

# Western Rotorcraft

PRA 73, 15 & 2

News for July 2010



## ROTR Draws 18 Rotorcraft, 80+ Attendees



Above, Kevin Richey of Portland, OR prepares for a taxi test of carb jetting on his Sport Copter, one of 12 gyroplanes and six helicopters at ROTR 2010.

### G-YROX Undergoing Repairs

(June 9) Norman Surplus reports from Thailand that he's waiting for approval from the CAA, and parts from Germany, before he can resume flying around the world. "Then we need a special pilot from the UK for test flights to make sure it is all working correctly.



"We are hoping that I should be away in two weeks, and certainly before the end of June." Norman said it would not be impossible to fly in a monsoon - but it will make the task more difficult. "The [autogyro](#) is not adverse to that but visibility is the problem. I would need to avoid thunder storms."

The move to Brigham City, a first experience working with a large, municipal airport, and a grim weather forecast all brought apprehension in the days immediately preceding the third annual Rotors Over The Rockies in northern Utah. But attendance set a new high, there was plenty of flying logged, and friendships made and renewed. Milestones reached this year included a successful Private/Gyroplane checkride for Utah Rotorcraft Association (PRA 2) VP Curt Pittman with DPE Terry Brandt, a successful Airworthiness Inspection for the Sport Copter of Ben Suissa of Yuma, AZ with DAR Jim Gilchrist, the introduction of awards for attendees, and hang and thrust tests for gyros. (See "ROTR," page 2.)

### Sikorsky X2 Flies Faster



Sikorsky reports it has entered the fourth and final testing phase of the [X2](#) Technology Demonstrator, which is expected to culminate in flight at 250 knots, a new world record speed for rotorcraft. On May 24th, the company announced Phase III concluded with a flight at 181 knots at its test facility in south Florida. (More Industry News, page 6.)

### In This Issue

ROTR coverage, 1-3, 8; Doug's Thoughts, 2; Novel Rotorcraft Trailers, 7; June Minutes, 4-5; PRA NW/Mtn Report, 5; Calendar, 5; Wallis Record Attempt, 6; New Diesel Helicopter, 6; Helicycle Group Six Positions, 6; Hollman HA-2M build project, 6; Upcoming Chapter Meetings, 2; Classifieds, 7.

Top of page: PRA Chapter Coordinator Dave Bacon flies his Brock KB-3 above Brigham City Airport at ROTR 2010. Despite cool temps and periods of rain, the event set a new high for attendance of both people and rotorcraft. See pages 1-3, 8.

## Upcoming Chapter Meetings

**URA (PRA 2)** Saturday, July 10, 10am MDT  
Airgyro, Spanish Fork Airport, UT, also online  
Directions, instructions at [www.utahrotorcraft.org](http://www.utahrotorcraft.org).

**GNWSRA (PRA 73)** Saturday, July 10, 1pm PDT  
Sport Copter, Scappoose Ind. Airport, OR  
Preceded by potluck lunch at noon.

**ARC (PRA 15)** Saturday, September 25, Time TBA  
Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In, El Mirage, CA  
Watch for e-mail from Britta Penca for details.

### ROTR (from page 1)

The red carpet rolled out by Brigham City was extraordinary. Mayor Dennis Fife not only welcomed ROTR with an official letter beforehand, but came out in person on Saturday morning to see our machines. The Brigham City High School Cheerleaders put in long days staffing a food table through sometimes discouraging weather when they obviously could have been having more fun elsewhere. At least a couple of sizable tips wound up in their till, and they all got introductory flights. When the rains came and space in Curt Pittman's hangar proved insufficient, others on the airport made room for visiting machines. An A&P mechanic on the field stayed after hours to TIG-weld a repair on Dave Bacon's cracked KB-3 engine mount, and declined payment.

At the closing BBQ banquet Saturday night, comments were invited from the 24 attendees who hung in till the end, and while a few opportunities for improvements next year were identified, all present agreed that despite the sometimes challenging weather, ROTR 2010 had been a success. The city has invited URA back, and tentative plans are for ROTR 2011 to be held once again at Brigham City Airport, June 9 - 11, 2011.

