

# ***Western Rotorcraft***



***May 2012***



## Regional Organizations Meetings & Contacts

### Arizona Rotorcraft Club ([PRA 15](#))

Third Saturday, 11am MST, Various Locations  
 May 19, 2012: Fly/Drive-In, San Manuel Airport  
 Carl Matter: [keenuk@aol.com](mailto:keenuk@aol.com)

### Ken Brock Rotorcraft Assoc. ([PRA 1](#))

Second Saturday, 11am PT, El Mirage, CA  
 May 12, 2012: 7am PDT at El Mirage Dry Lake for  
 Glider Instruction. (Details on page 11.)  
 Terry Smith: [terry.smith@earthlink.net](mailto:terry.smith@earthlink.net)

### San Diego County Rotorcraft Club ([PRA 31](#))

Third Thursday, Various Times/Locations (CA)  
 Dave Bacon: [davesconcretepumping@msn.com](mailto:davesconcretepumping@msn.com)

### Colorado Rotorcraft Assoc. ([PRA 38](#))

See [website](#) for times & locations  
 May 19, 2012: Rocky Mt. Freedom Fly-In  
 Mark Shook: [Mark@CopterPilots.org](mailto:Mark@CopterPilots.org)

### Great NW Sport Rotorcraft Assoc ([PRA 73](#))

May 12, 2012: [Sport Copter](#), Scappoose, OR  
 Second Saturday, Noon PT, Scappoose Airport  
 Jon Dailey: [jon@sportcopter.com](mailto:jon@sportcopter.com)

### PRA Chapter 2 ([PRA 2](#))

Second Saturday, 10am MT  
 May 12, 2012: Pittman Hangar, Brigham City  
 June 9, 2012: Rotors Over The Rockies  
 Doug Barker: [president@utahrotorcraft.org](mailto:president@utahrotorcraft.org)

### Utah Rotorcraft Association

Annual Members Meeting at [ROTR](#) 2012  
 Main Hangar, Brigham City Airport  
[info@utahrotorcraft.org](mailto:info@utahrotorcraft.org)



## 2012 Event Calendar

**Saturday, May 19, Colorado**  
[Rocky Mt Freedom Fly-In](#)

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

**Thu-Sat, June 7-9, Utah**  
[Rotors Over The Rockies](#)

**Saturday, June 16, California**  
[Hiller Vertical Challenge](#)

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

**Tue-Sat, Jul 31 - Aug 4, Indiana**  
[PRA Convention](#)

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

**Fri-Sun, Sep 28-30, California**  
[Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In](#)

**This Month in WR** - Contacts, Calendar, 2; From the Editor, Classifieds, 3; G-YROX, Rocky Mt. Freedom Fly-In, 4; Chapter Reports, 4-12.

**The ArrowCopter: Part II** is being postponed due to space limitations. Thanks to our chapters for all the great reports and photos this month!

**On the Cover** - Ben Suissa taxis for takeoff in his Sport Copter at Rotors Over The Rockies 2010.

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## **From the Editor** **Bucket Lists: Part II**

For the second month in a row, I have cause to ponder how we budget whatever time we have left on the planet. Last month we were hit with the startling news about Mark Carmouche. This month, it's the much-less-unexpected news of the passing of Max Hatch, a former PRA Chapter 2 member, at age 89.



Max served as an Army Air Corps pilot in WWII, flying C-46 cargo planes on 214 missions on the extremely dangerous Himalayan Mountain crossing known as the "Over the Hump" route. After the war, many pilots coming home found flying jobs, but Max chose a career as a schoolteacher. He also served religious missions, before his career and after his retirement.

I met Max at church four years ago, when I moved to Utah from Oregon. He had been diagnosed with cancer, and knew his time was limited. He attacked his bucket list with gusto. He traveled often, and raced the teenagers to be first on the zip line at church camp. Twice widowed, he got married a third time, to his high school sweetheart, Elda, also a widow. Max told me she was the first girl he'd ever kissed, and they found each other again after all those years. Despite Max's discouraging prognosis, they had some terrific time together.

