

# Hot Air



## Message from the President

April 2016

Bob Okita is one of the most innovative and interesting guys in PSF. Bob always surprises with the projects he undertakes and often shares their development at our monthly meetings. At the March meeting, Bob demonstrated his latest project involving First-Person-View (FPV) flying. Bob built a straightforward foam wing as a test platform and assembled his screen and telemetry links from a variety of sources. By doing the research and assembly himself, the cost of this unit is reasonable and the image quality and range are excellent.

I have included some images of the hardware Bob brought to the meeting. Elsewhere in this edition, Bob has provided YouTube links to similar builds which can give you an idea of the construction of both the flying wing and the FPV hardware. Bob is always willing to share his knowledge to help members understand his projects. Don't hesitate to ask Bob any questions you might have. If you are interested in FPV, let me know and we can dedicate a meeting or three as an FPV forum.

Baseball is in full swing at Entradero Park. Please do not fly when there are baseball activities on any of the fields. I have been contacted by the City of Torrance asking that we refrain from flying before 8:00 AM on Saturdays and 9:00 AM on Sundays, as a courtesy to the neighbors that are adjacent to

Entradero. Please help maintain our positive relationship with the City and locals by respecting the City's request.

Parking at Del Cerro on weekends continues to be a challenge with the restricted parking spaces at the park itself. The number of hikers makes street parking difficult, at best. One solution is to coordinate your flying with another member. You can drive to the top of the parking area and drop off your gear. The other member can keep an eye on everything while the driver parks and walks back to the park. There are no good solutions for this problem.

The Del Cerro Fun-Fly will be this Saturday, April 9th. Guys usually start arriving around Noon. There is a small chance of rain this weekend. Could be breezy as the front moves through. The date for the Entradero Fun-Fly will be Friday, April 22nd. Flying will start at 8:00 AM. Please note the day is Friday.

Consider bringing your latest project to the meeting on April 6th. Everyone would like to see what you are working on. I hope to see you at the meeting our out flying.

All the best,  
Jeff

### Next Meeting

**Wednesday,  
April 6th**

**La Romeria Park  
7:30pm**

### Upcoming Fun-Flys

**Del Cerro  
Entradero**

**April 9th  
April 22nd**



Bob Okita's YouTube Links...



In this video, I show you my mini FPV flying wing with a flying weight of only 166g. Complete build cost is just 90 USD (including receiver & lipo!) We also go flying with it and I show you what a little fun rocket it is :-). Jump points and a full parts list are in the video description. Hope you enjoy :-)

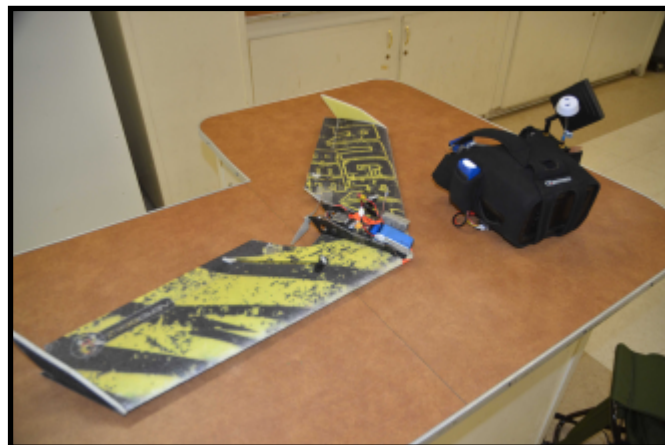
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2iGQAZ3Ctc>



In this video, we build a 5g (!) DIY FPV Set (200mW VTX & Camera) which costs only 20 USD. This is ideal for micro builds, or whenever you want to save some weight. We also test the completed module and show the video quality. Hope you like it. Please share it with your friends!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYRD0TyADfs>

... And Photos of His Recent FPV Work





Notes from an F3A Event

by Jerry Lake

I went to an F3A aerobatics contest at the OCMA (Orange County Modelers Assoc.) field at Blackstar Canyon last Saturday and thought I'd send along a few pictures and a brief report on what I saw.



The F3A competition is popular on an International level, as I saw several of the contestants wearing T-shirts and jackets that advertised their visits to places like Switzerland in 2015 for the World Championship F3A contest. There were at least 25 contestants flying essentially the same kind of airplanes, with the exception of a couple of biplanes that still bore a strong resemblance to the



monoplanes. I think they were all of the 2M wingspan category and, based on some brief poking around on the web (F3A Unlimited site, for instance), I'd say the kits cost about \$2K and the total cost of a competitive airplane must be around \$4 - \$5K. The fuselages are all fiberglass and I believe the wings are foam core with composite material skins.

The powerplants can be fuel or electric, but all the entries except for one were powered by electric

motors. Hacker and AXI motors seemed to be the most popular. I think they fly 10 cell / 5000 mah Lipos. The airplanes all had a very large fuselage cross-section which I think is meant to provide drag in the downline segments of their routines. I'm guessing the little stubby wings on top of the fuselages were also related to vertical performance,



probably to help keep the lines straight. The maneuvers were all very smooth and large, unlike the IMAC aerobatics I've seen where the emphasis is on wild and crazy. I noticed that the planes were flying very high at the top of loops, almost to the point where these old eyes couldn't discern orientation. I asked one of the competitors about the altitude and he said it was about 1K feet. My next question was what about the AMA 400 ft. rule



and he said that since it was an AMA sanctioned contest, that limit didn't apply. I didn't know that.

After watching several flights, I got a little bored and visited the kitchen tent for a cheeseburger before heading home.

- Jerry



**Club Officers and Volunteers  
for 2016**

- President: Jeff Chambers  
310-370-0771
- Vice President: Jerry Lake  
310-370-6697
- Treasurer: Alan Templin  
310-318-0876
- Secretary: John Spielman  
310-378-0951
- Newsletter: Chris Newton  
310-347-6806