Southwest Regional Chapters of the Popular Rotorcraft Association

December 2014

Bastrop 2014

Southwest Regional Chapters of the Popular Rotorcraft Association
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Southwest Regional Newsletter
- Club news and upcoming events
- Member profiles
- Member’s machines
- Chapter meeting minutes
- Projects, builds and modification
- Photos
- Family news
- Classifieds

Newsletter Past Issues
If you have missed an issue of our newsletter just go to http://www.gyrosaway.com/newsletters.php to download past issues.

To subscribe to Southwest Rotorcraft just click the button below. Subscribing to Southwest Rotorcraft also automatically subscribes you to the Western Rotorcraft. At the beginning of each month you will be sent a link to Southwest Rotorcraft and Western Rotorcraft where you can read them online or download them to your computer.
Send Us Your News

Project Reports
Send us pictures of your project to include in future editions of the newsletter. We will post anything you have on your build, modifications, training, etc. Just send an email to tell us what you are doing and include some pictures if you have any. Progress reports are probably the most interesting things to read about and see.

Your Pride and Joy
Send us pictures of your machine to include as a feature in future editions. If you include some information on the details of your machine or a short bio of yourself we’ll also include this with your pictures. Brag about your aircraft!!

Events and Meetings
Next time you’re at a fly-in or just out flying with a buddy, take some pictures and let us know about it. Have your club secretary send us your club news and tell us about your meetings. Send us names of new members so we can welcome them to our sport. We are interested in anything your club is doing.

Family News and Announcements
Our newsletter isn’t just all about the machines, it’s about the people of our region also. Any family news or announcements you want to share please feel free to send us so we can let everyone know.

Upcoming Events

December 20; Chapter 62 Christmas Gathering at the Hangar
January 17; Chapter 62 Monthly Meeting at Anahuac
April 15—18, Bensen Days, Wauchula Florida
June 9—13; Rotors Over the Rockies, Brigham City Utah
July 27—August 1; PRA International Convention, Mentone Indiana
September 25—27, Ken Brock Freedom Fly-In, El Mirage Dry Lake Bed, California
October 15—17; Chapter 62’s Anahuac Fly-In, Anahuac Texas

On the Cover

Flying at the Chapter 6/20 Bastrop meet in October.
From The Editor

The holiday season and end of the year is now upon us. Reflecting back to 2014, we saw a surge in sales of the Eurogyros into the US market and actually an increase in the home built machines. The PRA reported an increase in membership for 2014, also, which these are all positive signs that our sport or hobby, whatever you prefer to call it, is very much alive and well.

The last several years have experienced a decline in attendance at gyro related fly-ins and the PRA has suffered from a huge loss of membership. All this together made it look as though gyros were really losing their popularity. Then over the last couple years, the Eurogyros (Magni, MTO, etc.) moved into the US market and has made a huge impact on bringing gyros back into the spotlight. Law enforcement has also seen the benefits of gyros over the expense of helicopters and several agencies have purchased and began using gyros to assist in their activities. This has helped spark the interest back into gyros and, I feel it has helped to revive the home built sector too.

Hopefully during 2015 we will still see the growth that we have over the past couple years and have positive stride towards bringing affordable flying back to the every day person who dreams of flying but finds other forms of flight out of their budget.

I’m really looking forward to next year and excited about seeing even more growth in the gyro community.

Until next month, fly safely.

Mike Grosshans, Southwest Rotorcraft Editor

Steve Weir Memorial Fund

The family of Steve Weir, with the support of the PRA, has set up a memorial fund in Steve’s name. The funds will be used by the PRA for education and training. If you would like to contribute, please visit the PRA website’s donation page, http://www.pra.org/donation.aspx?i=48, check “other” and put Steve’s name in the box. Fill in the amount you wish to contribute, check the payment method, and hit “Donate”, it’s that easy.

If you can’t, or would rather not contribute via internet, you can send a check to the PRA at:

PRA
Steve Weir Memorial
P. O. Box 68
Mentone, Indiana 46539

Make sure you clearly mark the check with Steve’s name to assure the funds are deposited into the right place.