### ROTR 2010 Awards

**Grand Champion Rotorcraft, Most Innovative Rotorcraft-** Brian Bird, Pleasant Grove, UT, (at left below w/ Doug Barker) SparrowHawk II Gyroplane



**Reserve Champion Rotorcraft** - Mike Brownlee, Lehi, UT, Butterfly Aurora Gyroplane

**Pilot & Machine** - Jaren Spencer, South Jordan, UT  
Rotorway Exec 162F Helicopter (below)



**Most Distant Attendee** - Mark Rhoades, ARC Sec., PRA 15 (standing, right, w/ARC Pres. Britta Penca,) Oracle, AZ, Modified Dominator Gyroplane

**Dead Dinosaur (Most Flying)** - Curt Pittman, VP, URA, Modified RAF 2000 Gyroplane



### Doug's Thoughts – ROTR 2010

URA (PRA 2) President Doug Barker



**Not for the faint of heart!** What a great time we had at this year's "Rotors Over the Rockies"! For those who weren't able to attend, you missed a great event. Because I was constantly running from one project to the next or trying to talk to every new face that I didn't recognize, I did not have the time I'd have liked to have, to talk to everyone that came, so if I missed some of you I apologize. However, I did meet and get to know several new friends at this event and I am very thankful for that opportunity.

One thing that became evident to me, was the level of commitment I saw from the people that were able to attend. While most of us had to take a couple days off to attend this event, there were many that ended up taking off an entire week or more. There were people that traveled thousands of miles, pulling a trailer with a rotorcraft on the back, to join us. As I talked to these people and learned more of their stories and some of the things they went through to be able to meet up with others (Cont, page 3.)

## **Doug's Thoughts** (from page 2)

who shared some of their passion for flying, it became evident that this is not a sport for the faint of heart. While anyone can be a dreamer and talk the talk, it usually takes a lot more commitment to join the group of those who actually get to fly a rotorcraft.

For most people it takes years to reach these kinds of goals. Many people drive or fly thousands of miles to be able to get together with an instructor, it takes weeks of their vacation time and thousands of their discretionary dollars just to get the training to be able to safely start the "learning to fly" process. Then there's the cost of getting something to fly. While some have managed to find a low priced, older machine and get started in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range, most people are going to spend between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to get a machine that meets their needs and that they feel safe about flying in. Of course, some (like me) will spend a lot more than that. How much you spend on a machine probably relates more to how high this is on your priority list than anything else. I guarantee it doesn't directly relate to how wealthy a person is, or I would not be building the machine I am building. We are going to start working on some shared ownership groups that can drastically lower the cost of aircraft ownership so let me know if that is something that would be of benefit to you.



There are lots of different obstacles that tend to block a person's path towards flying. They range the entire spectrum from health issues, to money issues, to time issues, to lack of support or help

issues. I suspect it is pretty hard to come up with an obstacle that others haven't already experienced and some have overcome. Those that want their dreams bad enough, find a way to overcome the obstacle and they simply keep at it until they accomplish their goals. And the best part is, the longer it takes and the harder it was to accomplish the goal, the sweeter the victory is.

There is nothing we can't accomplish when we put our mind to it. There is help and support available within our group. There are lots of examples of people who have overcome their obstacles and now stand as an inspiration to the rest of us that are still in the battle. I am humbled as I learn of some of your accomplishments and inspired to do more myself. Thank you for your example and your friendship. I will be one of those that persevere until I achieve my goal. Come and join us and achieve your goals too!

**URA VP Curt Pittman was judged to have spent the most time flying at ROTR, taking home the coveted Dead Dinosaur Award.**



## **ROTR Media Coverage**

Press releases sent out in the weeks preceding ROTR 2010 apparently did not excite TV assignment editors in Salt Lake City, an hour to the south, but we got a surprise on Friday when the Deseret News, one of the city's daily newspapers, not only ran two photos from the event on page B6, (*below,*) but featured a photo gallery on its website, and promoted its coverage with a banner on the paper's front page!

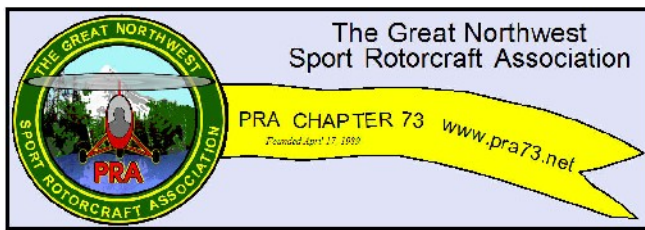
Aero News Network podcasts caught the attention of at least one helicopter pilot from the Seattle area who decided to make the trip down on a whim. Another attendee saw us in Powered Sport Flying Magazine and made the trip from Nevada.



**Whirlybird Helicopters arrives Saturday morning from Ogden in formation.**

**The two Robinsons touch down ahead of the Enstrom. The city envisioned big crowds for the open house, but weather intervened.**





## June 12 Minutes & Detail

### GNWSRA (PRA 73) Secretary Charles Smith

The meeting was called to order at 1 PM by President Bob Johnson in the Sport Copter Hangar.

