



# PROP WASH

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## The Presidents Message

### Monday Morning Quarterbacking

By Dan Metz

Every club or organization has its “Monday morning quarterbacks” and guess what, they are usually right. But they also know they are making their pronouncements only after seeing the end result of the planning and decisions.

In real life there aren’t many opportunities for a “do over.” Decisions must be made based upon the information one has at the time, and we must live with the result. Sometimes we are right and sometimes we are wrong. But this past Jet Rally was one that "The Monday morning quarterbacks" could never call for a new game, because this past weekend was awesome.

We did it. We have really placed this club on the map. All thanks to you.

You made it happen and for that I personally say **Thank YOU!**

## Best in the West Jet Rally 2008

By Murray Ross



The Jet Rally was scheduled to start Friday January 18<sup>th</sup>, so the events of Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> were somewhat of a big surprise. The club volunteer crew arrived at the field early to clean the runway, wash tables and put up spectator and safety fences. This was progressing well when a virtual caravan of jet pilots began to arrive at the field. By noon, there were twelve pilots and 20+ airplanes and flying had already started at 10:00 am. Among the early arrivals from Montana were Addison Clark Sr. and Jr., Kelly Rohrbach, and Justin Sands with his gorgeous brushed aluminum Mig-15 ready for

its maiden flight. Billy Edwards arrived with his 130-inch wingspan A-10 that is the basis of the current "Best in the West" logo. This great turnout on the day prior to registration and great weather should have alerted us that we could expect a good crowd the following days. But little did we

know. The next day, when the first of the volunteers arrived the field looked like an RV community. The

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## Best in the West Jet Rally 2008 (continued from page 1)

registration table was assembled and loaded down with forms, pilot envelopes, number tags and questionnaires for the pilots to complete. Bev Holmwall and Shirley Brenon sat down to cheerfully welcome and register each of the pilots. The safety officer had called in sick, so Dan Metz volunteered to take on the role. David Lasby used his magic to squelch the obscene sounds coming from the PA system so that Dan could conduct the first pilot's meeting. Dan introduced himself as the club president and safety officer and Murray Ross as the CD, and set the tone for a safe, fun weekend of flying. He said, "I encourage you all to enjoy yourselves this weekend to the fullest. At anytime, if you have a question or problem please feel free to find Murray or me, and we will help you in anyway possible".

The weather again was perfect all morning and pilot enthusiasm became contagious after each one turned in spectacular flights. Gerry Mullenback and George Phillips started the lunch barbecue only to find that food supplies would not handle the large crowd of pilots and spectators. Joe Scuro got in his red chariot and flew off to Costco for more vitals.

Sam Wright arrived around noon and began an insightful and colorful narrative and tribute to the jet pilot's skill and innovation. At the end of Friday there were about 24 registered flyers, and a lot more expected Saturday. Perhaps more pilot envelopes and questionnaires would be required? Friday evening the CD cobbled up some extra paperwork for registration, because Dick Knapp predicted 40 entries by Sunday.

Saturday had been predicted as the biggest attendance day and that proved correct. About fifteen more pilots registered with the help of Fran Knapp and Judy Scuro and the parking lot actually became full for the first time in field history. Crowd control became the immediate need. Restraining spectators from intruding in the pit area was handled in a tactful, courteous way by the club staff volunteers and flying went on as usual.

The key event Saturday, Peoples' Choice Balloting, was announced at about 11:15 am. The

La Quinta ROTC cadets conducted a drill ceremony and then the pilots carried their planes out to the centerline of the runway and pasted down the airplane identifying tags. The spectators were instructed to file through the North taxiway, get a ballot, vote for their favorite plane, and then cast the ballot at the South taxiway. The visitors enjoyed getting a close look at the beautiful planes and talking to the pilot-owners. Dan launched his heli-



Heli-cam view of Peoples Choice balloting.

cam above the crowd and took some great pictures. The Coachella Valley Recreation and Parks District had a video crew filming the event most of the day.

George Muir, also known as "Crash Pro", took video of the flying daily and later dutifully uploaded it to the "RC Universe" website to inform and stimulate the worldwide jet community.

Late Saturday, the ballots for Pilot's Choice award were disseminated to the pilots at the field. The ghost judges then put their heads together and decided who would be the recipients of the personalized plaque awards. The CD then went home to create the titled photos for the plaques to be awarded on Sunday morning.

It is Sunday morning and there are only 39 pilot entries. But sure enough, Dick's prediction came

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## Best in the West (continued)

true; Matthew Carroll, number 40, arrived and flew!

The award winners are:

*Finish and detail* Justin Sands Mig-15

*Best Turbine* Billy Edwards A-10

*Best Scale Flight* Doug Anderson Hawk

*Most Spectacular Flight* Dave Presta T33

*Best Electric Ducted Fan* Ryan Sherrow

*Best Gas Ducted Fan* Mike Thomson

*Contest Directors Award* Jason Pakfar

*Peoples' Choice Award* Billy Edwards A-10

*Pilots' Choice Award* Billy Edwards A-10

The CVRC Club has received a great deal of positive feedback on the conduct of the Jet Rally. Most of the kudos goes to the club member volunteers, club board, and announcer and to the caterers. The weather, of course, was a big factor. To read some of the commentary and see some videos and stills, visit [www.rcuniverse.com](http://www.rcuniverse.com) and search for "best in the West"

One of the really special pilots at the event was Lowell Wexler who was the originator of "Best in the West" 19 years ago in 1989 and was the CD in 1990. He said, "I was higher than a Kite for two days after the event; I had such a great time. I will be looking forward to attending the 20<sup>th</sup> annual "Best in the West" next January at the CVRCC field".