PRA Volunteer Opportunities

The PRA is not a self-standing separate entity; the PRA is the expression of the effort by the members who donate some of their time to our wonderful sport. Please consider lending a hand by pitching in and volunteering for PRA activities like writing articles, helping at the convention or some of the following positions.

- Web Content Editor
- Web Interface Programmer
- Manufacturer Information Ambassador
- Airport Activities Manager
- Web and Content Ambassador
- Advertisement Coordinator
- Social Media Ambassador
- Curator Volunteer for the History of the PRA

For info about any of these opportunities, email praglobalsupportteam@gmail.com.
Tim O’Connor, a gyroplane CFI and Advanced Ground Instructor in collaboration with the Popular Rotorcraft Association (PRA) and FAASTeam (FAA Safety Team), is making available a live online ground school for the Sport Pilot/Gyroplane certificate. Here is a chance for those seeking the certificate to complete the preparation for the FAA Knowledge Test online.

The course will total **24 hours of live virtual classroom instruction**, and students will be assigned homework.

An additional (optional) 3 hours of flight planning may be added to the schedule if time permits for a total of 27 hours of live online training.

You'll need a computer with a good internet connection, and headphones with microphone (no speakers please).

Students will receive a bundle of materials after they have registered for the class, including exam supplement diagrams, worksheets and practice links. Students achieving a 90% or higher score on test prep will receive a logbook endorsement to take the knowledge test at an FAA authorized testing center. Students completing the course will also receive FAA Safety Team educational credits for the FAA WINGS program. Students who already hold a gyroplane pilots license can use the class for recurrent training or remedial training requirements.

Required class materials include: Electronic E6B Flight Computer; Sectional Chart Plotter, must be rotating type; a supply of sectional maps, one must be Cincinnati; one or more FAA Airport Directories, one must cover Ohio; a bound notebook; a copy of FAA FAR/AIM; a selection of FAA handbooks, circulars, fliers and publications relevant to your exam; several packs of index cards; Post-It notes (several packs).

Tuition is $250.00 for PRA members. Contact for details and registration: gyro.pilot@yahoo.com

**Next Session Dates:**
Thursdays, 7pm - 10pm Eastern. **January 8 - February 26**

Enrollment Currently Open. Now accepting students. To register Email: gyro.pilot@yahoo.com

Below: Screen shot from the On-Line Ground School
November Meeting

On November 15th, the November meeting of PRA Chapter 62 was called to order by Secretary Mike Grosshans. Members in attendance were Mark Spies, Danny Whitten, Cliff Massey, Bobby Munroe, Antony Thomas, Chauncey Surry, Keith Johnston, Dean Dolph, Steve McDaniel, David Trammell, Michael Stone, David Tees, Michael Ransleben, Stacy Maness and Becky O'Brien.

Danny presented the monthly Chapter bank balance.

The success of our 2014 fly-in was discussed. Mike also asked for suggestions for improvements such as awards or forums.

Mike bought a commercial grade canopy for the fly-in, a motion was brought up, seconded, and voted for the club to reimburse him for it and it became chapter property.

2015 Elections for Board of Directors was held. No new nominations were given so it was motioned, seconded, and voted unanimously for the BOD to remain the same. President—Mark Spies, Vice President—Cliff Massey, Treasurer—Danny Whitten, Secretary—Mike Grosshans, Member at Large—Tony Thomas.

The travel trailer we had brought to the hangar for Steve’s use is still here and for sale. Several members have committed to donations towards the purchase so the chapter can keep it here and have it for future use.

The meeting was adjourned and lunch was served.

There will not be a meeting in December, we will be holding our Christmas at the Hangar gathering on December 20th. Next meeting to be held at Anahuac January 17th.

During the month of November, Keith, with the help of several fellow members, completed his Dominator re-build and got it test flown by Danny.

