

# Western Rotorcraft

May 2011



## ARC Days at San Manuel May 13-15

The Arizona Rotorcraft Club's ARC Days event is coming to the San Manuel Airport Friday-Sunday, May 13-15, as Chapter 15 Secretary Mark Rhoads invites enthusiasts to "come and put your personal spin on things!" ARC often has flying at its meetings, but this is the second year for a formal event. Awards will include "Farthest Distance Flown" and "Pilot & Machine." The airport ([E77](#)) is 40 miles northeast of Tucson at 3,270 feet MSL. Density Altitude can top 5,000' at midday. Enjoy scenic flying over the Sonoran Desert and San Pedro River valley. Runway 11/29 is new this year, 4,200' long and features a paved taxiway. The airspace is Class G, and yes - this airport is gyro friendly! (See "Guide to ARC Days," page 8.)

## CRA Holds First Fly-In May 21

The Colorado Rotorcraft Association's (PRA 38) first fly-in is scheduled for Saturday, May 21 at the Meadow Lake Airport ([KFLY](#)). Find more details on CRA's very complete website, [www.pra38.org](http://www.pra38.org).



*Inside - Regional Report, Boyette resigns from PRA board of directors, PRA to manage Bensen Days, 2; ARC Days poster/visitor's guide, 8; Chapter Reports, 3 - 7; Calendar, Classifieds, 7.*

## **Regional Report**

**Paul Plack, NW/Mtn Rep**



The major regional rotorcraft fly-in season is upon us! [Bensen Days](#), Chapter 26's annual event in Wauchula, FL, provided plenty of fun, resulted in lots of photos, and finished in the black financially, but attendance was down from last year. Several of last year's attendees cited gasoline prices as the reason they stayed home.

If you're having such thoughts yourself this year, see if you can't find a carpool partner or two to share trip expenses, rather than just staying home. The Chapter 2 carpool to [El Mirage](#) is becoming a tradition, makes the trip really cheap, and those of us who participate have learned that the conversation there and back is a part of the trip we look forward to.

A couple of interesting things happened at the PRA board meeting at Bensen Days. Ernie Boyette stepped down as a director after serving in that capacity for many years. The PRA board now stands at nine, and the board voted to keep it at that size for now. The decision followed consensus that a board of 12 made more sense when the organization had 5,000 members. The good news is, PRA is back up over 1,400 and growing.

The other noteworthy decision stems from Scott Lewis's decision to step down as event chairman of Bensen Days following this year's event. Scott is also president of both Chapter 26 and PRA itself, and runs a busy pest control business in Florida, so his plate's pretty full. Scott says the sentiment of the chapter was to allow Bensen Days to simmer down to a smaller event, due to a lack of an adequate volunteer staff to run the larger event it has recently become. Scott suggested an arrangement by which PRA would be retained to manage Bensen Days, and split the proceeds with Chapter 26. In the days since, both sides have approved that arrangement. Chapter 26 also donated \$3,000 of the proceeds from Bensen Days 2011 to PRA, in exchange for all chapter members receiving a one-year membership in PRA.

We'll follow this arrangement with interest. For now, our events in the Northwest/Mountain and Western/Pacific regions probably don't generate the kind of revenue that would make them



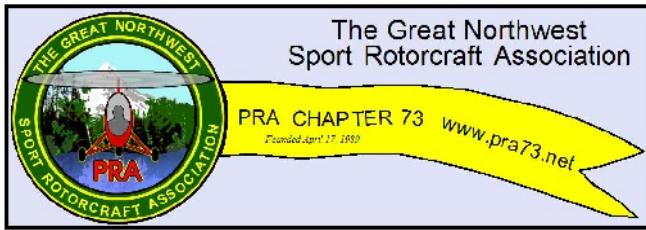
worth PRA's time, and the travel required for experienced PRA management people might make the partnership unappealing. But if the FAA approves gyroplanes for inclusion under E-LSA, and they're suddenly available for sale in factory-built form, our numbers could swell, and this might bear watching for the future.

