

# Prop Spinner Chatter



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 3    AMA Charter #529    Eugene Prop Spinners    <http://flyinglines.org/>    MARCH 2008

## Club News and Other Information

### Club Flying

February 17<sup>th</sup> was not the best flying day we have had so far this year, but John and Jim got some air time in. Then as we were leaving the sun burned through the fog. February 24 was a rain out, March 1<sup>st</sup> was the Salem Fun Fly, March 2<sup>nd</sup> was wet again.

The Club was represented at the Oregon Flying Fun -- 3 -- March 1, 2008, in Salem, Ore. (in between the squalls) by Mike and John. Full report can be found on Flying Lines page:

<http://flyinglines.org/Oregonfun.3.08.html>

The fourth in the series of four Oregon fun flies is scheduled for 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at DeAlton-Bibbee Field at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Ore., on Sunday, April 6. See Where the Action Is on <http://flyinglines.org/> for details.

March 8<sup>th</sup> may be a first for the EPS club, as many electrics were flown as fuel, and the same thing happened on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Our Flying Field

We still need to do a bit of over-growth removal near where the storage trailer is parked. The grass and moss are growing over the parking lot in that area. Please bring a shovel with you the next time you come out to the field.

### Meeting

The Club meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> had good attendance. Discussion on upcoming events. A presentation was made to Morrie Gilbert honoring his many contributions to

the Prop Spinners and long membership, see page 2 for the "Scoop" from staff writer John Thompson.



Our thanks again to Mel for his comfortable mobile meeting room (with hot coffee).

### Newsletter editor

Let me know what your are building, flying, what events are coming up, the events you attended.

If you have some pictures to share, PLEASE get them to me.

### Club Meeting Time and Place

Next meeting – 10:00 AM March 16<sup>th</sup> at the flying site.

Club meetings are third Sunday of the month, 10 a.m. at the field, or at the "Wings" restaurant if the weather is bad. Bring a plane anyway, as you can never be sure that a "BREAK" in the weather may arrive unexpectedly.

It was suggested that if you arrive at the field, the weather is crummy and the gate is NOT open, hang a **WINGS** tag on the lock to let the next person arriving know that you are waiting for them in the restaurant.

# Morrie Gilbert Honored

At the club meeting on Feb. 17, 2008, the Eugene Prop Spinners paid special tribute to Morrie Gilbert, a member of the club since the late 1940s, who recently stepped down from the job of treasurer after nearly three decades. Morrie has been a continuous member of the club and a mentor and inspiration to many fliers.

Former Prop Spinner Gene Pape attended the meeting and recalled meeting Morrie at a CL competition in the 1960s, which led to Gene's long involvement in the hobby. Morrie also was a member of the Prop Spinners team that set the still-standing endurance record in 1957 (See FlyingLines NW CL History page). Morrie remains an active member of the Prop Spinners and often attends the regular weekend flying sessions. He organized the club's demonstration for stroke victims in the fall of 2007.

