

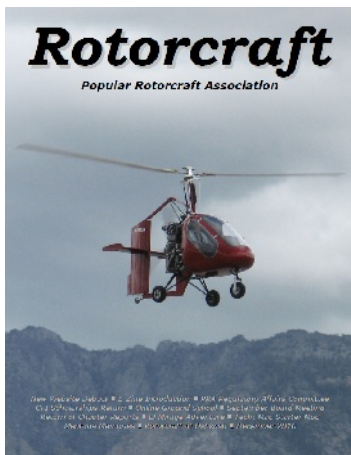
# Western Rotorcraft

PRA 1, 2, 15, 31 & 73



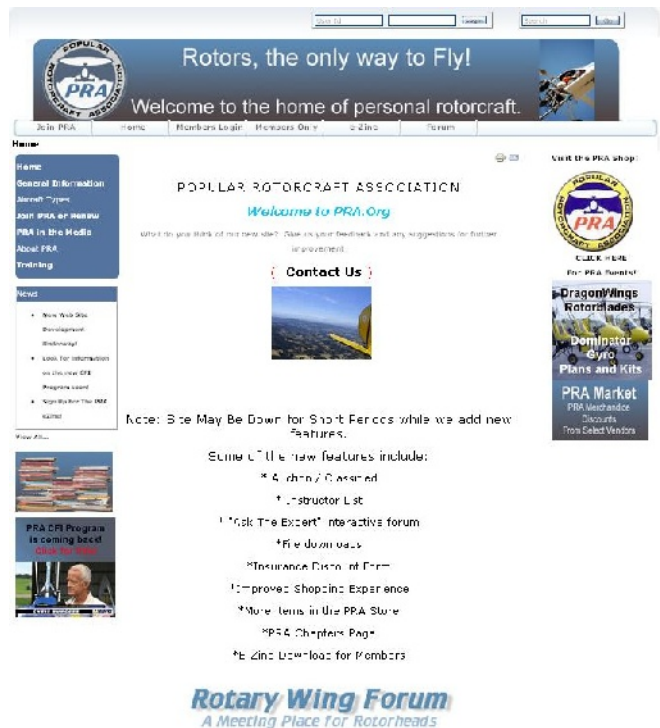
## PRA Debuts E-Zine, New Website

The Popular Rotorcraft Association's new electronic magazine, officially called *Rotorcraft E-Zine*, published its first issue on December 1, 2010. As an introductory promotion, the e-zine was offered as a free download for all enthusiasts, whether PRA members or not. The PRA board voted in its September 23, 2010 meeting to make at least the first two issues available on this basis, then evaluate whether the electronic publication should be limited to the members-only section of [www.pra.org](http://www.pra.org).



Based on the format of *Western Rotorcraft*, the new *Rotorcraft E-Zine* debuted with 16 pages, including cover art featuring an in-flight photo of Brian Bird's Sparrow-Hawk taken at Rotors Over The Rockies 2010. News from western US chapters dominated the first issue, as chapters outside the *Western Rotorcraft* regional co-op will need to be introduced to the idea of creating monthly reports on activities with photos.

Also on December 1, PRA debuted its new website. (At right. Also see "Regional Report," page 2.)



Top of page: Chapter 15 members meet at Coolidge Airport in AZ. L-R, Janice Sanders, Mark Sanders, Mark Rhoads, Carl Matter, Britta Penca. In this issue: Regional Report, 2; Chapter Reports, 2-6; Off-Topic: Arlington's Barn, 7; Doug's Thoughts on Major Rotorcraft Events of 2011, 4; Calendar, 8; Free Safety Newsletter, 6; Classifieds, 8.

## Regional Report

Paul Plack, NW/Mtn Rep



There's not much to report this month beyond the debut of the new PRA website and *Rotorcraft E-Zine*. There have been a lot of long nights to get the first E-Zine out, and back in Ohio, PRA VP has had a similar ramp-up to get the website going. Both have further refinement ahead, but reaction so far has been very positive.

The first two issues (at least) of PRA's new electronic version of *Rotorcraft* are free to anyone, PRA member or not. Even recipients who choose not to become or remain PRA members will still get an occasional, single-page e-mail newsletter, including a preview of content in the forthcoming issue of *Rotorcraft*.

The website is slowly being populated with member benefits such as an electronic viewer loaded with all pre-2010 issues of PRA's magazines, *Rotorcraft*, and its predecessor, *Popular Rotorcraft Flying*. I believe PRA faced the choice to either communicate more effectively, or disappear into history. Personally, I think we've made the right choice.

