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The ACronaut

Volume 3 - Number 2

February 2002

President's Post

Brad Oliver



January proved to be a difficult month for the chapter. We said farewell to one of our own, Fast Freddy Abramson. Fred has been a long standing member and has contributed much to the chapter and sport over the years. Most recently, Fred was one of our instructors for our 2001 judges school. Fred and his *pink* plane will be missed by many.

On the competition front... IAC Headquarters has put together a proposal for the 2003 contest year for a Regional Point Series. In summary...

- The program establishes 4 regions across the US
- Competitors must compete in at least three competitions in a region to be ranked in the point series for that region
- The top pilot in the Sportsman through Unlimited categories, in each region, will receive trophies for their accomplishment

This is only a summary of the proposal, so please contact me if you are interested in hearing more of the details. This proposal in no way changes the structure or criteria of our local contests, but only adds an additional level of competition for those of you wanting to compete in the series. Many of the details of the proposal are still being worked on, but I am hoping we have a final version to share with you soon. I for one, support the idea of an additional level of competition, and I am hoping that it encourages more competition.

This month's Sport Aerobatics should include the 2002 knowns...so what are you waiting for, get out there and practice. Fortunately, the weather has been somewhat nice recently, so I know many of you have gotten a head start on the season.

Unfortunately the time has come for me to pass the newsletter on to someone else. Yikes...I can hear the booing and hissing from here. Being president and editor, along with life's other commitments, has proven to be a little much these days. It is my feeling, that it is in the best interest of the chapter, if I devote the time I have available to being the best president possible.

So, all of you aspiring editors out there, I expect my phone to start ringing once you read this. Being editor is a great way to be involved with the chapter, an can be done completely from your own home. So let's see some volunteers!

We have an exciting meeting coming up in March. Airshow pilot and chapter member Jim LeRoy has graciously agreed to speak to the chapter. He always draws a big crowd so be sure not to miss this one.

Speaking of the meeting...

We are meeting at a new (old) location in March — Attitude Aviation in Livermore. Many of you fly out of Attitude, so you know where it is, but for those of you that don't, please see page 2 for the address and map.

This past weekend we had the Cloud Dancer Pizza Party. It was great to meet some of you I had never met, and it was good to see some new faces in the crowd. I was impressed at the dedication displayed by those of you who drove down from Sacramento...you have inspired me to plan an event in your area! More info soon.

See you at the Judges School! ✈

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Aviation Quote

I was always afraid of dying. Always. It was my fear that made me learn everything I could about my airplane and my emergency equipment, and kept me flying respectful of my machine and always alert in the cockpit.



— General Chuck Yeager, *Yeager, An Autobiography*.

Paso Robles Contest Update

2002 Contest Update

Chapter 38 is pleased to have member Jacquie Warda serving as Contest Director. Jacquie has big plans, and she is going to need all the volunteers she can get. If you are interested in volunteering or just need more information, please contact her at skyydnz@yahoo.com or (925) 831-2123.

If you would like to pre-register, please visit <http://www.iac38.org/pasoreg2.htm>.

IAC38's Paso Robles Contest

June 7-9, 2002

Hotel Info...

Adelaide Inn \$50+ (805) 238-2770
 Black Oak Lodge \$60+ (805) 238-4740
 Colony Motor Inn \$60+ (805) 466-4449
 Motel 6 \$40+ (805) 239-9090
 Paso Robles Inn \$100+ (805) 238-2660
 Travelodge \$55+ (805) 238-0078
 Holiday Inn Express \$70+ (805) 238-6500
 Melody Ranch Motel \$45+ (805) 238-3911
 Relax Inn \$40+ (805) 238-3013

<http://www.iac38.org/paso2002.htm>

2002 Chapter Dues are Due!

Please remember to renew your dues today. I would hate to see your member privileges suspended. Renewing your membership keeps the chapter healthy and you flying in the box. Don't delay renew now...if you don't February will be your last month as an active member. You can use the form on the back of the newsletter or visit our web site to renew online. ✈

Renew Your Membership Today!
 \$25 – Single \$30 – Family
www.iac38.org

March: Speaker Jim LeRoy

Bulldog Airshows

Airshow pilot Jim LeRoy has graciously agreed to come speak to the chapter at our March Membership Meeting. Jim's talks always bring in a big crowd so be sure to make plans to attend.

