

February 2016

# Air Currents



Wow! How was he able to land that at DVRC?

Mel Nash's Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird (RIP)

## The Official Newsletter of the Diablo Valley Radio Controllers

3500 John Henry Johnson Parkway

P.O. Box 9411

Pittsburg, CA 94565

[www.dvrc.org](http://www.dvrc.org)



## President's Corner...



Happy New Year to everyone at DVRC. 2015 was a very good year for our club. We had several fun events and there were a lot of improvements made in the past year. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone that helped make last year a big success.

In the coming year we will be having some of the same events and a few new ones. Steve Anderson is back with an expanded version of the T-28 Races, this event is always a fun time. If you didn't race last year you need plan to do so this time around. In addition to the T-28, this year we will be bringing back the always exciting T-34 races, rules to be published in the very near future.

As we look to 2016, there will be something going on every month so I would like to encourage all DVRC members get active in the club events and help the people running the events. The more members we have to participate the more fun we will have. After all these events are planned and take place for your enjoyment. I would like to also remind everyone of the new rules in the pit area. We now have signs posted so please respect your fellow flyers and obey all the rules, especially where safety is concerned.

There are a few changes this year. Ron Penn is the new Safety Officer, if Ron has to remind you of one of the many safety rules please don't bite his head off, he is just the messenger. Remember he has every one's safety in mind. Also Gene Aughtry is the new Membership Coordinator/Flight Officer this year. If you have questions about your dues, membership or a flight badge, you need to go to Gene.

I am very excited about 2016. I hope to see each and every one of you at the field, lets have fun and always keep safety first.

-Bob Wolfe, President DVRC

## Upcoming Events (Visitors Welcome)....

Sat Feb 13 @10:00AM - Membership Meeting  
Sat Feb 20 @9:00AM - Donut Drop  
Sat Mar 05 @9:00AM - T-34 Races  
Sat Mar 12 @10:00AM - Membership Meeting

Start working on your T-34's!

## Note from our Safety Officer ...

Hello Members and Friends, I have recently been appointed to the position of Safety Officer for DVRC. Looking forward to serving in this position and ensuring that our flying site is as safe as we can possibly make it. We have recently instituted a new policy that no batteries can be placed in an electric powered airplane while on the set-up table. The plane must be on a start-up table prior to placing a battery in the plane. Upon completion of your flight, the battery must be removed from the plane, again at the start-up table prior to taking it back to the set-up table. The Board of Directors voted that there would be a no tolerance policy that is to be strictly enforced.

Another concern is when flying east of the fence that all intention must be verbally and loudly declared; For landing, taking off, touch and go's, and fly by's.

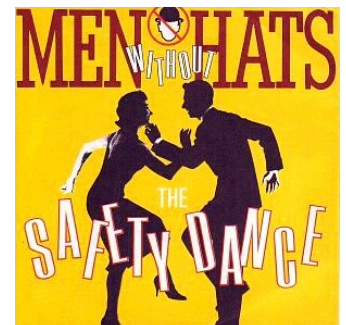
If you are aware of, or concerned about something that you feel is unsafe, please bring it to my attention. We can't correct issues if we are unaware of them.

This year has started out great, we are accident free for the year. If we all stay attentive to the rules we can make this an accident free 2016.

I hope to see everyone at the field enjoying our sport/hobby. Let's enjoy ourselves while being safe.

Thank you

-Ron Penn, DVRC Safety Officer



## Note from our Membership Coordinator...

As the Membership Coordinator, I would like to remind all of the members that have not paid their 2016 dues to do so ASAP. Also, that they need to include the \$20.00 late fee with their membership payment.

- Gene Aughtry, Membership Coordinator

## Interesting Link ...

### Missouri Air Show Anyone? ...

This is an Air Show in Cameron, a small rural town in Missouri. The pilots, bike and truck drivers (and the photographers) are all nuts !! This doesn't border on crazy, it IS crazy! Hold on to your desk, chair, whatever! Best viewed full screen. Thanks to Mike Phelan for passing this on!

