

Western Rotorcraft

December
2011



Torch is Passed at Chapter 73

Bob Johnson, who has been the President of the Great Northwest Sport Rotorcraft Association ([PRA 73](#)) for most of the last decade, is going to get a breather. Jon Dailey, who oversees the production of Sport Rotors at [Sport Copter, Inc.](#) (and wears a number of other hats there) is the new president. Bob won't be spending all his time spelunking, however. He's Chapter 73's new Secretary/Treasurer. Read the details on page 5. (Above, L-R: Jon Dailey, Bob Johnson.)

ROTR to Solicit CFIs - During the month of December, Utah Rotorcraft Association ([URA](#)) will be distributing invitations to Gyroplane CFIs with legal training aircraft who are candidates to provide dual instruction at Rotors Over The Rockies 2012, June 7-9. [Airgyro Aviation](#) is expected to make training available in an Autogyro Calidus. URA will reimburse some expenses to bring a second CFI to the event,

which would enable students with existing Private or higher certificates to get their Sport Pilot/Gyroplane add-ons at the event. Once interest and initial costs are determined, URA will work to raise the required funds.

Airworthiness and annual condition inspections for gyroplanes have been featured at the event the past two years, and will be available again in 2012. Any students expecting to be ready for their practical tests by June are invited to consider pooling funds to bring a Designated Airworthiness Representative to ROTR. The event will be held at the Brigham City Airport ([KBMC](#)) in Utah. Watch for details in Western Rotorcraft.

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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 holiday season may bring a hiatus from regular meetings, but there are still things happening in the sport. Of particular interest should be PRA VP Tim O'Connor's [online ground school](#) for students seeking the Sport Pilot / Gyroplane certificate. Tim's students have, to date, all passed the FAA's knowledge test.



A fair question might be, why train for the knowledge test when I won't be doing much flying until spring? Answer: It's a good way to fill that part of the year when weather in much of the west makes flying less appealing. Participating with other students is much more efficient than working alone with an instructor, both in terms of hourly cost and in time spent, because the questions of others and hearing the answers can help you learn more quickly.

Perhaps the best reason is to keep the dream alive. The surge of enthusiasm we feel during fly-in season can fade during a long lay-off. Tim's 21-hour course is \$200, or \$100 for PRA members. Even if you pay the higher rate, and another \$165 to buy all course materials new, that's \$17.38 per hour. Hard to beat for value.

Other wintertime steps toward your ultimate goal of becoming a personal rotorcraft expert include keeping up with the sport worldwide on the Rotary Wing Forum, and attending URA's 2012 Winter Webinar Series online. Stay busy!

PRA welcomes Lisa Klutz as the new editor of its [Rotorcraft E-Zine](#). Lisa's first issue will be out about December 15.

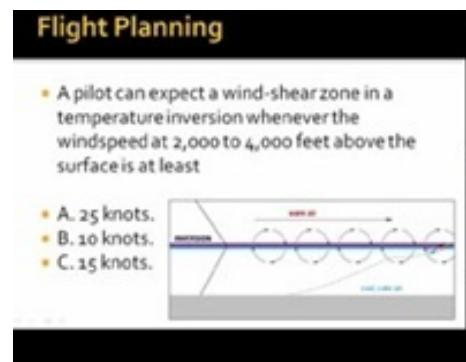
URA is in final discussions with a possible partner in distributing this newsletter more widely, an initiative disclosed to participating chapters during the summer. We expect some exciting news by the end of December, and will share it in the January issue of WR.



New on the Rotary Forum

PRA Secretary Stan Foster has tackled an interesting project for the winter. He's hoping to build a mold which will allow duplicating the canopy of his Helicycle, possibly in a version which increases the clear area for visibility. Stan has started by building plywood stringers to fit the shape of the canopy and filling them with Great Stuff expanding foam (above).

Stan's workmanship is widely respected, and this method of building a canopy which requires compound curves could have wide application in the sport. Follow his progress [here](#).



Flight Planning

- A pilot can expect a wind-shear zone in a temperature inversion whenever the windspeed at 2,000 to 4,000 feet above the surface is at least

- A. 25 knots.
- B. 10 knots.
- C. 15 knots.

The slide also features a diagram showing a cross-section of the atmosphere with a temperature inversion layer and a wind-shear zone indicated by a blue line with arrows.