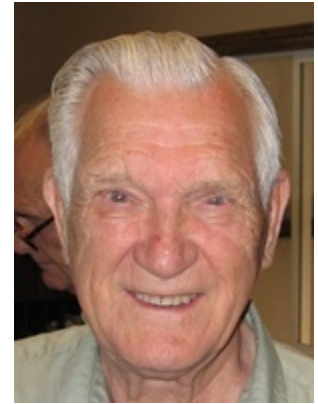
Max was in his 80s when he returned to flying for the first time in decades, soloing a powered parachute. When I told him about my interest in gyroplanes, he confessed he'd always wanted to fly one. Max joined Chapter 2 for two years, but he only made it to two meetings. In both cases, circumstances on those days did not allow him to get an intro flight.

Many of us have discovered that the personal rotorcraft sport rewards the persistent. Often, we need to show up ten times at meetings and events to be there the one time the planets align, and we get to fly. It's different at some of the major fly-ins back east, where having multiple CFIs providing training is the norm. I feel bad that we never got Max a gyro flight, but I can't say he missed out. He got more done in his last five years than many people do in 20.

This leads me to commit to taking advantage of what's about to happen at Rotors Over The Rockies this year. Two CFIs offering instruction at the same fly-in west of the Mississippi hasn't happened in, what...at least a decade? I'm making plans to fly with

both Desmon and Mike, because I have no idea when my next chance to knock out the Sport Pilot add-on will happen. I encourage you to seize that opportunity if you're in the same boat.

What's that country song, "Live Like You Were Dying?" Max got through so much of his bucket list because he knew what the deadline was. You can say a terminal diagnosis is a terrible thing, but Max pursued the upside, and kept a great attitude. I'm thankful for his example.



I'm also thankful I didn't wait too long to shake his hand and thank him for his service to his country. If you know a WWII vet, and have never said "thank you," do it while you can. They say learning Japanese is a valuable job skill in the 21st Century. Thanks to sacrifices made by guys like Max, it remains optional. Max, fair skies and tailwinds, my friend!

## **Mark Carmouche**

Last month we reported on the passing of noted gyroplane enthusiast and machinist Mark Carmouche. Mark's son, Blaze, updated the Rotary Wing Forum April 12 on his father's case.

"It is with great sadness today I found out the autopsy results...There was prior heart damage resulting in major heart scarring leaving some arteries slightly blocked. At the time of his last heart attack his arteries were 100% blocked. He did know of his condition but chose not to worry anyone..."

We offer the Carmouche family and all Mark's close friends sincere condolences. We also appreciate Mark's fine machine work and generosity to others.

## **Gyroplanes for Sale**

**SPORT COPTER VORTEX** - Rotax 618, 8"-x-25' rotor, adjustable pitch hub. 44 hours TT. Asking \$28K. Randy, Yacolt WA. (360) 772-4255. (WA, 4/12)

**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)

*Classified ads in Western Rotorcraft are available free to members of any participating PRA chapter. Contact your chapter (see page 2) for details.*



At least the airport staff let Norman wait out the rain in the airport office (at left) where he was able to keep warm and enjoy the hospitality as well as being supplied with cups of coffee.

The rain did clear and Roxy (taxiing for takeoff below) lifted off. Norman put Roxy through her paces with some extreme maneuvers testing airframe and engine. This type of flying gave the assembled Japanese media who had arrived to chronicle the first flight an impromptu airshow and hopefully helped the cause of the Autogyro for local flying.

Following an hour's test flying and a press interview Norman tucked Roxy up for the night, happy in the knowledge that she had performed perfectly and that there were many more flights to come.

## **G-YROX Airborne Again**

*The attempt by Norman Surplus to become the first person to circumnavigate the globe in a gyroplane is now into its third year, but Surplus is undaunted. When we left the story last fall, a refusal by the Russians to allow him to fly along that nation's eastern coast had scuttled the next leg of the trip, and his yellow MT03, G-YROX, was mothballed for the winter in Japan. This update and the associated photos are courtesy of Norman's [team](#).*

We at the Gyrox team are very happy to announce that 28th March 2012, Norman was able to take to the air again, the first true flight since last July!