The dawn of another fly-in season is reason to smile. It's been a soggy winter for much of the west, including California. Here in Utah, a combination of multiple heavy snows and high winds have left record snowpacks in the mountains, concerns for spring flooding, and damaged trees everywhere. (The smashed 40' Russian Olive tree in the photo above is being removed from my yard as I write this.) Early season tornadoes in the midwest and southeast US are described as the most powerful in 40 years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have lost homes and loved ones.

I don't know about you, but I can't remember a Spring when I was more ready to put winter behind, get out and fly. Opportunities abound!

Chapter 73 had a great time at its anniversary BBQ in April, and President Bob Johnson reports several people got \$10 introductory lessons from Jim Vanek in the Sport Copter tandem. Find photos in this issue of WR.

Now, it's on to Chapter 15's ARC Days and Chapter 38's first fly-in in Colorado this month, Chapter 2's Rotors Over The Rockies in June, the 27th (and last) Homer Bell "[Bean Patch Copter Meet](#)" in July, and Mentone and El Mirage after that. Don't be a wallflower - get off the couch and join a carpool!



**Chapter 73 BBQ a Success**  
**Bob Johnson, President**

April 9th was our Annual Chicken Bar-B-Q Potluck feast. This year was our 22nd year anniversary. We had 33-34 people attend and with all the things that were going on I decided not to have a formal meeting.



and then it was time for \$10 Training Flights that turned out to be quite lengthy and wonderful. Everyone had a great time. Sorry if you missed it. The free feast even had a cake. Several people had their first gyroplane flight, including the happy people in the pictures. (Leo Lake, below; Kathy Lemon, left.)



We had spontaneous tours of Jim Vanek's [Sport Copter](#) shop, and arrivals by two helicopters, three airplanes and two gyroplanes, including Brad Moore's RAF 2000 (below) from Siletz, OR.



We had a great Chicken Bar-B-Q Potluck feast (top, right) and talked about all of the above

*Above: Kent Okeson brought what appears to be a prototype for an enclosed Air Command.*



Welcome to...

*Ken Brock PRA Chapter 1  
of Southern California*

## **PRA 1 April Chapter Report**

Chapter 1 had its meeting Saturday April 9th. With the [Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In](#) five months out – and the time will zoom by quickly! – we’re gathering items for the Fly-In raffle.

Sec/Treas. Karen Keene has heard from both [Purple Polish](#) and [Aircraft Spruce](#) – both companies are going to donate some items for the raffle. Aircraft Spruce has been a great sponsor of the Fly-In and donated in the past, and I’ve heard great things about the Purple Polish product from Forum members, so these will be GREAT raffle items!



Rick Scobey, who is currently preparing for his Butterfly gyro build, has offered his web talents to revamp the KBBFI website, providing a richer-content experience. Rick and I are looking for old photos and history on the Fly-Ins of the past, so if you have something you can share that we could possibly add, let us know!



Bob & Caroline Carington, formerly of Taft, CA, came by to visit the club meeting (seen above posing with Teddy, our Chapter editor!) They currently reside in Ohio, where Bob has a Mac engine gyro. They had an interesting time arriving at the meeting – GPS coordinates took

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them to a road with fine dirt that caused them to sink down into! A little coaxing brought them out and safely to us in time for the BBQ.

Our meeting for May is being held one week early, on May 7th. The El Mirage Lake is having their annual Spring Cleaning. The Bureau of Land Management put out a flyer that club member Ralph Johnson brought to our attention. We felt this would be a great opportunity to give a little back and support the BLM, so we will be meeting at 7:15 at Teddy Udala’s hangar and head over as a group to join in the clean-up. (*Terry Smith, President.*)



## **CRA Seeks RSVPs for Fly-In**

The Colorado Rotorcraft Association (PRA 38) met April 30, just as this issue was being distributed. Find minutes and photos [here](#).

CRA President Mark Shook (at right) writes, "Please let us know if...you will attend the May 21st event. How many will bring aircraft 5/21? I have extra space if you need one. No charge for those displaying rotorcraft." Details: [www.pra38.org](http://www.pra38.org).