PRA Online Ground School

PRA VP and CFI Tim O'Connor is offering online ground school for Sport Pilot/Gyroplane, including 21 total hours over seven weeks, Thursday nights from Jan. 5 - Feb. 16, 2012, from 4-7pm PST. Tim's prior online students have been very successful in passing the FAA test. Students supply some materials, and there will be homework. Cost is \$199.95, or \$99.95 for PRA members. Details at [pra.org](#).



Welcome to...

Ken Brock PRA Chapter 1
of Southern California

November 12 Meeting Report

Chapter [1](#) held its last meeting for the year on November 12th. We had eight members present and four visitors.

Wbaldo Gonzalez, one of our visitors, became our newest member. Welcome Wbaldo!

The meeting was fairly short this time, but we did get some progress made on our gyro glider. We are working on purchasing rotorblades and a hub bar for the glider, and hope that by the time we have our February, 2012 meeting we can take our new blades and have a get-together at the glider to instruct new members on proper mounting of the blades.

Chapter 1 will also be doing it's nominations for Chapter officers in February, with elections being held in March, 2012. Members will be e-mailed in January to hear nominations for President, Vice-President and Treasurer.

We also discussed getting more metal folding chairs for the 2012 fly-in. Anyone who might have a few for donation can contact Teddy Udala tadgyro@gmail.com

We adjourned our meeting shortly before noon, and had our after-meeting BBQ.

All of us at Chapter 1 wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Years! See you in 2012! (Terry Smith, President)



PRA Chapter 2 ([PRA 2](#)) November 12 Meeting Report

The meeting was scheduled for 10am MST at Curt Pittman's hangar at Brigham City (UT) Airport. It was informally decided that due to a lack of adequate seating in the hangar, the group would converse informally until all expected attendees were present, then move the business meeting to the pilots lounge on the airport.

The meeting was called to order in the lounge at 10:45am by President Doug Barker with six members present: Doug, Secretary Paul Plack, Steve Smith, Ron England, Greg Hardy and Steve Pearson, and guest Curt Pittman. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in Western Rotorcraft. Doug reported 28 current members.

Planning for 2012 programs included a discussion of technical programs which would interest members. Ideas included instruction on the fabrication and repair of fiberglass and composite materials, the layout and drilling of tubing and flat stock for airframes, and techniques for forming lexan and acrylic windscreens. A field trip to the Commemorative Air Force warbird base and museum at Heber Airport was also discussed.

Suggested webinar topics for presentation following online meetings throughout the winter included Dick Goddard of [Chapter 38](#) on the early days of McCutchen Skywheel rotorblades and the Windryder gyroplane, Claudius Klimt on his transcontinental flight in an Aircam, Jon

Chapter 2, Continued

Dailey of Sport Copter on the construction of Sport Rotors, Marv Wessel of Sport Copter on the use of gyroplanes in law enforcement, and CFI Mike Burton on either the building of the AutoGyro Calidus or a gyroplane overview. It was decided to pursue confirming Dick Goddard's presentation for the January meeting. Doug noted that the last two attempts at online meetings had been scuttled due to problems with the Anymeeting software. Paul expressed confidence a suitable platform can be tested in time for the January, 2012 meeting.

Steve Pearson distributed copies of information on the upcoming online ground school offered by PRA for students seeking the Sport Pilot / Gyroplane certificate. The course includes 21 hours of instruction, and is offered on Thursday nights for seven weeks starting in January. Paul noted that Tim's former students have done very well on the FAA knowledge test.

It was decided to have a group holiday party at Paul Plack's home in Murray to start at 6pm, with dinner at 7pm, on either Friday or Saturday night, December 9 or 10, to be finalized after Paul checks his schedule. Paul will notify members of the final decision by e-mail, and RSVPs will be requested. The next meeting will be held online at 10am MST Saturday, January 14, 2012. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm, followed by hangar flying and lunch at Maddox Family Drive-In. (Paul Plack, Secretary)

AZ Rotorcraft Club (PRA 15) November 19 Meeting Report

Meeting place – San Manuel Ray Blair Airport
Meeting time - 11:35 AM to 1:30 PM

Members present: David Beaufeaux, Britta Penca, Marvin Wessel, Mark Rhoads, Carl Matter. Guest: Marvin Wessel Sr.

