

# EL TORBELLINO

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS FREE FLIGHT CLUB

JANUARY 2010



## *The Prez's Corner - Don Bartick*

The annual awards banquet is now behind us. An excellent event arranged by Larry Miller. He also had a great selection of raffle prizes. Thank you Larry. Added to the banquet this year was a slide show presentation of past banquets, contests, Science Olympiad, candid shots and old photos put together by Arline Bartick. Another great job. Thank you Arline. Another first this year for the awards was the presentation of really neat ribbons to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers. My special congratulations to John Oldenkamp for another clean sweep of the events held at our monthly contests. I have a feeling that your number is up John. We're coming after you. One and all. Right Orbiteers? Look for a list of awardees further back in the ET.

Several Orbiteers journeyed to the SW Regional's in Eloy, AZ. As always, this is a very well run event. Unfortunately, mother nature made the flying early in the morning difficult. But by 11am the conditions became very flyable and continued to improve throughout the rest of both days. Can't speak for Monday. Most of us came away with hardware.

This month is busy with Science Olympiad and the Gymbox roq competition at Grossmont College. This year I'm coaching 2- 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls in the Wright Stuff competition. They did a wonderful job constructing the kit planes provided them. It is amazing to watch them handle these 7 gram jewels powered with 1.5 grams of rubber. Several Orbiteers have volunteered in the past to coach these kids. Should any of you have an opportunity to coach in the future, do so. It's a great experience.

This is a wrap for now. See you at the next club meeting. Bring something to fly.



## 2010 ORBITEER FLYING SCHEDULE

- Jan 10 - P-30  
Power, P-20, HLG & CLG
- Feb 21 - Old Timer Rubber Stick (Small)  
Power, P-20, HLG & CLG
- Mar 14 - Coupe  
Power, P-20, HLG & CLG
- Apr 11 - P-30 (Festival)  
Power, P-20, HLG & CLG
- Apr 25 - Scale Staffel FAC Scale Contest\* (1 aof 3)
- May 15/16 Dual Clubs FF Bonanza, Lost Hills CA
- Rotation skipped: (Old Timer Rubber Stick "Small")
- June 20 - Coupe  
Power, P-20, HLG & CLG
- June 27 - Scale Staffel FAC Scale Contest\* (2 or 3)
- July 4 - Walt Mooney Memorial Scale Contest
- July 18 - P-30  
Power, P-20, HLG & CLG
- Aug 22 - Old Timer Rubber Stick (Small)  
Power, P-20, HLG & CLG
- Sept 19 - Coupe  
Power, P-20, HLG & CLG
- Oct 17 - P-30  
Power, P-20, HLG & CLG
- Oct 30/31 SW FAI Champs\*, Boulder City NV
- Nov 7 - Scale Staffel FAC Scale Contest\* (3 or 3)
- Nov 21 - Old Time Rubber Stick (Small)  
Power, P-20, HLG & CLG
- Dec 19 - Coupe (Festival)  
Power, P-20, HLG & CLG

\* Non-Club Points Event  
Otay Field Weather (619) 661-8297

## 2010 OFFICERS

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- Vice President  
Larry Miller ..... (858) 292-1434
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John Merrill..... (619) 449-4047
- Treasurer  
Howard Haupt ..... (858) 272-5656  
Fudo Takagi "Treasurer Emeritus"
- Safety Officer & Field Marshall  
John Oldenkamp ..... (619) 233-4837
- Competition Director  
Larry Miller ..... (858) 292-1434
- El Torbellino Editor  
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### **ORBITEERS YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES**

- Junior - \$10 Senior - \$15 Open - \$25  
65+ - \$15 Family - \$30 Subc - \$15  
Lifetime membership - \$250

### **Submit dues to club treasurer:**

Howard Haupt  
3860 Ecochee Ave  
San Diego, CA 92117-4622

#### THE FINE PRINT

El Torbellino is the official newsletter of the San Diego Orbiteers, an Academy of Model Aeronautics Charter Club (#1113) and a California not for profit corporation. This newsletter is sent monthly to all paid members, selected exchange and magazine editors. Non-members may subscribe at \$15.00 per year within the U.S.A., offshore price will be adjusted to reflect the postage incurred. Materials from El Torbellino may be reproduced on an unlimited basis by other publications, but proper credit is requested.