When: Sunday, March 10th, 4pm

Where: Attitude Aviation
 Livermore Airport

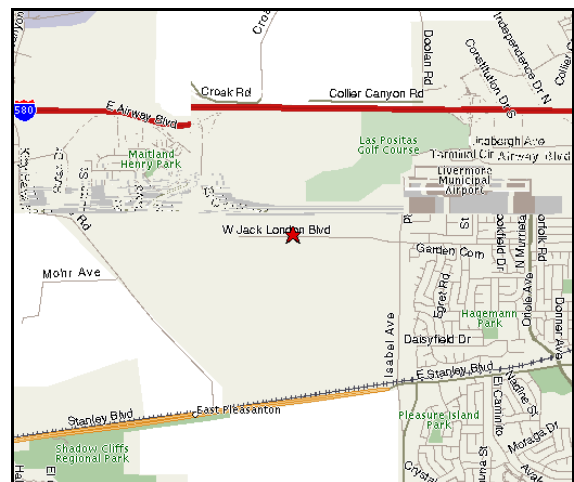


March Meeting Location !!!

When: Sunday, March 10th, 4pm

Address: Attitude Aviation
 299 W. Jack London Blvd
 South Hangars
 Livermore, CA 94550
 925-456-ACRO (2276)

Map:



Calendar of Events

(Chapter 38 Events in Bold)

February

- 23-24 **IAC 38 Judges School (See Page 5)**
- 24 Bill Briski Akrofest — IAC Chapter 69, Casa Grande Municipal Airport— CGZ, Basic and Sportsman categories Contest Director Michael Steveson at 480-502-1565 or e-mail at msteveson@earthlink.net



March

- 10 **IAC 38 Chapter Meeting — 4pm — Jim LeRoy Guest Speaker (See page 2)**
- 22-24 Copperstate Aerobatic Championship — IAC Chapter 69, Casa Grande Municipal Airport— CGZ, Basic through Unlimited, Contest Director Michael Steveson at 480-502-1565 or e-mail at msteveson@earthlink.net



April

- 12-13 Borrego Minifest — Borrego CA — IAC Chapter 36 — www.iac36.org
- 14 **IAC 38 Chapter Meeting — 4pm — Speaker: Cris Flint — Topic: Freestyles**

May

- 3-5 LA Gold Cup (Apple Valley) — Borrego CA — IAC Chapter 36 — www.iac36.org
- 11 **Chapter 38 Young Eagles Day**

June

- 6-8 Paso Robles Contest — IAC Chapter 38 — See page 2

August

- 30-9/1 Delano Regional Contest — Delano, CA — IAC Chapter 26

September

- 7 **Chapter 38 Young Eagles Day**
- 21-29 US Nationals — Texas

October

- 11-13 Borrego Akrofest — Borrego CA — IAC Chapter 36 — www.iac36.org
- 31-11/3 Tequilla Cup — Tucson, AZ

December

- Early AZ State Championships — Casa Grande, AZ

Editor Wanted

The chapter is in need of a new newsletter editor. This is a great way to get involved in the chapter, with something you can do from the comfort of your own home. Qualifications should include...

- Available a few hours a month
- Computer literate
- Organized
- Email access



If you have those, then you are ready to be our next editor. The newsletter doesn't have to be as pretty, it just has to be. We have almost everything you need to get started, so don't worry.

If you are interested, please contact me, Brad Oliver at president@iac38.org, or call 925-443-1135. Thanks!

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members to Chapter 38...

- Kevin Crane
Danville, CA
- Gordon & Cora
Sorenson
Sacramento, CA



Fast Freddy Abramson

May 12, 1947 — January 22, 2002



Fred Abramson was an icon in the Bay Area’s flying community. Competing on the West Coast, Fred won the California Aerobatic Championship several times and often placed in the top three flying “Pink Floyd” a Sukhoi Su-26. He taught aerobatics at several airports including Hayward, Oakland, Livermore, and Nut Tree, while holding down a full-time job in Silicon Valley as an electrical engineer.

“His whole persona was Fast Freddy Abramson,” said Andy Geosits, one of Fred’s students. Geosits once got himself into an inverted flat spin in an S1-S and remembered his teacher’s advice about accelerating the spin t recover: “Had he not taught me, I may have augured into the ground.”

Aerobatic pilot Jim LeRoy took his first ride in a Pitts Special with instructor Fred and later the two became practice partners, going up in separate planes and evaluating each other’s maneuvers before competitions. “He was just a fun guy to be with.

He had a very unique sense of humor.”

