canopy without hurting the edge of the canopy. Pull the nails. Take your time. Carefully separate the canopy from the wet mold by hand. The water in the Duckham's will want to form a suction. Blowing a very little air in, very gently will help separate the two. Too much air and you will blow the canopy apart.

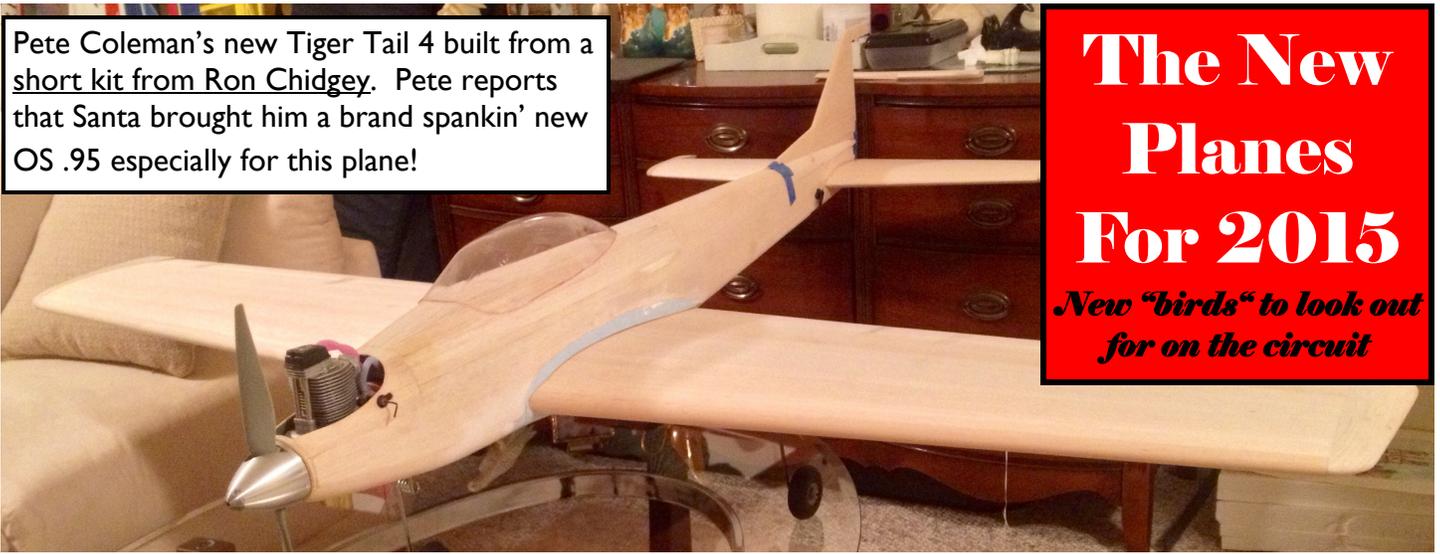
Step 12 : This is the hardest...waiting. Place the new plug on a towel and let it dry in a safe dry place for at least 2 weeks. The plaster plug must be completely dry or heat from vacuum forming will explode it.

Step 13 : Gently drag the bottom of the dry mold over a sheet of 80 grit to knock off the high spots. Lay the plug on a piece of 1/4 in ply, draw around it and cut it out on the Dremel saw. On a flat surface glue the mold to the ply base with Liquid Nails. Wipe off any excess without getting it on the plug. Let it dry on the flat surface. The ply base is a cushion on the vacuum table.....otherwise the force of the vacuum will break the brittle plaster mold.

Now you have a plug to form canopies on a vacuum forming machine. My son, Dan Jr has an industrial grade vacuum machine he made. That's where I make canopies. I now have molds for a lot of old kits like Equalizer, T Tail 4, Compensator, Dirty Birdy, 4 sizes of WW II, etc. Currently I'm looking for "virgin", (or untrimmed) Jr. & Senior Falcon canopies to borrow.



Pete Coleman's new Tiger Tail 4 built from a short kit from Ron Chidgey. Pete reports that Santa brought him a brand spankin' new OS .95 especially for this plane!



