

March 2017

ROGUE EAGLE

Official Newsletter of the Rogue Eagles R/C Club - Medford, OR - AMA 534



Monthly Meanderings by Bruce Tharpe, Club President



Cover Pic News

One of the things I stress about the most when putting together these newsletters is getting a good photo for the cover. You've probably noticed that most cover pics are nicely staged "man and machine" portraits or exciting flight shots. But I decided to shake things up a bit this month with a "man in his shop" photo. It strikes me as appropriate in light of the continuous rain that we've endured these past few weeks. There have been a few nice days and I'm sure there's been some activity at the field, but most of us have been hunkered down in our homes just trying to stay warm. Hopefully, you're finding time to get into your hobby area (workshop, garage, closet, kitchen table...) and putting something together for the upcoming flying season.

This month's cover pic features Gary Neal in his brightly-lit shop with his dog Lucy and our ace reporter, Jack Shaffer. You will read about Jack's visit later in this "Gary Neal edition" of the newsletter. Many thanks to Gary and his wife, Wendy, for their hospitality and openness. It was a real treat to tag along as the official photographer.

Oh, and to update last month's cover with the mystery Dirty Birdy. The newsletter was posted maybe ten minutes when I heard from the plane's rightful owner, Dave Bartholomew. He's in Arizona right now flying models and his powered parachute, soaking up sunshine and



having more fun than just about any of us. Well, more fun than me at least...



Sticking with Our Theme...

Here's another workshop photo. It's Larry Myers this time, in a small portion of his castle (the dungeon?) along with a faithful canine and visitor/supervisor Martin Sherman. Larry is the local "Northstar Guy," having built a couple dozen or so in the past. He's currently working on a new batch of three, and they look great as usual. No idea who the mystery leg belongs to (behind Larry). Rick Lindsey took the pic.

And Speaking of Rick... (see what I mean about meandering?)

He's got a new toy, and it's not his usual kind of plane. It's an electric-powered ducted fan flying wing called the "Spear," and it's pretty wild. This is the kind of fun sport model that I just gravitate to. Rick had his friend Rich Hume assemble the ARF model.

continues...

Also Seen at the Field...

Here's Ron Dilday with his new Phoenix Models Shoestring, one of my favorite all-time airplanes. A lot of the old Goodyear racers make great modeling subjects. Ron did a great job of tearing up the sky with this fast, aerobatic model. I'm jealous...



Charging Station Up and Running

The cold and rain don't stop some people. Calvin "Superman" Emigh ignored the elements and just got to work on repairing and upgrading our battery charging station. Calvin will be the first to tell you that he was helped immensely by his crew from his real-life job who manufactured mounting frames for the new solar panels and got them mounted on the storage container. Thanks guys!

Calvin emailed the following overview of the installation:

"As currently configured, the charge station is capable of providing a maximum of 20A to the buss bar (allowing say, four guys to charge at 5A each). I'd like to leave it in this state for now as the charge controller will manage all conditions. Once the current 20A solution has time to be tested by our members (including feedback), the circuit will be modified to include an optional 80A transfer switch, bypassing the charge controller and allowing maximum current to the charge station. The transfer switch is a simple HD Double Pole/Dual Throw switch which can easily be integrated into the current 20A solution."

Got that? What jumped out at me is that Calvin wants feedback, good or bad, on how it's all working. If it survives the trial period and we need more amperage, sounds like we can do it easily. The best part of this whole project is how little it cost. Many of the key components were donated or salvaged, along with the labor (not insignificant!), so the expenses were for banana plug sockets and other miscellaneous hardware. Calvin, a grateful club thanks you!

Bruce



The new solar panels (above) are much larger and will provide a much-improved charge to the storage batteries (if the sun ever decides to make an appearance). Another major improvement is the new charging posts that you can use if your charger has spring clamps instead of banana plugs. The wood housings keep the posts separated. All pilots are free to use the charging station to top off their model's batteries.

GARY NEAL



Totem Pole Anyone?

Well, I found myself headed up to Grants Pass for this story. I would not let the climate or the Caveman keep me from my date to meet Gary and Wendy Neal and our very own newsletter editor,

Bruce Tharpe, at Elmer's for breakfast.