Roxy has been in storage at Shonai airport, Japan, since the circumnavigation was put on hold last autumn because of weather conditions and bureaucratic delays...it was time to dust off the rotors, put all the bits back together and following engine test runs earlier this week, take to the air again. The weather still had a bearing as a massive snow storm grounded everything, (then) a heavy rain storm crossed the area. It was strange that the whole of Japan (radar image below) was rain free except for that patch of sky over Shonai Airport!



## **Rocky Mt. Freedom Fly-In**

The Colorado Rotorcraft Association ([PRA 38](#)) welcomes you to its annual fly-in on Saturday, May 19 (2011 photo below). Members and visitors will display their aircraft to the public between 10am and 1pm MDT, and you're welcome to fly all day. Find directions to Meadow Lake Airport [here](#).



# ARC DAYS

## GYRO BUDDY CAMP-OUT

Sponsored by the Arizona Rotorcraft Club, PRA Chapter 15

### San Manuel, AZ Airport (E77)

(40 miles NE of Tucson AZ)

**Thursday - Sunday May 17-20, 2012**



**CAMPING SPOTS AVAILABLE (NO HOOK-UPS)**  
**WATER AND RESTROOMS LOCATED AT THE FIELD**

Food and fuel available in San Manuel - 2 miles from airport  
**Closest Motel: San Manuel Lodge (2 miles), \$46 : 520-385-4340**

**SATURDAY EVENING POTLUCK**  
**(hot dogs and apple pie compliments of PRA Chapter 15)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL Mark (520) 840-0186 or Carl (520) 795-1333**  
**Email: [Keenuk@aol.com](mailto:Keenuk@aol.com)**



**Arizona Rotorcraft Club  
(PRA 15) April Meeting  
Mark Rhoads, Sec.**



ARC held its annual dinner on April 21 at the Coolidge, AZ airport [Chapter 15](#) campsite. A special thank you to member Bruce Coats (above) for his efforts in hauling out his large barbeque grill and a supply of Mesquite wood and his time and expertise in barbecuing the steak and chicken for 30+ people. The food and the camaraderie were both memorable.

After dinner, members Al Bright and Mike Willet flew their powered paragliders (bottom of left column). Al gave numerous rides. This writer went for a very relaxing flight with Al (my first time in a PPG). Gliding down from 1,000 feet (engine off) during the last minutes of daylight, with the mountain shadows and happy campers below were beautiful to witness.



The campout officially began Tuesday, April 17 with the arrival of Mark Sanders and his SparrowHawk (above). Wednesday, Mark Rhoads in Woodstock II (below) and special guest Thomas Fernandez in his Gyro Bee (visiting from CO Springs) flew with Mark to Eloy for the awesome "Bent Prop burgers" and the always spectacular parachuting activities there.



Other members arrived on Thursday. Friday, there was another fly-out to Eloy for lunch – Mark S and Carl Matter in Mark's SparrowHawk, Cal Bowen in an RAF, Walt and Diane George in an RAF, and Britta P and Mark R in the Air Command Tandem.

By Saturday, there was a count of 11 gyros/FW either present on the field, or that had flown in that week. In addition to the aforementioned, the following



Above: Al Bright, Mike Willet

people and gyros attended: Al Bright and Mike Willet, modified KB 2; Garald Brown, KB3; Greg Egolf, GyroBee; Ken York, Subaru powered KB2; and Marv and Sarah Wessel, in a Mooney.



Above: Ken York

Members Larry Martin, Mike Ott, Pat Ryan, Tim Ramseyer, and Bruce Coats and some other friends all had their quads ("bikes" as they refer to them), and the biker crowd had a wonderful time exploring the desert surrounding the airport. Mike talked about a historic stage coach stop ruins about 10 miles south of the airport.



Above: Garald Brown. Below: Greg Egolf



Luckily for Chapter 15, the Coolidge Municipal Airport has a large dump with an ample supply of old lumber and tree stumps. Each evening after dark there was a very nice camp fire. A special thank you to Al, Mike, Cal and the others who secured the wood supplies, dug the fire pit, and managed the fires.

