

Hot Air



Message from the President

August 2020

The craziness has not ended and doesn't appear to be resolved until we get a functional vaccine for the virus. I hope you and your families have not had to deal with COVID-19. The folks I know of that have contracted it have had a tough time. Some are not with us anymore.

On that cheery note, the City of Torrance continues to make the meeting room at La Romeria Park off-limits. They have also asked that we not hold any outdoor meetings. So, we will not be meeting this month. However, both of our flying sites are available for flying. Please observe physical distancing and wear a mask at the fields.

Long-time member Bob Okita is always working on an RC project. Bob works on conventional sailplanes, discus launched gliders, multi-rotors, FPV, etc. The shutdowns and need to be safe have not slowed him down, as evidenced by the enclosed photographs and description of a recent large sailplane project.

If Bob inspires you to share your latest project, send Chris or me some photographs and a write-up and we will get it out to the membership.

If you haven't renewed your membership for the current year, please do so. If you know of anyone that is interested in joining our club, point them to our [website](#).

Some baseball practice activities are still occurring on the fields at Entradero Park. These activities are limited and not noted on the West Torrance Little League master schedule. However, if these practices occur when you are flying at the field, please discontinue flying, per our club guidelines.

Torrance schools are back in session on August 26th. The unscheduled practices will not occur weekday mornings, once the schools open, but weekends will be a crapshoot.

Face coverings and social distancing are required at the field. The City emphasized that we need to respect this requirement if we want to use the facility.

Next Meeting

No meeting in August

Please contact a club officer if there are any issues with gate or field access. Remember that only club officers can distribute the combinations to club members. The gate combinations changed a couple of months ago. Contact a club officer if you need them.

Remember that it is up to every member to ensure our field rules are followed. This will protect our ability to continue using the facility.

Upcoming Fun-Flys

Del Cerro None
Entradero None

There will not be a Fun-Fly at Del Cerro this month. I have found the park accessible weekdays when there is adequate lift to fly. However, weekends have been a challenge when I have been there. Parking can be very restrictive. Even though there are a lot of hikers, they are on the trails and the park is usually open.

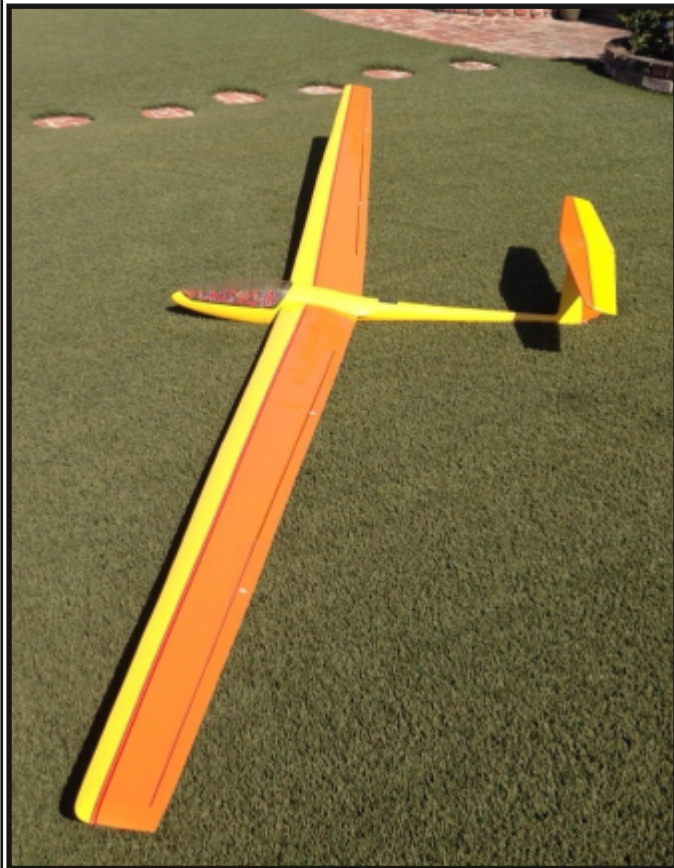
Once again, please consider sharing your latest project for inclusion in the newsletter. Enjoy the fields and put a plane in the air. Be safe and we will let you know if access to the fields changes.

All the best and take care,
- Jeff



Bob Okita's Glasflugel "604X" Project

I just finished bashing and restoring a 1970's era, 12-foot wingspan Glasflugel 604. I did some updating, including new carbon fiber caps to the wing spars, installed servos inside the wing, changed from spoilers to flaps, "sprunged" the elevator and rudder controls, built and installed new elevator and rudder controls, built new horizontal stabilizer and wing hatch covers, polished out the pits in the canopy, recovered the wings, repaired and repainted the fuselage.



With all the updating, I think I'll call it the "604X". Interestingly, the original angle-of-attack was "old-school", set at 6 degrees. I adjusted the AOA to 2.5 degrees, which I feel more comfortable with. Maybe I'll test-soar the 604X within the next month at PV Drive East, if the conditions are favorable.

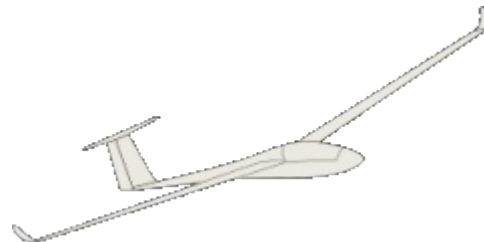
The following are the major steps I followed to bond carbon fiber roving to reinforce the spars on the Glasflugel 604 wing:



a) Lay-stretch 2 inch clear packing tape the length of the wing, sticky side up



b) Stretch and lay carbon fiber onto the sticky side of the tape. Use a wide piece of balsa to spread, even out and flatten carbon fiber roving onto tape.





Bob's "604X" Project (cont.)



c) Apply and squeeze epoxy resin into carbon fiber roving, making sure roving is saturated with minimum epoxy.



d) Apply uncured carbon fiber tape to the spar. Use a flat plastic blind with weights over the tape to achieve a smooth finish. When the epoxy is cured, peel the packing tape off, achieving a smooth finish.



I also resurrected and updated a 100-inch wingspan, black Sundancer glider. It is sort of based on an 80's-era Sundancer pod-and-boom glider, bashed with a Windfree-styled four-channel wings. I flew it a couple of times at PV East with my son, Philip. It flew well.

- Bob



Stay safe out there, dear members!