



Northern California
Aerobatic Club

CHAPTER 38

◆CHAPTER OFFICERS

**Darren Pleasance,
President**
650.212.1806 H
415.318.5145 W
president@iac38.org

**Sal Webber
Vice-President**
vicepres@iac38.org

Don Gutridge, Secretary
secretary@iac38.org

Howard Kirker, Treasurer
510.651.6514 H
treasurer@iac38.org

◆DIRECTORS

Dave Watson

Marilyn Dash
marilyndash@comcast.net

Andrew Connolly
connola2@airproducts.com

Gordon Sorensen
916.548.2079 H
916.645.6242 W
twotterdriver@hotmail.com

Peter Jensen
pittss2b@hotmail.com

Che Barnes
chebarnes@yahoo.com

◆DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Dr. Richard Rihn
510.938.4236 H
rihnairco@aol.com

Jeanette Goodman
209.478.5462

Tom Myers
650.328.2141 H
650.605.2343 W
tom.myers@stanfordalumni.org

◆WEBMASTER
Brett Goldsmith
brett.e.goldsmith@gmail.com

◆YOUNG EAGLES
Need a Volunteer

◆NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Che Barnes
editor@iac38.org

THE ACRONAUT

Volume 8 - Number 9



Happiness at Delano

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This is a journey sport, not a destination sport.

— Todd Whitmer

Anybody can jump a motorcycle. The trouble begins when you try to land it.

- Evel Knievel

Article or Pictures?

Send them in!

editor@iac38.org

Share your aviation experiences with the rest of the club.

President's Post

Darren Pleasance



Greetings Fellow IAC38ers,

Well Labor Day is surely an appropriate holiday this year for me as I've been doing nothing but laboring away on planes and in hotels for 20 hour days for the past several weeks. This has resulted in a late Prez Post, an inability to attend Delano, and a severe lack of sleep in case you were wondering.

However, I'm back in the game and excited about the coming months as we round the corner into Fall and head down the homestretch for the year. Several things to catch up on:

- 1) Delano success
- 2) This month's Chapter meeting - BEN FREELOVE!!!
- 3) Chapter elections coming up

DELANO SUCCESS

I returned from a 5 hour trip to Chicago earlier this week to a great voicemail from Andrew informing me that our Chapter had essentially swept the categories at Delano with us taking



Obviously a future pilot, little Evan dragged his dad out to check out a practice session at Tracy.

first in Sportsman, Intermediate, Advanced, and Unlimited. And don't be fooled into thinking there were only 1 or 2 pilots in each category, or that only Chapter 38 showed up. In fact, there were over 50 pilots at Delano this year with outstanding participation by Chapters across the Western U.S. and a very healthy number of pilots in both Sportsman and Intermediate.

I couldn't be more thrilled to hear that Delano was a success given all the hard work that goes into these contests, and to see it be among the highest turnouts they've ever had is a great testament to the strength of aerobatics in the Western U.S. This attendance was achieved with the Watson Airforce, or Sunrise Aviation, nor my own little Laser so it was really terrific to hear Andrew share with me how strong attendance and participation had been this year. Congrats to Bob Meyer and the whole Chapter!

BEN FREELOVE

If you missed it last year, don't miss it this year. Ben will be back again to share his expertise, with great movie clips, on the full world of spins. As you may recall, last year Ben had tons of video from the cockpit, showing multiple perspectives of every spin type imaginable, including flat spins, accelerated spins, inverted and upright spins, knife edge spins, cross-over spins, and every imaginable combination of these you can think of. Everyone who attended last year told me that they thought Ben's presentation was outstanding and they couldn't wait for him to come back. If you have any desire to understand the full spectrum of spins (and all of you should), then make sure to attend our Chapter meeting this Sunday (September 9) at 4:00 at Attitude Aviation.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

While elections aren't until November, I wanted to plant the seed that we're always looking for volunteers and strong leadership. If you have an interest in getting more involved in the Chapter, please let me know and we'll make sure to get your name on the ballot and help you figure out where the most appropriate place to plug in would be. The Chapter has a ton of momentum and a great set of volunteers. Please contribute some energy and get involved to help us continue to

strengthen the quality of what we provide our members, and continue to attract new members to this wonderful sport of ours.

Well, unfortunately my flight is now descending and the Captain of my Alaska Airlines flight is telling us to "prepare for landing" so I've got to wrap things up.

I hope I get to see you all this Sunday at our Chapter meeting. Don't miss it!

Blue Skies,

Darren

Delano Scoop and Notes on Pendleton

Che Barnes

My apologies for the late newsletter. I spent the last weekend participating in aerobatics rather than just writing about it!

The Delano contest was a scorcher in more ways than one. First, it was really, really hot—triple digit temperatures. Also, the folks with Chapter 26 did a great job of putting on the contest. Hats off to the contest director, Bob Meyer, and all the folks who helped. I am always impressed that a group of people put on such a well organized, safe, and intense event during their off-time. I can only imagine what sort of outstanding things they do on a full time basis.



