

# Western Rotorcraft

February 2012



## New Chapter 15 Website Debuts

All the western PRA chapters covered by Western Rotorcraft now have websites, with the Arizona Rotorcraft Club (PRA 15) going live at [www.pra15.org](http://www.pra15.org) on January 19.

The new site (at right), like the recent new site for [Chapter 2](#), piggy-backs on the hosting for URA's site to conserve costs, and will utilize links to some [URA](#) content to offer visitors an FAQ, info on events and meetings, and a free download of *Western Rotorcraft*. URA has made the hosting option available as part of its general educational outreach activity.

Among the features of the new Chapter 15 site is a thumbnail of the cover of the latest issue of WR. Clicking the thumbnail allows downloading the associated issue, and a single thumbnail photo and PDF file appear automatically across multiple sites each time they're updated. By referring to WR for upcoming meeting dates and news, the individual chapter sites become essentially maintenance-free.

**Arizona Rotorcraft Club**  
Popular Rotorcraft Association Chapter 15

The principal purpose of a PRA Chapter is to serve as an instrument of unification of men and women with the common interest of advancing the progress of rotorcraft for personal flying.

PRA is a voluntary, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, whose members are dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, public education and safety of privately owned noncommercial rotorcraft.

Chapter 15 covers all of Arizona. We have members in Yuma, Clifton, San Manuel, Tucson, Phoenix and Flagstaff. Most of the club activity takes place at San Manuel or Coolidge airports. We welcome anyone with an interest in rotorcraft.

For details on our next meeting, visit [Western Rotorcraft](#). For a free subscription, click [here](#). For other info, contact President Carl Matter.

Arizona Rotorcraft Club  
PRA Chapter 15  
URA

**URA February Webinar** - URA Director Claudius Klimt made coast-to-coast flight in a Lockwood AirCam, including a stop in Texas to see the [Carter](#) PAV (at top). Find details on his upcoming webinar presentation on page 3.

[Monthly News for PRA Chapters 1, 2, 15, 31, 38 & 73 and the Utah Rotorcraft Association, Inc.](#)

## Regional Report

Paul Plack, NW/Mtn Rep

The big boys are getting together in Dallas this month for [Heli-Expo 2012](#), the annual trade show put together by Helicopter Association International. This show, which runs the 11th-14th, is as much about accessories, interior packages and avionics as it is about complete helicopters, but [Bell](#) has been saving a major announcement for Heli-Expo. Code-named "Magellan," it is a clean-sheet, twin-turbine helicopter the company hopes will gain significant market share against its European competitors.



The aircraft will be known as Bell Relentless 525 when it reaches the market, and will be the company's first helicopter to feature a five-bladed rotor. Bell admits it needs to improve its performance in the civilian market as military contracts wind down.

In Sebring, FL last month, the LSA community gathered for the [US Sport Aviation Expo](#). This event was originally organized by Bob Wood and a crew of volunteers, and part of the expressed purpose was to create some tourism traffic for the area. It has largely succeeded over the past seven years, but 2012 marked the first time the event was handled by a professional management company.

A few manufacturers reported they were asked to pay thousands of dollars for spaces they've been getting for a few hundred in previous years, and it seems sadly possible several might not be back next year. This has been a really neat show, and often has been the US debut of new engine designs such as the Raptor 105 aerodiesel and the UL 260. Let's hope they're not killing the golden goose.

AutoGyro USA made a major impression again this year at Sebring, and more media representatives got to experience their first flights in a modern, tandem gyroplane. It appears the aggressive marketing for which Autogyro GmbH is known in Europe is providing a pattern for the effort in the US, and it will be interesting to see whether the result affects only this brand, or pulls the entire sport into the spotlight.

[PRA](#) is running full-speed toward [Bensen Days](#) in March, and the 50th annual convention at the end of July. At Bensen Days, reservations for camping spots with full hookups are long gone, but it's still possible to get on the standby list. Visit [www.pra.org](http://www.pra.org) and [www.bensendays.com](http://www.bensendays.com) for the latest information.

