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Volunteers Anyone???

# THE ACRONAUT

Volume 4 - Number 4

May 2003

## President's Post Angie Niles



I can not even begin to tell you how busy of a month

March tuned out to be for me. If it wasn't work related, it didn't get done. Virtually all personal business was put on hold, including IAC chapter related duties. Certainly anything that was accomplished was done without my help and so I would like to take the time to say thank you to the people who have selflessly volunteered their time towards chapter events.

Marilyn Dash gets the grand prize. She organized and ran a very successful Basic and Advanced Judges School, spearheaded the chapter presence at the FAA Aerobatic Safety Seminar/SWAN Festival, has volunteered to write a column for the newsletter, will be helping out at the Chapter Paso Robles Contest as well as competing and all while dealing with selling a house, buying a condo, moving, buying a Pitts and figuring out how to fly the darn thing. I wish we had a dozen Marilyn's.

Dick Rihn volunteered to be Paso Robles Contest Director—even though he knows full well what is involved and should have known better = ;-). Terry Ridgeway organized what was to be our first of three Young Eagles rallies out at Tracy Airport. Weather cancelled the event at the last minute, but don't think for an instant that Terry didn't put in a ton of work preparing before Mother Nature tossed a bucket of water on his plans. Dave Walkup has been hosting the TCY box chapter critique days held on the 4th Saturday of the month. On April 13th Cecilia presented her Unusual Attitude Recovery Training talk as part of the FAA Aviation Safety Program. Our chapter co-sponsored the event.

I encourage everyone to volunteer at some level. It is the life blood of the chapter.

There are lots of levels to volunteer at—some can be as simple as telling Darren Pleasance, our VP and meetings/events coordinator, an idea you had for a meeting speaker or fly-in or field trip. There are several volunteer slots that need to be filled during the Paso Robles contest. I know that Dick Rihn needs help getting breakfast snacks and lunches ordered and delivered to Paso Contest volunteers. It would also be helpful for a group to fly down for a pre-contest inspection of equipment to see what repairs need to be done. We also need people to volunteer a couple hours a day for t-shirt sales at the Paso Contest. Finally, we could really use a layout editor for the newsletter. I have had a great return from people when I've asked them to write things for the newsletter but unfortunately I just don't have the time every month to lay the articles out in a nice format. Virtually everything is done on computer and over email and it's a great way to get to know chapter members and keep up on activities.

So come on out and get involved!

**Renew Your Membership online!**  
\$25 – Single \$30 – Family  
[www.iac38.org](http://www.iac38.org)

### In This Issue

- 1 Presidents Post
- 2 A Day at the Races
- 3 Safety Seminar with Cecilia Aragon
- 3 Tracy Aerobatic Box Changes
- 3 Chapter Dues
- 4 May Meeting & Westover Fly-in
- 5 Paso Robles Contest
- 5 Newsletter Editor Needed
- 6 Calendar of Events
- 6 Chapter Merchandise
- 6 Classifieds
- 7 Membership Application

## A Day At The Races

Jacjie Warda

### *THERE I WAS ... FLYING LOW, FAST AND LEFT!*

Very few things in my life will compare to the excitement of living life in the low, fast, left lane as a race pilot. For over 20 years I attended the Reno Air Races as a spectator with thousands of others but never did I sit in the stands thinking that some day I would be out there myself. I just wasn't geared up for that kind of thinking. I was thrilled to be there, just happy to be around airplanes for days on end in September of each year. It was a little birthday present to myself each time I went.

The short story begins when I was at my hangar in Livermore one weekend day in 2001 cleaning my new Pitts S1-T. The guy who hangared next door to me came by to chat as he also had a Pitts in his hangar. After much talking and bragging, he said to

me, "So, are you going to race that thing in Reno this year?" I stood kind of blank-faced thinking, well, maybe I could. Having never thought of doing that, it took awhile for the idea to gel in my mind. The more I thought about it, the more curious I became and I wondered if maybe I would like racing my airplane. So, I made lots of

phone calls and learned I would need to attend the Pylon Racing Seminar held every June for new and returning pilots. I made a deal with myself. I would think only as far as the seminar, and if I did okay there, then I would think about actually racing. I knew the danger and risks involved, and I thought it would make good sense to take one step at a time.