There is nothing like a good cup of coffee, a great breakfast, and friendly folks to enjoy the warm conversation we had. Here's some quick details of what I learned about Gary and Wendy. Wendy taught at a private preschool, they had a son, Clint, and enjoy their dog, Lucy. They enjoy spending time at the family cabin and their favorite food is Chinese at Taste of China. These two got together at a roller skating rink. They enjoy karaoke and Gary has his own CD out. Among Gary's early hobbies was go karting. His car was "Thunder Plus". Gary also put in four years as a Navy Seabee.



They enjoy spending time at the family cabin and their favorite food is Chinese at Taste of China. These two got together at a roller skating rink. They enjoy karaoke and Gary has his own CD out. Among Gary's early hobbies was go karting. His car was "Thunder Plus". Gary also put in four years as a Navy Seabee.

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As we were starting our third cup of coffee, Bruce got us back on track for what this gathering was all about and asked "When are we going to talk about airplanes?" I did want to get us onto that subject, plus get us back to that totem pole thing. The weather cleared and we made our way to Gary and Wendy's place with Bruce along to take lots of photos and talk the technical talk of airplanes with Gary. It took some time to pick out

the photos to tell the story. I'm not going to tell a story about each picture, just a short caption. I will leave a little leeway for Bruce to add background information.

Now, about that totem pole. What a delight to come down the driveway and see this beautiful pole. Gary had a friend who came over and carved it from a log that was on their property. It was a gift to Wendy. She had wanted one most of her adult life.



RV shed and workshop. OK, stop drooling you Eagles.



Gary's grass runway. He tells us it's big enough to hold the ship the Mayflower, which was 110 feet on deck. The runway is 125 feet. Wendy wondered how 135 people fit on that boat.



A couple of warbirds.



Early windsock "pennant". A story for another time.



Restoration project via Fred Sargent, the club to Gary.



Ye Olde Editor's Note: This De Havilland Sea Hornet with twin OS 1.60s for power is Gary's current project. It's on the heavy side, so it may or may not get flown. Sleek airplane though!

Christmas present from Wendy.



Flightline F-7F Tigercat foamy with retracts and flaps.

Flying Fool and a few other U control planes.



Here is another of my favorite photos. Gary is telling us about his dad's coffee cup that hung in a coffee shop where he flew. Each cup would have a number so it would always go back to the right peg on the wall. Gary's day for having a cup of coffee with the guys finally came. He said his first cup consisted of a splash of coffee and his dad's buddies added much sugar and cream. He guesses they did not want him getting high on caffeine at his young age.



continues...

Gary with a Rogue Eagle treasure. Yes, he has a couple of skill badges on it.



The mezzanine where Gary stores his large scale airplanes. Gary went down memory lane about his old friend, Bill Grove, while talking about this plane.



A prized Nobler from the Danny Stanton collection (photo above, right). This was another trip down memory lane for the three of us. Yes, it's vintage and Gary plans to fly it at Bruce's vintage gathering.



Wendy invited us in to see what I will call Gary's corner. Photos of Gary, his back to the 50s and 60s CD and his days in the Navy.



I want to thank Gary and Wendy for allowing me to spend this time with them. Did I capture on film and put into words their story? I hardly touched the surface. Two stories that I will save for another day would touch on Gary as a young tad, his attempt to parachute from a water tower at his grammy's house and to make like a plane and fly from the peak of his house with makeshift wings. He said he did not go for distance, but he thought he did feel lift.

The end. I think Gary and Wendy's dog, Lucy, thinks this story is a real "snoozer".



Jack Shaffer

A Potential Threat to Our Field

An Editorial by Jess Walls



You are flying on a beautiful day at our club field, Agate Skyways, when a pilot you don't know or recognize comes out with a big, beautiful plane. He looks familiar and his airplane is expertly built. He must be a club member who only flies occasionally. The other guys say "Hi" to him and call him by name so you figure all is well.

There are a couple of electric planes flying as the guy starts his surprisingly loud engine and taxis out to the runway and without announcing his intentions takes off and flies expertly. Several people stop what they are doing to watch his flight because he is quite skilled and the airplane is fast. One of the electric planes lands, the other flies low and away from the runway. The unknown pilot flies wide patterns (looks like he is over the farm house), makes low passes, lands, all unannounced, taxis back past the engine shut down sign, packs up and leaves.

