



San Diego Sports Flyer



June 2022

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San Diego Ultralight Association Meeting Minutes

June 4th, 2022, By Gene Kendall

President **Glenn Frehafer** brought the meeting to order precisely on time at 10:04 a.m. Glenn led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

Guest visitors: We welcomed **Mario Luzano** who lives in Jamul and wants to fly ultralights. He flew a Cessna in the Philippines.

Mike Sandlin said we have 40 members as of this month. **Mark Novak** gave his treasurers report. We have money in the club account. The club agreed not to put the dollar amount in the club newsletter. This newsletter is public information and we could be exposed to scammers on the Internet. The four club officers have access to monitor the club's bank account. This was done for security and accountability.

The meeting consisted of the president giving the club a detailed update on the progress of the airport/club relocation committee. The airport leaseholder Skydive San Diego has informed the club that they will not sign a sublease with the San Diego ultralight Association. We have a limited time to locate a new airfield in which to fly our ultralights. After the presidents detailed report, an active discussion, question and answer period followed. We had 25 people attending the meeting and most were active in the discussion.

The president stated the relocation committee had contacted the FAA, the county airport managers, Mr. Branstad, Buz Fink and many others. The committee first concentrated on moving to Brownfield. However, Brownfield is not a viable option. Brownfield has a policy that all airplanes must have a transponder and an ADSB out device. Brownfield has been designated to be a jet cargo center and military field. They have major plans on expanding and accommodating heavy jet aircraft. They will not allow any ultralights at the field. We could join EAA chapter 14 which is located at Brownfield but we would have to dissolve our club, EAA chapter 114. We could alternatively meet in their hanger on the last Saturday of each month for free.

The relocation committee also contacted Tom Marquez the FAA FSDO manager who suggested looking for a private airport to use. However, a special use permit would be required. This would be expensive, time-consuming and must be submitted to the county for approval. Nearby residents could object to the operation. The committee also spoke to Ms. Meadows, the county airport manager at Fallbrook. The area around Fallbrook is a built-up area and may soon be designated a high-density airport. Ms. Meadows said Fallbrook would not be available. The committee also contacted Donnie Eckerd and Carl the lobbyist. Ultralights are not welcome at Ramona because that is the county Cal Fire headquarters and they do not want to deal with ultralights.

County Airport manager Ms. Meadows stated that we would be welcome at the Jacumba Airport. It is a 2600-foot paved runway. It would require signing a long-term lease and investing in a fixed hanger which would be subject to property taxes.

The president stated we they would continue to look at additional possible airport sites including several Indian reservations and the private airport On the Rocks.

Gene Kendall won \$41 in the raffle with \$41 going into the club's account. The meeting closed at 11:15 PM.

Prez Sez

By Glenn Frehafer

Normally we would be wrestling through the planning process for our annual Fly In which would be hosted by us at Nichols Field in late August or early in September, but things are sadly not normal anymore it seems. Times are tougher now with pandemics threatening, social unrest, wars, famines, global warming, inflation, etc. etc., but God willing we will persevere.

There is some good news. A couple of the relocation committee members have made contact with people in places of influence in the County Airports Real Estate division and at the Barona Indian Reservation that seem to be receptive to hearing our proposals. We are waiting on further contact with them to determine what information they need and how to present it.

From preliminary talks with the county we have learned that there are at least two alternatives to leasing from them with different application processes and different results which depending on the choices made can take up to a year minimum of time to be approved, but would result in either a 10 year lease or a 30 year master lease where building improvements could be made.

With Barona we have learned that there may be an opportunity to sub leasing their drag strip for use as a runway when it is not in use, but it would be required to be approved by their Council meeting.

There are still other people that we are trying to contact at Campo Indian Reservation and at On the Rocks private airstrip, but finding who to contact is problematic, and we have no relationship with anyone at these two places.

All of this information is preliminary in nature. there are no promises made or given by anyone. This is information only to give you an idea of what we are doing to find a new location and not that the efforts will be fruitful.

Best regards,
Glenn Frehafer
SDUA President

Picture of the month



(Photo courtesy of **Adam Li**)

Adam Li: I recently moved my work-in-progress Hiperlight SNS8 to my hangar in March. It is an ultralight biplane. I still have not worked on the wings as you can see. There are four of those wings so there is quite a bit of work to do. However, the progress has stalled because of the recent situation. Thanks to Walter Martin for lending me his trailer for this move.

Story of the month

Adam Li: I went to Nichols today and planned to get oil changed on my engine. I opened the hangar and worked a bit and saw myself almost stepped on a coiled rattlesnake. Thinking back my path around the hangar, I must have stepped right by it a few times when I opened the door.

We at southern California all have our own share of rattlesnake encounters. But this is the closest I have got to and the first time I saw one coiled up ready to strike. I still felt startled and extremely lucky now, and just wanted to share the story with you all.

I managed to snap a shot and closed the door. But my oil change plan has been scratched. It is a beautiful diamondback though.



Ron Donofero: A few helpful facts about rattlesnakes:

1. They are more afraid of you than you are of them. They only strike when cornered or startled.
2. Rattlesnakes have a striking distance of only about 2 feet. Stay further than that and they CAN'T get you.
3. ALL Hospitals have anti-venom on hand. IF you get bit by a rattlesnake - the odds are very good that it won't be an issue. Just get to the closest Hospital. You'll be fine.