Ben Freelove and Tom Myers

I arrived on Friday afternoon—the designated registration and practice day, and was pleased to see many familiar faces. Ken Erickson was there with a solid contingent from Sean D. Tucker's Tutima Academy. Ken flew as the safety pilot for 3 pilots in Sportsmen category; Conrad Byer, David Stoik, and Jon Crawford—all who flew Chapter 38 colors. He also was a safety pilot for Eric Lentz-Gauthier, who flew intermediate. Ken deserves some kind of award for the most in-contest flight time.

We also had another 1st place sweep by our famed Howard Kirker—Great Lakes pilot extraordinaire. Howard took 1st place in the Intermediate category. Like Mike Eggen, he also won 1st place in his category at Pendleton a month or so ago. Howard is a great pilot and a great person to have at a contest. Jessica Panzer, former Star or Tomorrow pilot, was there with her Pitts that was on the cover of the newsletter a couple of months ago. Eric Chasanoff from Petaluma, who has contributed a few photos to the newsletter, made it as well. (He was a hit with the ladies.) Steadfast members Andrew Connolly and Yuichi Takagi were there with their beautiful S-2S fresh after a prop overhaul. Cory Lovell also made a great showing. Due to a vapor-locked hot engine, Cory ended up flying all three of his flights on the same day. "Just like flying at a aerobatic camp," he said.



Mike Eggen won 1st Place Sportsmen at Pendleton and Delano

In Sportsman, Chapter 38 was further represented by Gary Evans in his Pitts S-2C. Also, Brian Stout walked off with a Gold and Silver medal in the flight categories with his Christen Eagle II. In the end, Mike Eggen and his Decathlon cleaned house with a first place in Sportsman. Good thing too, as his wife Susie, said, "The flight home is a lot more pleasant

when he wins." By the way, this is Mike's second first-place finish—he walked off with a 1st place prize in the Pendleton's Sportsman category as well. Way to represent, Mike!

On Sunday just prior to the Advanced unknown, I had the pleasure of helping out at the judge's tent in 100 degree heat with Tom Myers and Ben Freelove. Between them and Bill Stein (one of the judges), there was a diatribe of humorous cracks that I wish I could do justice to on paper. They, of course, were entirely professional as well. Tom and Ben were due to fly their Advance Unknown sequence next, and were conversing. "I'll be happy if I don't zero anything," said Tom. Ben replied, "I'll be happy if I don't put myself to sleep."

In the end, Todd Whitmer took the Advanced first place trophy and Ben took third place, so I assume he did not put himself to sleep. Norm DeWitt was also there with his Edge. He scared off the competition and took 1st in Unlimited.

Also, to set the record straight regarding Pendleton and Chapter 38 members, Norm DeWitt came in second for the Ad-

(Continued on page 4)



Howard Kirker is Awarded 1st place Intermediate by contest director Bob Meyer

vanced category. For Unlimited, Vicki Cruse racked up a first place trophy and Todd Whitmer came in 3rd. Chapter 38 has been doing well indeed.

OK, back to Delano. Spencer Suderman and David Platt also showed up with their black S2B. David took 2nd in Intermediate and it was good to see them. Spencer gave me my first Pitts ride in that airplane a few years ago at Paso Robles. Spencer also seemed like the first guy with a cracked beer in his hand at the end of the day.

Aerobatic airplanes are made up in part by a little bit of the same stuff dreams are made of. When the contest was officially over, aerobatic airplanes were taking off out of the dead heat of Delano—there engines reverberating overhead. They headed off to all parts of the West, the pilots headed back to their lives and homes where their ideas and dreams are sustained. It was at the end of the contest, with all the nervousness and anticipation gone, that I realized that with its ramp packed with aerobatic airplanes of every type and the people who brought them there, for a few days Delano was a very special place indeed

-Che

Hangar Available

Gary Augustine has a 50' x 50' hangar at Byron with space for aerobatic airplanes. Call him if interested. 925-759-5600 (c) or 925-779-9496 (h).

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PITTS S1. This aircraft was purchased by Casey Erickson of Chapter 36 and promptly flew at Delano. Looked sharp and racked up a 2nd place in primary. Great job, Casey.



Norm DeWitt and Tom Myers staying cool indoors

Right: Volunteers getting back in from the line.

Below: The starting line at Delano.



Above: Intermediate pilots Howard Kirker, Che Barnes, Randy Owens, and Jessica Panzer.

Right: Part of the Tutima contingent out of King City.

IAC Chapter 38 Membership Application/Renewal Form

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E-mail 1: _____

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Judge: Regional National

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:
Howard Kirker, IAC38 Treasurer - 2279 Ocaso Camino - Fremont, CA 94539



Che Barnes
Editor, IAC 38
23800 State Hwy 16
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