

# ***Western Rotorcraft***

***June 2011***



## ***Rotors Over The Rockies is Next!***

The 2011 edition of URA's (PRA 2) Rotors Over The Rockies is set for Thursday-Saturday, June 9-11, and again this year it will be at the Brigham City Airport in northern Utah. URA has already heard from a number of gyroplane and helicopter enthusiasts who will be joining us from Utah, California, Idaho, Oregon, Colorado, and Washington.



While the weather forecast looks much improved from last year, steps have been taken to ensure that there will be plenty of hangar space for visiting aircraft. A 150-x-120' city-owned

hangar, (above and at right) has been rented by URA for ROTR. It includes indoor rooms for the banquet and forums, and several indoor rest rooms.

Rotor F/X from California plans to be back with a Mosquito single-seat helicopter, and Blake Estes from Eagle R&D (Helicycle) is also returning. Both will be offering presentations. John Rountree, now the official US distributor for the Aviomania Genesis kit

gyroplane line, has also been invited. Whirlybird Helicopters will be there Saturday to provide steeply discounted intro flights or more extensive instruction.

Gyro CFI Mike Burton will be available for instruction and flight reviews in customers' machines. DAR Jim Gilchrist will again offer Airworthiness and Annual Condition Inspections for gyroplanes.



Admission and on-airport camping are free, hangar space is \$10 per aircraft for the entire event, and the Saturday awards banquet will include a meal of Baked Lasagna, Caesar Salad, Garlic Bread and soft drinks for a donation of \$10. Find details and contact info on page 8. (At top, Brad Moore plans to bring his RAF 2000 to ROTR for training and flying.)

## **Regional Report** **Paul Plack, NW/Mtn Rep**



Fly-in season is here! The Great Northwest Sport Rotorcraft Association (PRA 73) welcomed lots of friends to Scappoose in April, and the Arizona Rotorcraft Club (PRA 15) and Colorado Rotorcraft Association (PRA 38) held events on back-to-back weekends in May. The Utah Rotorcraft Association's (PRA 2) Rotors Over The Rockies event is now less than two weeks away. Popular July events include the Arlington Fly-In north of Seattle, another CRA fly-in, and the biggest fly-in in the world, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. In August it's the PRA Convention in Mentone, and September brings Chapter 1's Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In at El Mirage.

With the calendar this bunched up, it's tough to make them all. But see if you can't at least get a weekend carpool together for a couple of events. As Doug Barker proved last year, even an Oshkosh/Mentone double-header can be done on a budget if you own a tent and aren't afraid to use it!

Wherever you do go this summer, be sure to take some photos and share them with the rest of us. Our community in PRA's NW/Mtn and Western/Pacific Regions has grown closer in the past two years, something I hoped to encourage when I accepted the PRA Regional Representative post and tried to put together a regional newsletter. The sport gets more fun with more participants, and about all we can do to make that happen out west here is to pool activities over a larger chunk of the map.

It's great to see dry weather returning. Hopefully, El Mirage and the Bonneville Salt Flats will dry out this summer. What a winter it's been! I'm happy to say the sunny weather we expect in June looks like it's pushing out the gray, and we've canceled the tentative order for the banner that would have read, "Rotors Over The Rapids." Have fun, and fly safe!

*Paul*



## **URA Inc. Applies for 501(c)(3)**

The Utah Rotorcraft Association (PRA 2) is now a Utah corporation, and has applied to the US Internal Revenue Service for recognition as a not-for-profit, educational organization under section 501(c)(3). The changes acknowledge that for the informal side of our activities, a formal organization is not really a necessity, but growing the Personal Rotorcraft sport in a safe manner will require education and training for builders, pilots and the general public.

The biggest change will be the ability of supporters to make tax-deductible donations to the organization. We hope this will allow us to build the resources necessary to make our educational webcasts more accessible, build a library of education and training resources, and possibly even fund a training aircraft which could be made available in the west.

We're still researching the boundaries of what this change makes possible. Watch for details in future editions of Western Rotorcraft.

## **G-YROX Resumes Global Flight**

Irish pilot and adventurer Norman Surplus is preparing to resume his attempt to become the first to circumnavigate the globe in "Roxy," his bright yellow MT03, G-YROX. An accident and delays in getting repairs forced a winter hiatus.