Keith has spent a very long time working towards getting a flying gyro. He was working on three different gyros and had one very near completion and was preparing to bring it out to the hangars to show to everyone when, unfortunately, a fire broke out in his shop and burned down all three gyros. He then purchased another used one and worked very diligently getting it into flying condition. Congratulations Keith, we are all very proud of you.
The weekend of Saturday the 18th of October 2014, Popular Rotorcraft Association Chapter 6, The Mid-South Rotorcraft Club from Arkansas & Popular Rotorcraft Association Chapter 20, The Pelican State Rotor Club from Louisiana met in Bastrop, Louisiana. Morehouse Memorial Airport was the setting for this gathering. For years the Louisiana and Arkansas chapters get together once a year at a central location which is convenient for all.

We all agree this airport is the best place, not only for its location but friendly atmosphere. This includes the town as well as the airport personal since we stay in the local motels and eat at the local restaurants. For the last 6 years airport manager, Brent Elton, has allowed us the run of the airport. Brent makes room for our machines in his hanger as well as seeing that all our needs are met. The airport does not have a lot of aircraft based there but all the pilots are happy to see us there using the airport.

The weather forecast for the weekend called for sunny weather on Friday & Saturday. The temperature in the day rose into the 80s while they dipped into the 50s at night. The winds became gusty during the afternoon; at times they reached 20 mph. In the late afternoon the winds calmed down for some good flying.
Many of us arrived during the day on Friday to set up. On the field we had 3 motor homes & 1 travel trailer. The others reserved motel rooms in town. The rest of the people arrived on Saturday & we all left around noon on Sunday. As usual we all made a final flight before packing up but the winds really picked up & we only flew one time. We had the use of a large hanger to store our machines overnight & they provided us with cover while we loaded up our gyros on the trailers.

We had several guests attend to see what gyroplanes are all about and this event they had plenty to see. We had a large variety of machines to look at with different engine choices. There were Benson, Ken Brock, Butterfly, Air Command, Sparrowhawk & RAF. As for engines we had Rotax, Continental, Subaru, Volkswagon & McCulloch. Also many different pre-rotator options were present, electric, mechanical & hydraulic. We had 11 flying gyroplanes & 2 that had mechanical problems that would not let them fly.

Sadly Bill Weigers machine was not ready to fly this event since his new McCutchen blades had not been delivered. We had 2 gyro pilots in training attend from Arkansas, Perry Eddleman & Greg Nelson form Eldorado.

Saturday lunch was at the field in the large hangar. Paige Juneau cooked on the field a pork & sausage jambalaya for a $5 donation. Salad, cookies, brownies, cupcakes, soft drinks & bottled water completed the menu. Saturday night we had a gathering at a local restaurant, Grannies, for seafood buffet. We were able to share stories of the weekend & other experiences.

PRA Chapter 6, The Mid-South Rotorcraft Club members:
- Richard Kennedy
  - Conway
  - KB2/Rotax 582
- Bill Wiese
  - Conway
  - Bensen/Mac
- John Ferguson
  - Monarch Butterfly/Rotax

PRA Chapter 20, The Pelican State Rotor Club members:
- Bill Weiger
  - Pineville
  - Monarch Butterfly/Rotax 582
- Scott Borderlon
  - Echo
  - Bensen/Continental 0-200
- James Chowns
  - Rayville
  - RAF2000
- Rudy Graffeo
  - Gonzales
  - Bensen/Super Mac
- Benny Blalock
  - Rayville
  - Custom Air Command
- Mark Loman
  - Woolworth
  - Spaarrowhawk
- Mark McDonner
  - Zachary
  - Bensen/VW
- Ed Burks
  - Monroe
  - Aurora Butterfly
- Paul Juneau
  - Lafayette
  - KB2
Builders Corner

DREAM IT - BUILD IT - FLY IT

Russian Folding Gyro
Reminds me of James Bond
Light-Sport Gyroplanes
An introductory guide for discovering these unique aircraft

This non-technical book is for persons who are interested in gyroplanes, especially those who may not know much about them, but are curious to discover more. Even persons who think they know a lot about gyroplanes may be surprised to learn about developments that are making gyroplanes better, safer, and more inviting to fly for novices new to aviation as well as pilots who fly all kinds of aircraft.

In brief, whether you're avidly interested in gyroplanes or simply curious, this book is for you.