#### ORBITEER WEB SITE

[www.SanDiegoOrbiteers.com](http://www.SanDiegoOrbiteers.com)

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### **JANUARY BANQUET - J.Merrill**

#### **San Diego Orbiteers Annual Banquet and meeting**

Jan. 23, 2010

The banquet was held at Giovanni's Restaurant on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Nineteen of our members and some spouse were in attendance. We all enjoyed some good pizza, salad, soft drinks, and as always, great company. In addition to the pizza and such, some "cake balls" were provided by Larry Miller, and were a wonderful treat.

New President Don Bartick started our very brief business meeting with a few announcements. He told us that Larry Bagalini had knee surgery just a few days ago. The operation went very well, and he should be released by tomorrow (1/24/10). We all wish him a speedy recovery. Another topic was the recent South West Regionals held in Eloy, Arizona. There were some low temps early, and some wind issues as well, but overall a very good contest.

Some of our members brought home a considerable amount of the hardware, as they finished in many of the top positions. Don also recapped the recent Art Way Fly-Away. Art's entire family was present, minus two grandkids. It was a perfect spiraling climb, with ashes just being visible as they were released. The breeze took the plane out of sight to the west, not the east that is normal. So Art has "gone west" indeed. Art's wife has expressed how grateful she is on behalf of the entire family. A very nice note by her was in the last E.T., as was Don's recap of the day's events.

Finally, a special thank you to Arline Bartick for graciously providing the looped slide show on her laptop, which ran throughout the day. The show had lots of photos of various Orbiteers in action at the field during assorted contests, shots of previous banquets, and some older black-and-white shots of some of our members in action when they were "a little younger".

Next, Don presented the awards, in a little different format than we have done before. When Don was at the shop to pick up the trophies, he noticed some beautiful red and green ribbons, so he decided that instead of just presenting the top award in each of our categories, we would give ribbons to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers as well. Second place finishers got a red ribbon, while third place earned a green ribbon. Don, we appreciate your initiative, as this new format seemed to be well received. A recap of the categories and who received which place follows:

Non-Power – 3<sup>rd</sup> place John Hutchison, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Mike Pykelny, 1<sup>st</sup> place John Oldenkamp.

Power – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Mike Pykelny, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Larry Bagalini, 1<sup>st</sup> place John Oldenkamp.

P-30 – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Don Bartick, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Mike Pykelny, 1<sup>st</sup> place John Oldenkamp.

Coupe – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Bob Overcash, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Larry Bagalini, 1<sup>st</sup> place John Oldenkamp.

Indoor – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Don Bartick, 2<sup>nd</sup> place John Merrill, 1<sup>st</sup> place Howard Haupt.

Orbiteer of the Year – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Larry Bagalini, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Mike Pykelny, 1<sup>st</sup> place John Oldenkamp.

John O. has won this award for the last several years in a row, so was asked to give a brief summary as to the secret of his success. He attributed much of it to his ability to build often (as he is retired now) and fly often. He doesn't miss out of flying in any contests, and is always improving his craft. He has often been quoted as saying "fly early, and fly often", and better advice is hard to find. He also conveyed the fact you have to build a lot of airplanes before you truly begin to master the hobby. He reflected on the fact that just about everything he built before he was 45 was "crap". Nobody believes that, of course, but John knows that he has gotten considerably better since then. Thanks, John, for sharing your words of wisdom, and congratulations for winning the coveted Orbiteer of the Year Award. Also, congrats to all of this year's winners.