From his website:



"Major world events over the last 6 months have necessitated a rethink on the original route. Local friends, Tonet Rivera and Sheila Kristine De Leon, have graciously allowed us to use their images, which include shots of Sheila's 'Gyro Grin' after her flight with Norman..."



Welcome to...

# Ken Brock PRA Chapter 1 of Southern California

## Chapter 1 Assists BLM in Spring Clean-Up at El Mirage



The weather fortunately was BEAUTIFUL, right at 70 degrees, and just a bit windy. The 4 hours spent cleaning up the lakebed practically flew by. We plan on having our next meeting at the normal place and time next month in June, where some more planning for the Annual KBFFI will take place.

This month was the El Mirage Spring Cleanup, and Chapter 1 members met up EARLY Saturday, May 7th to help out. Dee, Ampy, Karen, Chuck, Moe, Richard, Teddy and I went out on the lakebed and collected all sorts of trash along the Gyro Cove area. Ralph set himself up at the BLM Center and showed DVD's and answered questions about gyroplanes.



Teddy and Karen are planning on going to the Arizona Fly-in, so we're hoping to hear great things about that gathering. Overall, a quiet month, but a great get together as always! (Terry Smith, President, PRA 1)



The BLM provided a very nice BBQ meal following the cleanup, and everyone who attended received a nice T-Shirt for helping out on the lakebed.





## **PRA 2 May 14 Minutes & Detail**

The meeting of [PRA 2](#) was called to order at 10:10am MDT by President Doug Barker at VP Curt Pittman's hangar at the Brigham City Airport. Eight members and two guests attended. There was no internet access available for a webcast.

The minutes of the April meeting were accepted as published. There was no treasurer's report. Doug reported that the application for IRS recognition of URA as a 501(c)(3) organization is awaiting only signatures of the officers, and will take 3-6 months to process once filed.

Doug gave a presentation with details and projected costs of a jointly-owned gyroplane. Mike Brownlee and his partner are selling their Butterfly Aurora, a premium single-place gyroplane with a Rotax 912 and many nice extras. Doug's projections placed costs of ownership at \$173/month for each of seven partners including the monthly payments on a loan for the buy-in, or \$45/month after an initial buy-in made in cash, with both scenarios costing an additional \$26.60/hour of flight time for hourly costs and maintenance set-asides, assuming gasoline at \$4/gal. It appears the project has the support to move forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25am, and was to have been followed by an introductory flight in Curt's RAF 2000 for member Max Hatch. Curt made a solo test flight, and determined the 20+ knot crosswind was beyond his margins for flight with a passenger. Member Lyle Carson had brought his single-place Air Command gyro for a look-over by the group in anticipation of an airworthiness inspection, and several minor points for correction were identified. The group then inspected a city-owned hangar which is being made available for Rotors Over The Rockies. The hangar measures 150-x-120', has separate kitchen and forum rooms, and space for many rotorcraft. URA volunteers will clean it. - Paul Plack, Secretary.



## **ARC Days Fly-In (PRA 15)**

Other than the wind, the weather cooperated beautifully for the regional gyro fly-in at the San Manuel, AZ Ray Blair airport (May 13-15). The activities started early on Thursday with a cross country fly-out of three gyros to Bensen, a lunch stop, a second leg to historic Tombstone with a touch and go at the unattended field there, and the return trips – a total of just over 3 hours of flying! By early afternoon the winds were really gusting and the crew decided they were satisfied to be home. (At top, Teddy Udala of Chapter 1, and Britta with her Air Command.)

By Friday morning, the crowd was rolling in. Articles in local papers, including Tucson, had the "gyro curious" out in droves. A call from a local powered parachutist was productive, when several of their group decided to attend and fly. It proved to be a very successful and colorful merger. The powered parachutes (PPC) stayed very low over the desert, were highly visible, and constituted a nice addition. They are also very nice people in general and a pleasure to meet, not to mention that several are now interested in gyros. (Continued, page 5.)



Intrepid fliers included Mark Sanders (Sparrow-Hawk), Cathy Owen (PPC), Ben Suissa (Sport Copter), Walter George (modified RAF), Cal Bowens (RAF), Paul "Rocky" Watson (Gyrobee, above), Mark Rhoads (Woodstock II), Britta Penca (modified Air Command), Mark and Britta with the tandem Air Command, and H. Paul Golding (PPC). Fixed-wing rides were given by Jack McIntosh in the Ercoupe, and Warren Traweek did the same in a Luscombe. Ron Menzie did flight instruction in the AC tandem.

