

# Propeller Teller

Official Newsletter of M.A.R.K.S.  
(Miniature Aircraft Radio Kontrol Society)  
A.M.A. Charter 133  
2007 Edition



## 2007 AMA SHOW A BIG WINNER FOR MARKS

By Andreas Blaser, VP



Andreas Blaser

**January 13-14-15:** MARKS double booth at the 2007 AMA National Show in Ontario CA, was great tribute to the MARKS club, its directors, and members. What an awesome display of models and technology. Many visitors stopped by to watch Don's video collage (the motor glider story was the favorite) and to check out the model of our proposed flying site at Greenspot ... the feedback was great. The hanging display of member's planes also caught the attention of passers by.

In the name of the organization committee of our club, I'd like to thank everybody who lent a helping hand. Such an event is impossible without the many members who contributed their time to man the booth and talk to people, whose models were loaned to be displayed, and who sold raffle tickets by the dozens! Also, special thanks go to those who helped with the setup and tear down of our booths; we had a lot of equipment there! Thanks a lot guys!

In this context, I think Jim Levell and Don Giandomenico deserve special thanks from all of us: For those who don't know, Jim built and donated a wonderfully finished Super Skybolt, complete with engine and radio that we raffled off as our main prize. Don built a very professional setup with projector and screen to show videos of our club's activities. This was a big hit.

Over the three days at the show we received much kudos for our setup, for the models displayed, and for our activities that we demonstrated. We had Dave Brown, Rick Hanson (VP AMA District X), Wesley De Cou (Flying Site Assistance AMA), Don Anderson (Founder and President of Great Planes), and many other "RC celebrities" stop by our booth to talk. We had a wonderful change to chat with them and to promote our club as well as to talk about our proposed new flying field at Greenspot.



People stopped by to talk. This couple reminisced of their days when they flew in a Tiger Moth just like this model

We can be very proud of having left another good impression in our RC model community.



L-R Matthew, Eric Blaser, Sven Blaser, Joe Augino happily man the booth during the show.

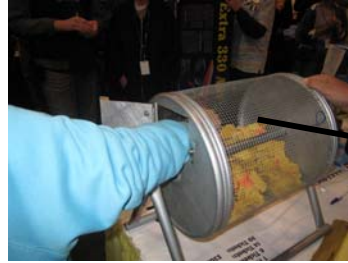


Chuck Comstock is kept busy counting out raffle tickets

## RAFFLE SUCCESS



The raffle was a huge success—thanks to those members manning the booth who persistently yet pleasantly persuaded so many to purchase tickets.



At 4:00 pm on the last day of the show, quite a crowd gathered to witness the drawing. We had a pretty young model do the drawing for us, and Chuck checked out the ticket number with the names of the winners (see below). Of course, there was a whole lot of excitement when a winner was announced.



**First Prize**, the coveted Super Skybolt, went to **Don Newman (L)**. Jim Levell hands over the plane to a very happy & competent RC modeler & flyer.



**Thomas Giandomenico** is beaming with delight as he shows off his winning prize. It's great to see the young faces getting excited about RC flying!

## Raffle Winners

- Richard Jones:** Dremel 8000-01 10.8V Lithium-Ion Cordless Rotary Tool
- Don Milojevich:** Top Flite Beech Staggerwing GS Biplane ARF 1.60,72.5" ws
- Don Newman:** Great Planes Super Skybolt Bipe ARF .60-.75,57"
- Booker Woods:** Great Planes Electrify Triton2 DC Computer Charger
- Dwang Loypels:** GlowBee Intelli Tach
- Jerry Mount:** Great Planes PT-17 Military Stearman ARF .91-1.20,71.5"
- Tom Burgess:** Great Planes Turmoil Flat Outs 3D EP ARF 34"
- Doug Orabova:** Complete Ready to Fly Super Skybolt Bipe
- Dave Page:** Great Planes Slot Machine Hinge Slotting Tool
- Dennis Hammarstedt:** Multiplex Twin-Jet White Eagle Park Flyer Kit 36" 590941
- Thomas Giandomenico:** Goldberg Extra 330 ARF; Wing Span 77"; Engine Required 1.2-2.2

## CONGRATULATIONS JIM!



He bought, built it, painted it, and completely fitted it out ready to fly.

**Jim Levell won 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** with his Super Skybolt in the “Sport-Scale” section of the AMA static competition. **Congratulations Jim!**

But you do have to wonder about the judging criterion. This small, silk covered stick construction (Right) won 1<sup>st</sup> prize! It’s the second year in a row that this has happened. Go figure?