**Acknowledgments** - Thank you Jim Vanek / Sport Copter & staff for use of facilities for this meeting. Potluck food: thank you Ester & Orval, Kent & Bob.

**Attendance** - Orval & Ester Longanecker, George Comalli, Larry Shafer, Kent Okeson, Kenneth Cabbage, Clint Martindale, Tracy Hasen, Jim Shawcross, Wayne Mansfield, Jeff Fox, Bob Johnson, Charles Smith.

**Previous Minutes & Current Financial Report** - Discussed & approved. For a complete report visit the Members Only portion of the pra73.net's web site. If you have not yet paid your 2010 dues, please send them to Bob Johnson, better yet attend the next meeting and pay in person.

### Old Business

1. The combined newsletter for Chapters 2, 15 & 73 is a success - all comments positive.
2. The "members only" Newsletter policy approved at the May meeting vs "availability to anyone on the web" was revisited. After further discussion, with input from other Chapters via Bob Johnson, the "members only" policy implemented at the last meeting was reversed. The previous policy of making newsletters available to anyone on the web was re-established.
3. In light of the restoration of the web based newsletter on the public web pages, the issue of publishing the Treasurer's Report in the meeting minutes and or newsletter was re-visited. The past and current policy of keeping the Treasurer's Report for "Members only" was re-approved by a majority of members present.
4. Reminder: Members ads in the newsletter, to sell, buy, etc., must be renewed for each monthly newsletter. Send complete information for each newsletter to Paul Plack, plack@xmission.com.

*Editor's note: It has since been decided to route all ads from Ch. 73 members through Gary Kaminski, at gkaminski@tigerwolf1.com, or (503) 799-8705.*

5. PRA 73 Gyrocopter windbreaker jackets (that were misplaced and now found) still available at cost, \$30, various sizes - contact Jim Miller.

### New Business

1 NWAAC Flyin at Pearson Airpark August 20, 21 & 22 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday): This opportunity to promote the sport and our organization was discussed. No fee for participation. Participation was approved by meeting members based upon the caveat that there had to be representative gyrocopters there. Several members volunteered to bring their aircraft. Bob Johnson will be there as a member of NWAAC and will help with the PRA73 booth when he can. Orval Longanecker, Jim Miller, Jim Shawcross, Clint Martindale, Charles Smith have volunteered to assist in various ways. More volunteers are needed. Please plan on attending the July meeting to help with finalizing the commitments, planning and necessary coordination to make this effort successful.



### Rotorcraft Progress Reports & Shared Info

1. Wayne Mansfield, Coos Bay: His KB2 Gyrocopter is making progress. All materials are on site including the Rotax 503 power plant. He is reconfiguring the landing gear, replacing the mast and dropping the keel. Many of the improvements utilize Sport Copter components.
2. Clint Martindale, Portland: His Pitbull tractor is nearing completion. Starter installed and operational. Need to replace rotor tach sensor.
3. Jim Shawcross, Clackamas: FP202 Ultralight, small Cub like aircraft, removable wings, just refurbished Rotax 447 dual carburetor engine, aircraft is virtually complete, never flown and available \$3,900.
4. Jeff Fox, Salem: Flew in with his Vortex gyrocopter with a 65 HP Rotax 582 for power.

**Next PRA Chapter 73 Meeting** - July 10, 2010  
1:00 PM Scappoose OR Sport Copter Hangar. Fly, drive, bring a friend!

**Meeting ended approximately 1:30 PM.**

**NWAAC NOTE** - The Northwest Antique Aircraft Club has moved its July 3 general meeting to July 10 at 10:30am, to avoid a conflict with the July 4 weekend.



## June 12 Minutes & Detail

There was no formal business meeting held in June, but Utah Rotorcraft Association members and guests were invited to share thoughts on Rotors Over The Rockies during the closing BBQ starting at 7pm June 12. Some valuable suggestions were received.



URA VP Curt Pittman noted that our plan for the hangar, to be used at night to house aircraft and by day for forums, was subverted by the unseasonably cold and wet weather, which resulted in the occasional need to bring aircraft back in with little warning during the day. It was possible (barely) to continue forums in a corner of the building when it got crowded, but alternate plans would be prudent.

Mark Rhoades (PRA15, AZ) commented that the camping area was very nice. A few attendees commented that signage could have been better. Some noted that the procedures for keeping pedestrians away from spinning props and rotors were somewhat loose. This resulted from a last-minute decision by the city to restrict activities on the south end of the airport, requiring adjustments in the run-up area. These concerns will be addressed in determining next year's layout.