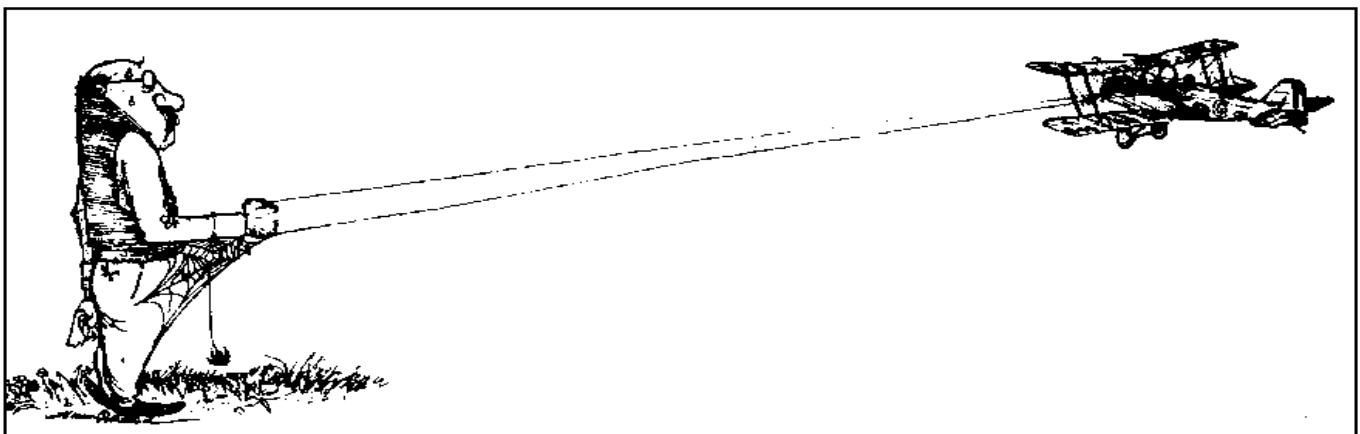


The award was presented by longtime Prop Spinner Mel Marcum. Jim Corbett printed up a four-page article describing some of Morrie's activities with the club. The tribute took place in the Prop Spinners' "rolling meeting hall," Mel's motor home, at the flying field. Visible in the picture are (from left) Gene Pape, John Thompson, Morrie, Floyd Carter and Mel Marcum. *Jim Corbett photo.*

## TIPS & TECHNIQUES

### Vinegar

To remove epoxy from yourself safely, use white vinegar. It's smelly, safe, and very cheap!



## A brief History of Control line - Part 1 of 4

Most history books attribute Jim Walker as the father of Control Line Flying. However, according Charles Mackey's research, Oba St. Clair of Eugene had documented and flown his four-line system as early as 1937.

### Oba St. Clair

Modeling since 1927 April 5, 1912 – 1986

Oba (pronounced Obie) designed the first Control Line/gas model airplane in 1937.

#### Honors:

- 1998 – AMA Pioneer Award
- 2001 – AMA Hall of Fame (awarded posthumously)

#### Achievements:

- In 1937 created what was probably the first Control Line model
- Developed first a single line version and worked up to four Control Lines
- Testified in a lawsuit, bringing down Jim Walker's claim of the invention of Control Line flying
- Oba was able to do a flat spin with his Control Line model
- Created a twin-cylinder engine by using two Forsters geared together.



Oba in 1971

### What about Jim Walker?

- Jim Walker patented the U-Control system of control line flying in 1940.
- Note the early ignition speed control as a third line.
- Jim's "American-Junior Aircraft Co." produced the first Control Line RTF "Ready to Fly" model.

I had always thought he designed the first Control Line airplane! Jim Walker was a great man who did many things to promote Control Line flying. Jim Walker developed and patented the basic two-wire control system to control a model airplane. He eventually perfected his idea and established the innovative American-Junior Aircraft Co. which produced the A-J Fireball C/L model, complete with control handle and flying lines. He later produced Firebaby, was the first Control Line RTF "Ready to Fly" model.



Jim would demonstrate his incredible flying ability by flying 3 models at a time, two of them in each hand and one on his head using a special helmet with a control handle attached to the top. With the development of the glow engine, the hobby of "Control Line" or "U-Control" was born. The 50s was know as the "Golden Age" of modeling. Innovative model designs such as the "Nobler" along with improve engine performance allowed the model to do aerobatic maneuvers. Speed records were broken as technology improved.

Control-line fliers are generally more competition-oriented than their R/C (Radio Control) counterparts. There many aspects on C/L (Control Line) flying. The six types of competition are: **Speed, Racing, Precision Aerobatics, Navy Carrier, Scale** and **Combat**. With each type, there are many different classes base on model design, engine displacement and skill level of the competitor.

*( Parts 2 - 4 will follow when space allows )*

Eugene Prop Spinners  
Newsletter Editor  
1618 Gilham Rd.  
Eugene, OR 97401



March 2008

First Last  
Street  
City, ST Zip



---

## Upcoming Model Activities

### Schedule of Events for the next few months

Club flying at the airport flying site. Weather permitting; we normally can fly all winter. Put on the long Johns and let's do it.

**April 6** - Oregon Flying Fun No. 4, De-Alton-Bibbee Field, McMinnville, Ore. Fourth in the series of Oregon winter-spring fun flies. **Time:** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. No entry fee. Every flight is an entry in the "flying raffle" for prizes. Sponsored by The Evergreen Aero Modelers. You can download a flyer with all the details. From <http://flyinglines.org>

**April 18-19-20** - Jim Walker Memorial, Delta Park, Portland, Ore. Friday: Record Ratio

Speed Saturday: Record Ratio Carrier, 1/2-A Combat, Profile Stunt, Classic Stunt Contest Director Gary Harris. You can download a flyer with all the details. From <http://flyinglines.org>

**May 10-11** - Skyraider Fun Fly, Riverview Park, Kent, Wash. All details tentative.

### Prop Spinner Club officers

Mike Denlis, President  
John Thompson, VP, Safety Officer, Treasurer  
Tom Kopriva, Secretary  
Jim Corbett, Newsletter Editor

---

**Where the Action Is** <http://flyinglines.org/Action.html>    **Visit:** <http://flyinglines.org> **web site.**