## **PRA 2 April 9 Minutes & Detail**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06am MDT by President Doug Barker at Airgyro Aviation. Attendance included seven members and six guests. Members present included Doug, Secretary Paul Plack, Treasurer Nate Oldham, CFI Mike Burton, Lyle Carson, Stan Duncan and Stayton Barnes. Guests included Nolayan Herdegen, who works at the US Army's Dugway Proving Ground, but was unaware of gyroplanes until a recent program devoted to a hybrid gyroplane/motorcycle on the "Coast to Coast AM" radio program. His online research led him to our website and meeting. His sister, Aeowyn Pelca, also attended with four of her children. The meeting was webcast, but there were no remote attendees.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as published. The treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$1,310.91 in the bank, and zero in the PayPal account. The report was approved. Doug reported a total of 41 members in good standing, unchanged from March.

Stan reports he's purchased a Sousa Bandit single-place gyro, powered by a Subaru EA-81, complete except for rotorhead and rotor blades. Lyle may have his Air Command gyro ready for its airworthiness inspection in time for Rotors Over The Rockies (ROTR).

Paul asked Nolayan if the [Dugway](#) facility might be a candidate location for a monthly meeting and fly-in. Nolayan replied that he believes this could be arranged. He adds that English Village, the residential community adjacent to the facility, has very few activities for kids, and the chance to see gyroplanes in both static and flying displays might be welcome.

Paul reported receiving a call from Fred Kluss of the Brigham City Airport Advisory Board just as he arrived for the meeting, with news that Brigham City's Heritage Arts Festival has been moved to the third weekend in June for 2011, meaning it will no longer coincide with our ROTR meet June 9-11.

Doug reported an application has been filed with Utah to incorporate, which cost \$30. Acceptance is expected quickly. The application with the IRS for tax-exempt status will require adjustments in how our group presents itself, to avoid misunderstandings regarding commercial activity. Based on info from Biz Central USA, Doug estimates we will be a corporation in time for ROTR, and tax-exempt in 3-6 months.

The May 14 meeting will be held at the Brigham City Airport, in order to prepare for ROTR. A conflict was noted between our meeting date and the desire by some members to carpool to attend ARC Days. Doug encouraged any members interested in the Arizona trip to coordinate with him within the next week.

Doug noted that with the cancellation of the open house and air show at Hill AFB September 24-25, there are still two competing events that weekend. The informal consensus was that the group is more likely to favor the Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In at El Mirage, CA than the Wings & Wheels Show at Wendover, UT.

Doug's carpool trip to Texas has been canceled, after the Bensen gyroglider he had hoped to bring back to Utah for use as a boom trainer was inspected by Larry Neal, and deemed to be in poor condition.

Under New Business, Paul read a proposed menu for the ROTR awards banquet. Banquet Committee Chairman Cindy Plack proposes a dinner of baked lasagna with garlic bread and Caesar Salad, a relish tray with ranch dip, a fruit platter, and a dessert choice of five-layer chocolate pudding cups or strawberry trifles. Cindy estimates a budget of \$250 if we serve 30 people, or \$300 if we serve 40, with price to be set based on providing a margin adequate to cover the cost of award plaques if possible. Doug moved to approve the plan, and the motion was accepted. Following the motion, Stayton volunteered to provide the lasagna and possibly other needed items, and Aeowyn, a florist, offered to donate floral arrangements for the tables. Cindy will coordinate with the donors.

After a final call for further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:55am, and several members met for lunch at a deli near the airport. (*Paul Plack, Secretary.*)

## **San Diego Rotorcraft Club (PRA 31) April 21 Minutes**

**John Rountree**



PRA31 met in the AeroPlane services hanger and we were called to order at 7:30 PM.

In attendance were Jeff Jones, Ivies Able, John Rountree and six new members: Dan and Kevin McCarthy (brothers), Russell and Lyn Hedges (husband & wife), Tom Kelly, and Jerry Phan.

We suspended normal club business and showed the new members the Hollmann (right) and explained how it appears Dr. Charnov has the Smithsonian Museum interested in it and may be able to get free shipping.

John Rountree asked how many here would like to have training in San Diego? Everyone raised their hands.

