

Western Rotorcraft

April 2011



Chapter 73 Celebrates 22 Years with BBQ

April 9th is the second Saturday everywhere, but in Scappoose, OR it's a special occasion - Chapter 73's 22nd Anniversary! The Great Northwest Sport Rotorcraft Association invites all to join them for a time for refectation and celebrating. The chapter will host a potluck lunch and provide delicious barbecue chicken, fresh off the grill, and asks attending members to please bring a side dish in anticipation of lots of guests. Sport Copter's Jim Vanek will give a presentation on the wheels and suspension, perform a demo flight, and offer gyroplane training flights for a fee.

Chapter 73 urges, "Better come early and stay late, you don't want to miss this one. We need all our members to come and bring guests, and a potluck dish. The chicken has to be ordered in advance so please notify Bob at, 503-665-4449, or verticalbob1@gmail.com, on how many people will be coming so that we will have plenty. All are welcome!" (Above: Cindy Plack gets a gyro intro flight from Jim Vanek.)

FAA Issues Gyroplane LODA

Steve Craft of Hebron, KY has secured a new Letter of Deviation Authority from the FAA to offer flight instruction for compensation in an Experimental Amateur Built gyroplane, the first issued by the FAA since at least 2008. The FAA's instructions to local Field Service District Offices (FSDO) were withdrawn in 2008, as changing policy on E-LSA caught gyros in its wake.

Steve credits an involved staff in the Cincinnati FSDO for helping break the logjam. Get more details in the Mar/Apr issue of Rotorcraft, available for download at www.pra.org.



Welcome to...

Ken Brock PRA Chapter 1 of Southern California

The weather was a little cooler during the March 12th meeting (and that is relative, considering this is Southern California!) but otherwise pleasant. Richard Press, a visitor to our Chapter last month, became our newest member – welcome Richard! It was a small gathering of members, as it tends to be early in the year. We discussed plans for the up-coming Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In. It's never too early to start planning for this event!



We are starting to collect items for the Fly-In raffle. Teddy Udala is making his wonderful Orange Chocks for raffle items. One of our new members, Glen Porter is a talented gentleman who designs and makes custom weather vanes, and has offered to work with the Chapter to have a vane or 2 created for the raffle. His handiwork can be seen at: www.usm-c.com (R44 weathervane photo from site, above.)

Dave Wilson has been working on his "Beast", a single seat red gyro (top of right column) that was going to sport a Rotax 582, but has since been re-worked to run a Subaru Legacy engine! So "Beast" will be an apt name for this gyro!

Alexis Cobar is slowly working on his RAF he purchased just over a year ago (at right). He has had the engine running, but due to some personal set-backs, has said it will be a bit



before the rotors have air under them. We look forward to seeing both these gyros in the air!



After our meeting, we went over to Teddy's hangar, where we had our after-meeting BBQ. We've decided to have this little cook-out after each meeting as a way to relax and catch up on the going's on of our members and guests.

We had a fly-by during the BBQ by Peter Prentice – what a GREAT way to finish the meeting! There was a slight wind, which allowed Peter to do a little "hovering" and SLOW fly-bys. He really shows what a gyro can do! All-in-all, another GREAT meeting! (Terry Smith, Pres.)



Utah Rotorcraft Association



March 12 - The meeting was called to order at 10:05am MST by President Doug Barker at Airgyro Aviation. Attendance included five members and three guests, including one member and one guest online.

Minutes of January and February meetings were approved as published. The treasurer's report was relayed by Doug, who reported \$327.05 in savings, \$437.46 in checking, \$576.34 in the PayPal account, for a total of \$1,340.85 on hand. The report was accepted.

Doug reported membership currently stands at 41. Six members took advantage of the special four-year renewal option intended to raise funds to pursue incorporation and IRS 501(c)(3) status. They are: Kevin Eaton, Roger Guzman, Glenn Kerr, Claudius Klimt, Paul Plack and Kevin Richey. Doug reported that the incorporation process has been started with Biz Central USA, which quoted total fees of \$434.64. With the additional \$400 fee required by the IRS to file

for not-for-profit status, and other smaller miscellaneous taxes and fees, the total cost is expected to be about \$900. Doug commented that due to the simplicity of our organization, the process might be complete in time for Rotors Over The Rockies (ROTR) in June.

Doug announced that our next meeting on April 9 will again be at Airgyro. It is anticipated that the May 14 meeting will be held at the hangar of VP Curt Pittman at Brigham City Airport in preparation for ROTR.