## New CO Chapter Gets Closer

The latest on the new Colorado Rotorcraft Association is the successful recruitment of enough PRA members to fill the minimums required for chapter affiliation. This will be a serious group of fliers. Eight members have flying aircraft, including three Xenons, two GyroBees, a Robinson R44, a SparrowHawk, and Todd Rieck's Yamaha-powered Air Command.



(Above, L-R: Dick Goddard, Mark Shook, Tom Martino, Todd Rieck.) Co-Founder Mark Shook sent this latest update to the charter members - "Welcome to our two newest members, Rob Dubin and Rick Cooper. We now have 8 PRA member numbers to include with our application, and 12 members total.

"What we need now is an organizational meeting. We can have it here in Colorado Springs, or electronically by a pre-arranged conference call with handouts via computer PDF, and shown on a web site. The regular phone charges to each participant for dialing in to an out-of-state number should be much less than gas to come to the meeting. (For me it is included in my phone plan, and no extra charge.)



"Please let me know your preference on electronic meeting, or regular meeting."

Reach Mark at: [Mark@MeadowLakeAirport.com](mailto:Mark@MeadowLakeAirport.com)

## Tailwheel Time at Chapter 31

The San Diego County Rotorcraft Club met on Tuesday, November 30 at SportFlyers at Gillespie Field to discuss the availability of tailwheel, fixed-wing light sport aircraft for instruction of club members. The group is pursuing a strategy of providing a path for members to first get their Sport Pilot certificates in fixed-wing LSA, then add Gyroplane. This approach provides a way to at least get a base FAA certificate which won't expire, then allows the student to progress to gyroplane whenever circumstances allow access to a gyroplane instructor. It also means subsequent flight reviews, required at least every two years to maintain currency, and the periodic flights required to maintain minimum currency to carry passengers, can be accomplished in easily-rented fixed-wing aircraft.

Chapter 31's John Rountree (right) e-mailed members ahead of the meeting, and said, in part:

"Dave and I have talked to Mike and Jon at SportFlyers regarding flying instruction, specifically FW tail dragger instruction and aircraft rental. The object of this month's meeting is to meet the owners of SportFlyers, instructors, and inspect the aircraft...start you on your way to, at least, a sport pilots license with a gyro add on."



Contact John by [e-mail](#) or at (619) 743-6712 for more info about this initiative of Chapter 31.



Welcome to...

## Ken Brock PRA Chapter 1 of Southern California

### November 13 Minutes & Detail

November 13th marked the last meeting for Chapter 1 for 2010. With the holidays coming up, our next meeting will not be held until February 12th, 2011. We had 15 people at our last meeting including 2 visitors from Irvine California, George and Grace.

With flying coming to an end this year, we had a relatively short meeting. We discussed adding more photos of Club meetings which the members liked. Teddy (Chapter Vice-President) suggested we re-start our own Club Newsletter to go along with the Combined Newsletter. So, we may be looking into getting that back into production in 2011.



One idea that the Club has been discussing is scheduling Gyro-Glider rides (weather permitting) next year, to give visitors and members a chance to get up in the air, followed by a BBQ. This is still an idea in the early planning stages, so keep an eye out here for future news. Once we have a better idea of when this will happen, dates will be posted on the Chapter 1 website – [www.PRA-1.org](http://www.PRA-1.org) - under the Events tab.

Well, soon it will be time again to vote on officers for the Club. At February 12, 2011 meeting we will be nominating candidates for 2011 and at March 12, 2011 we will be voting for new officers. There will be three offices to vote on: President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer.

A quick reminder from Karen Keene (Secretary/Treasurer): Dues for 2011 are due by December 31, 2010. Make check/money order payable to: PRA Chapter One. Send to: Karen Keene, P.O. Box 1752, Westminster, CA 92684-1752.

We finished up our meeting shortly after 12PM, and went out to the Hangar at Moe's property to have a year-end BBQ. We had those HUGE hotdogs from the Fly-In, as well as sausages, baked beans, chips, drinks and dessert. It was a great way to finish off the 2010 meeting.

Teddy wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. *(Terry Smith, Chairman)*

#### BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER

16th Bruce Charnov

24th Chuck Strough

Happy Birthday Bruce and Chuck!