Static displays included Bill and Belinda with their partially completed Gyrobee, Carl Matter with his nearly complete Air Command, Greg Egolf with his award winning Gyrobee, and George Bass with the Angel.

With the local Casa Rivera restaurant serving food and refreshments non stop all weekend, fliers had only to think about re-fueling and getting back into the air – it couldn't have been more fun! (Except for some uncooperative winds in the afternoons)

Friday night's presentation by Bruce Charnov was very interesting. His perspective and command of the historical evidence of gyros in the popular culture of the world are amazing revelations, and coupled with his enthusiasm for his work, make him an incredible presenter. A great big thank you goes out to Bruce for his efforts in making the gyro world more relevant to the very people who love it so much. Dr. Charnov's work helps to legitimize our sport in retaining its rich history. For this he has been elected as a fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. Congratulations Bruce!

Following the cookout on Saturday night, Marion Springer had a hanger full of people spell bound for a two-hour presentation about her exciting life in gyros. Marion gives much credit to a very supportive husband and family in assisting her to help others learn to fly. A big thank you to her daughter Linda for accompanying Marion and joining the festivities. We also want to thank Bruce and Marion for their generous donations to the fund raiser.

Former club member Chuck Copeland had a Saturday night surprise - Super 8 home movies of a Chapter 15 get together in the 1960's, including BJ Schramm flying the prototype Scorpion and Fritz Chamberlain in his Bensen.

The "Pilot and Machine" plaque was awarded to Paul Watson (Rocky) and his very quiet GyroBee. Paul demonstrated his machine in the air and spent time educating the public who came to see what rotorcraft are all about.



The "Farthest Flown" plaque was awarded to Mark Sanders, (file photo of Mark's Sparrow-Hawk above,) as he did the most flying at the event. Mark is always enthusiastic about flying and encourages others. He is also the luckiest raffle prize winner as he received among other prizes, a Bell Helicopter jacket donated by James White Bear.

As a result of the event, many were encouraged to explore the world of gyros. Chapter 15 gained several new members and many requests for rides. We even converted one PPC pilot who found the gyroplane to be more versatile in wind. More than one man attended the event to share with us about his past experience with gyros. It was a wonderful gathering of enthusiasts! - Mark Rhoads



## **San Diego County Rotorcraft Club (PRA 31) - May 19 Report**

**PRA 31** met at AeroPlane Services where we met and talked to our fixed-wing CFI Paul Lewis. Paul answered questions, then we adjourned to our nearest office, a McDonald's, for refreshments. We discussed the flight training insurance and that we have acquired a commitment of \$1,200.00 towards the \$2,200.00 needed to begin training.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and was attended by Dave Bacon, Ives Able, Dan McCarthy, Doug Hahn, Tim Marcy, Russ Hedges, and John Rountree. Last month's minutes were approved after correction of the spelling of Ives's first name.

Dave Bacon offered to investigate fund raising at fly-ins. His motion was seconded and passed.

Tim Marcy brought up a motion to sell T-shirts and volunteered to research the cost to report back to us at next meeting for approval.

Our finances were discussed and we collected dues from two new members. We passed a motion to replace the annual membership renewal date to one based on the date of payment for each member.

A motion was passed to make Marion Springer a San Diego Rotorcraft Club lifetime member.

We then discussed gyroplane training. Dave Bacon told us of the gliders we have available to us and that he could tow us in his truck.

The members then suggested some places closer to San Diego to tow gliders and agreed to check out some of those likely locations. It appears gliders will soon be our first real opportunity to start training members in rotorcraft. - John Rountree (Above, Dave Bacon flies his gyro at El Mirage.)