<https://vimeo.com/100670266>



## Excuse Me, Can I Borrow Some Duct Tape?

During a private "fly-in" fishing excursion in the Alaskan wilderness, the chartered pilot and fishermen left a cooler with bait in the airplane. A bear smelled it. This is what he did to the plane.

The pilot used his radio and had another pilot bring him 2 new tires, 3 cases of duct tape, and a supply of sheet plastic... He patched the plane together, and FLEW IT HOME !

Thanks to Nigel Watson for sharing this with us!

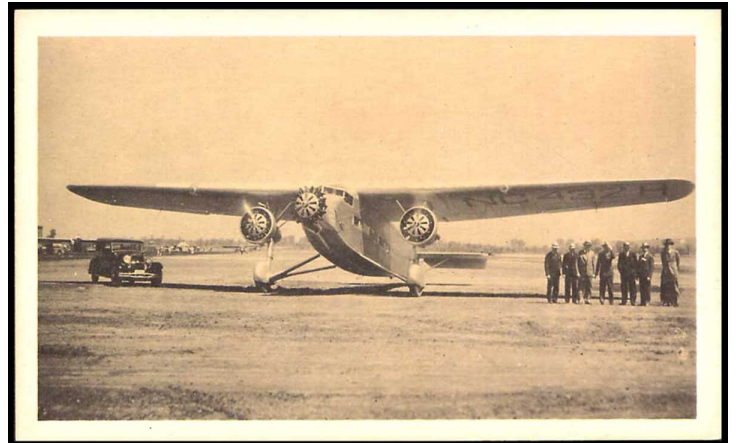


# Henry Ford's Aviation Adventures ...

Reprinted from [www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org) website

Henry Ford is well known for his legendary Model T and his development of the assembly line. But in fact he made major contributions to the early aviation industry.

As an entrepreneur, Ford had the power, knowledge, industrial genius, and money to take big risks. He once said, "I would rather build a big plane and learn something, even if it didn't fly, than to build a smaller one that worked perfectly and not learn anything."



He had never really liked airplanes. He was coaxed into the air only three times in his life—twice on one memorable day in 1927 by Charles Lindbergh—in his Spirit of St. Louis—and once in 1936 by C. R. Smith of American Airlines. But he felt that he could make money on this new mode of transportation if he could mass produce planes using assembly-line production, much like his Model T's.

## Influential Men

Henry didn't get into the aviation business on his own—three men, in particular, helped him get a jump-start. First there was his son Edsel. In a 1925 statement to the press, Henry admitted: "This interest in aviation is largely Edsel Ford's idea and he deserves the credit. Airplanes belong to another generation. I shall do everything possible in their development. . ."

Another early influence on Henry Ford was Bill Stout, an unconventional engineer with a streak of genius and a whimsical personality. Believing early on in the commercial potential of all-metal airplanes, he founded the Stout Metal Airplane Company in 1922 and proceeded to get Henry, Edsel and other Detroit industrialists interested in them. Stout later claimed that "The greatest single thing that I accomplished for aviation was getting Mr. Ford into it."

Henry Ford's genius was evident when he put Ford Motor Company engineer William Mayo in charge of the aviation division. Mayo saw the future in commercial aviation, believed Detroit should be at the center of it and claimed responsibility for interesting Henry and Edsel in Stout's planes.

### All Metal

The Ford Trimotor was the first successful all-metal plane. Making planes of all metal was a radical idea at a time when most planes were still built of fabric stretched over wooden frames. Henry was won over by Bill Stout's enthusiasm for all-metal planes and became convinced that he could make a profit producing them for commercial (as opposed to military) purposes.



Ford's corrugated metal Trimotors—made out of corrosion-resistant aluminum and exceptionally strong duralumin—gained the affectionate nicknames of "Tin Goose" and "Flying Washboard." In 1926, he built a new 60,000-square-foot factory to produce his Trimotors—"laid out expressly to accommodate the Ford system of progressive production."

