September Newsletter

# Competiton Corner

As most of you know, the ISS has a group of members who fly competition sailplane locally and not so locally. I like to report on it because I wish to honor those pilots who represent the club. Some of these pilots go on to be involved with the hobby industry. And some become icons in RC...But not always for the same reasons, which I bring you now

Hard luck struck Ed Stewart when he went to Santa Margarita to fly the F3J Team Selection event and as I understand it, attempted to fly the first plane that he brought, only to realize he had no control of it! The problem? He selected the incorrect aircraft program (wrong plane). You can imagine the scene of the impact with this one.

To add to his misfortune, he went to use his back-up plane, and if I recall the reason, I believe this might have been a mid-air collision. No matter, as the situation is the loss of two big birds at the contest. This also adds to his previous misfortune of finding water in a neighborhood pond. Yes, the radio does not work underwater.

Truthfully, I am sorry that Ed has taken these kind of losses. He is a big part of this club and he has worked the maintenance of the club winches for quite a few years. When I feel badly about a SC-2 event that I flew and failed to make any of my flight times, I think about what Ed has lost and consider that my planes suffered only a broken flap servo....much cheaper loss...no comparison. And so, I hope that Ed knows I mention him in the best of humor and no offense intended.

# Safety Note

By AMA policy,the AMA sanctioned clubs should provide a safety note with each newsletter. Okay, here we go. Over the past few weeks there have been no less than 4 lost FPV Racing quads on the field. Lost, you say? How so? Mainly by flying without a line of sight spotter,or an assistant not flying with goggles on. Luckily, I understand that at least 3 of them were eventually found, one which was still transmitting video! After a week in the brush!! (What brand battery was them?)

Lesson for the month? Never fly without a spotter. A good spotter can keep a watchful eye on your FPV machine and help find a crashed drone off-track. Besides that, if you have an injury accident, that spotter might just save your life. So, when you fly, don't fly alone. The advantages are huge!

# Other things

As I write this newsletter, the Visalia Fall Soaring Festival is only 2 weeks from now and I am flying like a novice. I am forcing myself to fly in simulated contest flights to get back into flight performance form...but, that's just me. There have been more pilots starting to show up to fly lately, and that is always good. Sometimes the runway might find two or three planes landing at the same time. I know I did when on last Saturday, I was bringing my Shadow in on landing, when a high wing trainer happened to be in my path, and going about the same speed. As the Shadow is a sailplane, I could not go around and try another pass,no sir! I was committed and so I landed right on the very top of the trainer!! Several other people witnessed the event and so you know this no lie. Lucky for me, the pilot of the trainer, Daniel, powered down and the Shadow slid off the trainer and then glided ahead to land...on the ground.

If you have anything for sale, or want to buy and need to tell people, send me an email for posting in this newsletter. My email address is mlee8249@msn.com and let me know what you have.

Sincerely,

Mike Lee

President