Doug announced upcoming events including Bensen Days, April 6-11 at Wauchula, FL; ARC Days, May 13-15 at San Manuel Airport in Arizona; ROTR, June 9-11 at Brigham City, UT; and the weekend of September 23-25, when the Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In at El Mirage and the Wendover Wheels & Wings event present a calendaring conflict.

It appears the Hill Air Force Base Open House & Airshow scheduled for that same weekend will be canceled.

Doug is also planning a trip to Texas to pick up a Bensen gyroglider for use as a boom trainer. This presents an opportunity to carpool with Doug, get a tour of The Butterfly LLC, and receive instruction in a boom trainer from Brian Booth at North Texas Gyroplanes. Anyone interested should contact Doug ASAP.



The business meeting was adjourned at 10:37am, and Jake Carlson of Airgyro then demonstrated (above) the company's new Mach 5 bluetooth wireless aviation headset for those present and online.

Kick It Up a Notch

Doug Barker, PRA Director

It's time to kick it up a notch! While we all have various backgrounds and varied levels of experience when it comes to flying, and even different goals we are headed to, we all share one thing in common, we have a personal love for flying rotary-winged aircraft.

I can tell you from personal experience, the more we are willing to put into chasing our goals and dreams, the closer we get to achieving them.

We all have a tendency to look at a goal that seems out of reach of our present situation, and we tend to let the size of the perceived obstacles keep us from taking any steps towards our goals.

We need to learn to overcome that natural tendency and instead start looking for small steps that we can take that are within our abilities that can move us a little closer to our ultimate goals. Regardless of where we are on that continuum, there are steps we can take, that can move us in the right direction and often be of service to others at the same time.

I ask each of you to take some time to contemplate your personal circumstances, and see if there isn't some way for you to be more involved in your local PRA chapter. I can tell you that I didn't become the URA President because I had any desire to be a leader, nor did I feel I had so much spare time available that I needed to find something that would take up more of it. I simply agreed to accept the position because I wanted there to be a local organization that could help support me in my dream to start flying a gyroplane, and no one else wanted the job.

Unfortunately, I believe that is often the way these types of positions are filled. If more people understood all the serendipitous advantages and blessings that have come to me as a result of accepting this position, there would be more of a fight to see who would get elected next. Fortunately, we don't need to fight for an opportunity to get more involved in our sport. There are opportunities all around us.

As a member of the board for our local chapter I can tell you we are in great need of members that will take a committee chairmanship or even just serve on a committee. We have a very dedicated group of leaders who tend to carry most of the load for nearly all we do. While we are capable of continuing the way we are, I feel bad that more of our members are not getting more actively involved so they can be getting more out of our chapter.

The invitation is often made but it is up to each of you to decide that you want to start getting more out of our organization and step up to the plate and offer your services to help make us a better organization.

Our organization today is leap years ahead of where it was when it was basically run by me. As others have agreed to step up and help, and have brought their talents into the mix, we have been able to accomplish so much more and I know we can take this further if even more of you will join us and help.

Please consider volunteering to get more involved. Ask your leaders how you can be of help, I am sure they can find something that will fit your abilities and allow everyone to benefit from what you can contribute.

There's another area that I would also like you to consider volunteering for. Our international PRA organization is always looking for volunteers. Every year we need to elect new Directors. We also now have Regional Representatives and not all regions have found someone willing to take that post.

There are also lots of areas in which you can volunteer that take less time and can be done completely from home. John Rountree is the National PRA Volunteer Coordinator and he would love to hear from you if you would like to become more involved in a variety of positions.

And I am on the National PRA Nomination Committee that is looking for candidates for the Board of Directors in the election coming up in August.

Consider taking your involvement in this sport up a notch. I promise you that you will get way more out of it that you put into it and you will be excited about what comes of it. The new friendships you will make and the relationships you will build will change your life and in serving others you will find you move closer to your own goals.

I encourage you to call one of your local leaders and talk to them about what is available and how you can help. You have nothing to lose and absolutely everything to gain.

Attend your next monthly meeting and think about getting more involved.

We'll see you soon! - Doug



Arizona Rotorcraft Club PRA Chapter 15

March 5 Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 11AM President - Carl Matter

Present at the meeting: Members - Britta Penca, Carl Matter, Mark Rhoads, Dave and Helen Knudson, David Beaufaux. Visitors: Jeff Whitebear, Phil Mortello

Welcome to our guests and introductions: Jeff Whitebear is a local resident with a life long desire to fly and is checking out the gyro scene. Phil Mortello is a local helicopter pilot (with a commercial and instrument rating) who is close to having his CFI and is also checking into gyro's.