John then described PRA31's mission of bringing training to the west coast by building a two-place Genesis trainer using the O-320 out of the Hollmann. As the engine is a PRA31 asset it means that each member of the club already owns part of it and we only have to figure out how to pay for the rest of it. Then as fractional owners we can use our own gyro to take lessons from one of two instructors we have found.

He explained different ways this could happen from buying shares, to paying for blocks time, or paying a small portion for the maintenance and engine reserve.

He discussed liability issues and LLC's and making an instructor a member/owner and having the instructor get a LODA, allowing the instructor go to fly-ins and provide instruction to promote the sport or just let new members join PRA31 and become partners and use their own aircraft at the fly-ins.

John shared different ways to get a Sport Pilot license or fixed-wing license and told us if anyone wanted to use the Cherokee 180 or Cessna 150 (once painted) they could for a much reduced rate. All that is required is they



pay the difference in the insurance for high-time pilots (his brother and he pay now) for more expensive flight training insurance.

He told us that we have an instructor who almost will donate his time at \$35.00 per hour and he will pay \$5.00 per hour back to PRA31 for scheduling. What a guy!!!

Next we opened the meeting up to questions. The new members had the normal questions. What is safe, what can I fly, where can I fly, how can I carry a passenger, how much...

We then had everyone describe themselves, share what they would like to fly, and what they would like PRA31 to become.

The last order of business was to select a standard date and time for meetings and it was voted that we meet on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM.

We adjourned the meeting however many stayed and seem genuinely excited to talk about the possibilities and what it could mean to the west coast for rotorcraft.

Dan McCarthy emailed John after the meeting and has asked to get an insurance quote and wants to start training for at least his Sport Pilots license.

*PRA Chapter 31 returned to activity in August, 2010 as the San Diego Rotorcraft Club, and now has a web page at [www.pra31.org](http://www.pra31.org).*

*To be notified of the time and place of meetings request to be added to the e-mail list [here](#).*

## **Arizona Rotorcraft Club PRA 15 April 16 Minutes**



Call to order at 11:00 AM President Carl Matter at Coolidge, AZ Airport

Present at the meeting: Members – Mark Sanders, Britta Penca, Carl Matter, Mark Rhoads, Garold Brown, Tim Ramseyer, Bruce Coats, Mike Ott, Larry Martin, David Beaufeaux, Pat Ryan, Dennis Sette; guests – Adam Malek and Foy Brown.

Adam Malek is a sailplane pilot who is interested in checking out the gyro scene.

Unanimous vote to approve the minutes for the March 5, 2011 meeting (as printed in Western Rotorcraft). Treasurer's report: \$562.02 in the Vantage West Savings account, with \$100 in cash for the annual dinner at 5 PM.

**ARC Days Fly-in** (May 13, 14, 15): A motion was made/vote to approve to pay for five rooms (at the San Manuel Lodge - \$46 per day) out of the club treasury for guest speakers at ARC days. A motion was made/vote to approve to donate a club tee shirt to each of the guest speaker/presenters at ARC Days.

A motion was made/vote to approve club funds to pay for a hand wash station and porta-potty at the fly-in. "Look but do not touch signs" to be made for gyro's – Mark R will get something to put on each gyro in attendance.

Chapter 15 history was discussed. Tim Ramsayer notes that he believes the club was founded in 1967. Larry M will go with Mark R and Carl M to interview lifetime member Fritz Chamberlain. If he is willing, the club would like to transport Fritz to a meeting in the near future. We will try to confirm the founding date of the club and plan to celebrate this as part of the annual dinner, starting next year.

### **Schedule of upcoming meetings:**

May 13-15, 2011 – ARC Days – Meeting to be held 11 AM on Saturday, May 14.

