

# Hot Air



## Message from the President

October 2020

One of the few things I have found I can enjoy without running into a bunch of folks is flying a plane. I often go alone and toss a glider off a cliff. I've also flown at Entradero early in the morning. Building a new plane is enjoyable, as well. This hobby can provide enjoyment in a variety of ways. This has never been more evident than in these crazy times. I hope you guys are finding some enjoyment getting out, as well.

The City of Torrance continues to restrict the use of the various community rooms around the city. This includes the meeting room at La Romeria Park. Therefore, we will not be meeting again this month.

Torrance has also requested each person using city facilities sign forms acknowledging the rules for using them. These forms are required of all of our members flying at Entradero Park. I have been asked to get these forms returned to the city as soon as possible. If you fly at Entradero, please [download](#) read, print and sign the form. You can either return them to me or Don via e-mail. If you have any questions regarding the forms, please contact us.

A few days ago, I was made aware of a plan to increase the collection of water runoff at Entradero Park to 85 percent. This will require a significant increase in storage capacity at the park. I do not have any details regarding impacts to our flying field, nor the timetable for the work. As I get more info, I will pass it along.

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.

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.

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes is experimenting with parking at Del Cerro. The current restrictions force our members to park and carry their planes a considerable distance. The trail hikers, who are the reason for the heavy use, have the same issue. John Spielman tells me that the city council will review community inputs on October 20th and determine whether or not to continue the restrictions. We will let you know the outcome of these discussions.

Saturday, October 10th we will have our monthly Del Cerro Fun-Fly. The weather looks good, partly cloudy with winds out of the southwest at 14 mph. Charge up a glider and head up to the hill.

I mentioned last month that Bill Simpson has passed away. Bill had an extensive collection of gas, electric, gliders and RC memorabilia. Bill was a friend of Mel Anderson in the 70's and 80's. Mel died in 1986. Mel was a true pioneer in the RC hobby, having produced one of the first successful two-cycle engines in the 1930's.

Working with Mel in the early 1980's, Bill put together a collection of Mel's model engines, which includes Mel's first motor. This C02 motor was built in 1919 when Mel was 17. It is considered to be the first forward valve motor of its kind. This motor is mounted on a display of Mel's engines, which I am

**Next Meeting**

**No meeting in October**

**Upcoming Fun-Flys**

**Del Cerro  
Entradero**

**October 10th  
None**



helping coordinate donating to the AMA museum. The display shows a history of the development of Mel's various engines from the C02 motor mentioned and various Cyclone and Spitfire engines that followed. Some of these engines sold in the tens of thousands of units. Mel Anderson is in the AMA Hall of Fame. I have included photographs of these engines in this newsletter. The AMA has a write-up regarding [Mel](#) on its website.

progress and I'll try to get a status from Bob for the November newsletter. I wish I was half as productive as Bob. His completion rate compared to mine is about 5:1.

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

It wouldn't be a PSF newsletter without bringing you up-to-date on Bob Okita's latest modeling efforts. Bob is in the process of building a Born Free glider. This is an understatement, since he is building the fiberglass fuselage from scratch. I have included photographs from Bob showing the mold he created along with the fuselage, empennage and boom, which he also made. This is a work in

Be safe out there and let us know what you are up to. Please share a few photos from your outing or your current project.

All the best,  
Jeff

### Bob Okita's Born Free Glider Project





### Mel Anderson's Engine Legacy



*Stay safe out there, dear members!*