**Above:** Chapter 1 meets in its clubhouse at Teddy Udala's ranch near the El Mirage Dry Lake. Next meeting – February 12, 2011. Get Details at [www.pra-1.org](http://www.pra-1.org).

## **Major 2011 Events**

**Doug Barker, URA Pres.**

As the temperatures drop and the snow starts to fall, I realize that for the most part, this year's recreational flying season is over. It's a good time to review what we have done and look at what we can do even better next year.



For me personally, 2010 has been a great year. I was able to attend Rotors Over the Rockies here in Utah, the EAA AirVenture at Oshkosh, WI, the PRA convention at Mentone, IN, and the Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In at El Mirage, CA. I don't know that finances and time constraints will allow me to repeat that each year, but it was sure great to be able to attend all these events this year.

While it may sound like I have more time and money available to invest in my chosen sport than you do, you might just be surprised how inexpensively trips like these can be done. While we all have the exact same amount of time each day or year, we all have different demands on that time, and make different commitments on how we choose to spend that time.

I will not attempt to suggest how you should prioritize your time but for those that want it bad enough, there is always a way to arrange to accomplish the things that are most important to them. For me, one of my biggest challenges is to find the money to take advantage of some of the opportunities that come my way. While it did cost some money to travel across the country and attend all of these major flying events, it will probably surprise you to learn that I was able to attend all four of these major events for just a little over \$1,000.00. That's right! (One Thousand dollars)

Now I didn't fly to these events and I didn't stay in fancy hotel rooms (OK, I didn't even stay in cheap hotel rooms) and I didn't waste any money because I didn't have any money to waste. However, I spent 3 days at ROTR, 3 days at Oshkosh, 5 days at Mentone and 2 days at El Mirage, I didn't lose any weight on any of these trips and I had the absolute time of my life and made new friends, and had experiences that I will never forget.

Every trip was made by sharing vehicles and splitting gas costs, staying in a tent and sleeping bag, fixing some meals out of a cooler and eating out occasionally. This dropped costs to a point where they really weren't a stumbling block. It also increased the pleasure of the trip and strengthened friendships beyond what I could have even imagined. I don't know how to describe how much this summer's activities meant to me, other than to just say it was a magical summer.

I got so much more out of it than I ever dreamed I would. I would not trade the memories and the experiences for anything. My only regret was that more of you couldn't have come and experienced them with me. Don't let another year go by without making this kind of experience happen in your life. You can do it.

Next year's Rotorcraft events will start in May with the Arizona Rotorcraft Club's regional event and there will be something every month through September in El Mirage, CA. I implore you to set aside some time to attend these events. Many can be done for just a few days of your time. By carpooling with others you can keep your travel costs down to a minimum. There is no reason that every one of us can't make it to several of these events if we really want to. Just decide to do it and I'll see you there! - Doug

The logo for the Western Rotorcraft Association (URA) features the letters "URA" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are white and set against a black background that includes a stylized rotorcraft silhouette. Above the letters, a horizontal line is connected to a vertical post that supports the rotorcraft's hub.

## **November 13 Minutes & Detail**

The meeting was called to order in a Dimdim online meeting session by President Doug Barker at 10:01am MST. Attendance included four members: Doug, Treasurer Nate Oldham and members Kevin Eaton and Glenn Kerr. Minutes were approved as published in the November Western Rotorcraft.

The treasurer's report indicated that as of October 31, 2010 funds on hand total \$1,091.09 in the bank, \$42.14 in the PayPal account, and outstanding checks totaling \$94.05, for net available funds of \$1,039.16 The report was approved. (*Post-meeting correction - PayPal balance was transferred last month, and is included in the bank balance, so the actual total funds available is \$997.04.*) No other official business was conducted.

Doug reported there are 37 current members of URA, and that participation in the Western Rotorcraft regional newsletter now stands at five chapters, with Chapter 58 in California and a new chapter forming in Colorado considering taking part.