URA Secretary Paul Plack noted the wide discrepancy between the rates quoted by area motels before the event, and what our guests were actually charged when they arrived. An effort to secure a guaranteed event rate and/or discount will be made in 2011.

Our next meeting will be July 10 at 10 AM at Airgyro Aviation in Spanish Fork, UT, and available online.

## PRA Regional Report Paul Plack, NW/Mtn Rep



There was no official PRA activity involving the Regional Reps this month, so I'm going to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate everyone who came out to Rotors Over The Rockies 2010. The event was safe and fun, and grew considerably over previous years. We had attendees from PRA Chapters 1, 2, 15, 30 and 73, and managed to pull together a full range of essential services for gyroplane owners and pilots.

I have a personal goal as a Regional Rep to try new ideas to create a sense of community which spans a wider geographic area here in the west. By that criteria, this event was an outstanding success. It was fun to see enthusiasts who live thousands of miles apart, and may know of each other only via the Rotary Wing Forum, seeing each other's machines, enjoying meals together, and forming friendships. Our next opportunity to all see each other will be El Mirage, California in September. Join us!

## Upcoming Events

**July 7 - 11, Arlington, WA** - [The Arlington Fly-In](#) is a terrific regional hosted by a group of EAA chapters in the Seattle area.

**July 26 - August 1, Oshkosh, WI** - No other event in North America comes close to [EAA AirVenture Oshkosh](#) for attendance, number of exhibitors, or unique aviation attractions. A highlight this year will be the 75th anniversary of the Douglas DC-3.

**August 3 - 7, Mentone, IN** - The annual [convention](#) of the Popular Rotorcraft Association is a great place to meet the leaders of the organization and see the widest variety of gyroplanes at any event.

**August 20 - 22, Vancouver, WA** - The Northwest Antique Aircraft Association's [annual fly-in](#) is at Pearson Field, on the north side of the Columbia River near Portland, OR. PRA 73 members plan to display gyroplanes. Camping is available.

**August 20 - 22, Hillsboro, OR** - [The Oregon Int'l Airshow](#) includes a Friday night show featuring aerobatic aircraft equipped with pyrotechnics. Jim Vanek's Sport Copter demo includes loops and rolls!

**September 24 - 26, El Mirage, CA** - The annual [Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In](#) is a loosely organized meet of gyroplane enthusiasts held each year in memory of gyro pioneer Ken Brock, whose KB-2 and KB-3 gyroplanes evolved from the original Bensen Gyrocopter. There's no admission, but the US Bureau of Land Management now charges \$15/day or \$30/week for access to the lakebed. PRA Chapter 1 usually hosts meals and other activities.

## Industry News

**Helicycle Group Six Open** - Blake Estes of Eagle R&D announced at Rotors Over The Rockies (*right*) that the sixth lot of Helicycle kits still has a few open positions for would-be builders. The fifth group of builders are now receiving their engines. There are currently 48 Helicycles flying worldwide, all with turbine engines. Find out more at: [www.helicycle.com](http://www.helicycle.com)



But heavy handed British regulators chose to address the stability problems of a few gyro kits by imposing a speed limit of 70 MPH on all gyros. So, the nation's most famous gyronaut faces leaving the country.

Wallis tells the Telegraph newspaper, "I think the only way I can do it without messing around is to travel to France or America...The Americans would welcome me over there. They have said they will be pleased to have the aircraft transferred there."

**New Diesel Helicopter** - Delta Helicopters of Australia says it's on the verge of flight testing the D2, (*above & left*) powered by a [DeltaHawk](#) four-cylinder, two-stroke diesel. The target market is agricultural and mustering users. Estimated price at introduction is AUS \$180K in kit



form, with a certificated version coming as funds allow. Details at [www.deltahelicopters.com.au](http://www.deltahelicopters.com.au)

PRA officially invited Wallis to try for the record at its international convention in Mentone, IN, but he cited his advanced age for his reluctance to commit to any firm date. He says there's still a chance the UK will offer an exemption to let him make the attempt at home, and adds, "I am still waiting for the paperwork to come through, but the Civil Aviation Authority is very negative."

## Wallis Record Attempt in US?



Wing Commander Ken Wallis, who famously flew his gyroplane "Little Nellie" (*shown seated in replica, left*) in the 1967 James Bond film, "You Only Live

Twice," already holds the world gyroplane speed record. He flew 129.1 MPH over a 3 km course in 2002. Wallis, who's now 94 years of age, isn't content to sit back and wait for challengers. He says he wants to push the record to 140 MPH.