June arrived; I went to Reno and had a wonderful time meeting new pilots. I attended the ground school each morning and the flying practice on the course each afternoon, for 4 days. The biplanes and formula class airplanes flew together each day.

As the new rookie, I was given as much time on the course as I wanted each day. The other pilots watched me, encouraged me, and were very generous with their comments and advice. I will say that the first day on that course was the most exciting day of my life, to date, anyway! It is very hard to describe how I felt that first day, but I think adrenalin was my friend that day in a huge way! I felt electrified, on fire, breathless, wide-eyed, scared to death, all in the same flight! I'm sure I wasn't very low, but it felt low to me! By the 4<sup>th</sup> day of training, I was still feeling all those emotions, but I was much more comfortable with the whole process and I was flying low, about 50 feet off the ground, to be exact. When I focused on what I was doing, I didn't pay too much attention to my low altitude. Of course the purpose of the pylon seminar was to teach us how to fly the race course safely with the intention of winning, or at least trying to win. I was getting a lot of advice from many, and with each flight on the course, I tried to focus on one thing and master that. So by Sunday I was doing a pretty good job of flying the course safely, and each day I was faster and flying a much better line. Four days was not enough time to master any of those things, but it did give me a great introduction into what I would be up against come race time in September.



September arrived; I had done all my paperwork, bought the required insurance, made my reservations, called all my friends, and then flew to Reno the Saturday before practice was to begin. Well, that was September of 2001 and we all know too well what happened to us that week. Needless to

say, the week was spent sitting around waiting, walking around wondering and spending lots of time in our pit area talking to each other. The week came and went and the races were cancelled. And we all eventually went home.

I was a little disappointed, but in light of what was going on around me, I didn't give it too much thought for a long time. I decided I would try again in 2002 and see what came my way then. Well, I can now say I am no longer a rookie as I have one race under my belt. I showed up in September of 2002, paid my money, did my paperwork, attended the pilot briefings in the "Room of Hard Benches", practiced every minute I could,

qualified, and showed up Thursday morning for my first race. I flew well, I flew safely and I had tons of help from the other race pilots each day. Each race (I had 3 races; 2 heat races and one final) I flew better and better. My time improved and that was all I could ask for. I made it through race week and made it to the Sunday night awards banquet. To make things even better, at the end of the week, I flew, finished and they gave me a huge trophy and a check!!!! This is one sport where everyone who enters and finishes, receives a trophy and a check. I think it takes as much courage and guts to finish in 6<sup>th</sup> place as it does to finish in 1<sup>st</sup> place!! The people who run the races know this, and honor each and every one of us at the end.

Timing is everything. Well, almost everything. Right time, right place, required qualifications and the appropriate level of enthusiasm are the four things I had going for me last September. All the formation flying I had done with friends and teachers, all the competition of the last few years, all the practice working towards an air show career certainly helped me become a race pilot. But the most important part of my success so far is my belief in my ability to do whatever I set my mind to doing. I had a plan and a long checklist, and by the time race week rolled around, I had a check mark in each box on my list! I had done well! And I was excited and ready to fly! And fly I did and I'm going back for more this year! And with lots of luck, the year after that! I'm hooked!

## IAC Chapter 38 March Meeting and FAA Wings Program Safety Seminar:



Speaker  
**Cecilia Aragon**

**FAA Aviation Safety-Education Seminar. Qualifies for the FAA Wings Program**

### Unusual Attitude Recovery Training

The March IAC chapter 38 meeting was held at the Tracy Flight Center. The guest speaker this month was our own Cecilia Aragon and the topic of her seminar was a Safety Program discussing unusual attitudes, recovery techniques, basic aerobatics, spin aerodynamics and more. Excellent talk. We were delighted to have 77 attendees. All of the membership applications laid out were quickly picked up. Hopefully we'll get some new members as a result of this seminar.