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

## **2011 Rotorcraft Calendar**

**ARC Days - Arizona Rotorcraft Club (PRA 15)  
May 13-15, San Manuel, AZ** Info: (520) 840-0186  
(See also page 8.)

**Colorado Rotorcraft Assoc. (PRA 38) Fly-In  
May 21, Meadow Lake Airport, CO.** ([Info](#))

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

**Vertical Challenge - Hiller Aviation Museum  
Jun 18, San Carlos, CA** ([Info](#))

**Colorado Rotorcraft Assoc. (PRA 38) Fly-In  
Jul 16, Meadow Lake Airport, CO.** ([Info](#))

**EAA AirVenture - Exp. Aircraft Association  
Jul 25-31, Oshkosh, WI** ([Info](#))

**PRA Convention - Popular Rotorcraft Assoc.  
Aug 2-6, Mentone, IN** ([Info](#))

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

*(No classified ads this month. See [www.pra73.net](http://www.pra73.net) for two hangars available at Scappoose Ind. Airport.)*

## **Upcoming Chapter Meetings**

**KBRA (PRA 1)** Saturday, May 7, 7:15am PDT.  
Teddy Udala's hangar, El Mirage. (See page 4.)  
Info: (562) 493-3960

**URA (PRA 2)** Saturday, May 14, 10am MST.  
Curt Pittman's hangar, Brigham City Airport ([KBMC](#)).  
Details: [www.utahrotorcraft.org](http://www.utahrotorcraft.org).

**ARC (PRA 15)** Saturday, May 14, 11am MST.  
San Manuel Airport ([E77](#)) during ARC Days Fly-In.  
Contact Britta Penca at (520) 840-0951.

**SDCRC (PRA 31)** Meets third Thursday. Locations vary. [Request](#) e-mail notices from John Rountree.

**CRA (PRA 38)** Saturday, May 21, 9am-3pm MDT,  
Meadow Lake Airport ([KFLY](#)), Peyton, CO. Flying and driving directions at [www.copterpilots.org](http://www.copterpilots.org).

**GNWSRA (PRA 73)** Saturday, May 14, 12n PDT,  
[Sport Copter](#), Scappoose Ind. Airport ([KSPB](#)).  
Details: [www.pra73.net](http://www.pra73.net).

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# ***ARC Days Fly-In!***

***PRA 15 / Arizona Rotorcraft Club  
Friday-Sunday, May 13-15, 2011***



**Location:** San Manuel, AZ -E77, 40 miles NE of Tucson, elevation 3270 ft. (likely DA above 5K @ mid-day); 4200 ft runway, scenic flying over the Sonoran Desert - San Pedro River valley, foothills of the scenic Galiruo Mountains and Santa Catalina Mountains; Runway 11/29 (new this year - paved taxiway) Class G - CTAF - 122.9 (radio highly recommended), AWOS - 134.125, 520-385-4238, and yes, this airport is gyro friendly!

**Lodging:** San Manuel Lodge (2 miles), \$46.31: 520-385-4340. Foster's Lodge, Mammoth (12 miles): 520-487-1904; Cherry Valley Ranch Bed and Breakfast, Oracle (12 miles): 520-896-9639; Triangle L B&B, Oracle: 520-896-2123; Chalet Village Motel, Oracle: 520-896-9171; Best Western Catalina Inn (30 miles) \$100 approximate, swimming pool + continental breakfast: 520-818-9500

**Camping:** No hook-ups, porta-potty on site, no open campfires allowed, spaces galore.

**Victuals:** Vendors on site - Friday evening, Saturday breakfast and lunch, potluck on Saturday evening (hot dogs, apple pie and table service compliments Chapter 15).

**Presentation:** Marion Springer on Saturday evening.

**Safety briefing:** 2X per day - pilot attendance requested. No rotor movement (spinning or coasting) on the ramp side of the taxiway at any time. Gyro's to be hand pushed from the display area to the taxiway. Each gyro pilot is asked to have a spotter upon engine start-up. Radio is not required, but strongly suggested - this is the single most important factor in keeping good relations with other pilots.

**Awards:** "Farthest Distance Flown" and "Pilot and Machine".

**Aircraft Parking:** Outside tie downs only. Airport is fenced and gated. Night-time ramp lights. Rain is very unlikely this time of the year.

**Contacts:** President Carl Matter, 520-795-1333 or Sec/Treas - Mark Rhoads, 520-840-1086.

***FUN IS GUARANTEED: YA'ALL COME AND PUT YOUR PERSONAL SPIN ON THINGS!***