## **CRA May 21 Fly-In**

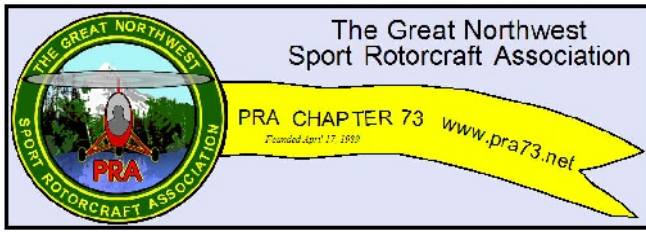
The Colorado Rotorcraft Association ([PRA 38](#)) held it's first semi-annual Rocky Mountain Freedom Fly-In on Saturday, May 21 at the Meadow Lake Airport near Colorado Springs. The event was coordinated with EAA Chapter 72's Spring Young Eagles rally, guaranteeing exposure to many aviation enthusiasts, young and old. An AIRMET for moderate turbulence below 18,000' kept Denver area gyros from coming, but my Xenon two-place (above), Todd Rieck's Yamaha powered Commander, and a Rotax 582-powered Gyrobee flown by Thomas Fernandez were a hit with the kids, their parents, and the many airport visitors we drew.

Winds were a factor most of the day, and kept many light aircraft on the ground, but not the gyros. At density altitudes well over 8,000 feet, and winds 90 degrees crosswind at 15 gusting to 25, the Xenon and the Gyrobee flew for the crowd. (Video posted at [www.PRA38.org](http://www.PRA38.org).) We gratefully acknowledge Lori Shook for the photos and video of the event.



Lori also captured the crash of a delta wing trike doing a test flight on a new wing. The crash closed the runway for about 15 minutes.

Doug Barker, President of the Utah Rotorcraft Association (PRA 2) gets the furthest traveled award, as well as our thanks for all the people he talked to promoting our sport. Our next fly in event is July 16, here at Meadow Lake Airport (KFLY). - Mark Shook



## May 14 Minutes & Detail

The meeting was called to order around 1:00PM with 12 people. Hester, Orval, and Bob brought food for the potluck and we all enjoyed the food. \$19 was donated from those who indulged in the great food. The club thanks you all!

Jim Miller, our Vice President, has resigned and is quitting the club due to deteriorating health. He stated he can no longer fly and that his driving is getting to where he would rather not drive long distances. We will all miss our friend Jim Miller. Clint Martindale was appointed VP for the remaining term.

The minutes were approved as written in the Newsletter from our last meeting. Bob gave the Treasurer's report and it was also approved. No project reports were given at this time.

**Old Business** - Bob talked about our 22-year anniversary meeting that was last month. Bob stated that we still have three club jackets left for \$30 each, our cost. He also found them and they are M, L, and XL. It was brought up at the last meeting to change the dues to \$20 and \$25. We needed a second vote on it to change our bylaws. It was approved to now make the bylaws like this below:

ARTICLE V - Chapter Membership classification:

1. Active Member, voting, dues are \$20.00 per year if you receive the Newsletter on Email, or \$25.00 per year if you wish your Newsletter to be mailed to you.
2. Honorary Members, nonvoting, have no dues.

It was moved, seconded and approved that we change the wording on the membership application to read like the new dues are now and also month-to-month. Jim Shawcross paid \$5 more so he would get his newsletter mailed.

A suggestion was made by Bob that we consider not having meetings in January and February because of the cold, the difficulty of getting in the locked airport gate, and because of the NWAAC's building rent request. (We now meet at NWAAC normally because of the cold hangar at Jim's.) Some members like the NWAAC meetings as they are now and some did not. The idea was tabled until the next meeting. Also, to be considered is the meeting day during the Portland Rose Festival.



**New Business** - NWAAC's Fly-in was brought up. It is to be from August 12-14 at Pearson AirPark, Vancouver, WA. After much discussion on our need for one or more gyroplanes to be at the booth, we decided to continue to do the show. Much more discussion is needed on the need for volunteers to help set up and man the booth for Friday through Sunday. We need Jim's Sport Copter to be present!

The Oregon International Air Show at Hillsboro will be August 19-21. Bob was given the OK to make more tri-folds for the fly-in, if needed. (And they will be.) Clint brought up the advertisement problem for the airshow. He stated that we need signs pointing out the direction on how to get there. Bob agreed and expressed his dissatisfaction on how NWAAC does it. Clint suggests that we put up signs too.

Arlington's airshow will be on July 6th through the 10th. Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM

Clint asked about club patches. We reopened the meeting and voted to look into them. Bob will do that. The meeting was then adjourned. - Bob Johnson and Clint Martindale

*(Following the meeting, long-time PRA 73 member Orval Longanecker got his first flight in a gyro with Jim Vanek. Here's a photo of Orval with his sweet wife, Hester, who volunteers regularly to prepare and bring food to meetings. Orval's expression says it all. He clearly enjoyed the flight! - Ed.)*





## ***Rotors Over The Rockies June 9 - 11, 2011 Official Event Info***

**Great flying, friends, food and fun!** This year, ROTR returns to [Brigham City Airport](#) with a hangar/clubhouse for forums, intro flights, instruction and inspection services, and spectacular scenery! Register for awards, come early for your airworthiness or annual condition inspection, meet pilots and builders, and meet manufacturers' reps!