The meeting was adjourned at about 10:20am, and following some improvisation to resolve technical difficulties, was followed by Nate Oldham's presentation on Joint Aircraft Ownership. Both Glenn and Kevin expressed interest in participating in a joint ownership group. There was a consensus that the idea warrants further discussion. The Dimdim session ended at 11:30am. (*Paul Plack, Secretary*)

# Arizona Rotorcraft Club

## November 20 Minutes & Detail

1. Call to order at 7 PM by President Britta Penca. Present at the meeting: Britta Penca, Carl Matter, Mark Sanders, Brenda Stone, Clay Sarriugarte, Mark Rhoads.
2. Approval of minutes for the Sept 25, 2010 meeting held at El Mirage – as printed in *Western Rotorcraft* - motion by Mark S to approve, second by Carl M – unanimous approval.
3. Treasurer's report: \$441.65 in the Vantage West Savings account.
4. Interview of life member Fritz Chamberlain. Mark R will call Tim R to determine whether or not Tim is still planning this. If not, Carl M and Mark R will interview Fritz prior to the next meeting. Items of interest to query Fritz about: What year did you start flying; how many hours does he have; when did he join PRA and Ch 15? What did he love best about his gyro experience? Did he ever have any scares when flying? Does he have any humorous stories about gyro flying? Does he still have his gyro? Would he come to the ARC fly-in? How did he get to know Chuck Ritchie? Take pictures and if possible; audio record the conversation.



It was decided that the official name for the Ch 15 fly-in would be – "The AZ Rotorcraft Club Fly-In – ARC Days.

Tee shirts: Several members did not get tee-shirts because the larger sizes ran out. Carl M will call Greg and Tim to see what they need and will have some XX and XXX (maybe 4 each) made up. Tee shirts for ARC – smaller sizes to be avoided due to no demand.

Plaques: for the upcoming ARC Days – add several appreciation awards for those who have helped.



Donations needed for the raffle: Club members to put out the word that we would appreciate anything that could be put on the raffle for ARC Days.

Insurance: Mark R will check with the EAA club to inquire about liability insurance for ARC Days.

A resolution: To continue to support PRA and encourage membership. National dues are \$42/\$42.95. They (we) are struggling and we should all be supporting them if we want the sport of rotorcraft flying to be able to continue as it is.

Meetings: The date will be moved to the first full weekend of the month – unless on a holiday. This will ensure that minutes will be posted for the current month in WR newsletter. Motion by Mark R, second by Mark S, unanimous vote.

The December meeting will be an unofficial meeting and will most likely occur at Coolidge if several members decide to assemble and fly – weekend to be decided.

### Upcoming meetings:

Jan 8, 2011 – San Manuel (Election of officers for 2011) – 11:00 AM

Feb 5, 2011 – San Manuel – 11:00 AM

March 5, 2011 – San Manuel – 11:00 AM

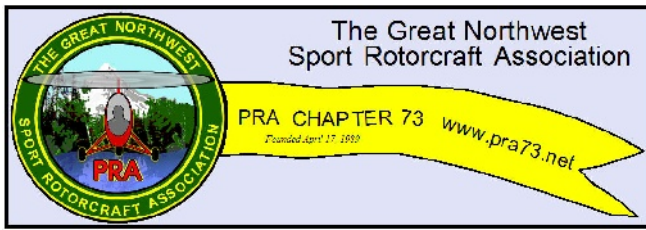
April 2, 2011- Coolidge (Annual Dinner) – 11:00 AM

May 13-15, 2011 – ARC Days (no meeting)

Sept, 2011 – meeting at KBFFI, El Mirage

Member updates: New ARC member Clay S talked about his center line thrust Bensen. It has the following features: A Hirth 2704, 8 gallon seat tank, Bensen blades and electric pre-rotator. Ch 15 is anxious to see it.

Meeting adjourned at 8 PM. (Mark Rhoads, Secretary)



## November 13 Minutes & Detail

President Bob Johnson opened the meeting at 12:58pm. Minutes for October meeting were approved. Visitors, Tore Lyderson and daughters Ashley and Natalie were recognized along with member introductions. Members present: Jim Miller, Brock Steiner, Jim Shawcross, Clint Martindale, Gary Kaminski, Hester and Orval Longanecker, and Bob Johnson.

The treasurer's report by Bob Johnson was approved.

Motion was passed to pay Jim Miller for expenses of reproducing our newsletter.

**Progress report:** Brock Steiner talked about work on his new gyro at Sport Copter. Mostly still on the drawing board.

**Old business:** Discussed PRA's request for member information update including aircraft owned. Jim Miller has taken care of this request. Gary Kaminski was assured that information sent did not include PRA 73 members who were not PRA members.

Jim Vanek talked about the FAA and the Sport Gyro. Jim also talked about rotor blade longevity and previous design failures. Blades produced by Sport Copter now have 5,000 hours or better expectancy.

Discussed happenings at PRA and the demise of the Sport Magazine and introduction of Rotorcraft E-Zine by Paul Plack.