[Rotors Over The Rockies](#), our regional event in June,

will bring back most of the features from last year, but will also have a few improvements. Airgyro Aviation is days away from taking delivery of its Autogyro Calidus, an enclosed tandem which will be available for training, and CFI Mike Burton says there's also a good likelihood the current SparrowHawk trainer will be still be around for ROTR.

At least two other CFIs have indicated they'll be at ROTR, albeit without training machines, but we're still hopeful of putting together the magic combination of two CFI's with LODA'd trainers to facilitate the Sport Pilot/Gyroplane add-on for those with existing private certificates. Also look for the return of Airworthiness and Annual Condition Inspections.

On the final official day of ROTR this year, Saturday, June 9, we anticipate having an EAA chapter holding a Young Eagles rally at Brigham City Airport, potentially drawing more members of the general public. Make sure your machines are looking spiffy, because many folks could be getting their first look at a gyroplane! Whirlybird Helicopters is also likely to have three of its machines there with instructors to offer discounted intro flights in helicopters. Traffic should be great.

Our sport has done a pretty good job at fending off the ravages of a long economic recession, but is faced with new headwinds from Washington in 2012. The White House has put general aviation user fees back on the table, and while the initial proposal exempts piston aircraft from the proposed \$100 per-takeoff fee for use of controlled airspace, there's little chance the exemptions will remain in place in future years. If you're not a member of PRA and EAA, this would be a good time to support the organizations which will attempt to hold off the wolves on our behalf.

Also, watch the analysis of the platforms of the candidates for federal office coming from our aviation organizations over the next few months, including from AOPA. The outlook for general aviation should not be the only issue we consider before we go to the polls, but it's certainly part of the mosaic.

Fly Safe!



**IN THIS ISSUE** - Chapter 15's new website, 1; HoneyBeeG2 coming to ROTR, URA February Webinar, Doug's Thoughts, 3; Chapter Reports, 4 - 7; Classifieds, Upcoming Chapter Meetings, 8.



## **HoneyBeeG2 at ROTR 2012**

Jim Fields, President of [HoneyBeeG2 LLC](#), has put Rotors Over The Rockies on his official list of show appearances for 2012. ROTR joins Bensen Days (FL), Sun n' Fun (FL), EAA AirVenture (WI) and the PRA Convention (IN) on the list, and will be the only venue west of the Mississippi to feature a HoneyBee G2 exhibit. Jim, who expects to have his Sport Pilot CFI shortly, does not expect to be available for training, but is offering intro flights.

On his blog, Jim comments, "We are going to be doing a number of things better and different this year. One major, major focus is introduction rides for those that are interested. As we get closer, I will be sure to send out more details relative to the shows."

For now, if you'd like to get on the list, e-mail Jim at: [fly-a-g2@honeybeeg2.com](mailto:fly-a-g2@honeybeeg2.com)

*Pictured: HoneyBeeG2 High Performance Single.*

## **URA Webinar February 11**

The second installment of this year's URA Winter Webinar Series will feature a presentation by Claudius Klimt, a director of URA and former chairman of [Carter Aviation Technologies](#). Claudius recently made a flight across the US in a Lockheed AirCam, and will share his account and photos.

This webinar will begin about 10:15am MST on Saturday, February 11 on the URA Webmeeting Channel, at the close of a brief PRA Chapter 2 business meeting. You'll need a computer with speakers and a fast internet connection, and attendance is limited to 200. Just click the webmeeting channel link at [www.utahrotorcraft.org](http://www.utahrotorcraft.org). Questions? E-mail [secretary@utahrotorcraft.org](mailto:secretary@utahrotorcraft.org).

**Western Rotorcraft**

## **Doug's Thoughts**

**Doug Barker, Pres.  
PRA Chapter 2**



I can't believe how fast time is flying by. [Bensen Days](#) is just over a month away, and that really starts off the season. I am starting to get really excited!

I know we have a lot more members than we have people who attend our monthly meetings, attend the major events, or that even belong to [PRA](#). I feel the need to exhort all of my rotorcraft friends to pick up their commitment level. A good friend recently told me, in relation to a business opportunity: 1-You can do hard things; 2-You can do more than you think you can. I not only believe those two statements, but I believe they apply to all areas of our lives.