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Fred attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics, a Master’s in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and a Doctorate in Mathematics. He taught Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin from 1974 to 1982. During that period, he was a visiting professor at Stanford University’s Mathematics Department and the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

In 1982, Fred moved to the West Coast to pursue a career in Silicon Valley and fly in better weather. He worked at Signetics, a computer-aided design group, and then at Computer Aided Engineering Systems. In 1984, he founded Intellisys and worked as the president as chief technologist for six years, building simulation systems. From 1992-1996, he built efficient logic simulation subsystems for the Synopsys VHDL System Simulator. He also worked at Rambus for four years and finally worked for GET2CHIP in San Jose, a computer simulation company.

“Aerobatics was his real life.” said fiancée Pamela de Castro, who described him as her soul mate.

Louthea Griffin, a friend of Fred’s for over 20 years remembered how he talked about writing a book on linear algebra because he ‘finally’ understood what it was all about. He loved his two cats, Bernoulli and Samantha, whom he lavished copious amounts of attention.

Surviving are his fiancée Pamela de Castro of San Mateo, his son Jeffery Abramson of Berkeley, his brother and sister-in-law Paul and Janet Abramson, niece Heather and nephew Leigh of East Lansing, Michigan.

Above reprinted from the funeral program

A scholarship fund for aerobatics and spin training is being established in Fred's ("Fast Freddy") name. Further information will be available at a later date from Pamela de Castro, email - pamela@wingover.com.

Show Your Chapter 38 Pride - Buy Logo Wear

	Quantity	Total	Make Check Payable to: Northern California Aerobatic Club
Chapter Patch	\$12 Each	_____	Mail to: Cris Flint, Treasurer 1469 Sunset Dr. Livermore, CA 94550
Chapter 38 T-Shirts	\$20 Each <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	_____	
Chapter 38 Sweatshirts	\$35 Each <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	_____	
Chapter Mouse Mat	\$12 Each	_____	
FAI Printed Catalog	\$10 Donation	_____	
	Total	_____	



Aerobatics Ground School

Attitude Aviation

Attitude Aviation in Livermore is offering an Aerobatics ground school. Our very own Dr. Dick Rihn will be teaching the class. The class will be held at Attitude facility at the Livermore airport on Friday nights at 7:00 pm. For more information, please contact Attitude Aviation. ✈

Aerobatics Ground School — Fridays, 7pm
Attitude Aviation
925-456-ACRO (2276)

IAC 38 Judges School — Introduction to Aerobatic Judging

When: February 23-24, 2002

Where: Concord Airport, Concord, CA — Mount Diablo Airman's Association Club House
 200 Sally Ride Drive, Concord, CA 94583

Who: This years school should prove to be incredibly informative as we are pleased to announce that **Alan Geringer** will be the instructor for the course. Many of you are know or know of Alan, but for those of you who do not, he is a world level judge and coach. Alan has server as the 1988 and 1990 Unlimited Team Manager, 1996, 1998 Unlimited Team Judge, and 1997 Advanced Team Judge. Alan brings a wealth of experience to us, he is sure to enlighten you.

Info: Contact Angie Niles or Alex Drobshoff at 925-373-8786.

Judges School Registration Form

Contact: Angie Niles (925-373-8786)

February 23-24, 2002 — Concord, CA

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail : _____
 IAC #: _____

- Fees:** 2-Day Registration, New Judges (\$65) 1-Day Registration, Recurrency (\$45)
 FAI Aerobatic Catalogue (\$20) 2002 FAI Catalogue Amendment (\$5)
 IAC Official Contest Rules (\$20) 2002 IAC Rule Book Revisions (\$10)
 2002 Known Sequence Calling Primer Casseatte Tape (\$15)
 Day 1 Bag Lunch/Coffee/Donuts (\$10) Day 2 Bag Lunch/Coffee/Donuts (\$10)

Total: _____ **Check #:** _____

Make Check Payable to: **International Aerobatic Club Chapter 38**

Mail to: **Angie Niles**
 2032 Helsinki Way
 Livermore, CA 94550

IAC Chapter 38 Membership Application/Renewal Form

New Member

Renewal

Address/Phone Change

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail 1: _____ E-mail 2: _____

IAC #: _____ EAA #: _____

Certificate #: _____

Judge: Regional National Newsletter: E-mail (Adobe PDF) Postal Mail

Competition: None Basic Sportsman Intermediate Advanced Unlimited

Aircraft: _____ N #: _____

Referred By: _____

Dues: Single Membership (\$25/year) Family Membership (\$30/year)

Send with check, made payable to "International Aerobatic Club Chapter 38", to:
Cris Flint, IAC38 Treasurer 1469 Sunset Dr Livermore, CA 94550



Bradley Oliver
Editor, IAC 38
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Livermore, CA 94550

Chapter Meeting:

March 10th

See Page 2 for Location