Unanimous vote to approve the minutes for the Feb 5, 2011 meeting (as printed in Western Rotorcraft).
Treasurer's report: \$626.97 in the Vantage West Savings account.

Discussions concerning ARC Days Fly-In
(May 13, 14, 15):

Award plaques: The body will be black Corian cut into the shape of AZ (Mark R to secure materials and prepare). Substantive information to be engraved in polished brass with the gyro, saguaro and mountain scene + lettering (brass plaque and engraving to be secured by Carl M).

Flyer: Mark R to make up the flyer and send to Carl M.

Display area: Mark R spoke with the airport mgr - gyro display area to be cordoned off on Thursday. Restaurant booths to set up outside the fence next to the lounge.

Schedule: Britta is working to be in touch with a Gyroplane historian. If he is available, his presentation will be on Friday evening. Britta P reports that the food booth by Casa Rivera Restaurant on Friday night, and Saturday breakfast and lunch is confirmed. Saturday night will be the hot dog/apple pie (served by ARC), as a compliment to the - "bring your own dish to share potluck". Dinner will be held promptly at 5 PM, followed by a presentation by Marion Springer at 6:30 PM. Award presentations, raffle drawings to follow Marion's presentation. Sunday morning breakfast arrangements are yet to be made. Presentations to be held in the gyro hangar.



Camping: Mark R reports that he spoke with the airport manager. The camping area is to be off the west end of the newer hangars. Mark R will also ask about the availability of a 2nd porta potty and sink for that area.

Lodging: Britta P reports that she has reserved a block of 5 rooms at the San Manuel Lodge. Safety: Mark R to conduct 2 safety briefings per day. Gyro's to be hand towed to the taxiway before starting.

Tee shirts: Britta P will pick up shirts at Walmart. Carl M to have them printed. Gyro, Saguaro, mountain scene on the back, with Popular Rotorcraft Association, Chapter 15 in small letters on the front.

New Business:

Britta P and Mark R noted that for next year they would like to have others think about stepping into a leadership role - this is a way to introduce new people with new ideas.

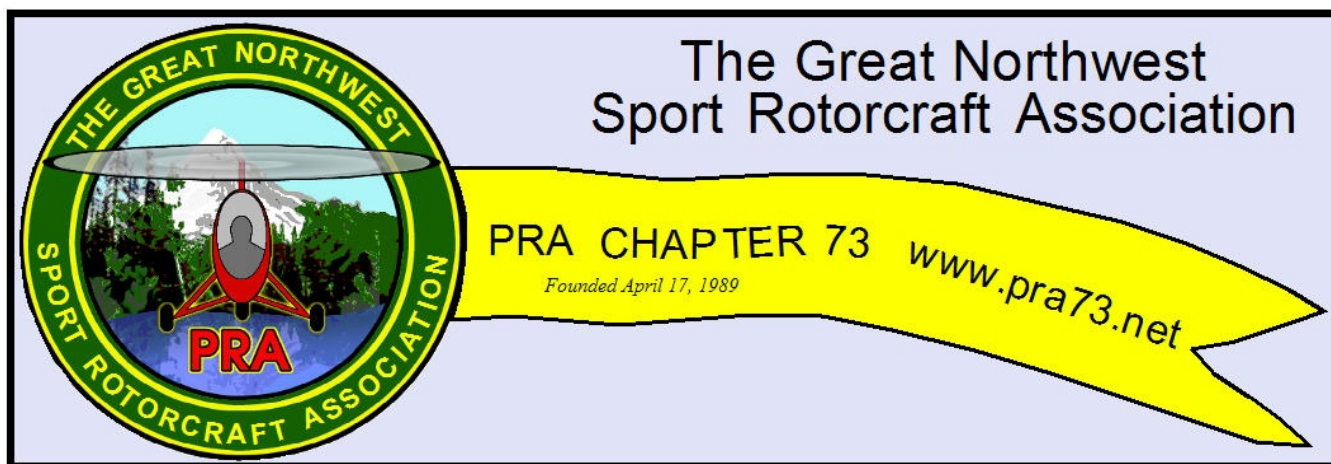
Schedule of upcoming Ch 15 meetings:

April 16, 2011- Coolidge- 11:00 AM - Annual Dinner (Kentucky Fried Chicken)- 5 PM

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

Sept, 2011 - meeting scheduled to be held at Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In, El Mirage, CA.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, Britta P introduced Phil M to gyro flight in the AC tandem. Phil notes that "it is just like flying around in an R-22, and is just as maneuverable". He liked it very much and reports that he will be back. Following that, Britta P and Carl M (in the AC) and Mark R in his single place went on a pleasurable flight over the San Pedro River valley.