Lowell Wexler with his Yellow Aircraft F-15



Multiple awards winner, Billy Edwards with his A-10



Ad Clark Sr. all the way from Kalispell, Montana



The youngest winner, Ryan from Tucson, Arizona

# Field Preparations for Best in the West

By Murray Ross

One of the key compliments from the pilots and spectators at the Best in the West Jet Rally was "What a great field! Great condition!" Our club has earned those compliments through the effort of 14 club volunteers who absolutely manicured the field on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

The club leased a "Bobcat" tractor and a power-vibrating roller. Dick Knapp supervised the work and Ron did the heavy earth moving to first move back the berm behind the U-control pad and then do some smoothing. The entire runway edge was raked, groomed and rolled with a power-vibrating roller. The new Multi Purpose Pad protection berm had to be moved and lowered to accommodate those low passes.



Ron Holmwell smoothing berm with Bobcat



Dick Knapp raking edge of runway.



Chatting about the tasks at hand.

The remaining cleanup work was done on the Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. The tables were all washed and the field was blown clean of dust. In addition, spectator fencing was reinstalled on the South end of the field. Fencing was also placed over the side pilot stations so that only two runway access portals were open. These openings were then backed up with a safety fence to prevent incursions into the pit area. The plan was to have only three pilots fly at one time.

Remember to come to the next club general meeting on Tuesday January 29, 2008 at 7:00 pm. The site is SLOAN'S restaurant at the corner of Dr. Carreon and Highway 111 in Indio (Dr. Carreon is opposite Clinton St.) Join us for dinner early.

# CVRCC General Meeting Minutes December 18, 2007

By Dick Knapp

President, Dan Metz, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were 25 members present. Dick Knapp reported that our treasury now stands at \$17, 580 plus our \$8,000 CD, which matures on December 31st.

Dan then asked if there were any additions or corrections to either the November meeting minutes or the December Board meeting minutes. They're being none; the minutes were approved as previously published.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Dan thanked Ron Holmwall and his dedicated team of workers for the great job refinishing and repainting all the tabletops. Please keep them CLEAN! Ned Smith asked a question, about how to clean off the black tire marks. It was suggested that diluted Simple Green seems to work well. Dick uses Clorox Clean-up.

Dan then asked Courtney Moe and Charlie Harreus for a report on and recommendations for our "Hanger Sale" event on December 2nd. Court said that we just were not prepared for the large number of airplanes for sale and that we needed to improve on that aspect. Murray suggested that we set up a procedure to handle non-club members who wanted to come and sell items the way the Orange County RC Club does their Flea Markets. Dick commented that the club made more money by asking for 10% of the sale prices, rather than a per table setup fee.

Dan then reported on his conversations with the Cahuilla Lake Float Fly. It turns out that the Riverside County Parks Department wants a three-page form filled out plus a million dollar insurance policy covering three separate entities (which will cost us \$60 via AMA). In addition, a copy of the insurance policy in their hands 90 days before the requested event date, to decide if that date is "available". Pretty tough for us since we have to tell AMA what date we want the policy effective on, if guessed wrong, we have to re-apply with AMA. Dan then asked how many members would be interested in an all-electric float fly. About six members held up their hands. It was decided to see if we could identify another area, like Chacho's reservoir, that we could use. It was also suggested that we could also just support Hemet's Float Fly in October 2008.

Dan then asked Murray for a report on the up coming BITW Jet Rally. Murray stated that he had just e-mailed the duty roster to everyone that volunteered to help. Murray also said that he now expects a writer from the British publication, *Jet Power International* to be here to do an article on the event.

Dan then discussed the up coming work parties to re-work the berm around the u-control circle and hopefully get the spectator fencing in place. We also need to clean off some of the brush to the north of the runway (Duane's bush is already

deceased!) and move some of the bigger rocks further away. We also will be watering down the parking lots and hopefully running a power roller over the entire field. This is currently scheduled for the second week in January.

Dan then discussed the potential road and u-control circle dedication ceremony. Dan will check with KMIR to see if we can get TV coverage as part of their 9 AM morning show on Friday, January 18th. Joe Scuro reported that he has talked with John Benoit, Assemblyman 64 District, California Legislature and he has indicated that he will try and work it in to his schedule.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Dan reported that he has continued to discuss hosting an aero tow sailplane event at our field in mid February. The group that Dan flies with would like to check out conditions at our field with a view towards hosting a future event here. These are BIG sailplanes, some with wingspans of 10 - 12 meters!

Dan then asked Bob Taylor and Ernie Chapin to discuss their past experience with Cross Country RC flying at Baker. It turned out that Murray Ross and Dan have also participated in these events. Dan asked Bob and Ernie to prepare a set of "rules" for such an event to be held at our field and present them at our January meeting. The event is open to any airplane (we will include an electric division) and our trainers are excellent candidates. We will limit the fuel supply and then you get to see how many miles you can cover before the plane touches down again. Sounds like FUN!

Joe Scuro then reported on the Saturday visit to our field by eleven Cathedral City High School students in his Aviation Club. They flew rockets, built and flew Delta Darts and watched Rod Seto do an excellent demonstration of helicopter flying. Joe is trying to get about 25 of the students out to see the Jet Rally on Saturday, but a bus rental will run about \$350 for five hours and the school doesn't have the funds. Joe will investigate other approaches to getting them here, but personal liability is a big issue.

Dan then said that we needed to nominate members to run for next year's club officers and asked for nominations. It was moved and seconded that the current officers run the club next year, followed by the motion that the nominations be closed. The motion passed by what appeared to be a unanimous vote. We all appreciate your support!

Dan then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Our raffle raised \$125! Thanks everyone for your support.