We then moved to a generous raffle, with prizes being supplied by a variety of sources. Those in attendance won prizes that included gift certificates to coffee houses, the Souplantation Restaurant, Pat and Oscar's Restaurant, the Midway Museum, the Maritime Museum, a few kits (donated by Mark Chomyn), as well as Blockbuster Movie certificates, popcorn, M&M candy, and candied peanuts. Thank you to all who provided the prizes.

We then moved on to Show and Tell. John Oldenkamp a version of Lucky Lindy that has been modified to be flown in FAI contests. It is electrically driven, reportedly easy to trim, flies great, and as always, is beautifully built. The plane has a 52" wing span, 350 sq.in. wing, and has polyspan top and bottom. Overall weight is about 13 ounces. The plane is 80 percent of the original size. On interesting component is that the battery, housed in the pylon, has a ramp at the forward end so that if the plane should hit nose first, the battery will pop out of the side door instead of hurling itself through the front of the pylon, which would destroy it. A very simple idea, but brilliant at the same time.

Also on display was a Model Airplane News magazine from June, 1976. Its cover featured none other than John Oldenkamp launching a hand-launched glider in patriotic red, white, and blue colors. John said that may have been the first and only time a hand-launched glider has been on the cover of a model magazine.

Before disbanding, a group photo was taken. Unfortunately, a few folks may have escaped to the parking lot first, but we managed to corral most of the attendees.

A reminder was given of next month's Gymbox contest to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in February (2/7/10) at Grossmont gym. You may remember that the Gymbox was designed by John Oldenkamp many years ago, and this promises to be a fun indoor contest.

Secretary's Note: After the banquet I went up the street to Discount Hobbies to pick up a couple of sticks. I got a flyer announcing a Swap Meet to be put on by the Weedwacker Squadron and held at their flying site at Cactus Park in Lakeside on Saturday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. If interested, there is a seller's fee of \$5.00, but buyers are free. They have a rain date of Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Don Madison at (619)296-1510.

Respectfully submitted by John R. Merrill,  
Perpetual Secretary.



## MONEY MATTERS - H.Haupt

<b>Income:</b>	
Dues (3)	71.00
Art Way Auction	38.40
	-----
	\$109.40

<b>Expenses:</b>	
January Newsletter	10.36
BofA Account Fees	3.00
Annual Awards	128.87
Art Way Auction Ship Fees	23.40
	-----
	\$165.63

**Current Balance ..... \$1,665.50**

## BORDERLINE - J.Odenkamp

Recent storms have softened things up at Otay, but the road in is quite passable and the turf is mostly goo-free. Puddles and pig styes are there for the unwary, for sure, so have a look before leaping!

Last month's Contest report ended with a garbled note about helmets and numbers, whatever that meant: Truth is, however, we as a group need to have a discussion regarding some statutory guidelines. The sooner the better as an educational exercise.

Free flight activities are and should be fun so long as some basics are observed. If we are to operate under AMA regs and not cause problems for ourselves and ultimate AMA insurance underwriters, we must insist that membership (license) numbers be on our airplanes to the correct size and place. Or do we just talk about it, but ignore affixing them? Maybe that meets the spirit of the FF rules as printed on your renewal card.

Second: We are sport and competition flying on private property without written or verbal permission. Our lease went away a long time ago. We therefore are trespassing in the same way that we tried to prohibit others from doing when the lease was in force. Should be now be extra good citizens? (Last Check was that we are at Otay, that the new owners were aware, and that we should "make no waves") Good enough?

Not only are we trespassing in the classic way, we are woefully blind to California DMV/ORV and existing environmental bylaws: Operating off-road devices anywhere on Otay Mesa is prohibited, green stickers or no. Riding off-road devices on the gravel surface of Alta Road (the entryway) without street-legal equipment, registration, and license is also illegal. Riding these chase vehicles without DOT approved helmet is also a very large no-no. The clarity of the rules in force is undeniable and unarguable. Period.

The twisted links beyond the basics stated above are myriad and fraught with possible personal disaster. Consider the end result, please, of an insurer-contested "incident" by cause.