Meeting called to order by President [Carl Matter](#).

Secretary Mark R read the minutes from the October 15 meeting. First and second motions were made to adopt the minutes into the record as official. A vote was held and passed unanimously to accept the minutes as read. Treasurers report: Mark R reported that the savings account in Vantage West is \$903.50.

The president announced that 2012 dues are being accepted at this time.

Carl M explained the particulars for establishing a website for Chapter 15 for 3 years for a \$39 fee. A discussion ensued, about whether or not it would be interactive. Carl noted that he believes it would be a higher fee to have a website that can be edited by one of us. The general consensus is to have it be established as information only, with a "hits" counter, and if enough interest is noted, it may be modified in the future. The website will include contact information and a mission statement. A motion was made by Mark M and seconded by Marv W, to authorize Carl M to spend the \$39 to establish the website as discussed. President Carl M called for a vote. It was voted unanimously to go ahead and establish the Ch 15 website. Carl M and Mark R will check into the mission statement.

Nominations for 2012 were discussed. Carl M voiced that he is willing to serve as president again. Mark M nominated Marv W as VP. Marv W has accepted the nomination for 2012. Mark R has nominated himself for 2012 Secretary and Treasurer. Mark M will send out the ballots with the minutes for this meeting. Official election of officers will be at the Jan 19, 2012 meeting at the San Manuel airport.

Carl M mentioned that Western Rotorcraft is always seeking articles. Any tech tips are also appreciated. It was discussed and decided that any article that pertains to the "goings-on" of Chapter 15 should first be approved by Carl M.

Mark M has agreed to return to the practice of emailing the minutes to Chapter 15 members.

Marv W noted that he is now flying his Sport Copter 2, and will be flying it to a future meeting. He is willing to give rides to anyone who would like to experience the newest Sport Copter.

Winter and spring 2012 meetings were discussed:

Dec 2011 – due to the busy time of year, a December meeting is not held.

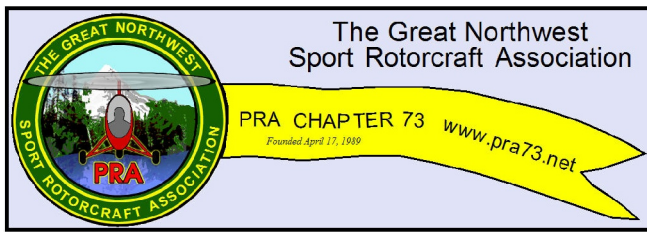
Jan 19 – San Manuel – election of officers

Feb 18 – Stellar airpark – Marv W hangar (tentative)

March 17 – Coolidge fly/drive/camp

April 7 – Annual dinner – Coolidge (tentative date, depending on what works for the Coolidge gang)

May 19 and 20 – Gyro Buddy Campout - Chapter 15 outing at the San Manuel airport – anyone interested in gyroplanes is invited to join in. A flyout(s) will be planned. (Mark Rhoads, Secretary)



November 12 Meeting Report

12:55 PM: Meeting called to order by President Bob Johnson. Minutes for October meeting approved as printed in the November Western Rotorcraft newsletter. Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Bob Johnson, approved. No Old Business.

New Business - A motion was made to pay Jim Miller for printing and mailing August, September, October and November Newsletters, Approved.

Announcements - Northwest Antique Aircraft Club will sponsor the Wings and Wheels August 10-12, 2012 at Scappoose airport. Plan for this date.

There will be no meeting in December. The January and February meetings will be at the NWAAC clubhouse on the other side of the Scappoose Airport. Go to pra73.net, members only section for the gate code. Potluck at 12:00 noon, meeting at 1:00 PM.

Bob Johnson read info on the PRA's Online Ground School (see also page 2): "All you need to participate is a fast internet connection and a Windows-based computer (running XP or newer) with a sound card and headphones. Mic is optional.

"Some course materials will be sent to you following registration, including exam supplement diagrams, worksheets and practice links. Students will need to supply an Electronic E6B Flight Computer; Sectional Chart Plotter, must be rotating type; a supply of sectional maps, one must be Cincinnati; one or more FAA Airport Directories, one must cover Ohio; a bound notebook; a copy of FAR/AIM 2011 or newer; a selection of FAA handbooks, circulars, fliers and publications relevant to your exam; several packs of index cards; and several packs of Post-It Notes.