Discussed requirements by PRA to start a new chapter. Some requirements are 5 members (including 3 officers who are PRA members), when to hold elections, and what is needed for a quorum.

Motion by Jim Shawcross, 2nd by Brock Steiner to hold our elections in November instead of January starting next year. Discussed and

passed. This needs a second vote in January to change our Bylaws.

Nominations for Officers for 2011 were opened. No one could be persuaded to run for office other than those now serving. We really need a secretary to replace Charlie Smith, who resigned because of family commitments.

**Announcements:** Received a brochure from Balance Masters. Has to do with prop balancing and Rotax engines. This will be put up on PRA 73 web site. Discussion followed.

**New Business:** Due to a meeting conflict with NWAAC, we will not have a potluck before our February meeting in the NWAAC clubhouse. NWAAC has their pancake breakfast from 8 to 12am. It is suggested that we support their fundraiser by attending the breakfast and not have our potluck. So come early and enjoy that great food. PRA 73's meeting will follow at 1pm. PRA 73's January 8th meeting, noon potluck and 1pm meeting will also be at NWAAC's clubhouse. We will go back to Sport Copter for our March meeting. All meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each month, except for December we have no meeting.

A big "THANK YOU" for those of you that brought food for our potluck.

Renewal membership dues are \$24 from April-to-April. If you pay early, between January and second Saturday of April, you get a \$4 discount.

Suggested lunch donations are \$4 if you do not bring food. If you bring a large amount of food, you should request reimbursement over the \$4.

Meeting adjourned 2:09pm. (VP James Miller)

**Premium on Safety** is a free online newsletter prepared by insurance provider USAIG in cooperation with AOPA. Portions apply to rotorcraft.

To find the latest issue and archives, click the thumbnail at right while viewing *Western Rotorcraft* as a PDF file on your computer.

## Off-Topic: Arlington's Barn

*When space allows, this new section will feature articles of interest to aviators in general, whether or not they apply specifically to rotorcraft. The Arlington Fly-In is one of the longest-running regionals in the US. When PRA Chapter 30 was still active, this event was often designated as the site for the July meeting. This story shows what can be accomplished when a corps of dedicated volunteers gets a little helping hand from resources found in the neighborhood!*

The 2010 [Arlington \(WA\) Fly-In](#) was held July 7 - 11. The event, about an hour's drive north of Seattle, is one of the biggest regionals in the US and, for the 2010 edition, organizers were looking for a theme for a display focusing on vintage aircraft. Executive Director Barb Tolbert ([interview](#)) says the discussions kept coming back to barnstorming, and eventually the team's graphic designer was asked to come up with a concept drawing of an appropriate barn.



The resulting sketch, which included a vintage windmill, excited everyone, but the effects of the recession on available funding looked like it would force a delay. But Arlington's experienced, dedicated volunteer corps wouldn't let that happen.

The design was completed, right down to a materials list which included the framing and siding lumber needed. Because the airport management couldn't allow the barn to be left in place after the event ended, and there was no budget for a crane, the barn was designed in four sections with beefed-up trusses, to allow moving it with a forklift already on hand. The final dimensions were 40'-x-20', 25' tall. But there was no money for lumber!

So, a volunteer found a portable sawmill, and brought it to the home of an airport neighbor who needed eight trees removed. The volunteers cut all the needed lumber, researched drying techniques, and fan-dried the stacked wood in a hangar over the winter. It's clear to look at the completed building that they absolutely nailed the desired look, down to

the red-and-white paint.

A 1927 [Monitor](#) windmill was found stored in a hangar at the airport, where it had sat for 40 years, and was donated to the effort. Another volunteer headed up the windmill's restoration. The final touches came courtesy of the US Navy, which allowed volunteers to salvage window glass and steel roofing from condemned 70-year-old buildings on the airport.



During the event, the [Skagit Aero Education Museum](#) brought several of its stunning, restored vintage planes, and built displays in the barn. Local enthusiasts brought antique cars and even period clothing to complete the theme. Comments so far from attendees suggest the barn was a major hit with the public. Now that the event is over, it's been moved and reassembled elsewhere on the grounds for use as a storage building until next year's fly-in.

## 2011 Rotorcraft Calendar

### **New Years Fly-In - Sunstate Wing & Rotor (PRA 26) Dec 30-Jan 1, Wauchula, FL**

Ring in 2011 at the home of Bensen Days! Admission and camping are free, hookups \$10/night. Contact Scott Lewis for details: (561) 718-3922.