March 12 Meeting Detail

Chapter 73 President Bob Johnson reports, "Due to very busy schedules it seems that the club's March meeting notification to its members never were formally posted. Even though a few diehard members did show up on March 12th and hung out with the Sport Copter crew.

"Here is something about what you missed at the last meeting from your VP."



"Here are a few thoughts on Saturday's non-meeting. Jim Shawcross and I had a long conversation with Jim Vanek. Jim went to the LSA Airshow in Sebring, FL and flew one of the LSA gyroplanes (MT03) from Germany. He had quite a bit to say about the various gyros and LSA aircraft in general. I wasn't thinking about a report for the Newsletter or I would have taken notes. He also talked about why Gyros tend to roll over when landing and how his landing gear system on the Sport Copter II solves the problem, making it easier and safer to land than fixed wing

aircraft. A few other gyros have started using a castering nose wheel, like the Sport Copter, but none can be dropped to a landing as well as the Sport Copter II. He talked about the many Gyros being produced and sold overseas. He feels that with the improvements being made to Gyros, and more gyro friendly FAA regulations, especially to include gyroplanes in the LSA market like they have in Europe, would create a surge in gyroplane interest in the USA. Jim will be at the next meeting and will give a talk about his trip to the LSA show in Florida and add more details about the European gyroplanes.



"Jim also showed us what he is doing to solve engine overheating on the Sport Copter II (SCII). They tried all sort of cowling and baffle arrangements to no avail. They now are getting it fixed with a fan arrangement. The fan is driven by the engine and not an electric fan as tried by at least one other manufacturer. He has an engine mounted and enclosed in a wooden box with the fan to cool it, and it has proved effective. I believe Jim expects to have the SCII ready very soon." (James Miller, PRA 73 VP.)

2011 Rotorcraft Calendar

GNWSRA Annual BBQ (PRA 73)

Apr 9, Scappoose (OR) Industrial Airport

This year's annual BBQ meeting will celebrate 22 years of Chapter 73.

ARC Days - Arizona Rotorcraft Club (PRA 15)

May 13-15, San Manuel, AZ

Info: (520) 840-0186

Colorado Rotorcraft Assoc. (PRA 38) Fly-In May 21, Meadow Lake Airport, CO.

PRA's newest chapter invites you to its fly-in at a pilot-owned airport near Colorado Springs. [Info](#).

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

Admission and on-airport camping are free. Food, awards, manufacturers, more! [\(Info\)](#)

Vertical Challenge - Hiller Aviation Museum

Jun 18, San Carlos, CA

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

Colorado Rotorcraft Assoc. (PRA 38) Fly-In

Jul 16, Meadow Lake Airport, CO. [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-gliders, a taste of the old-school, west coast gyrocopter scene, and a Saturday night corn roast at the Brock Ranch. [\(Info\)](#)

*Western Rotorcraft is edited by Paul Plack and published monthly for participating PRA chapters.
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Western Rotorcraft

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

KBRA (PRA 1) Saturday, April 9, 11am PDT.

Teddy Udala Ranch, 22055 Old El Mirage Rd., El Mirage. CA 92301. [Info](#): (562) 493-3960

URA (PRA 2) Saturday, April 9, 10am MST.

[Airgyro](#), Spanish Fork (UT) Airport ([U77](#)).

Details: www.utahrotorcraft.org.

ARC (PRA 15) Saturday, April 16, 11am MST.

Coolidge Muni Airport ([P08](#)). Annual Dinner, 5pm.

Contact Britta Penca at (520) 840-0951.

SDCRC (PRA 31) Locations, dates and times vary.

[Request](#) e-mail notices from John Rountree.

CRA (PRA 38) Saturday, April 30, 10am MDT,

Meadow Lake Airport ([KFLY](#)), Peyton, CO. Flying and driving directions at www.copterpilots.org.

GNWSRA (PRA 73) Saturday, April 9, 12n PDT,

[Sport Copter](#), Scappoose Ind. Airport ([KSPB](#)).

22nd Anniversary BBQ (see back page).

Details: www.pra73.net.