What just happened?

Our field was just threatened by someone who, it turns out in this case, was not even an AMA member! Former Rogue Eagle membership, founding member status, or old age is not license to break club rules or fly in a dangerous manner. If this non-AMAer was to have an accident, it could be bad for our club, bad for the hobby, and open up a bag of worms with the AMA and the county. None of the other guys seemed bothered by his behavior. No harm was done. Not this time.

So what do you do if you suspect something like this is happening? Do NOT be the grumpy cop who challenges people. It is NOT your job. Maybe the guy is totally legitimate. It might be dangerous to confront this person - you don't know him. Take the safe approach:

1. Talk to one of the people there that you do know. Ask if this person is a known club member.
2. Look for his AMA card (required to be displayed when flying).
3. Introduce yourself and get his name. We should be doing this with all new people anyway.
4. Go about your business.
5. DO NOT confront or challenge this person!! We need more information at this point.

When you are done flying and/or he has left the field, you can ask anyone still there if they know more about this person. You could ask them politely why he was allowed to fly in the first place. The "old guys" there may have valuable information.

When you get home you can call one of the club officers or board members and report the event. They can check with AMA to determine that pilot's insurance status and confirm his club membership. If we need a record of the event, a call could be important to establish time and date of the occurrence. Once reported, the board will handle it from there.

DO NOT LET THIS "SLIDE ON BY!"

Flying sites are very hard to obtain and keep. Please help us protect Agate Skyways. It really IS the job of every member.

Bruce's Comments: *As you might guess, this editorial came about due to an actual occurrence in February. I have to admit that I was one of the "old guys" who was out there and saw this former club member fly. I was genuinely glad to see him because it had been a long time. We shook hands and exchanged pleasantries like you would with any old acquaintance. I knew that he was no longer a club member, but the thought of him not being an AMA member never even crossed my mind. No, I didn't look for his card, never even thought about it. But now that I feel kind of "burned" by the situation, my eyes will be opened a little wider next time and it won't "slide on by".*

Rogue Eagle members tend to be very protective of our flying site, but the advice here is to stay safe, civil, and vigilant. Every situation is bound to be a little different. If you feel safe, go ahead and calmly explain the AMA requirement to the non-AMAer, preferably along with another member as a witness. As with most things in life, good communication is key.

*This a conversation between a man and his girl friend.
Please note that she asks five or six questions which he answers quite simply, but then she is speechless after answering only one question from him.*

Woman: Do you drink beer?

Man: Yes.

Woman: How many beers a day?

Man: Usually about three

Woman: How much do you pay per beer?

Man: \$5.00 which includes a tip (this is where it gets scary!)

Woman: And how long have you been drinking?

Man: About 20 years, I suppose.

Woman: So a beer costs \$5 and you have three beers a day which puts your spending each month at \$450. In one year, it would be approximately \$5400 correct?

Man: Correct.

Woman: If in 1 year you spend \$5400, not accounting for inflation, the past 20 years puts your spending at \$108,000 correct?

Man: Correct.

Woman: Do you know that if you didn't drink so much beer, that money could have been put in a step-up interest savings account and after accounting for compound interest for the past 20 years, you could have now bought an airplane?

Man: Do you drink beer?

Woman: No.

Man: Where is your airplane?

*Submitted by
Art Kelly*



**Have you seen CASPER
at the Medford Airport?**

Interesting online article and short video - [Click Here](#)

Submitted by Rich DeMartini

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20th Annual
Swap & Shop



Saturday - March 18, 2017
Josephine County Fairgrounds
RADIO-CONTROL
AIRCRAFT, CAR, BOAT, TRAIN - Vendors Welcome

Vendor Set up, Saturday 7:00 a.m. **
Doors open to public: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Early Registration by MARCH 10th
Tables \$15.00

Registration After MARCH 10th or on day of Swap Meet
Tables \$20.00

(Includes 1 admission PER TABLE)