The New Planes For 2015

*New "birds" to look out
for on the circuit*

Jerry Joyner's "revamped" Gary Alphin Curare. Kaos and Intruder as back-ups. Nice use of color. BTW-Nice kitchen—looks like "Baltic Brown" granite.



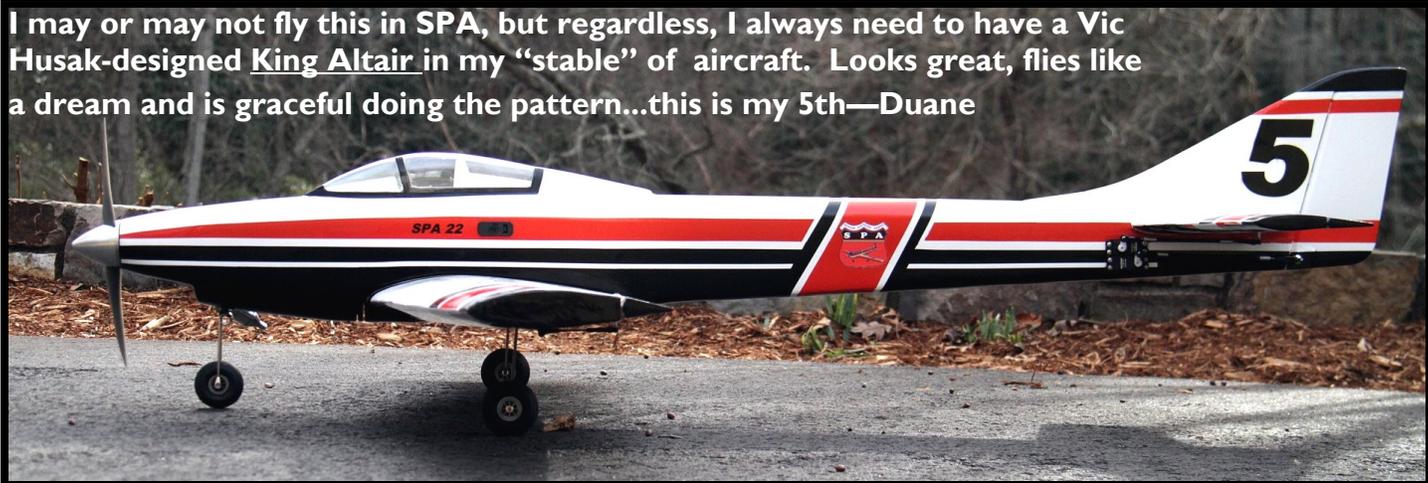
Bill Vogeley's new Deception. Elegant but simple paint scheme.



Remember last season when John Nessler had his mid-air and Mary said, (trying to look for a "silver lining") how John "...loves to build..."? Well he must because since then he has built two Carolina Custom Kits "Curares". He told me he likes the way the kits go together "like a big jigsaw puzzle"



I may or may not fly this in SPA, but regardless, I always need to have a Vic Husak-designed King Altair in my "stable" of aircraft. Looks great, flies like a dream and is graceful doing the pattern...this is my 5th—Duane



Jeff Owens joins "Team Curare" with the original German-made ARF. Curare was state-of-the-art for our time period, being one of the few legal planes with flaps as part of the original design. Ailerons work with flaps as "spoilers."





Jim Johns "Jack Rabbit" inspired Daddy Rabbit originally built by John Nessler, was first previewed at Perry



Mickey Walker unveils his latest entry for SPA "Antique" class. This Astro Hog was finished with silk and dope & powered by a Super Tigre .61



Michael Clements in the process of covering his Tiger Tail 4

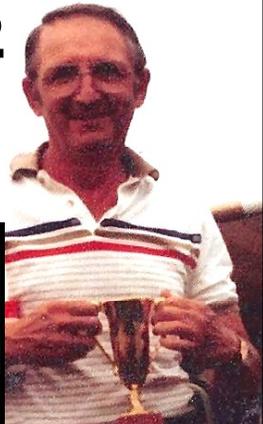


(Above) Roy Thompson's new Intruder with custom color scheme (Below) Robert Redmond just maiden'd his new Bootlegger. Looks and flies very similar to the ones he built in '78. Very different power (1.2kw electric vs piped OPS .61). Also lighter than the original. This one weighs 7.3 lbs vs the original's 8.5 lbs. Vertical performance is impressive with the 13" prop.