We hear a lot today about "bucket lists," and we all have things that we talk about doing, someday. Don't die with your dreams still inside of you! I challenge each of you to set some goals in your life with a deadline attached (rather than the "someday" kind of goals we often allow ourselves to have). Find a way to take small steps that will get you closer to where you want to be. Allow me to make some suggested steps that you may want to consider:

- (1) If you aren't already a dues-paying member of your local PRA Chapter, get signed up now (and attend every chapter meeting you possibly can).
- (2) If you aren't already a member of the international PRA organization, join today (at [www.pra.org](http://www.pra.org)).
- (3) Put in for vacation time now for as many major rotorcraft events as you feel you can manage.

Obviously you need to support any regional events in your area. However, this would be the absolute best year ever to plan to attend the 50th Anniversary of the PRA Convention in Mentone, IN, July 31 - August 4. This event has been getting bigger and better each year. Also I understand they are going to be giving away a new gyro and the training to learn to fly it at the convention this year, so someone has got to win that machine and it might as well be you.

Don't kid yourself that someday something will change, because it never will, until you do something to change it. We are the masters of our destiny.

Come join us and make 2012 a year that you will be excited to look back on. Take pictures and share your experience with others and you will be amazed at what starts to happen. Life can be a great and exciting adventure, but only if you decide to make it so. I'll see you there!



## ***PRA Chapter 2 January 14 Meeting Report***

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am MST on the URA Webmeeting Channel by President Doug Barker. Also in attendance were Secretary Paul Plack and members Steve Pearson, Kevin Richey, Stayton Barnes, Glenn Kerr and Ron England, and guests Ira McComic, Jeff Jones, Dick Goddard, David Hardy, Brad Moore, Mark Shook, Nick Burton, Kent Okeson and Bill Klem. The minutes of the November, 2011 meeting were approved as published in Western Rotorcraft.

Doug reported a total of 28 members of record in [Chapter 2](#), but only a few have availed themselves of the opportunity to register for automatic membership in the Utah Rotorcraft Association following the splitting of the groups. Paul commented that he will make another distribution of the required proxies by e-mail. Doug noted that he has prepared 2012 rotorcraft calendars and can distribute them via e-mail, or offer printed, copies by mail for \$10 each.

Regarding Rotors Over The Rockies in June, Paul reported that three CFIs have responded to contact made in December to assess possible attendance. At least two gyroplane CFIs from outside Utah have indicated they plan to attend, but none so far with machines eligible for use conducting instruction. CFI Mike Burton of Airgyro Aviation expects to have two training machines available around the time of the event, a SparrowHawk and a Calidus, but will be the only instructor authorized to use them for instruction. Jim Fields of HoneyBeeG2 LLC is advertising that he will be at ROTR with a two-place machine and soliciting reservations for intro flights, and is pursuing

his Sport Pilot CFI, but it is unlikely a getting a LODA to allow instruction in his machine can be completed by June. Doug noted ROTR is in need of an event chairman and a banquet chairman for 2012.

Steve offered a report on the PRA online ground school being conducted by CFI Tim O'Connor. Steve has found the first two sessions of the course through and useful, and finds the course a good overall value.

Doug discussed upcoming events including [Bensen Days in March](#), [ROTR](#), [EAA AirVenture Oshkosh](#) in July, and the [Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In](#) in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28am, followed immediately by a webinar presentation (see photos) by Dick Goddard of [Chapter 38](#) on his flying career, the early days of McCutchen SkyWheels and the Windryder gyroplane. (Paul Plack, Secretary).



## AZ Rotorcraft Club January Report



The [Chapter 15](#), AZ Rotorcraft Club (ARC) started January meeting activities on Friday (January 20). Club member Mark Sanders (Sparrow Hawk I) had been camping and flying at Coolidge starting on Wednesday. On Friday, club member Cal Bowens (RAF) flew in from Casa Grande, club member Mark Rhoads (WSII) flew in from San Manuel. Mark S, Mark R, and Cal B then flew to Eloy for lunch and watched the sport parachuting activities. Both Cal and Mark then flew home, and Mark S stayed at the Coolidge airport with club members Tim Ramseyer, Larry Martin, Bruce Coats, and Pat Ryan. Bruce went out on his 4 wheeler and spent time cleaning the desert of beer cans and trash.