Cal B had everyone in tears (laughter) with a personal horror story about a bad roofing job that resulted in two fatalities in his home and subsequent testimony in a court of law. When someone asked about the fatalities, it turned out that it had been his gold fish and one of his rescued Greyhounds. I'm sure it wasn't funny at the time, but Cal has a way of making his stories very entertaining.



On Sunday, Carl Matter and I went off on Carl's mini bikes (below) and explored the Coolidge airport grounds (above). Ruins from the 70-year-old WWII army air corp base (including a melted aluminum fairing from a vintage plane) are in abundance.

we thought would have been the barracks, the mess hall, officers quarters, the office buildings, the foundation for a giant flagpole and a very deep raised concrete swimming pool. It was surprising (by today's standards) how few showers and toilet facilities there would have been for that many men.



Looking at the foundations scattered around among Mesquite and Palo Verde trees, we tried to imagine what it would have been like with war birds swarming the place during those trying times. We found what

Carl is researching the background of the base and we thought about maybe conducting a tour for interested members at a future meeting. (Above: Cal Bowen.)



Everyone seemed to have a great time, the weather was hot but nice, there was plenty of flying, plenty of conversation, and most importantly, everyone had a safe weekend.



## **AZ Rotorcraft Club (PRA 15) April Business Meeting Report**

Meeting convened by President Carl Matter at 11:05am MST, Coolidge, AZ airport campsite. Members present: Carl Matter, Britta Penca, Mark Rhoads, Mike Willet, Al Bright, Greg/Teresa Egolf, Cal Bowen, Walt/ Diane George, Marvin/Sarah Wessel, Mark Sanders, Garold Brown, Dennis Sette, Mike Ott. New Members: Dennis Karstetter, Ken York

The minutes from the March, 2012 meeting as printed in WR were unanimously approved. Treasurer's report: Vantage West Savings: \$723.74, cash to finance the annual dinner: \$300 (unspent monies to be re-deposited).

May 17 – 20 "[PRA Chapter 15 Gyro Buddy Camp Out/Fly-Out](#)" at the San Manuel airport. There are plenty of campsites - no hookups, but water and restrooms are available on the field. This year's get together is a scaled down event, will not be advertised to the general public. There will be no food vendors, no plaques will be given out. There will be a potluck dinner on Saturday evening at 6pm. Chapter 15 will provide hot dogs, apple pie, and drinks. Anyone currently flying a gyro or with an interest in gyros is invited to attend. All are welcome to join us on fly-outs to neighboring airports.

A discussion about the fly-out schedule for the gyro-buddy event was held. It was decided that Mark R., Britta and Carl would discuss and set up a schedule of events and times for the cross country fly-outs and the schedule will be published in the WR newsletter.

A discussion was held and it was decided that President Carl would speak with the Coolidge airport manager to thank him for allowing Chapter 15 to camp there and to invite him to the annual dinner.

A short meeting will be held during the Gyro-Buddy campout to set up a schedule for the fall/winter meetings for 2012/13.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM. (Mark Rhoads, Sec.)

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

The rainy weather forecast for April 14 held off long enough for the scheduled meeting of [PRA Chapter 2](#) at an open house hosted by [Whirlybird Helicopter](#) at [Ogden Hinckley Airport](#) in northern Utah. Following a 9am MDT breakfast at the Auger Inn the meeting was called to order at 10:20am by President Doug Barker in a classroom at Whirlybird. Also in attendance were Secretary Paul Plack and members Steve Pearson and Greg Hardy. The minutes of the March 10



*Above: Chapter 2 members Greg Hardy (center) and Steve Pearson (in rear seat) return from an intro flight in a Robinson R44 at the April 14 open house at Whirlybird Helicopter. Watch CFI Jairus Duncan's videos of the flight by clicking the image.*

meeting were approved as published in Western Rotorcraft. Doug noted that growing work commitments will preclude Steve from serving as event chairman for [Rotors Over The Rockies](#), but Steve will serve as vice-chairman, and Doug will take the position of chairman for this year's event. Stayton Barnes has agreed to serve as banquet chairman. Paul suggested we approach the Brigham City Days Inn about use of a ballroom with internet access for use in bringing remote presenters to our attendees via internet, in exchange for advertising or designation as the official lodging for ROTR. It was informally agreed that this would be worthwhile, and Paul will discuss it with the hotel.