"Students achieving a 90% or higher score on test prep will receive a logbook endorsement to take the knowledge test at an FAA authorized testing center. The cost is \$199.95, or \$99.95 for PRA members, and payment can be submitted through www.pra.org." (Also see the advertisement on page 8 of November 2011, Western Rotorcraft newsletter.)

Gyroplane Instructor Brock Steiner, reported on a petition to FAA to allow flight instruction hours given by Sport Pilot instructors and in LSA aircraft, to apply



toward higher licenses (Private Pilot, etc, Part 61.)

Brock also brought us up-to-date on his Sparrow Hawk project. It's in the paint shop. He will also be doing rewiring and putting on new wheels and brakes. You can [follow Brock's progress](#) on the Rotary Forum.

Phil Stevens suggested that we have more talks on gyro maintenance and other gyro-related topics.

Kelly Vanek gave us the story behind our one-of-a-kind gavel. The gavel is a hub from a propeller that she had been flying with. Its blades have been cut off and mounted on a handle.

She was on a solo flight in her gyro and she thought everything was going fine, but when she flared for the landing the gyro dropped and rolled over. She couldn't figure out how she could have been that high on the flare. She was pregnant with their first child so even though she didn't think she was hurt, she got checked out by her doctor who told her that her depth perception could have been affected by her pregnancy. We got the broken prop to prove it.

Election of officers: No new nominations.

Nominations for President: Bob Johnson and Jon Dailey. Vice President: Clint Martindale and Jim Miller. Secretary - Treasurer: Bob Johnson. Vote for President: Jon - 10, Bob - 4. Clint withdrew his name from Vice President nominations. Jim Miller elected to Vice President unanimously. Bob Johnson elected Secretary - Treasurer unanimously.

2:15 Meeting adjourned. (Jim Miller, VP)



El Mirage 2011 Revisited
Carl Matter, President, PRA 15

This was my third trip to the lakebed but my first with a gyro. Karen, Teddy and Jeff are old friends now. Chapter 1 did an excellent job of hosting the event. Everything went smoothly. There was always someone around to answer a question or handle any small detail that arose.

They also set up a very nice tent area, for shade in the daytime and it was even lit up at night. Great BBQ and the traditional Brock corn roasting was courtesy of Brandon at Route 66 catering company. I missed seeing the Brock family but am thankful we get to keep meeting on the dry lakebed to celebrate gyro freedom.



President Terry greeted visitors and showed them around. One early bird was a nice young woman named Tracy who got a ride in the Predator with Vance (back seat view above).

That made her day and firmly set the hook for her love of gyrocopters. Vance went on to give rides to lucky passengers all day long and he was recognized later with the club "Pilot and Machine" award for his generosity.

Bruce Charnov gave a very interesting presentation on gyros through the ages based on magazine covers. Being a fanciful flying machine, the gyro makes great cover art to inspire the readers of Popular Science type publications. Bruce covered the gyroplane timeline of birth, decline and re-birth as witnessed by the newsstand temptations.



It is always nice to see Marion Springer, this time accompanied by her lovely daughter and granddaughter. Even though she doesn't fly a trainer anymore she is still a teacher. And one of her fledglings left the nest over

the weekend. She grabbed some scissors and cut the tail off Jeff Jones shirt to celebrate his smooth, solo flight across the lakebed. Congratulations Jeff, I met you when you were interested in flying, then you found a gyro, then you practiced slowly and carefully and now you are a pilot. You are my hero.



Mark Rhoads brought his gyro (above), Woodstock 2. He was experiencing rotor hop and was eager to try out the new towers he had just made. I talked to the machinist in Tucson

hired to drill matching holes as accurately as possible. He referred to the "machined surface" on the edge of the new towers and I had to point out that Mark was just really good with a flat file. Every surface on his gyro is "finished", like it was made by a boy scout crossed with a shop class teacher. Oh wait, that's Mark. Unfortunately Woodstock 2 still flies like the little bird in the Peanuts comics but I will let Mark tell that story.



It was nice to see some other Arizona people there. Two of them just became our newest members. Mike and Al (above) are training on an old Bensen and building new Hornets. I love the enthusiasm of people interested in gyrocopters. Ben from Yuma and Cal from Casa Grande were also there flying their machines.