The January meeting was held at the San Manuel airport the next day (January 21) at 11 AM. Mark Sanders flew the 50 miles from his campsite at the Coolidge airport to San Manuel. 10 club members and 2 visitors were present.

The first order of business was the election of officers for 2012. The results are as follows: President – Carl Matter, Vice President – Marvin Wessel, Secretary/Treasurer – Mark Rhoads

The annual dinner will be changed to April 21 (3rd full weekend). We will plan for 25 people. Plans will be finalized at the February meeting.

The PRA Ch 15 [website](#) is now up and running. Club president Carl M and *Western Rotorcraft* editor Paul Plack were congratulated for their efforts in making the website come to life.

Visitor Ray H showed pictures and talked about his dream of flying his new machine in 2012. It has been test flown successfully and he is anticipating the training process when he returns to Lansing this spring. He built a beautifully constructed hybrid club design plane with some of his own innovations, including a 5 hp gas pre-rotator engine which will spin his rotor to 210 rpm in just a few seconds. Ray also informed us of other projects and goings-on with Chapter 18 and some of our other



friends there. The test pilot was happy enough with the gyro that he would like to have Ray build one for him.

Prior to the meeting, Britta Penca gave a ride to a young (and very gyro-enthused) woman from Sweden. At the same time, Mark S also gave a visitor his first gyro ride. Both passengers exited the machines with exuberance about the ride they had just experienced.

Marvin Wessel talked about the new Sport Copter II. His is the first production model. The cowls are being modified and he will have it back soon. He is looking forward to using it for reconnaissance work with his local police department and is hoping to open a flight training school.

The next meeting (February 18 – 11AM) will be in Marv and Sarah Wessel's hangar at Stellar Airpark, Chandler, AZ. Marv will supply a PDF map for directions and a gate code to get in.

The March 17 meeting will be held at the Coolidge airport at 11 AM at the PRA Chapter 15 campsite directly south of the east/west connector taxiway. Any and all gyro enthusiasts are invited to come and camp for the weekend.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.

*Photo at top, L-r: Secretary/Treasurer Mark Rhoads and Britta Penca; President Carl Matter; Sarah Wessel; Vice President Marv Wessel.*

## **San Diego County Rotorcraft Club January Meeting Report**

San Diego County Rotorcraft Club ([PRA 31](#)) meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM January 26th 2012 in our Carl's Jr Rancho Bernardo clubhouse. Members in attendance were Dave Bacon, Ives Able, Doug Hahn, Tom Kelly, Rick Eichmann, John Rountree, and Russell Hedges officially joined us. After collecting dues and our general and financial discussion Dave and John reported back on their efforts to find us a yearly cross-marketing fly-in to attend annually.

Dave and John had contacted Para Toys asking if they would allow us to join them at their yearly Power Parachute Salton Sea Fly-in being held this year on February 9-12. Unfortunately they were less than enthused about the idea of sharing their airspace with our rotorcraft even though I explained how PRA is doing exactly the same thing at its National Convention without any problems.

Next John broke out a LA sectional chart and we reviewed several other local prospect airports. The list included, among others, Nichols Field (but sky divers are a menace), Borrego Valley [L08], Jacumba Airport [L78] (in the mountains near the Mexican border and a really nice Indian Casino for an unusual night life fly-in), and Lake Woldford SHORT dirt field [8CL1] ( but with access to the ocean and coastline ) .

We voted and it was decided to keep our cross-marketing plans and attend this years Ultralight Squadron of America Fly-out on February 17, 18, 19th 2012, with a WEATHER BACKUP DATE of February 25th and 26th 2012, at Borrego Valley Airport L08. Our February meeting will be held there at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday February 18th or the 25th of 2012 if the 17th-19th is canceled due to weather.

Next order of business was to schedule the Hollmann engine removal, crating, and shipping of its O320 Lycoming to Nicolas in Cyprus to allow him to design, install, and test it in an actual Genesis G2SA and then ship us our new kit and engine back. We decided to start the removal in March 2012.