The Way We Were

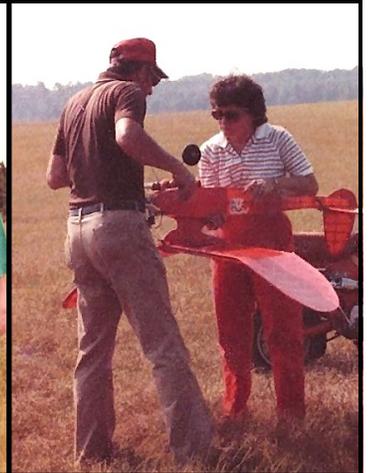
1982



MICKEY WALKER

Part 2

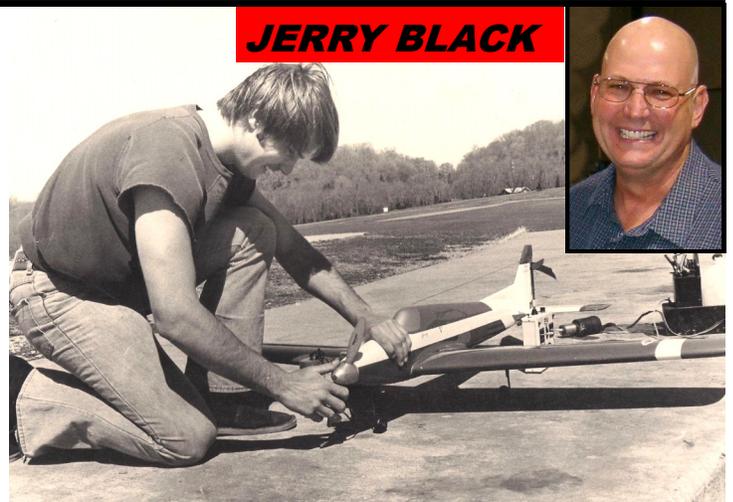
Thanks Ellis for the idea



Many thanks to our founder Mickey Walker for digging into his old photos to share with us. (Center) Mickey poses with "Miss Rebel", (now grandmother of eight ??), in 1969. (Right) Pensacola, Fla. 1982 Fiesta of 5 Flags Contest high-point winner). Note his #1 helper!

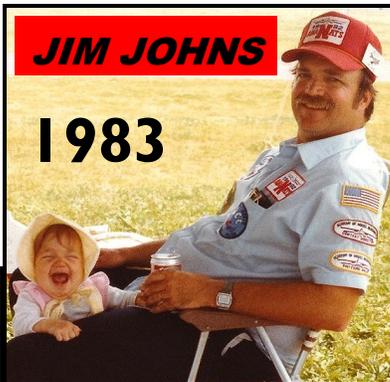


JERRY BLACK



JIM JOHNS

1983



Jerry Black started pattern early. (rt) posing with Taurus in 1969. (left above) A year later he was among the winners, (Jerry on the right) including Ron Chidgey (left). (Above rt) Nashville in 1971. Plane is a Phoenix 5 with Pro Line 5 channel radio/retracts.



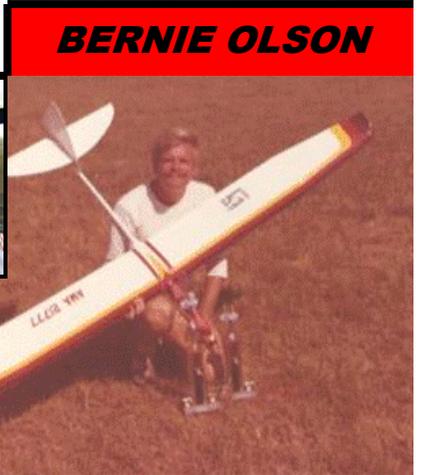
Jim Johns finishes 1st in Sportsman in "Sunflower Classic" in Kansas. He has his #1 fan and inspiration cheering him on to victory.