### People Trusted Henry Ford

Ford's involvement in aviation convinced a huge number of people that flying was safe and dependable. Many people felt that if the producer of the Model T—the world's universal car—believed in the future of aviation, then there must be something to it. In the late 1920s, Ford launched a massive advertising campaign to promote Trimotor safety and reliability to the public. According to the March 1928 Aero Digest, "His advertising has done more to popularize flying among the reading public than all the stunts that have been stunted, at the risk of neck and limb."

### The Flivver—A Failed Experiment

In 1925, Henry Ford initiated a special project to develop a small airplane that might prove as useful and affordable as the Model T, a so-called "air flivver." The first Flivver,



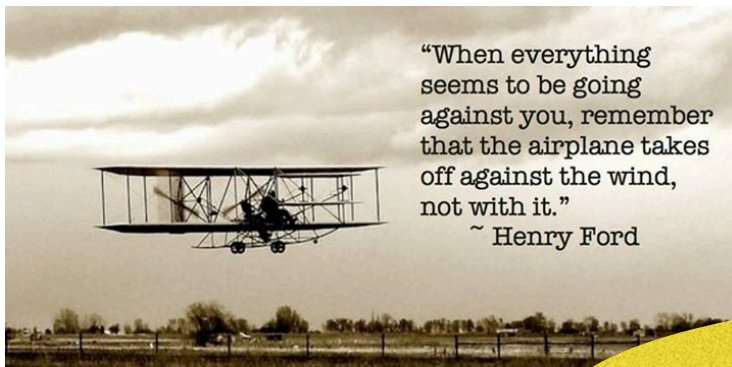
demonstrated at the Air Reliability Tour in 1926, generated a great deal of press. A new, improved model broke a world's distance record for small planes (972 miles between Dearborn and Titusville, Florida). But, unfortunately, soon after pilot Harry Brooks broke the record, the plane crashed and he was killed. After that, Ford stopped making Flivvers.

### The Radio Beacon

Henry Ford's involvement in aviation also resulted in advancements in radio and navigation aids that made flying safer for everyone. Before this time, pilots had to depend on what they could see on the ground to get from place to place. The radio range beacon that Ford developed helped pilots stay on course through fog, rain, snow, and darkness. In 1927, it was installed on the grounds at the airport. By 1933, 90 other stations had been established elsewhere, aiding pilots over 18,000 miles of airways. By that time, its value had become so obvious that the United States government decided that they should operate all radio ranges, and the Ford Motor Company handed over its licenses.

### Why He Quit

Henry Ford spent more than 11 million dollars on his aviation ventures. They were never profitable, but he claimed that he learned from them. He quit making airplanes in 1932. The Great Depression was on and he needed to return to his core business of making automobiles. He also found that he couldn't design airplanes like automobiles. Plane designs and technology were changing too quickly for his assembly-line process. At the same time, passengers were demanding greater comforts and amenities than the Trimotor was able to provide.



"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."  
~ Henry Ford



I'm Harrison Ford, not Henry Ford, Dummy!  
And yes, I did crash this beautiful WW2 plane on take off last year - it wasn't my fault!

# Christmas Party Club Photos ...



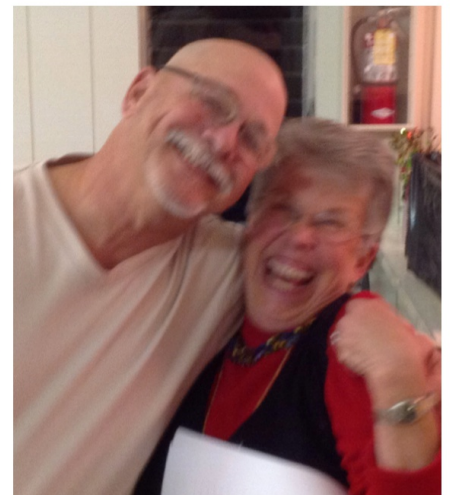
# More Christmas Party Club Photos ...



# More Christmas Party Club Photos ...



Delicious !!!



# More Club Photos ...



# More Club Photos ...



# More Club Photos ...



A Great Day for  
T-28 Races!