John then explained how the G2SA was going to



be titled to the Club as a training and cross-country rotorcraft. He explained that because of the liability issues, John would have to sell the portion of the 2 place he is paying for to the club with a very long term note assuring that the club's yearly dues could make the minimal monthly payment.

He further explained how a small portion of the hourly rental fee would also be charged for insurance, another portion of the fee would be used to pay off the note and the only other fee would be a small engine/maintenance reserve. This arm's length leaseback should keep the rental fee as low as possible while assuring that it really does belong to the club only being mostly financed by a private club member or members should anyone else be able to help.

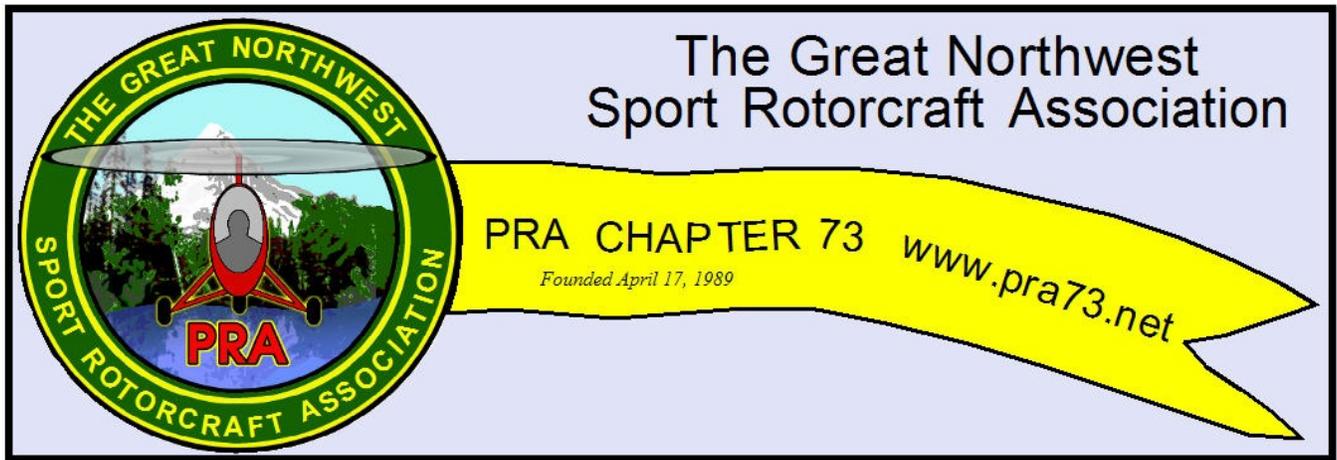
Dave Bacon told us that the two place trainer is flying its 40 hours off and we are a little closer to having gyroplane training at El Mirage. We then broke into a hanger flying discussion for another hour or so.

**Update January 28** - Good news my friends! I just got a call back from James Farthing the president of Ultralight Squadron of America asking permission for PRA 31 to join their annual fly-in or "fly-out" as they refer to it. Turns out James is a member of PRA chapter 1 and wants a gyroplane too, so NO problem he feels "the more the merrier."

So... the Party is on my friends!!

Who: UL Squadron of America 2012 Fly-Out  
Where: Borrego Valley airport (L08)  
When: February 17-19, 2012, with a weather backup date of February 25-26. Most are camping, however they are several hotels within a few miles of the airport.

(John Rountree)



## January 14 Meeting Report

The January 14 monthly meeting was held at the NWAAC clubhouse. We coordinated a potluck with NWAAC that turned out well although we didn't have a big crowd. Thanks to NWAAC for allowing the use of their building, and everyone that brought food/drinks.

The meeting was called to order 1:05pm PST. NWAAC President Loren DeShazer announced the "Wings and Wheels" event that is scheduled for August 10-12.

Treasurer's report by Treasurer Bob Johnson was approved.

Since there wasn't a meeting in December, there weren't any minutes to be approved.

With no old business to discuss we moved on to new business with the President announcing his plans for a rotor blade raffle to boost the club's



finances. While it hasn't been decided on what the funds will be appropriated for, it will make room for ideas that couldn't be afforded in the past. Some ideas are: Flight training for members. Flight simulator. Organize a large event.