---

## GREENSPOT - BRIDGE CLOSURE UPDATE

The old bridge over the Santa Ana Wash is closed until further notice, which is because there was an accident that damaged the bridge. Our field is, therefore, currently not accessible from Mentone/Yucaipa. On Greenspot Road (our access from Highland) there is a street barricade right after the last houses on the left of the road. To go flying you can drive around those barricades and continue to the gate of the Greenspot borrow pit. Greenspot Road is completely closed right after the gate.

---

## GREENSPOT LOCK CUT

### A Very Important Message from Andreas Blaser

Somebody has cut the lock at the Greenspot North gate and stolen the chain that we had attached. Consequently, and because the gate was wide open, the Water Conservation District manager had to affix their own lock. This must have happened sometimes over or before the last weekend of January.

*If you have seen any suspicious activity please let me know.*

A new lock has been given to the Water Conservation District, so we can use the field again.

Please let us know immediately – i.e., Andreas or Steve Lumpkin, the new Field Director for Greenspot (fdgreenspot@rcmarks.org) – if and when you see an open gate, a missing lock, or anything irregular in this context so we can take the necessary steps as soon as possible. It doesn't matter if we get the same report more than once. You can also use our new professional MARKS Forum to post such messages so that fellow members are up to date. We were originally going to announce the new Forum this Thursday at the meeting, but you can already use it now).

<http://www.rcmarks.org/cgi-bin/Forums/ikonboard.cgi>

I cannot stress enough that keeping a field requires everybody's help, so please check our web-page, send feedback, and post updates to our Forum so we know what goes on. I try to do my part.



# PYLON RACING SCHEDULE 2007

This year we would like to have combined races together with the Gilman Springs Flyers and the AMAA (aka Chino Flyers at Fisherman's Retreat). The races will alternate between our three fields, so that each club will host three races per year. There will be two categories of races:

1. World Model racers (the ones that we have used at our pylon races over the last couple of years)
2. Trainer races, that is, everything that can be considered a trainer (high wing) can take part in this endeavor.

The AMAA has been conducting these races for quite some time and they are great fun.

2/10, Sat	Gilman Springs	7/8, Sun	Greenspot
3/4, Sun	Fisherman's Retreat	9/8, Sat	Gilman Springs
4/7, Sat	Greenspot	10/7, Sun	Fisherman's Retreat
5/6, Sun	Gilman Springs	11/3, Sat	Greenspot
6/2, Sat	Fisherman's Retreat		



On each race day, the plan is to have alternating heats of the two categories (i.e. World Model -- Trainer -- World Model -- Trainer etc.). We will post the details later on the web, or you can get them from the race coordinator, Joe Augino. We urge all members to please think about attending our Pylon Races, be it as a pilot, a helper, a pylon judge, or a spectator.

As of this year, the MARKS club has a dedicated Pylon Race Tank Fill Station (see picture)—thanks to the construction skills of our handy-man veep!.

## M.A.R.K.S. OFFICIAL CHANGES

At the January meeting, members voted to accept a new order of officialdom. Board members are now referred to as **Directors**. This is due mainly to the new status of our club being an official organization—a corporation. The position of a President remains the same, but the position of Chairman of the Board will be added. In practical term, things remain pretty much the same.

The **Directors** for 2007 are:

**Richard Carroll**

**Roger Foor**

**Don Giandomenico**

**Ed Moore**

**Dennis Hammarstedt**

**John Richardson**

Other position that remain on the Board of Directors still include the Club Historian, both Field Directors, Newsletter Editor, Event Coordinator, and both Safety Officers.

Naturally, the Executive Board still maintains the same positions as in previous years. As we settle in a slightly new format of organization, information will be provided as it becomes available.

"Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate.  
 The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground."  
 USAF Ammo Troop

## FAVORITE PLANES

Outside the obvious ground-to-orbit (SSTO) dream craft (like the Aurora, or X43 may be trying to become), the plane I like the most is the *Flying pancake*.

Why? Because it was designed to be the most aerodynamically efficient airframe ever. It took advantage of counter-rotating propellers that blew air down over the wingtips to eliminate "air-burble," (which increases drag and decreases lift and speed).