(Right) Bernie Olson started out with gliders, and evolved into pattern later on... (editor..Bernie, it's not how you start out--it's where you end up (in SPA!!) that matters most).



BERNIE OLSON



JOHN NESSLER III



JOHN NESSLER II (Dad)



KEN KNOTT'S

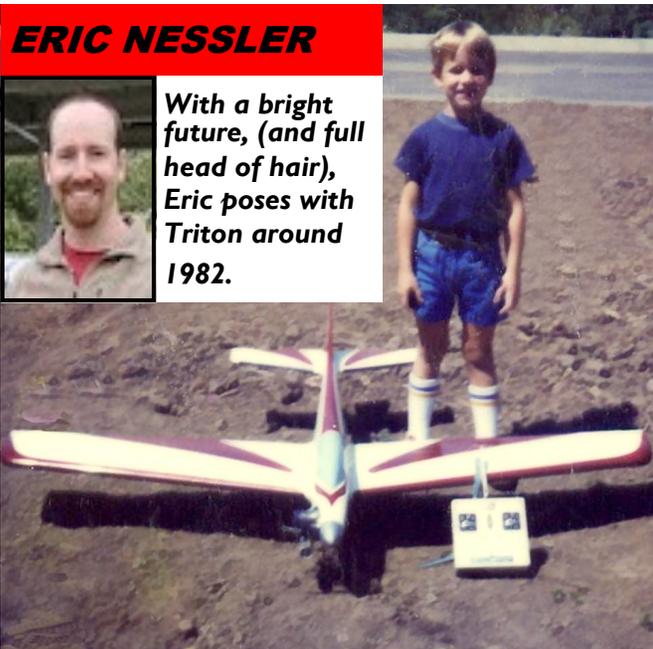


This cropped photo doesn't do justice to the roughness of the newly created Dallas Hobby Park

ERIC NESSLER



With a bright future, (and full head of hair), Eric poses with Triton around 1982.



Fairfield Ohio Radio Kontrol Society, Inc.
Lancaster, Ohio



Be It Known To All Present That
JOHN NESSLER
Did On This Date Pilot A Radio Controlled Aircraft In Aerobatic Competition And Is Hereby Presented Our Award Recognizing This Skillful Performance.

James R. Slater
JAMES R. SLATER CD AMA 26568



PATCHES

We now have high quality embroidered patches that can be sewn on anything you can think of — hats, shirts, jackets, etc. They are 3" X 3" and available with either a red or white background to coordinate with many colors. They will be available for \$2 at an SPA contest near you this year or by mail, (Jim Johns), plus postage. These have been requested time and time again—**NOW THEY ARE HERE!**



SPA CONTEST SCHEDULE

2015	SPA EAST	SCHEDULE
DATE	LOCATION	CONTEST DIRECTOR
APRIL 25-26	ALABASTER, AL	DAVE PHILLIPS
MAY 16-17	KNOXVILLE, TN	PHIL SPELT
JUNE 19	HODGES (ANTIQUE) ANDERSONVILLE, GA	DAN DOUGHERTY
JUNE 20-21	HODGES (REGULAR) ANDERSONVILLE, GA	DAN DOUGHERTY
JULY 18-19	CULLMAN, AL	STEVE BYRUM
AUG 15-16	“HOTLANTA”, GA	DAN DOUGHERTY
SEPT 12-13	ASHEVILLE, NC	WILL HICKS
OCT 3-4	(EAST) THE MASTERS	P J WRIGHT

2015	SPA WEST	SCHEDULE
DATE	LOCATION	CONTEST DIRECTOR
APRIL 25	THUNDERBIRDS, TX	GARY ALPHIN
JUNE 20	TEXAS WINGS, TX	TONY STELLY
SEPT 26-27	(WEST) OPEN	KEN KNOTTS

SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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com**

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

Telephone (____) _____ E-Mail _____

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

Eric Nessler
2080 Smokymill Rd.
Dublin, Ohio 43016