**Camping is free** on the airport starting June 7, but no hookups for RVs. Campers here last year reported they slept well. Most motel chains have locations nearby along I-15, but in-season rates apply.

### **Camping alternatives:**

KOA, 1040 West 3600 South - (435) 723-5503  
Golden Spike RV Park - (435) 723-8858

**Directions** - From I-15, take Utah Exit 365. Turn east at the bottom of the ramp and proceed about 200 yards, then turn left on Airport Road. Look for a large billboard overhanging the road – just before you reach it, turn right on 1800 S, and look for signs and/or parking personnel.

**Brigham City Airport (KBMC)** averages fewer than 70 operations per day, and is in Class G up to 700' AGL. (Click diagram at top right for full FAA info.) There are sparsely populated areas nearby to explore safely. 100LL avgas is available on the field 24/7 with credit card. Auto fuel available nearby (bring cans).

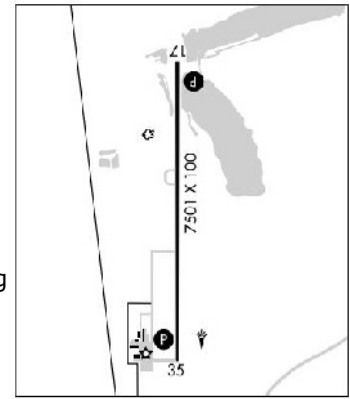
**Gyroplanes** use left pattern at 500' AGL (4,729 MSL) for both runways 17 and 35, well inside a typical fixed-wing pattern. Calm wind runway is 35; space downwind approximately over Airport Road, outside camping/parking areas. No takeoffs or landings on taxiways per management.

**Helicopters** use standard pattern when practical, right pattern when necessary to avoid airplanes.

**Western Rotorcraft**

### **CTAF is 123.05 Mhz.**

All rotorcraft announce "clear" on CTAF when starting engines, props or rotors. (Will also be heard on PA system). All engine starts are to be in designated areas, or minimum 500' from pedestrians. Pilot briefing 8am daily. If you miss it, see Curt Pittman before you fly. Forum schedule will be posted ASAP.



**Awards:** Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, Farthest from Home with Aircraft, and Dead Dinosaur (most observed flying) awarded by URA committee; Pilot & Machine by vote of pilots at ROTR.

**Closing BBQ** at 5pm Sat, \$10 donation. Awards immediately follow.

**Airworthiness & Annual Condition Inspections**  
Jim Gilchrist, DAR, [kdhflightpath@msn.com](mailto:kdhflightpath@msn.com).

### **Flight Reviews & Instruction**

Mike Burton, CFI, (801) 794-3434

## ***Upcoming Chapter Meetings***

**KBRA (PRA 1)** Saturday, June 11, 11am PDT.  
Teddy Udala's hangar, El Mirage, CA.  
[Info: \(562\) 493-3960](tel:5624933960)

**URA (PRA 2)** Saturday, June 11, 5pm MST.  
Brigham City Airport, UT ([KBMC](#)) at ROTR.  
Details: [www.utahrotorcraft.org](http://www.utahrotorcraft.org).

**ARC (PRA 15)** Saturday, Sept. 24, time pending.  
El Mirage Dry Lake Off-Road Recreation Area, CA.  
Contact Britta Penca at (520) 840-0951.

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

**CRA (PRA 38)** Saturday, July 16, 9am-3pm MDT,  
Meadow Lake Airport ([KFLY](#)), Peyton, CO. Flying and driving directions at [www.copterpilots.org](http://www.copterpilots.org).

**GNWSRA (PRA 73)** Saturday, June 11, 12n PDT,  
[Sport Copter](#), Scappoose Ind. Airport, OR ([KSPB](#)).  
Potluck at 12n, mtg at 1pm. Details: [www.pra73.net](http://www.pra73.net).

**No classified ads this month.** See [www.pra73.net](http://www.pra73.net) for two hangars available at Scappoose Ind. Airport.

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