



## December 2021 News Letter

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This is our first newsletter in a while. I invite comments, ideas or contributions.

### NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome:

- Juan David Steele
- Steve Barker
- Kurt Storey

Our AMA club roster now stands at 78 members.

### UFO Sighting

A company called Darling Geomatics used our field briefly to launch and retrieve a Wingtra drone. The drone is a tail-sitter that flies by GPS. While bulky-looking, the whole thing weighs less than ten pounds. The base cost of the drone is about \$20,000, and the imaging packages can cost up to an additional \$13,000. They sent it off on a 25-minute pre-programmed mission to survey the area to the west of the field.



## **New Member, New Plane**

New member John LaRock purchased a beautiful yellow and blue Pitts at the TRCC swap meet. It is powered by a Desert Aircraft 35 with a—guess what?—Pitts muffler. After much tinkering, and the signing of waivers relieving Jack Shafer of any responsibility, Jack flew the plane on Tuesday, November 30. The flight went very well. The plane flew well enough to enable Jack to perform some pretty advanced maneuvers. One note: the plane is decorated for air shows, not for orientation from the ground. The next time you see it, it may be sporting some garish color scheme on the underside.



It looks like John just stepped on a nail. Relax. He always looks like that.

## **New Members Dudley Uphoff and Steve Spencer**

Dudley Uphoff (left) has recently moved up to Tucson from Sierra Vista, which was a little too quiet. He has lived in many parts of the southwest. He flies a Shrike motorized glider and a C-47. He retired, long ago, from a power company in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Steve Spencer (right) retired from the Border Patrol three years ago. He is new to “this type of flying.” He flies a Timber X and drives a truck that looks like it’s ready for the Baja 1000.



## **Returning Member Charlie Applebaum**

Charlie returns to the club after a brief hiatus. He was a member for eight years, previously. He has been coming down to Tucson for ten years, now. He is based in Whidbey Island, Washington, home of the big naval air base.

Charlie specializes in taking simple glow trainer-type aircraft and converting them to electric. He loves to soup them up with extremely powerful motors. That LT-40 he bought for next to nothing now strives to keep up with the Rimfire .80 he put in its nose. A real sleeper!

The challenge is to get enough clearance for those huge props.



## **CRCM Safety Corner**

### CALLOUTS!

The other pilots are counting on you to communicate. Don't make them take their eyes off their planes to figure out what you are doing.

Please call out loudly enough to overcome wind and engine noise, and the failing hearing of our ever-aging members. Our standard callouts include:

- Taking Off
- Landing
- Dead Stick
- Touch and Go
- On the Field
- Clear

**Next meeting will be on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am.**