Consider also that Otay is home to several threatened/Federally protected species, none of which benefit from two, three, or four wheel stuff running over their wee houses.

So what to do? I am myself considering purchase of a chase bike, and have decided at the very least to ride only on what we can describe as "established trails" and will wear some kind of safety lid when doing so. Walking would therefore still be part of the retrieval process, ergo, proceed to the general vicinity of the airplane, park rig and walk to pick it up. No drama in that!

As stated at the beginning, education through deliberation is the order of the day.

J.O., Safety Officer for 2010

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### **ON THE LIGHTER SIDE - H.Haupt**

Our February meeting will start the after meeting flying season. Break out you're A-6, Butterfly, or Hand Launch Glider for some hanger time in the air after the meeting.

Pizza will be available from Venice Pizza House at our meeting this month. Bring your favorite drink, as well as some money to cover your \$2.00 per slice charge for your favorite pizza. Plates, paper towels, plastic utensils, and trash receptacle will be provided.

## **Club Banquet and Year 2009 Club Contest Results**

Our annual club banquet was held at Giovanni's to celebrate the close of our recent year of club competition.

This year's winner of our San Diego Orbiteer of the Year goes to...drum roll... John Oldenkamp! John O. had a repeat year of winning the 4 outdoor categories to again earn top honor.

Our competition throughout the year is fun, competitive, demanding and naturally requires plenty of time, hard work and untold effort. So this year we formally gave recognition and very nice ribbons to our first and second runners up in each major category. An excel spread sheet is provided for those who enjoy reading charts. A simple summary of winners in each category is listed below.

### **P-30**

John Oldenkamp  
Mike Pykelny  
Don Bartick

### **COUPE**

John Oldenkamp  
Larry Bagalini  
Bob Overcash

### **NON-POWER**

John Oldenkamp  
Mike Pykelny  
John Hutchison

### **POWER**

John Oldenkamp  
Larry Bagalini  
Mike Pykelny

### **ORBITEER OF 2009**

John Oldenkamp (Overall Club Champion)  
Mike Pykelny  
Larry Bagalini

### **INDOOR CLUB CHAMPION**

Howard Haupt  
John Merrill  
Don Bartick

**I thank all club members for a great year of club support and competition. I appreciate everyone's help and participation.**

*Larry Miller*

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	<b>San Diego Orbiteer Club Contest Results as of Dec 31, 2009</b>											
2												
3												
4	The Winner of each vertical yellow category is highlighted in blue and receives a club perpetual Trophy.											
5												
6	First and second runners up in each vertical category are highlighted in red and grey respectively.											
7												
8												
9		<b>P 30</b>	+	<b>Coupe</b>	+	<b>OT, HLG</b>	=	<b>NON-Power</b>		<b>Power</b>	(Non-Power + Power)	
10						<b>CLG, P-20</b>						<b>Overall Tot. Points</b>
11	<b>Member Name:</b>											
12												
13	Alling	3		0		5		8		0		8
14	Bagalini	9		16		0		25		20		45
15	Bartick	16		7		0		23		8		31
16	Beecroft	0		0		0		0		0		0
17	Love	0		0		4		4		0		4
18	Castillo	0		2		0		2		0		2
19	Chomyn	5		2		7		14		0		14
20	Hobbs	0		0		0		0		0		0
21	Hutchison	12		12		8		32		0		32
22	Ives	0		0		0		0		0		0
23	Langdon	2		5		6		13		0		13
24	Miller	7		11		0		18		4		22
25	Oldenkamp	25		20		17		62		36		98
26	Overcash	5		14		2		21		13		34
27	Primbs	0		0		6		6		2		8
28	Pykelny	17		13		6		36		17		53
29	Ray	0		0		0		0		0		0
30	Slovacek	0		0		0		0		0		0
31	Mansfield	0		0		2		2		0		2
32	Steinmetz	4		8		1		13		5		18
33	Willis	0		0		0		0		0		0
34	Zackman	0		0		0		0		0		0
35												



John Oldenkamp: 1<sup>ST</sup> P-30, Coupe, Power, Non-Power & 2009 Orbiteer Club Champion.