A discussion of the status and relationship between URA and Chapter 2 produced a motion by Doug that Chapter 2 reestablish its own dues and treasury independent of URA, which under the bylaws will require a treasurer be elected. A motion to set dues at \$24/year for members receiving electronic delivery of Western Rotorcraft, and \$30/year for those requesting a mailed paper copy was approved unanimously, effective with the start of the 2012-2013 membership year which starts July 1. Steve Pearson volunteered to serve as treasurer, and while the bylaws' requirement of seven days' minimum notice to members of an election prevented a formal vote, Steve will lead the investigation into banking options for the new account for Chapter 2.

A discussion followed on choosing a new name for Chapter 2, which was known as "Utah Rotorcraft Association" before URA split to become its own organization. A compound name which combines a geographical reference with a term relevant to gyroplanes was deemed an appropriate structure. Suggestions for the geographical reference included "Bonneville," "High Valley" and "Intermountain." Candidates for the second word include "Gyronauts,"

"Gyro Jockies" and "Rotorheads." Input will be sought from members, with a decision planned for the agenda at the May meeting. Once a name has been determined, the work of creating bank and PayPal accounts can proceed in time for Rotors Over The Rockies. Steve suggested multi-year memberships again be offered to quickly establish a Chapter 2 treasury once the accounts are in place.

Paul noted that advertising will become available in Western Rotorcraft starting in the May issue, and participating chapters have been asked to comment. Chapters are being offered the opportunity to sell two business-card-sized ads per month, placed in the newsletter within or adjacent to their content, for \$25/ad, with 20% of the proceeds to URA. URA will also have some space of its own for sale at those same rates. The opportunity for Chapter 2 (and all other participating chapters), assuming content is contributed monthly and all ads are sold, is \$480 net per year. All present informally agreed to the plan.

One membership application was deferred to the May meeting, the last before ROTR, which will be held at Curt Pittman's hangar at the Brigham City Airport on May 12. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am, and Steve and Greg got helicopter introductory flights from Whirlybird. (Paul Plack, Sec.)

## What's in a Name?

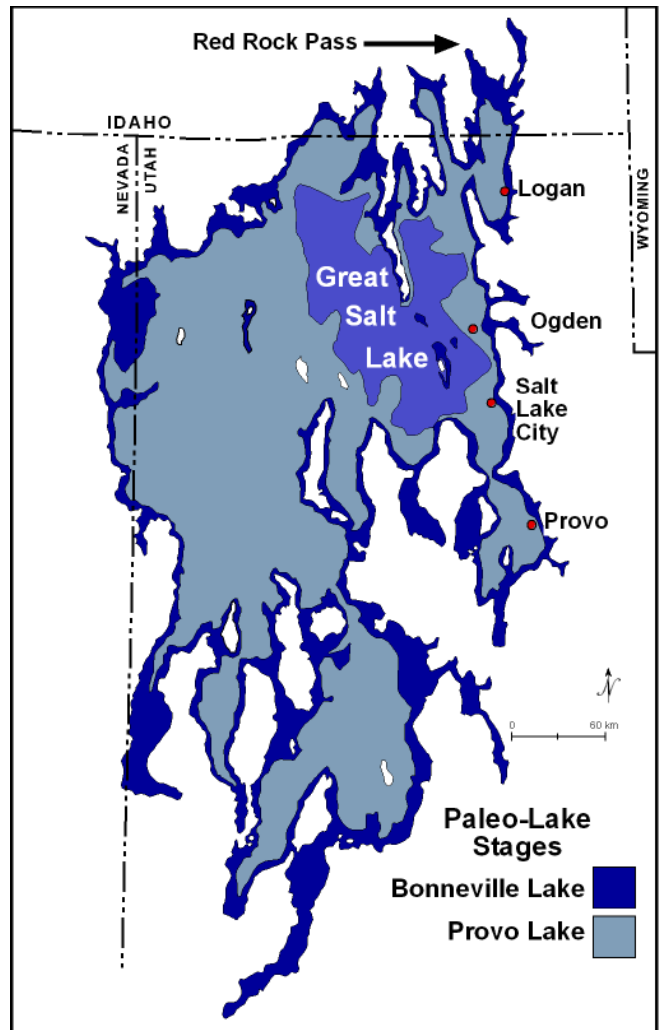
As noted in its April minutes, [PRA Chapter 2](#) is looking for a new name. In its five years of existence, Chapter 2 has drawn members from many states, and had attendees drive up to four hours from home.