Cecilia Aragon is a former United States Aerobatic Team pilot, an airshow performer and flight instructor with 5,000 hours of flight time. She has been teaching aerobatics, unusual attitude recovery, and spin training for over 15 years. Cecilia is an Air-line Transport Pilot and holds a flight instructor certificate with single and multi-engine, instrument and glider ratings.

### !!!!!!! IMPORTANT !!!!!!! YOUR NAME ON THE TCY BOX WAIVER IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE

The Tracy box waiver expires at the end of this month (April 2003). All names on the waiver will expire at this time. It will be unauthorized use and a violation of the FARs to fly in the box until you are added to the new waiver. The good news is that the Paperwork for renewal is in and looks promising.

In addition to signing the waiver form, a mandatory briefing and additional paperwork will be required before being added to the TCY 2003-2004 waiver.

The Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, April 29 to discuss briefing procedures and designate briefers.

Box Contacts after April 30:

Angie Niles: president@iac38.org  
925-373-8786

or

Dave Walkup: dwalkup@prodigy.net

### 2003 Chapter Dues are Due!

Please remember to renew your dues today. Renewing your membership keeps the chapter healthy and you flying in the box. Don't delay renew now...if you don't this will be your last month as an active member. You can use the form on the back of the newsletter or visit our web site to renew online.

### Renew Your Membership Today!

\$25 - Single \$30 - Family  
www.iac38.org



## May IAC Chapter 38 Meeting May 10<sup>th</sup> at Noon



### FLY-IN AND BBQ AT WESTOVER AIRPORT Hosted by Cris & Dale Flint & the Grrrls

We have been requested by our members in the Sacramento and Sierra Gold Rush areas to host a chapter meeting closer to home. Always up for a challenge Cris Flint offered to host the May meeting from his home airport of Westover (O70) in Amador County, near Jackson CA. It's a beautiful location with views of the Sierra Nevada mountains as well as Central Valley.

Fly or drive over for a burger and hot dog. It's sure to be a gorgeous afternoon with good company. The chapter will provide burgers, hot dogs, sodas, chips, salad and cookies. Bring yourself and have a great time!

**Location**

FAA Identifier: O70  
 Lat/Long: 38-22-36.484N / 120-47-38.067W  
 38-22.60807N / 120-47.63445W  
 38.3768011 / -120.7939075  
 (estimated)  
 Elevation: 1690 ft. / 515.1 m (surveyed)  
 Variation: 16E (1985)  
 From city: 2 miles NW of JACKSON, CA



**Airport Communications Information**

CTAF/UNICOM: 122.8  
 WX AWOS-3: 121.125 (209-257-1292)  
 NORCAL APPROACH: 127.4  
 NORCAL DEPARTURE: 127.4  
 IC: 127.4  
 WX AWOS-3 at CPU (15 nm SE): 118.525 (209-736-2523)

**Runway**

Runway 1/19  
 Dimensions: 3411 x 60 ft. / 1040 x 18 m  
 Surface: asphalt, in good condition  
 Weight limitations:  
 Single wheel: 12500 lbs  
 Runway edge lights: medium intensity

Traffic pattern:	<b>RUNWAY 1</b> left
Runway heading:	334 magnetic, 350 true
Markings:	basic, in good condition
Visual slope indicator:	2-box VASI on left (3.00 degrees glide path)
Runway end identifier lights:	yes
Obstructions:	none

<b>RUNWAY 19</b> left
154 magnetic, 170 true
basic, in good condition
2-box VASI on left (4.00 degrees glide path)
yes
20 ft. tree, 480 ft. from runway, 14:1 slope to clear





## Northern California Regional Aerobatic Contest

June 6th - June 8th, 2003  
Paso Robles, California

Paso Robles 2003 is already in the works. The new facilities on the field were great in 2002, and for 2003 our CD is the venerable and extremely experienced Dick Rihn. Dick has a very long and distinguished history with Paso and IAC Chapter 38.