# Membership Meeting Minutes...

Date: 12/12/2015

The meeting was called to order by Ken Bieler at 10:00 am.

Officers Present: President Ken Bieler, VP Mel Nash, Treasurer John Tester, Secretary Carlos Gracia

Total Members Present: 34

Guests: Sean Painter,

New Members: none

The record of the last meeting's minutes were read approved by all of the members present.

Reports:

Membership Coordinator/Flight Operations Officer, Ken for Jim Seibert: Reminder that 2016 Club dues are due before the end of December to avoid a late charge. Student badge awarded to Rich Evans.

Field Manager, Ron Williams: Volunteers are still needed to apply the Round-up weed killer and to lay dirt to bolster the side of the runway. Work party planned for 1/16. There are specific needs to fill around the perimeter of the runway and work on the bathroom ramps.

Safety Officer, Eugene Aughtry: 36 days safe up. Updated Safety Rules will be uploaded to the web by 1/1/16. Members are encouraged to make sure they are familiar with all of them. Also, reminder that quads are not to be flown in or around the pitt area. Only in the grass area. Ken Bieler informed the Members to be responsible for their own fitness to fly for their own protection as well as other's safety.

Old Business:

Toys for Tots ends today.

Club was informed that it has been notified by a lawyer representing an injured Club member to obtain our AMA and insurance information. The AMA has been notified and begun to deal with this. The injury report has been forwarded to them.

Special thanks to Jack and Mary for organizing a successfully enjoyable Xmas Party.

Election results:

President: Bob Wolfe, Vice-President: Jim Seibert, Treasurer: Carlos Gracia, Secretary:  
John Tester

Ken expressed his appreciation to the Membership for all of the support he has received throughout the year and that they have provided to improving the Club and its facilities. There have been 18 new members added to the Club during the year.

New Business:

The Board unanimously agreed to honor John Tester with an Honorary Membership in recognition of all the service, time and contributions that he has provided the Club over the years.

Pleasant Hill Library has contacted the Club again regarding doing a static display in early January. Members suggested if it could be done later in the year to also include flying as well. More information as it becomes available.

Show & Tell:

None

Raffle:

First Prize: Steve Iverson, Stinger ARF

Second Prize: Vince, who instead of 2nd prize, accepted the Hat

Hat: Nick Castillas inherited the 1 gal of nitro fuel.

