

# Hot Air



## Message from the President

December 2012

I hope everyone is doing well as we race into 2013. The Holiday's are upon us, which only means one thing - our Holiday Raffle is this month! *All members in attendance at the meeting will get to pull a free ticket for one of the great prizes Jerry has collected.* It's always great to watch the horse trading that goes on after the raffle. I hope you join the fun and make it to the meeting.

Although the December raffle is always a lot of fun, I know the real reason that everyone comes to the meeting is to volunteer to be a club officer. We will be voting in the 2013 Board of Officers at the meeting. If you are interested in taking on one of the club positions and have any questions about the responsibilities involved, please contact one of the current officers or inquire at the meeting.

We will also be taking PSF applications for 2013 at the meeting. John will have applications available. If you have received your 2013 AMA cards, take a minute to re-enlist at the end of the meeting.

We have a quantity of new embroidered PSF hats. They are available in Tan, Navy and Black and cost a mere



fifteen dollars. These are quality hats with a Flex-Fit elastic band that fits most heads. They will be available at the meeting or contact me if you are interested.

### Next Meeting

**Wednesday,  
December 5th  
7:30 pm**

**La Romeria Park  
19501 Inglewood Ave**

As I have mentioned in the last few newsletters, we have an amazing amount of talent in the club. We have guys doing all sorts of cool stuff - scratch-built scale models, 3-D helicopters, quad-copters, First-

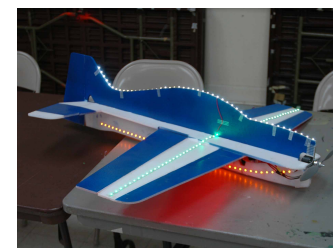
Person-View (FPV) flying, large scale electrics, scale sailplanes and aerobatic slopers - just to name a few. At the last meeting, a member presented his current activity in night flying. He had a foamy decked out in LED light strips which are surprisingly bright. The lights are

priced very reasonably and are lightweight. Pretty cool stuff!

Although our agreement with the City of Torrance and RPV make flying after dark out of

the question, flying at other Southland parks or vacant lots make flying these planes feasible locally.

The City of Torrance has asked all users of Entradero to be more responsible with regard to keeping the park and fields locked up. This is an ongoing issue that we PSF'ers only have a limited amount of control over. The Little League guys are the worst offenders, having left the gates open repeatedly during the spring and summer.





Now that their season is over, the problems have been reduced but not eliminated. Additionally, there has been a lot of unauthorized use of our field which has resulted in the changing of the field and bunker combos.

So what can the members of our club do? *Lock the main gates when they are left open by others. Lock the main gates every time you enter or leave.* The main gates should never be left open when we are using the park. If you open the gates and leave them that way while you are flying, unauthorized people can enter the park. If this happens, you will need to get them to leave and lock the gates when you depart. Just because someone drives in and starts playing on one of the fields doesn't mean they have a right to be in the park or that they will lock the gates when they leave. If you find a damaged or missing

lock, please report it to one of the club officers and we will coordinate getting it fixed or replaced.

We will have a Fun-Fly, weather permitting, Saturday December 8th at Del Cerro. Similarly, Saturday December 22nd will be the date for this month's Entradero Fun-Fly.

We discussed having the Swap Meet early next year and settled on the February meeting. Time to clean out the garage!

The AMA Convention in Ontario is January 11th, 12th and 13th. Discount tickets are available online. See you there.

Happy Holidays everyone!

- Jeff

### From the Vice President - P47D "Saucy Suzie"

A few months ago, I brought my P47D "Saucy Suzie" project to a club meeting. At that time, it was in a "bare wood" state. Since then, I've completed it and thought I'd share the results.

The plane was built from a Top Flite kit (64" span, box-of-wood-kind of kit). I modeled it after a plane from the 9th AF, 406 FG, 513 Squadron in Europe during WWII. There are a couple of Japanese plastic model companies that sell a similar kit.

Below you will see photos from the 406th FG in Europe where "Susie" is supposed to have been based. You can see the fuselages have the same paint scheme as my model and at least one of them has invasion stripes, as well.

### History of the 406th Fighter Group

After months of training at various Southern bases the 406th embarks from New York on the "Sterling Castle" arriving in Liverpool and assigned to Ashford, Kent from where it flew its first operational mission on May 9, 1944. Fighter



sweeps, escort duties and dive bombing missions lead up to June 6th and D-Day, when the group provides top cover over Utah Beach. Thereafter



the 406th transitions to what proves to be a most effective role — Tactical Airpower — and the ground attack for which the 406th's distinctive willingness to aggressively press home the attack and to pay for it was ideal thus leading to their effective yet unassuming success.

Assigned to a rapid succession of airfields across France, Belgium and finally Germany while living in often muddy tents and war ravaged buildings the Group felt like "gypsies" as it encounters air to air combat and provides support to thrusting armored columns and uses the emerging technique of ground controller communication to pinpoint enemy frontline positions and seemingly having a constant presence over enemy marshalling yards, rail lines, bridges, Luftwaffe installations and troop and material concentrations — made even more effective when the 406th was the first American fighter group to be equipped with rockets. Such an attack on September seventh on a massive enemy column lead to the capture of 20,000 Germans and the request of their General Elster to surrender to who he felt was primarily responsible for his defeat — the Army Air Force for which the 406th received its first Presidential Citation.

Living, moving, training and above all fighting

the enemy continues with little let up through Northern France, Ardennes, Central Europe and Rhineland campaigns right into December when the 406th found itself sharing Mourmelon camp with the 101st Airborne when they were hastily called to Bastogne with the 406th assigned their air cover at this, the Battle of the Bulge. For five

days and 519 unrelenting sorties the 406th brings aerial firepower to bear both on the ground and in the air with the reappearance of the Luftwaffe, helping to stop the 101st from being overrun and blunting a potential enemy break out at a loss of 10 pilots and 40 of the 60 operational P-47's suffering battle damage leading to the Group's second Presidential Citation and visit from General McAuliffe.

The aftermath of that victory saw the 406th contribute to a crescendo of destruction on enemy troops and material clogging rear assembly areas even as strongholds along the retreating enemy lines needed to be bombed and strafed accounting for ever

increasing numbers of destroyed locomotives, track and rolling stock, buildings, tanks, trucks, gun emplacements, horse drawn equipment and on ground aircraft plus the demise and capture of troops leading to Operation Flashpoint and the crossing of the Rhine where the 406th covered allied airborne landings in Germany.

The war's final home base was Handhoff airfield

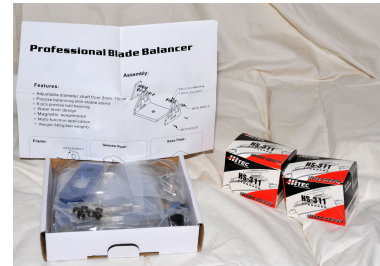




in Germany which saw several missions against a frantic enemy being harassed from both east and west until the operational space assigned the 406th narrowed significantly due to Russian advances- a prelude to April 20th and the last wartime mission that put a final tally on 13,612

sorties, 34,000 hours of flying time, 133 aircraft lost to enemy action, 85 men MIA/KIA, 292 enemy destroyed in the air or on the ground, tons upon tons of ordinance delivered and thousands of targets, many critical, destroyed as contribution to victory in Europe.

**The Famous End-Of-Year Raffle!**



*This is the one you've been waiting for...*

*Come to the December meeting and get a free ticket to win any of the many great prizes in this month's raffle.*

*Come on out for the fun!*