We request that you take a moment and pre-register for the contest - it will make our lives easier and make your tech go quicker! Our objective for pre-registered contestants is you show up, sign your form, and go practice.

Online

Fill out the Paso Robles Contest Pre-Registration Form.

Or, if you prefer, you can download a blank contest registration form (Adobe Acrobat reader required).

Don't forget to:

- \* Fill out Contest Entry Form
- \* Fill out the Volunteer Sign-Up Form
- \* Fill out the Order Of Flight worksheet

**Paso Robles Airport**, California ( check AirNav or AeroPlanner). N35 40.4 W120 37.6. CTAF 123.0.

Airport office (805)-237-3877. Check NOTAMS before departure.



### Accommodations

Adelaide Inn \$50+ (805) 238 2770  
Black Oak Lodge \$60+ (805) 238 4740  
Colony Motor Inn \$60+ (805) 466 4449  
Motel 6 \$40+ (805) 239 9090  
Paso Robles Inn \$100+ (805) 238 2660  
Travelodge \$55+ (805) 238 0078  
Holiday Inn Express \$70+ (805) 238-6500  
Melody Ranch Motel \$45+ (805) 238-3911  
Relax Inn \$40+ (805) 238-3013

Say that you are with the International Aerobatic Club when making reservations. San Luis Obispo or Atascadero are excellent alternatives for hotel rooms. Camping and RVs are welcome at the airport.



### Food

Available on the airport Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and lunches will be provided for all competitors & volunteers Friday and Saturday. Friday evening BBQ will also be provided for competitors & volunteers. Saturday evening banquet. The banquet location is not firm yet, but should be settled soon. It will be good!



### Schedule

Wednesday 4-June: all day setup  
Thursday 5-June: 7:00am - sundown Registration & practice  
Friday 6-June: 7:00am - 7:30am Pilot briefing  
8:00am - sundown Contest flying  
7:30pm Barbecue  
Saturday 7-June: 7:00am - 7:30am Pilot briefing  
8:00am - sundown Contest flying  
8:00pm Banquet & Awards  
Sunday 8-June: all day Reserve and break down

**Our Contest Director, Dick Rihn, is always looking for volunteers to help with everything from contest set-up & tear down to food delivery.**

**Dick Rihn: pasocd@iac38.org  
Or phone 925-938-4236**

### Editor Wanted

The chapter is in need of a newsletter editor. This is a great way to get involved with something you can do from the comfort of your own home. If you are...

- Available a few hours a month
- Computer literate
- Organized
- Have e-mail access



then you are ready to be our next editor. The newsletter doesn't have to be as pretty, it just has to be. We have almost everything you need to get started, so don't worry.

If you are interested, please contact me, Angie Niles at president@iac38.org, or call 925-373-8786. Thanks!

## Calendar of Events

### May

- 2-3 Apple Valley Contest
- 10 Chapter 38 Monthly Meeting. Fly-in and BBQ at Westover Field (O70) note: 12:00 start time For more information see page 4 or check the website [iac38.org](http://iac38.org)**
- 16-17 Ephrata, Washington contest
- 24 Chapter 38 Tracy Box Critique Day: [dwalkup@prodigy.net](mailto:dwalkup@prodigy.net)**

### June

- 5-8 Paso Robles Contest — IAC Chapter 38: [pasocd@iac38.org](mailto:pasocd@iac38.org)**
- 14 Chapter 38 sponsored Young Eagles Day, Tracy: [youneagles@iac38.org](mailto:youneagles@iac38.org)**
- 28 Chapter 38 Tracy Box Critique Day: [dwalkup@prodigy.net](mailto:dwalkup@prodigy.net)**