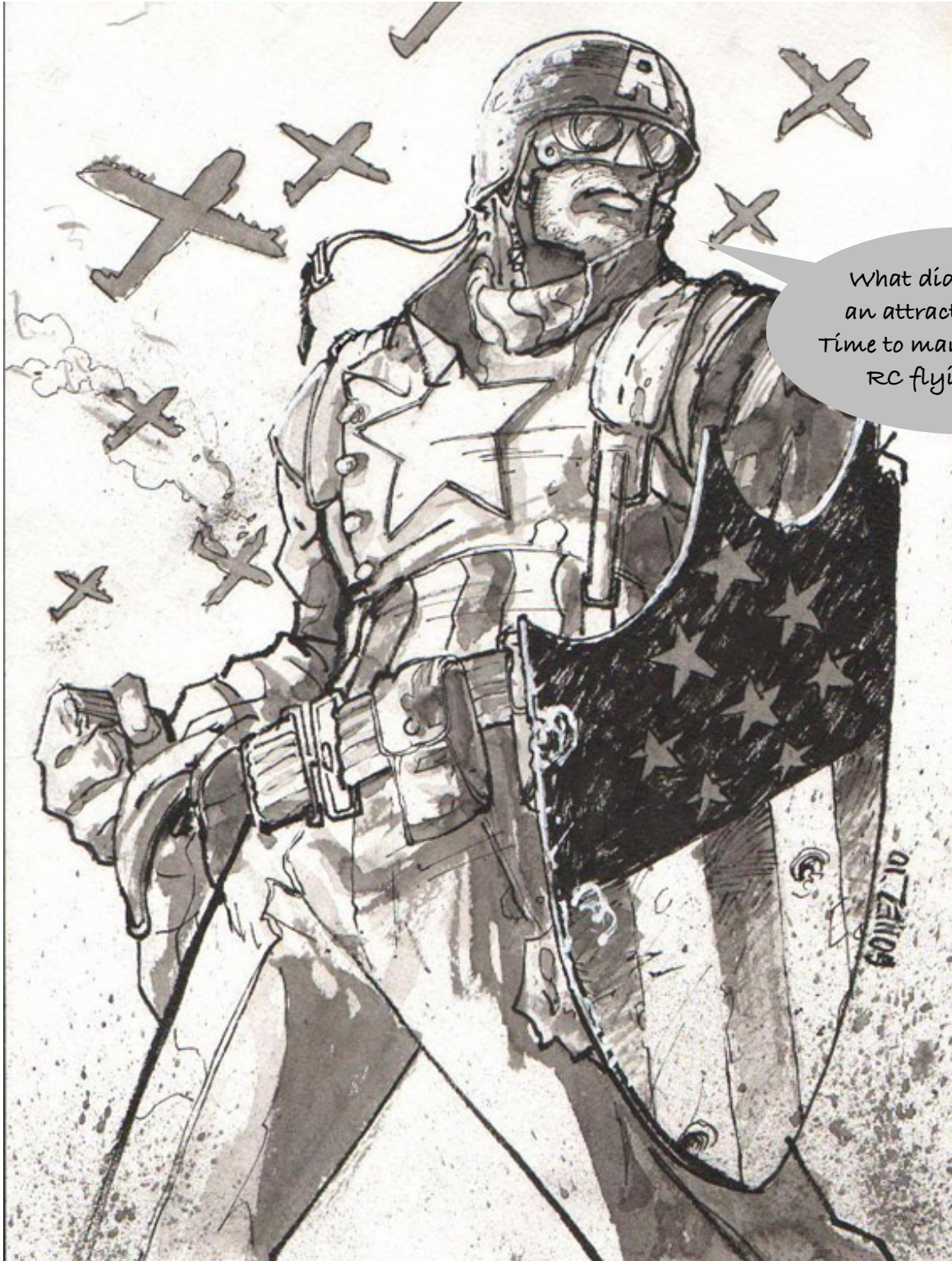
6-Month Prize: Anthony Cox, Hitec 4 port charger

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.

Submitted by Carlos Gracia, Secretary

Still There?! You Are 100% Dedicated!

Here's a Nice Final Pic ...



Diablo Valley Radio Controllers  
3500 John Henry Johnson Parkway  
PO Box 9411  
Pittsburgh, CA. 94565  
[www.dvrc.org](http://www.dvrc.org)

2016 Club Officers:

Bob Wolfe, President. 925-787-0264  
Jim Seibert, Vice President. 925-822-7822  
John Tester, Treasurer. 925-930-8454  
Carlos Gracia, Secretary. 925-640-8257

Board of Directors:

Ron Williams. 925-825-5845  
Ken Bieler. 925-858-3585  
Jack Schonberger. 925-672-4562  
Anthony Cox. 925-783-3980  
Steve Anderson. 925-216-9216

Flight Operations:

Gene Aughtry 925-687-1762

Membership Coordinator:

Gene Aughtry 925-687-1762

Safety Officer:

Ron Penn 925-383-3232

Newsletter Editor:

Steve Iverson 925-963-9459

Field Manager:

Ron Williams 925-825-5845

Flight Instructors:

Ron Williams 925-825-5845  
Eric Mocker 510-282-9116  
Henry Lu 925-757-1657  
Anthony Cox 925-783-3980  
Jim Seibert 925-822-7822  
Mel Nash 925-597-8142  
Ted Edginton 925-356-6834  
Dale Parsons 925-684-2248  
Ray Davis 925-352-7229  
Greg Gallegos 925-783-1072  
Gene Aughtry 925-687-1762

For DVRC driving directions and some club information, check out this link:

<http://youtu.be/Owc7yDVYhc4>