With that in mind, what is an appropriate geographical reference for use as part of the organization's name? Three ideas were proposed at Chapter 2's April meeting: "Bonneville," "High Valley" and "Intermountain." Let's look at all three with regard to the areas they actually describe.

**Bonneville** - The ancient Lake Bonneville once had a water level almost a thousand feet higher than today's Great Salt Lake, and covered much of northern Utah and parts of neighboring states. Scientists believe that about 15,000 years ago, a natural dam broke at Red Rock Pass in northern Utah, and flooded southern Idaho.

Lake Bonneville was named for Captain B.L.E. Bonneville, who proved through his expeditions in the 1830s that the area was part of an ancient basin. Today, the word "Bonneville" is best known outside Utah for its reference to the Bonneville Salt Flats, where land speed record attempts are common.

**High Valley** - If you've tried to fly an underpowered machine in northern Utah in the summertime, this term probably needs no explanation. The present-day



level of the Great Salt Lake fluctuates seasonally. On January 1, 2012 it was officially 4,197.8' MSL. Salt Lake International Airport sits at 4,229'. Brigham City's elevation is 4,230'. A few miles farther south, West Desert Airpark, where Rotors Over The Rockies was held in 2008-2009, rises to 4,902. Any way you slice it, those are high elevations for a "valley."

**Intermountain** - The term "intermountain" literally means "between the mountains." The US Forest Service considers its Intermountain Region to include Utah, Nevada, southern Idaho and far western Wyoming, but its broader definition refers to the area bordered by the Rocky Mountains on the east and the Cascade and Sierra Nevada on the west. That also lets in northern Arizona, western Colorado and the portion of northern New Mexico which lies west of the Rockies. This is the widest geographical area of any of the terms being considered.

Regarding the second part of the new name, referring to personal rotorcraft, Chapter 2 is considering some terms which refer to gyroplanes. While PRA chapters everywhere generally try to be as welcoming as

*(Continued at bottom of page 11)*



Welcome to...

# Ken Brock PRA Chapter 1 of Southern California

Chapter 1 had its April meeting on April 14th at 11AM. Members present were Grace, Amoy, Dee, George, Karen, Moe, Ralph, Dejon, Jim, Russ, Teddy, Wbaldo and Terry. We also had Wbaldo's brother Chano and Doug from Victorville visiting.

We discussed the use of the Gyro Glider next month in May. Teddy talked to Peter Prentiss, and he offered to help out in using the glider. Teddy will drive the tow car, and Peter will control the glider. Chapter members will meet at the fence on Moe's property on May 12th at 7am, weather permitting, and get the glider onto the lake bed and start using it.

Both Jim and Terry have GoPro cameras and are planning to bring them to use on the Gyro Glider flights. Members will get e-mails before the meeting on the 12th to keep them informed on the upcoming event. After the glider flights, we will finish up with the monthly meeting and (of course) the BBQ!



We are still looking at settling on costs for glider usage, upkeep and maintenance. Teddy found material to make covers for the glider blades and will work on making them (blades pictured above). He also purchased material to make a new windsock.

Jim went to AR for more training with Ron Menzie. He now has 19 hours of training and is planning on going to AZ this summer for more training from Ron. Way to go Jim! Jim is getting closer to having his gyro in the air, and recently re-did his instrument panel – it looks great! (Photos at right.)