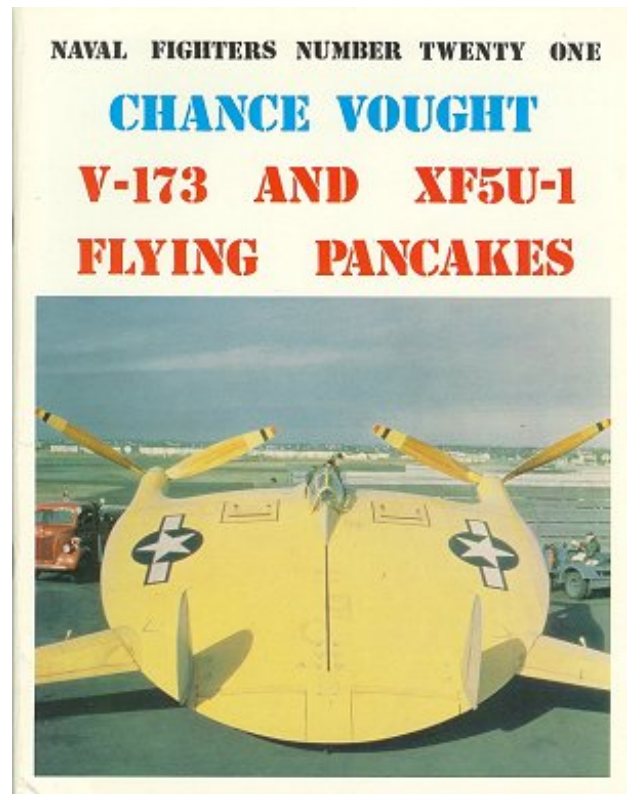
The sad thing was it came out right at the end of World War II. It was never put into production beyond the first two prototypes because the Jet Turbine power-plant arrived on the scene and development was proceeding along the lines of conventional aircraft with this new power plant.

The neat thing, however, is that a couple prototypes actually flew and looked promising. Then they were ordered to be destroyed. Go figure!

Interestingly, the dream still seems to be alive. You may have seen this aircraft in the AMA magazine that covered last year's Ontario convention. Someone had scratch-built an RC version of the *Flying Pancake* and had it at the show.

I think this aircraft would lend itself to electric flight very well. The Center of Gravity would be easy to determine with a prototype prior to final covering by moving things around inside the aircraft. There is lots of room in a circle to play with component placement until you get things right. Then do the final covering. For brakes, one could toy with a solid-state polarity reversing relay. Or you could try a set of the new reversing pitch electric motors. For the brave hobbyist, you could even try a ducted fan version.

All in all, I believe that the *Flying Pancake* could be a fun test-bed to try out new ideas.



### ***Air Crash!!***

*Some of you may know my ex-wife. She had started taking flying lessons about the time our divorce started, and she got her license shortly before our divorce was final. Yesterday afternoon, she narrowly escaped injury in the aircraft she was piloting when she was forced to make an emergency landing in Southern Tennessee because of bad weather. Some could call it a crash; an accident at the least. Thank goodness our kids were with me at the Beach House in Laguna this weekend*

*National Transportation Safety Board officials have issued a preliminary determination citing that pilot error contributed to the accident, and she was flying a single engine aircraft (a basic model, at best) in IFR conditions while only having obtained a VFR rating. The absence of a post-crash fire was likely due to insufficient fuel on board. Fortunately, no one on the ground was injured.*

*Photographs taken at the scene show the extent of damage to her aircraft. She was very lucky. (See photo on back page.)*



[www.rcmarks.org](http://www.rcmarks.org)

**Return Address:**

c/o Robert Boehm  
2119 Wild Canyon Drive  
Colton, CA 92324

**OFFICERS OF M.A.R.K.S. CLUB**

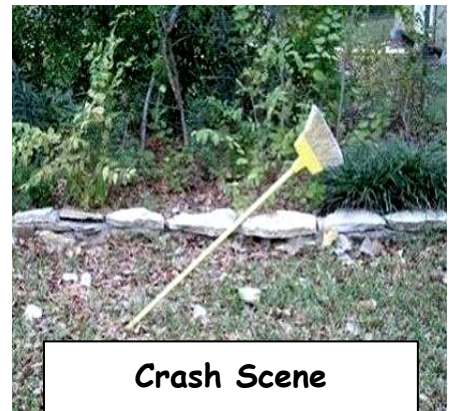
**President:** George Manning  
**Vice President:** Andreas Blaser  
**Treasurer:** Chuck Comstock  
**Secretary:** Erik Blaser  
**Field Directors:**  
Glen Helen: Booker Woods  
Green Spot: Steve Lumpkin  
**Event Director:** Joe Augino  
**Safety Officers:**  
Glen Helen: Woody Mummery  
Green Spot: All members  
**Editor:** Robert Boehm  
**Historian:** Booker Woods  
**Membership:** Chuck Comstock

**DIRECTORS:**

Dennis Hammarstedt  
Don Giandomenico  
Ed Moore  
John Richardson  
Richard Carol  
Roger Foor

**M.A.R.K.S.  
Charter No. 133**

is an official member of the AMA.  
To contact an Officer or Member  
of the Board of Directors, go to:  
[www.rcmarks.com](http://www.rcmarks.com)



**Crash Scene**

**Next Month's Meeting  
WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>**