Gyroplanes For Sale



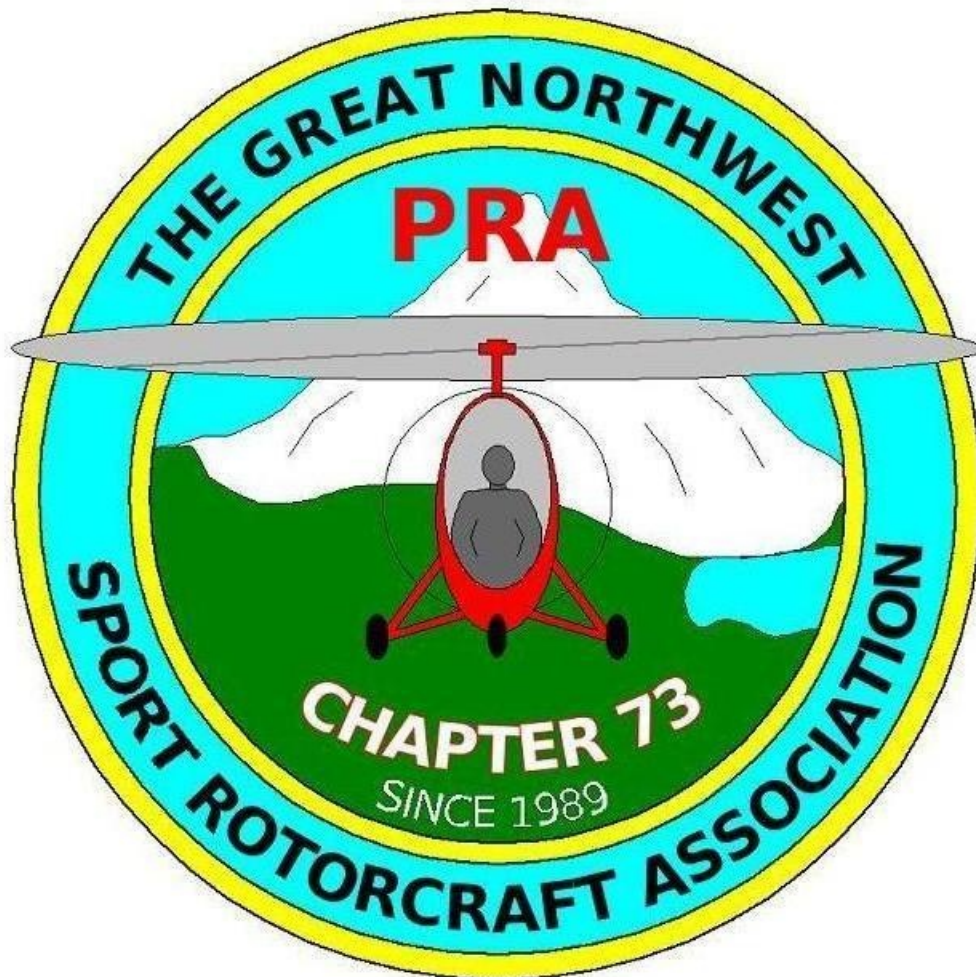
VANCRAFT – E-LSA; Rotax 503, digital panel, hyd.

Brakes, trailer incl. \$8,950 OBO. Clint, (503) 775-7372. Scappoose. ([More info](#). OR, 09/10)

Hangars Available

Scappoose Industrial Airport, OR - Large hangar currently houses three gyroplanes, room for one more. Room enough for 30'-plus rotor. \$55/month. Contact Clint Martindale, (503) 775-7372.

Scappoose Industrial Airport, OR - Traditional T-hangar, room for two gyros with rotors. Eliminate the time and effort of mounting blades every time you fly! Contact Jim Shawcross, (503) 997-6066.



You are invited to attend our 22nd year anniversary of

The Great Northwest Sport Rotorcraft Association, PRA 73.

Come on down to Scappoose, Oregon on April 9th at the Scappoose Airport, mid-field west side, to join in our celebration. There will be Bar-BQ'd chicken and pot-luck side dishes for all to enjoy. Gyroplane training flights will be offered for a small fee and you will get to fly it for a short time. What a fantastic opportunity for you and your bigger kids to enjoy. Flying time is limited and we will need to know how many to expect to come for the 12:00 noon feast.

Call Bob Johnson for reservations at 503-665-4449. verticalbob1@gmail.com

For information about Gyroplanes, see our web site at: <http://www.pra73.net/>