There were helicopters too. We camped near a beautiful orange Mosquito (above) and the lucky owner who is free to go where the wind blows

him. He lives in the RV that tows the helicopter trailer.



Then I spent some time talking with Hong (above). He is building a Mini 500 You think it might be hard to fly? Try doing it all with just hand controls. Imagine your left hand busy on the collective, your right hand on the joystick doing what it needs to do, and at the same time, one finger on your right hand is controlling the tail rotor. That's multi-tasking!

I saw Powered parachutes, ultralights, including the white bi-plane that lives along the lake, swooping, diving and climbing with all the power of a little Rotax 532. At one time I looked over and there were 3 factory built Cessna type airplanes down at the end of the flightline. The freedom fly-in really is open to all aircraft.

Thank you everyone from Chapter 1. I really enjoyed being out on the lake and hope to see you all again next year.

The next Ken Brock Freedom Fly-in at El Mirage is scheduled for September 28-30, 2012. - Ed.

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, custom paint, recent annual, logs in order. Rotors Over The Rockies 2011 award-winner. Selling to make room for new projects. \$49,300 includes 20 hours dual instruction. Curt, (435) 730-0828. (UT, 12/11)

PITBULL - 14 hours TT. Rotax 503, electric start & prerotator, hyd. brakes. Incl. two rotorheads, 24' Rotordyne and 25' Sport Rotors; two tail wheels, and tandem-axle trailer which can carry all. \$11,000 for lot. Clint Martindale, (503) 775-7372. (OR, 11/11)



AIR COMMAND - 221 hours TT. Single-place, pod, extended keel. Rotax 503, dual carbs, CDI. New 23'-x-7" Sport Rotors, redundant mast, PowerFin prop, instruments. E-LSA, logs in order. \$8,500. Britta, (520) 840-0951. (AZ, 7/11)

Wanted to Buy

ROTORBLADES & HUB BAR - Seeking 25' Rotordyne or McCutchen rotorblades with hub bar for two-place gyroglider. Contact Steve Pearson, huntjunk@comcast.net, (801) 910-6117. (UT, 10/11)

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E-mail: secretary@utahrotorcraft.org*

2012 Meeting/Event Calendar

Sat, Jan 14

10:00am MST - [PRA Chapter 2](#) (UT) online meeting, URA Webmeeting Channel
10:30am MST - [URA](#) Winter Webinar on the URA Webmeeting Channel
12:00n PST - [PRA Chapter 73](#) potluck & meeting, Scappoose (OR) Ind. Airport

Thu, Jan 19 - [PRA Ch. 15](#) meeting, San Manuel (AZ) Airport (Election of officers)

Thu-Sun, Jan 19-22 - [US Sport Aviation Expo](#) (FL)

Sat, Feb 11

10:00am MST - [PRA Chapter 2](#) (UT) online meeting
10:30am MST - [URA](#) Winter Webinar
11:00am PST - [PRA Chapter 1](#) meeting
12:00n PST - [PRA Chapter 73](#) potluck & meeting

Sat, Feb 18 - [PRA Chapter 15](#) meeting

Sat, Mar 10

10:00am MST - [PRA Chapter 2](#) (UT) online meeting
10:30am MST - [URA](#) Winter Webinar
11:00am PST - [PRA Chapter 1](#) meeting
12:00n PST - [PRA Chapter 73](#) potluck & meeting

Sat, Mar 17 - [PRA Chapter 15](#) meeting (AZ)

Wed-Sun, Mar 21-25 - [Bensen Days](#) Fly-In (FL)

Tue-Sun, Mar 27 - Apr 1 - [Sun n' Fun](#) (FL)

Sat, May 19 - [Rocky Mt Freedom Fly-In](#) (CO)

Sat-Sun, May 19-20 - [Gyro Buddy Campout](#) (AZ)

Thu-Sat, June 7-9 - Rotors Over The Rockies (UT)

Mon-Sun, Jul 23-29 - [EAA AirVenture Oshkosh](#) (WI)

Tue-Sat, Jul 31 - Aug 4 - PRA Convention (IN)

Fri-Sun, Aug 10-12 - [NWAAC](#) Wings & Wheels (OR)

Fri-Sun, Sep 28-30 - [K. Brock Freedom Fly-In](#) (CA)