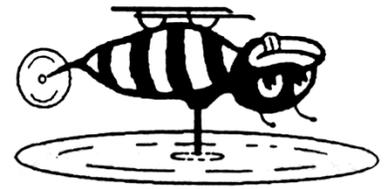




BEEES BREEZE



RC BEES of Santa Cruz County, Inc.



Newsletter

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Next meeting

**Thursday, January 17th, at the EAA building,
Aviation Way, Watsonville Airport, 7:30 p.m.**

December Meeting

The annual dinner was held at 6:60 p.m. on December 20th at the EAA building in Watsonville and was a great success! Thank you, Laurie Trescott and her helpers. A large turn-out with plenty of family members, and lots of good food brought in, generally home-cooked.



And a couple of close-ups, followed by Kathy Edwards, Don's wife, drawing the winning lottery ticket, a Horizon Hobby gift certificate, won by Richard Ludt. Allen Ginzburg won another gift certificate and Hugh Chalmers got an RCBees hat.

No regular meeting was held, and no 'Show and Tell' either, so we'll go straight to

Down by the River

It seems that everybody loves a Fun Cub, and here is Steve Boracca's very nice looking Multiplex version.



Another very popular model, Mike Hushaw's Stearman PT-17 in Navy color scheme. I suppose that makes it a Stearman N2S. Mike finds it much nicer to fly since he powered it with a Fly Venom 2200 4-cell LiPo battery.



This is where I throw in my personal Lloyd Stearman story. Back in the 1960's I worked in advanced design at the Lockheed Aircraft part of the company in Burbank. I was in charge of propulsion installation design on our new airplanes.

To everyone's surprise, an old guy, must have been well past normal retirement age, was set up with a

drawing board just a couple of desks from my office. Yes, it was Lloyd Stearman, who had got bored just staying home, and decided to see how he could help out at Lockheed. He was a good designer, and I enjoyed talking to him. He didn't stay more than about six months, In retrospect, I regret that I didn't spend more time with him, trying to learn more from his tremendous background in the industry.

It's really great that we are getting so many new very young members – really keeps us old guys on our toes! The latest is 8-year-old Joshua Albano who has joined along with his dad, David, and is already flying very competently. Here he is with his E-Flite Apprentice. Welcome, Joshua!



As many of you know, our fine modeler, Johnny Skoch, finds that his professional drone manufacturing for law enforcement agencies has forced him to give up his hobby, at least for a while. George McKeon, a very skilled modeler in his own right, bought some of Johnny's airplanes, did some finishing work on them, and here is his Curtiss P-6E, a beautiful 1930's U.S. Navy fighter. Great to watch this big bird fly, although we agreed that it could probably use a little more power than it currently has. George is working on it!



It looks so nice, it deserves a second shot! Here it is on the runway after its successful maiden flight!



Going to a totally different kind of airplane, here is Hugh Chalmer's Hobby King MX Z, a nice simple aerobatic, and probably 3-D, foamie. A lot of enjoyment per dollar!



Alan Brown and the Blackburn Brothers

In 1912, a farmer in Yorkshire, England, asked Robert Blackburn to build him a single-seat airplane so that he could joy-ride round the countryside. A year after he got it, he ran the airplane into a ditch on his farm, and the machine was put into a barn pending repair. A year later, World War I broke out, and the plane was forgotten, not to be rediscovered until 1937. Lord Shuttleworth, who had the nice combination of considerable wealth and being an old-airplane nut, bought the plane for his collection. This is the site at Old Warden, about fifty miles north of London, open to the public as a flying collection.

He brought the airplane in parts to Old Warden to work on restoration. Well, what do you know, within a couple of years, World War II broke out,

and the Monoplane went on the back burner again. Work restarted after the war, with some help from the Blackburn Aircraft Company, now a fully-fledged airplane company specializing in naval aircraft, about equivalent to Grumman in the U.S.A., to complete the job.

Now flash forward to September, 1945. Alan Brown joins the Blackburn Aircraft Company as an apprentice. While working there, across the field from the main plant, the 1912 monoplane comes back to Blackburn's for some completion work, and goes into the Shuttleworth collection. Meanwhile, Alan works in the main drawing office for the last six months of his five year stint, and occasionally sees Robert Blackburn, now chairman of the board, wandering past the drawing boards. In June, 1950, Alan duly receives his apprenticeship certificate from the then managing director, Norman Blackburn, the younger brother of Robert, shown in the next picture..



In 1991, Alan and friends attended the 125th anniversary of the Royal Aeronautical Society held at Old Warden. A unique air show with not only the Shuttleworth collection in the air, but also a flying display by all the major aircraft constructors in Britain. Here's the same Blackburn Monoplane on the ground, the oldest still flying British airplane, which is why I built a model of one myself!