### July

- 4 Chapter formation fly-by for City of Tracy July 4th Celebration (tentative)**
- ? Chapter 38 Monthly Meeting. Post Paso Contest Party**
- 26 Chapter 38 Tracy Box Critique Day: [dwalkup@prodigy.net](mailto:dwalkup@prodigy.net)**

### August

- ? Wayne Handley Unusual Attitude Seminar**
- 10 Chapter 38 Monthly Meeting**
- 20-24 Pendleton, OR Contest
- 23 Chapter 38 Tracy Box Critique Day: [dwalkup@prodigy.net](mailto:dwalkup@prodigy.net)**
- 30-31 Delano Contest

### September

- ? Chapter fly-in & BBQ to Cloverdale airport**
- 14 Chapter 38 Monthly Meeting**
- 21-26 US Nationals — Texas
- 27 Chapter 38 sponsored Young Eagles Day, Tracy: [youneagles@iac38.org](mailto:youneagles@iac38.org)**

### October

- 10-11 Borrego Akrofest — Borrego CA — IAC Chapter 36 — [www.iac36.org](http://www.iac36.org)
- 12 Chapter 38 Monthly Meeting**

## Classified Adds

For sale: Freebird 300  
Unlimited monoplane for sale:

- \* 380 hrs on a DeMars Lycoming AEIO-540, producing about 315 HP
- \* Zivko Edge wing mated to a modified Rebel 300 fuselage
- \* MTV-9 prop, 60 hrs since full tear-down and inspection (everything was perfect)
- \* 17 gallon main fuel, 8 gallons per side in the wings
- \* 5+ gallon smoke tank with easily accessible switch
- \* Terra radio & x-ponder
- \* Electronics International fuel totalizer
- \* detachable-face AM/FM cassette stereo in right wing root
- \* Hooker harness
- \* Aviation Products full-swivel tailwheel, 4-inch wheel
- \* Halon fire bottle with panic button in cockpit
- \* VNE 230 knots
- \* asking price \$80,000

Fresh annual completed April 2003

This beauty cruises at 170 knots at economy settings, rolls at 420 deg/sec, and is very comfortable to fly. Expertly maintained. It was featured on the cover of the April 1999 issue of "Sport Aerobatics".

See more detail and pictures at [www.Freebird-Aerobatics.com/freebirdforsale.htm](http://www.Freebird-Aerobatics.com/freebirdforsale.htm), or call 209-223-2314.



## Show Your Chapter 38 Pride - Buy Logo Wear

<b>Chapter Patch</b>	\$12 Each	
<b>Chapter 38 T-Shirts</b>	\$20 Each	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL
<b>Chapter 38 Sweatshirts</b>	\$35 Each	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL
<b>Chapter Mouse Mat</b>	\$12 Each	
<b>FAI Printed Catalog</b>	\$10 Donation	

Quantity	Total
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
<b>Total</b>	_____

Make Check Payable to:  
**Northern California  
Aerobatic Club**

Mail to:  
**Bradley Oliver, Treasurer  
664 Moraga Dr  
Livermore, CA 94550**

# IAC Chapter 38 Membership Application/Renewal Form

New Member

Renewal

Address/Phone Change

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail 1: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail 2: \_\_\_\_\_

IAC #: \_\_\_\_\_ EAA #: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate #: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge:  Regional  National Newsletter:  E-mail (Adobe PDF)  Postal Mail

Competition:  None  Basic  Sportsman  Intermediate  Advanced  Unlimited

Aircraft: \_\_\_\_\_ N #: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues:  Single Membership (\$25/year)  Family Membership (\$30/year)

Send with check, made payable to "International Aerobatic Club Chapter 38", to:  
Brad Oliver, IAC38 Treasurer 664 Moraga Dr. Livermore, CA 94550



Ghost  
Editor, IAC 38  
2032 Helsinki Way  
Livermore, CA 94550



**Chapter Meeting:**  
**March 10th**  
**See Page 3 for Location**