**From the Rotary Wing Forum** - Cortland Carrington of Rancho Mirage, CA is building a Hollmann HA-2M Sportster (*above*) from plans, with his own mods including Subaru power, extra fuel capacity, and materials updates. Follow his progress, and comments from others, in his [build thread](#).

## Novel Trailers at ROTR

**Jay Carlson of Rotor F/X** used this very unusual trailer (*below*) to bring a 312 lb. Mosquito helicopter to Utah from California. To reduce unsprung weight, there is no axle. Each wheel uses a trailing link comprised of a pair of monoleaf springs, damped using a single, automotive-style shock absorber.



The springing is very soft, and can be pressed through much of its travel by an average adult standing on the trailer's edge. Jay says while driving, the machine behind him appears to be floating as seen through the rear-view mirror.

Jay heard lots of, "Where can I get one?" He says the trailer was home-brew, not a commercial design, built by a Mosquito owner. Judging by the number of drawings being made on the backs of napkins, similar designs may start showing up at fly-ins everywhere!



**Blake Estes of Eagle R&D** started with a utility trailer, (*above*), but added plywood panels which screw together to surround his Helicycle. Blake brought this machine from Nampa, ID. He removes the stabilizer from the tail to protect it from buffeting as he drives down the road.

## Gyroplanes for Sale

**RAF 2000 GTX SE 2.2 FI** - 343 TT, horizontal stab, always hangared. (*At right.*) Many improvements. \$25,500 OBO (\$25K without GPS.) Complete details & photos available [here](#). Gary, (503) 799-8705 or [gkaminski@tigerwolf1.com](mailto:gkaminski@tigerwolf1.com). (OR, 06/2010)



**RAF 2000** - 240 TT. Annual insp. May 2010. Parham stab, Warp Drive prop, electric trim, heat/defrost. Subaru EJ22 EFI 145 HP, SuperTrapp exhaust. Trimble radio & intercom. Incl. headset, misc aviation tools and supplies. UT. \$26,700 OBO. Terry, (208) 221-7401. Details, photos [here](#). (UT, 05/2010)

**BENSEN** - Rotax 503 engine, new wood prop & seat tank, prerotator, radio. Incl. trailer, helmets, rotorblade box. Details, photos [here](#). Call Jeff, (503) 930-4031, or Addie, (503) 463-7386. (OR, 05/2010)

**SPARROWHAWK II** - 2009, 50 TTs TT. Subaru 2.5L, leather seats, MGL Odyssey 10.4" EFIS & EIS, radio, transponder. Grand Champion & Most Innovative at ROTR 2010. Asking \$69K. Details, photos [here](#). Brian, (801) 831-4649. (UT, 11/2009)

## Trailers for Sale



**TRAILER** - 12' X 7 1/2'. 1-7/8" hitch. Great for a single-place gyro! New 1/2" decking. Angle iron supports make a three-sided box for hauling other gear. Comes with plywood walls. \$450. Details [here](#). Kevin, (503) 505-1344. (OR, 06/2010)

## Hangar Space Available

**Scappoose Industrial Airport**, OR - Large hangar houses three gyroplanes, room for one more. \$55/month. Clint Martindale, (503) 775-7372.

**Scappoose Industrial Airport**, OR - Traditional T-hangar, room for two gyros with rotors. Contact Jim Shawcross, (503) 997-6066.

## A Few Final Photos...

ROTR offered the chance to put faces to names (and in many cases screen names from the Rotary Wing Forum). We'll wrap up this month with a few of them!



**Earlybirds in the hangar June 9** (L-R above) included URA VP Curt Pittman (BadAir Express) with his yellow RAF; Brian Bird with his SparrowHawk; URA Pres. Doug Barker (GyroDoug) with his Butterfly Super Sky Cycle; PRA Chapter Coordinator Dave Bacon from CA (dabkb2) with his Brock KB-3; Ben Suissa from AZ (BEN S) with his Sport Copter.



**In from the rain** (above) came machines, people, and the Brigham City HS Cheerleaders food table when a sudden cloudburst hit.



**Erik Jonsson** (idahopilot) brought his Bensen B8M (left) from Twin Falls, ID Saturday morning. This is the machine he rebuilt during last year's event; he's since put 15 hours on it back home.



**At breakfast Saturday**, (L-R above,) John Stahl from MT catches up with Doug. Below, L-R, PRA Volunteer Coordinator John Rountree (All In) and Pac/West Regional Rep Jeff Jones, both from CA.



**Thanks to Groen Brothers Aviation** for letting us all get a look at the one-of-a-kind Hawk IV (below). We'll see y'all back for ROTR 2011, June 9-11! Same place, even more friends...and better weather!.

