

Flight Feathers

The official publication of OneWingLowSquadron.org

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NEXT MEETING

SEPT. 5TH
@ 11:00 AM

**FIELD CLOSED
FOR EVENT
SEPT. 6TH**

WISE OWLS

MIKE FLICK
PRESIDENT

~
JERRY FLICK
VICE PRES.

~
RON SANDERS
SEC./TREAS.

~
ROB GRANT
SAFETY OFFICER

~
GALE MOORE
CONTEST
DIRECTOR

A Message from the Editor...

Hey guys:

It's summer. It's hot. Meetings were suspended for July & August. New and interesting material for filling the pages of our newsletter has been scant. Since I lumped June & July's newsletters into one and was planning to do the same for August & September, I got to feeling a little guilty. Fortunately, a couple ideas came to light, so here is an abridged newsletter for August.

Hopefully, things will return to normal for September. And remember, there is a meeting on September 5th.

Hand Launching the U-2



Editor's Note: Internet Image

A fellow photographer and new friend of mine, retired USAF airman Jerome Keeler, happened to see some photos I had posted from one of our soaring events and sent me an experience he had back in the 80s with hand launching the infamous U-2.

Let him explain.

Noticed your photos on the hobby aircrafts which can be winch launched or hand launched. Reminded me of a "little known fact" about the official procedures concerning the USAF's U-2 aircraft. There is a section titled *Hand Launch Procedures*.

I was brand new, fresh out of school, EOD, at the 9th Recon Wing, Beale AFB CA. Part of my base aircraft familiarization was the Hand Launch of the U-2. I have been involved in this once, and it is a thrill. Due to the long wings on the U-2 and to protect the wings from scrapping the ground on takeoff, the aircraft has two "Pogo Wheel Assemblies". On launch they fall away, to save weight, and a chase vehicle rushes down the runway to retrieve them (normal launch).

If this can not be done, the Pogos are pulled, and 4 airmen lift the wingtips as high as possible. The pilot locks his brakes and places the engine into full military power. Once all is straining, upon command the wingtips are forced as high as possible, palms open, and brakes released. The U-2 tries to get enough lift to keep the wings from scrapping faster than the wingtips will "fall".

Noisy, fun procedure for those airmen selected to Hand Launch a U-2.

See a video of this at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cik5pk3KByE>

It's a Small World

What is the significance of this prop you may ask other than being a measuring device for George's height?

Well, George told me he received it while bartering with Ray Hylan. Ray had an airport in Henrietta, NY (a suburb of Rochester) many years ago and was a customer of George's when he worked delivering parts for XYZ company.

Now the connection: When Ray was a young pilot, he crashed and ended up recuperating, for reasons still not clear to me, at my grandmother's house. (This was a long time before I was even a twinkle in my father's eyes.) Ray and my dad became friends during his convalescence and even went flying together occasionally afterwards.

While I can't recall ever meeting Ray, I just thought it was cool that fate or destiny or karma and a Lewis propeller brought George and I together here at the OWLS. 🦋



Name This Plane for a Chance to be Revered by Your Fellow OWLS.

World's Largest R/C Plane?



An OWL 'Thank You' to Fernando for suggesting this article. Watch these two videos

Some times we own the sky...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fblTzCl2AU0>

Some times we don't...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw0javaaxfY>

Merryfield airfield was to be built to the Class A airfield standard for bomber use, with a set of three converging concrete runways for takeoffs and landings, optimally placed at 60 degree angles to each other in a triangular pattern. John Laing Ltd was the main contractor. Work commenced late in 1942 and on 11 November the airfield was listed as one of 16 to be made available for the USAAF to meet the number of troop carrier groups projected for the UK.

Work proceeded slowly as there was a problem with the drainage of waterways crossing the site. In September 1943, the official name was changed from Isle Abbots to Merryfield, such changes being usually connected with contractual alterations or where another airfield had a similar sounding name which might cause confusion. In this case, however the change is puzzling as the same contractors were involved and Isle Abbots appears singularly distinctive.

The airfield's main runway was 6,000 ft and aligned 10-28, the secondaries 4,200 ft at 17-35 and 3,660 ft at 04-22. All 50 hardstands were loop types in concrete with bituminous surfaces connecting to an enclosing perimeter track, of a standard width of 50 feet. (Information from Wikipedia.com)

The QUAD(rant)...

Forget the worries that a quad flown by your neighbor will spy on your wife or daughter sunbathing by the family pool – now the fear is that the next terrorist attack will involve drones prompting some law makers to call for their banishment. Not a surprising turn-of-events and perhaps even inevitable considering all the freaking morons out there flying their quads and multicopters with total disregard of safety let alone FAA rules. Obviously, it's a political knee-jerk reaction. This year alone there have been over 300 reports of quad-abuse, such as these incidents:

- A pilot reported that a drone (multicopter) was spotted near JFK flying 100' below the wing of a passenger jet which was at 1700'
- Students for a university project attached a handgun to the platform of a multicopter and were able to discharge it multiple times.
- A drone interfered with fire crews fighting a wildfire resulting in the interruption of tanker plane flights.

Don't miss out! There are some interesting links on our website at onewinglowsquadron.org/info.

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The OWLS Nest Gallery... See all the videos at <https://vimeo.com/groups/onewinglow>



Alongside my Corsair (44+ wingspan)

**Gale's Awesome
Corsair &
Thunderbolt**



Gale's P-47
Thunderbolt



How many OWLS does it take to fix an airplane?

Doc gets a little help from his friends.

"And that, my friends, is what *this* is all about!"



My new 2-meter
Parkzone Radian
& Mini-Me

Got Photos? Catch me at a meeting or send a copy to: keukadiver@gmail.com

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We're on the Web! [Onewinglowsquadron.org](http://onewinglowsquadron.org) and Facebook! <https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=857602174259072>**