General admission \$3.00 at door

OVERNIGHT PARKING AT FAIRGROUNDS
CONTACT FAIRGROUNDS: 541-476-3215

For information contact Skip Foley
Phone 541-956-5271 or email jeanandskip@gmail.com
www.roguevalleyflyers.com

**Per agreement with Fairgrounds, vendor setups not permitted on Friday.



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Click on any name to send email

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Club Info Page

For information about the club, how to join, past newsletters, photos, and much more, please visit the Rogue Eagles website.

www.rogue-eagles.org

Meeting Information

The next two General Membership Meetings are scheduled for

Tuesday 7pm, March 14, 2017

Tuesday 7pm, April 11, 2017

We meet at the Central Point Senior Center, 123 N 2nd Street in Central Point.

[Click here for directions](#)

Seen at the February Meeting



It seems like Phil Baehe has something new for us at every show-and-tell. Last month it was a Piper Tri-Pacer that he scratch built from his own plans. This guy cranks out balsa models faster than some of us assemble foamies. Hey Phil, you need to get out of the workshop and fly some of these creations!

Club Merchandise

These items are usually available at the meetings.

For more info, call Phil Baehe at 541-727-7059



Order New-Style (Top)
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2017 FLYING EVENTS CALENDAR

| MAY | | | |
|------------------|--|---------------------|---|
| 5-6-7 | Rogue Eagles Float Fly NOTE! 2.4 ONLY | Agate Lake | Larry Myers - Call Before 7:30pm 541-770-3390 |
| 20-21 | All Scale Contest and Fly-In | Agate Skyways | John Gaines 541-951-1947 |
| 25-26-27-28 | Castle Giant Scale Fly-In | Castle Airport | Scott Malta 209-617-5789 |
| JUNE | | | |
| 2-3-4 | Fun Fly | Klamath Glen | Sam Ellis 707-954-8284 |
| 3 (Revised) | Static Display and Flight Demos | Ashland Airport | Larry Cogdell 541-840-1514 |
| 3-4 | IMAC Contest | Agate Skyways | Sean Mersh 541-890-3087 Art Kelly 541-905-2954 |
| 10 | Pylon Race #1 | Agate Skyways | Rich DeMartini 541-245-9858 |
| 15-16-17-18 | Float Fly | Platt 1 | Alan Rader 541-391-3209 |
| 23-24-25 | Big Bird | Agate Skyways | Gary Neal 541-441-6724 |
| JULY | | | |
| 8 | Swap Meet | Agate Skyways | ? |
| 14-15-16 | Float Fly | Platt 1 | Bob Campbell 541-530-3843 |
| 22 | Pylon Race #2 | Agate Skyways | Rich DeMartini 541-245-9858 |
| AUGUST | | | |
| 12 | Static Display (Nat'l Mod Av Day) | Rogue Valley Mall | Larry Cogdell 541-840-1514 |
| 12 | Pylon Race #3 | Agate Skyways | Rich DeMartini 541-245-9858 |
| 18-19-20 | Fun Fly | Klamath Glen | Sam Ellis 707-954-8284 |
| 26-27 | Air Show | Agate Skyways | Larry Myers - Call Before 7:30pm 541-770-3390 |
| SEPTEMBER | | | |
| 1-2 | VRCS Vintage Fly-In | Agate Skyways | Bruce Tharpe 541-582-1708 |
| 2 | RVF Air Show | Grants Pass Airport | Art Kelly 541-472-9683 |
| 9 | Flitemasters Pot-Luck (Keno) | Sportsmans Park | Darryl Haney 541-883-1223 |
| 16 | Pylon Race #4 | Agate Skyways | Rich DeMartini 541-245-9858 |
| 22-23-24 | Float Fly | Eel Lake | Bob Campbell 541-530-3843 |
| 23-24 | NSRCA Pattern Contest | Agate Skyways | Art Kelly 541-905-2954 |
| OCTOBER | | | |
| 7 | Ringmaster Fly-A-Thon | Agate Skyways | Jess Walls 707-845-2833 |
| 14 | Pylon Race #5 | Agate Skyways | Rich DeMartini 541-245-9858 |
| 21 | Club Fun-Fly and Potluck | Agate Skyways | Jay Strickland 541-830-7976 |