Kevin Richey made his presence known with his Sport Copter Lightning shortly before the meeting was closed. Meeting adjourned 1:20pm with a small photo shoot with Kevin's gyro. After the meeting Jon Dailey opened Sport Copter for a tour of the facility.

(Jon Dailey, President)

*Photos: Top left, Chapter 73 meets during winter months in the clubhouse of the Northwest Antique Aircraft Club, across the field from its normal meeting place at Sport Copter in Scappoose, OR. Top right, Kevin Richey makes the short hop from his hangar on the field to the meeting, between rain showers.*



## Nice Trailer!

*Chapter 73 sends this note from Ron Lemon, who got this beautiful trailer to transport his Vancraft Rotor Lightning.*

Hey Everyone,

I took my Vancraft gyroplane up to Concrete Airport, Washington, to put the blades on and get some pictures. We bought the trailer through Millennium Trailers in Illinois but it was built in Independence, OR by Forrest River Trailers. Anyone interested can contact Patrick Yates at Millennium Trailers and be sure to say Ron Lemon sent ya. (I might get paid.)

I was missing some bolts & washers for the blades so I didn't spin them up (Clint must have dropped them out of his pocket) Probably on his bulldog. Ha Ha. Will miss you guys, Hope to get some fixed wing training this winter & gyro in the spring.

FYI: Concrete Airport, now known as "Mears Field," is a public airfield with private, leased hangars on town-owned lots. The paved runway is 2600' long, 60' wide, elevation is 264', traffic patterns are to the south. CATF is 122.9, no unicom, no lights.

Hope you all have a Happy New Year!

Ron & Kathy Lemon AKA The Fruit Fly

*Note: There are some gorgeous antique fixed-wing planes that frequent Mears Airport in Concrete, north of Seattle in Washington.*

**Western Rotorcraft**

## Gyroplanes for Sale

**RAF 2000 GTX-SE-FI** - 160 hours TT. Completed in 2009 with GBA CLT conversion and tall tail. Subaru 2.2L, Becker radio & transponder, recent annual, logs in order. \$49,300 includes 20 hours dual instruction. Curt, (435) 730-0828. (UT, 12/11)

## Parts for Sale

Rotor blades, 30' RAF, SN0049, \$2000. Sport Copter hub bar, \$100. Subaru engines for parts or rebuild: EJ 22 with aero mount and redrive plate, \$350; EJ 22 block complete, \$200; EA82 block complete, \$200; Geo Metro 3-cylinder car engine with prop and gear reduction for aircraft, complete, low hours, one of a kind, asking \$1500. Local pickup only. Contact Lynda Schallmann, Buckeye AZ. (623) 386-7043, [las2280@qwest.net](mailto:las2280@qwest.net). (2/2012)

## Wanted to Buy

Mini 500 helicopter tail rotor blades. Please contact Hong, [alphawheels@yahoo.com](mailto:alphawheels@yahoo.com).

## Upcoming Rotorcraft Meetings

**KBRA (PRA 1)** Sat., Feb. 11, 11am PST, Teddy Udala's hangar, El Mirage, CA. [\(Info\)](mailto:Info): (562) 493-3960 (2012 election of officers)

**PRA 2** Saturday, February 11, 10am MST. Online meeting. Details: [www.pra2.org](http://www.pra2.org) (URA Webinar follows meeting)

**ARC (PRA 15)** Sat., Feb. 18, 11am MST, Stellar Airpark, Chandler, AZ, in the Wessel's hangar. Info: (520) 840-0186 or (602) 980-0844.

**SDCRC (PRA 31)** Meets third Thursday. Locations vary (CA). [Request](mailto:Request) e-mail notice from John Rountree.

**CRA (PRA 38)** Next quarterly meeting TBA, Meadow Lake (CO) Airport ([KFLY](mailto:KFLY)), [www.copterpilots.org](http://www.copterpilots.org).

**GNWSRA (PRA 73)** Sat., Feb. 11, 1pm PST, NWAAC, Scappoose, OR ([KSPB](mailto:KSPB)). Potluck at 12n. Gate code in members section at [www.pra73.net](http://www.pra73.net).

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