

## *From the Oval Office*

# The Newsletter of the Inland Soaring Society

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## From the President

Well, by this time in space, Thanks Giving is coming up, followed by the Christmas Holiday season, and one thing is going to happen. I expect to have some new pilots join us as they find an R/C item under the Christmas tree. Happens every year. And we, the ISS, welcome these new pilots with open arms, sharing the miracle of flight with all. We do have well experienced training pilots in the club and I hope that ISS will grow just a few more in numbers. 2019 promises to bring changes in the economy, but hopefully good changes. As most of you know by now, the corporation known as **Tower Hobby/Hobbico**, a tower of power within the hobby industry, went belly up in 2018 and absorbed by another towering corporation known as **Horizon Hobby**.

This purchase certainly narrows the choices you have available when it comes to hobby related purchases. Already, we have seen many local hobby shops close their doors in the case of rising costs, and other factors that equate to the dollar bill not going near the distance to support the hobby, and because the consumer has to feed things like kids, maintain budgets and support a home and two cars, there is nothing left to spend on hobby related activities. What do you do?

One of the things I have done is to keep in touch with my personal reach of building and flying models. Sure, the availability of models on the shelves is quite limited, there seems to be no end to guys willing to trade or buy models from other pilots, or repairing or renovating existing birds in the flock. Check this out!

Ok, this might sound like vulturing, but it's not. Many of our long time members recall Bill Hensley, who unfortunately past away from us a year ago. Bill left behind a well stocked tool reserve along with several aircraft kits with both build up wood construction, and /or ARF and Foamee models. Most of the models had seen some hours of building. Bill had asked that the hobby items, kits, tools, equipment (he had a dozen radio sets on hand), to be donated to the club members. The only catch to this deal was that the pilots who benefitted from the giveaway, was that they were required build out the model to completion. It was not only a great deal, but also a great incentive to complete the task. Bill didn't like the idea of just starting a project and never finishing it. So if you can imagine having Bill "looking down on you....!! Tough job, huh? So, start working on those planes!

My own way of staying "into" the hobby is that I like to renovate models that the owners may not find attractive and looking new anymore, and so are willing to sell the models for low dollars. I will make repairs, fixes, replace parts or portions of the model to generally

make it like new condition. Most of the models I pick on are trainer level planes, most of which are fairly easy to rebuild. I then replace the skin covering with new iron-on film and the plane looks like new. Being one of the club members, who happens to train new pilots, makes finding a new pilot simple and I have a plane to teach with. Once the new pilot is able to solo his plane, I give the plane to the new pilot...free! (I admit, they don't look as pristine as they started out, but the cost was quite economical for the new pilot, and it's a plane the pilot is familiar with, having trained on it already.

Stay in touch with that inner need to master your hobby. My method is only one example to look into and quite rewarding to me. If you have ways to stay in touch with your hobby, and keeping you interested in flight, let me know by telling your method of staying in touch.

## **The AMA R/C Expo West Model Show and Conference**

November 3, 2018 was the start of the new AMA Expo West, and to say it was successful would be complimentary. They boasted having 100 vendor booths set up with a pretty good assortment of planes, radio systems, suppliers of adhesives, tools and electronics. This was no small feat, given the tight time frame available to put the show together and be able to fill the LA County Fairplex convention center with hobby industry goodies and related items. There have been previous shows in the past at the Fairplex, and this show added more flying by using the infield section of the horse racing track. It was plenty of space to fly into for showing new planes and other flying machines. I was a little bit let down by the lack of wood plane kits, plus there were not as many ARF models on hand. Still, you could get some awesome deals on batteries, adhesives, servos, radio systems and used aircraft. Those deals went forward as a part of the swap shop of the show. The show proceedings were pretty much a copy of the previous AMA R/C Expo's. If it works, don't mess with it!

## **Membership Drive Time**

Yes, it is now going into the holiday season, which is also club membership drive time. Annual dues are a mere \$24.00, or \$2.00 a month. We have always honored free memberships to Junior class pilots, age 18 or younger. Please bring your current AMA membership card with you, as it is required by the Riverside Parks and Recreation Dept. Note that we won't force anyone to join the club, but the City Parks Department mandates having AMA Membership for the insurance requirements.

## Competition Corner

As we hurtle towards the Holiday Season, we also finish the SC-2 Championship series events and that final event was flown at the Silent Wings Soaring Association (SWSA) in Irwindale, CA. 21 pilots showed up to challenge the conditions, and they got a pleasant day with plenty of lift and mild temps. The contest itself was a "two-for-one" scoring deal as the final results provided scores for the SWSA club contest and the SC-2 event. So, if you flopped one flight, you end up flopping two contests. The good thing about it was that you paid entry fee money one time.

At the end of 5 flights, the ISS got skunked as none of our pilots managed to place a plane in winning position for the club level event score. However, that was set aside as the results of the SC-2 Championship Points race allowed several ISS pilots to come home with some winning placements in the series. Winning the championship title was Mike Reagan from Thousand Oaks, CA. Mike is the only pilot to have won the championship title 5 times or more. ISS has a couple pilots winning the championship title multiple times, with Steve Garland and Mike Lee being on that short list. ISS tosses a "Good Job" cheer to Mike Reagan for another victory by the Thousand Oaks Soaring Society.

Mike Lee,

President

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