Available on Amazon.com.
Also available on Amazon:

ORDERING INFORMATION
Born Free ................. $ 19.95
Sales Tax @ 8.50 % .. $ 1.69
(California residents only)
Shipping ................. $ 4.00 in USA

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Adelanto, CA 92301

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Email: ddakota@earthlink.net

Gyro Books For Sale
Great books, DVDs, and CDs at www.gyrobooks.com
New Bensen/Brock Rotor Blades
B & B
Rotor Blade Price List
July 9, 2012

Blades, either Bensen or Brock attach points $1,295.00
Hub Bars: 25”, 36”, or 48”
Blades and Hub Bar Sets: 21’, 23’, or 25’
Contact Roger Farnes at rotorsnradials@msn.com or (909) 519-4427
FOR SALE

Classified are free, just send some pictures and a description along with your contact information to mike484@aol.com and we will post whatever it is you have for sale, trade, or looking for.

Bensen Gimbal Head
Early style head that uses Heim bearings for pitch, rather than the solid blocks. I bought this straight from Bensen, less than ten hours, new main bearing because of age. $400 Contact Jim Edwards at 479-747-4323 or jimedwards200@gmail.com

28’ Rotordyne Rotor Blades
New old stock, still in the box with hub bar. Asking $2,200. Contact Don Bouchard at dbouchard6@gmail.com or (979) 777-5166

BENSEN/KB2

Beautifully built KB2. Mac engine, Rotordyne Blades in box, all aluminum is anodized, very good looking gyro. Asking $4,500. Located in Anahuac Texas. Contact James Dvorak at (979) 733-2242 or jamesdvorak28@hotmail.com

Golden Butterfly
Golden Butterfly, flown regularly, for sale. Comes with two radios, two helmets, spar parts, aluminum custom built trailer, and a “Find Me” transmitter. This can be seen at the Anahuac Texas hangar. Taking confidential bids via email at dcarr4321@hotmail.com

Snowbird Avenger Tandem Gyroplane Kit

Has a Honda Cam engine with Mikuni carb. 115 HP. $16,500.00

Contact Mark at 225-936-3527 or mmcdonner@bellsouth.net

Older RAF For Sale

This is a A&P built with a EA 82 w/ 78 hrs , It looks very well built . It has built in 2004 . NEW price lowered to $11999 FIRM My number is 864-985-1774 My name is Redd
Aggressor, Plans Built

27' Dragon Wings, 1982 1.8 Turbo Bratt engine, Tennessee prop, Aggressor air frame. Also have a 2.2 Legacy engine included. $8,000 Gyro is located at the PRA headquarters in Mentone.

Contact John at john-gillmore1959@yahoo.com or 317-840-2697.

Bensen

Bensen, has the McCullough 72 just put a new cylinder and piston and rings and a starter kit on it also 10ft 3 in rotors with a 24 inch hub bar. $5,500, may have a small trailer to throw in if needed, ready to fly. Contact Hoppy at 512-488-2440.

For Sale by Ron Menzie

I have one more RAF, Fuel injected Subaru, 350 hours total, has never been damaged. $24,000.

ronsgyros@gmail.com, (501) 766-6456, ww.ronsgyros.com. Located in Searcy Arkansas.
James Chowns
Bastrop, LA
James trains in a tow glider at the Morehouse Memorial Airport (KBQP) in Bastrop. This is a great training aid for anyone just entering training in gyros. This was the way training was done before the two place trainers.
gyrochowns@yahoo.com

Paul Patterson,
Edmund Oklahoma
Paul trains in a modified RAF at the Guthrie/Edmond Geoport (KGOK). His RAF includes both a stabilator and a horizontal stabilizer.
405-826-8443
PaulPatterson1@cox.net

Henry Foster
Trains at the Olney Airport in a Modified RAF, a SparrowHawk, and an Air Command
hsf66@yahoo.com   214–692-0727

Proper training is the best money spent.
It’s amazing how many accidents happen on the ground before the aircraft sees it’s first flight, training can greatly prevent and reduce accidents. One set of rotor blades can buy about fifteen hours of training.