Photos by A.Bartick

**ADDITIONAL BANQUET PHOTOS - A.Bartick**



Mike Pykelny: 2<sup>ND</sup> P-30 with Larry Miller & Don Bartick



Don Bartick: 3<sup>RD</sup> P-30



John Hutchison: 3<sup>RD</sup> Non-Power



Bob Overcash: 3<sup>RD</sup> Coupe with Larry Miller



Howard Haupt: 1<sup>ST</sup> Indoor with Larry Miller



John Merrill: 2<sup>ND</sup> Indoor with Larry Miller

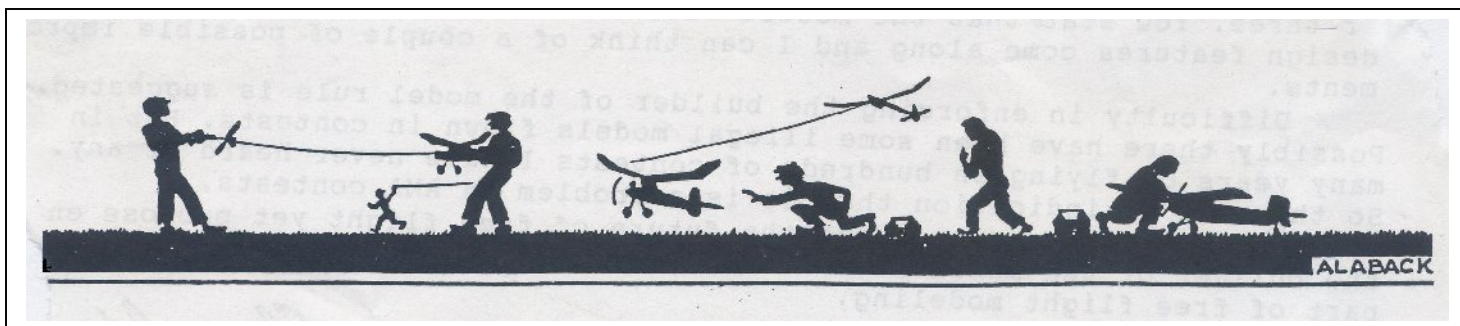
**ANNUAL SAN DIEGO ORBITEER BANQUET** - January 2010



From left to right:

John & Kathy Hutchison, John Merrill, Bob Overcash & wife, Andy McFarland (behind), Howard Haupt, Arline & Don Bartick, Larry Miller, John Alling, John Oldenkamp, Gus del Castillo & wife, Mike Pykelny (behind), and Karen.

Photo by L.Miller camera with unknown shutter person.



## **SAN DIEGO ORBITEERS**

Howard Haupt / Editor

3860 Ecochee Avenue

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## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

## **FEBRUARY 2010**

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Feb 4 - Scale Staffel meeting for Hanger Flying, San Carlos, 7:30 pm.

Feb 7 - Indoor Flying, Grossmont College, 9:00 to 12:00 pm,  
GymBox flying contest, with cash prizes.

Feb 12 - **Orbiteer Monthly meeting at S.D. City Serv. Cntr. @ Scripp's Ranch,**  
11885 Cypress Canyon Road, Meeting starts at 7:00 pm.  
Indoor Fun Fly featuring A-6 & Gliders up to 8" follows the meeting.

Feb 19 - Scale Staffel Indoor Fun Fly, San Carlos Rec. Cntr., 6:45 pm.

Feb 21 - **Orbiteers Monthly, Otay Mesa, 8:00 am.**

Non-power: **OT Rubber Stick (Small)**

Other Classes: **P-20, HLG & CLG**

Power: **All Classes**

**Local Field Weather: (619) 661-8297**

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