Dejon volunteered to make plaques for the 2012 Fly-In. We are still collecting items for the raffle during

the Fly-In. The meeting adjourned shortly after noon, and we had a wonderful cookout! (Terry Smith, Pres.)

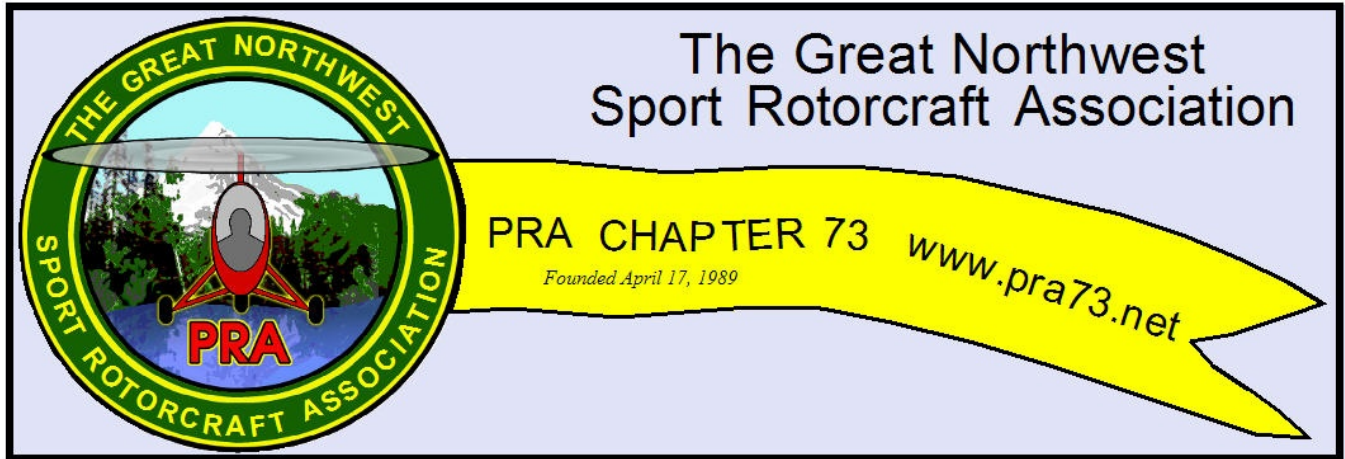


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## **What's in a Name? (from p. 10)**

possible to experimental helicopter interests, it is a fact that most helicopter people view PRA as a gyroplane organization. The two sides of the sport face different and distinct challenges, especially in training, which is widely available for helicopter students, but is generally found for gyroplanes only in experimentals.

So, what are your ideas? Chapter 2 welcomes suggestions. The group will choose a new name in time for Rotors Over The Rockies in June.



## April 14 Meeting Report

[PRA Chapter 73](#) had a fantastic BBQ with about 40+ people enjoying chicken, hotdogs, and ribs cooked to perfection by Gene Vanek. Thanks Gene!

Thanks to everyone who brought potluck items. We had more than enough food, and lots of different items to enjoy. Thanks to Addie who helped immensely with the clean-up.



There was a good showing of gyros flown and trailered in. The weather was really good. Bob Johnson and Jon Dailey presented a number of gyro related items at auction. Everyone had fun.

Brad Moore made the trip in his SparrowHawk, sending pictures as he made his trip.

Meeting Minutes - 2:05pm PDT - Meeting was called to order by President, Jon Dailey. March minutes, as printed in the Western Rotorcraft newsletter, were approved. Treasurer's report by Bob Johnson, secretary- treasurer was approved.

Jon reported that Sport Copter advertising in the

Western Rotorcraft newsletter will help cover future costs of newsletter mailings and could be used to have future events.



May 12 meeting will be at Sport Copter hangar at the Scappoose Airport. [NWAAC Wings and Wheels](#) event will be August 10, 11 and 12, 2012 at Scappoose Airport. Anyone who would like to help should contact Bob Johnson. Discussion about revising the club logo will be continued next month. Dan Dalke offered his services for the design. The Australian Butterfly dealer, on US tour, will be at Scappoose July 3, 2012.

2:25 Meeting adjourned. (James Miller, VP)