### **US Sport Aviation Expo - Jan 20-23, Sebring, FL**

The largest annual show in the US dedicated to LSA. Indoor and outdoor displays featured 175 exhibitors in 2010, including engines, accessories, more. ([Info](#))

### **Bensen Days - Sunstate Wing & Rotor (PRA 26) Apr 6-11, Wauchula, FL**

This regional event is focused on gyroplanes, and rivals or exceeds the annual PRA convention in size. ([Info](#))

### **ARC Days - Arizona Rotorcraft Club (PRA 15) May 14-15, San Manuel, AZ**

Info: (520) 840-0186

### **Rotors Over The Rockies - UT Rotorcraft Assoc. (PRA 2) Jun 9-11, Brigham City, UT**

Admission and on-airport camping are free. US Air Force is tentatively scheduling a free airshow at Hill AFB, 25 NM south of event, for same weekend. ([Info](#))

### **Vertical Challenge - Hiller Aviation Museum Jun 18, San Carlos, CA**

Helicopter-oriented airshow in its 12th year. ([Info](#))

### **Homer Bell Meet - Homer K. Bell Consulting Jul 21-23, Hillsboro, OH**

Homer provides consulting and other services for builders of kit helicopters. Venue is a farm - may require VTOL capability. ([Info](#))

### **EAA AirVenture - Exp. Aircraft Association Jul 25-31, Oshkosh, WI**

The largest fly-in in the world. Type club gatherings and group fly-ins, seminars, workshops. Rotorcraft flight limited to Ultralight Village, certain hours. Camping adjacent to Wittman Regional Airport. Volunteers recruited from EAA chapters. ([Info](#))

### **PRA Convention - Popular Rotorcraft Assoc. Aug 2-6, Mentone, IN**

This event in 2010 drew 70 rotorcraft and 55 powered parachutes. Annual members meeting, on-field camping and food. ([Info](#))

### **Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In Ken Brock Rotorcraft Assoc. (PRA 1) Sep 23-25, El Mirage, CA**

This legendary event takes place on a dry lake bed with enough room for gyro-gliderng, a taste of the old-school, west coast gyrocopter scene, and a Saturday night corn roast at the Brock Ranch. ([Info](#))

**Western Rotorcraft**

## Upcoming Chapter Meetings

**KBRA (PRA 1)** Sat, Feb. 12, 11am PST  
Elections of officers for 2011.  
Teddy Udala Ranch, 22055 Old El Mirage Rd.,  
El Mirage. CA 92301. [Info](#): (562) 493-3960

**URA (PRA 2)** Sat, Jan. 8, 10am MST  
Online meeting, followed by webinar on topic to be determined. Details at [www.utahrotorcraft.org](http://www.utahrotorcraft.org).

**ARC (PRA 15)** Sat, Jan. 8, 11am MST, San Manuel (E77) Airport. Election of officers for 2011. Contact Britta Penca at (520) 840-0951.

**SDCRC (PRA 31)** To be announced.  
[Request](#) e-mail notices from John Rountree.

**GNWSRA (PRA 73)** Sat, Jan. 8, 1pm PST  
[NWAAC Clubhouse](#), Scappoose Ind. Airport, OR  
Preceded by potluck lunch at noon.

## Gyroplanes For Sale



**SC VORTEX** - Rotax 582 greyhead, no N-numbers.  
**REDUCED** - \$17K. Richard, (360) 431-6817,  
[forfunandsun@yahoo.com](mailto:forfunandsun@yahoo.com). (OR, 09/10)

**SPARROWHAWK II** - 2009. Subaru 2.5L, leather seats, MGL Odyssey 10.4" EFIS & EIS, Garmin radio and transponder. Award winner! **REDUCED** - \$65K. Brian, (801) 831-4649. (UT, 11/09)

**VANCRAFT** - E-LSA; Rotax 503, digital panel, hyd. Brakes, trailer incl. \$8,950 OBO. Clint, (503) 775-7372. Scappoose. (OR, 09/10)

## Hangars Available

**Scappoose**, OR - Choice of two. See [www.pra73.net](http://www.pra73.net) "[Classifieds](#)" for details.

*Western Rotorcraft is edited by Paul Plack at the Utah Rotorcraft Association, and published monthly for members of participating PRA chapters. Reach Paul at [secretary@utahrotorcraft.org](mailto:secretary@utahrotorcraft.org).*