

WARBIRDS OVER THE GLADES

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Under clear blue skies and with favorable winds our club held its first warbird fly-in. The event was sanctioned by the A.M.A. and held under World Miniature Warbird Association guidelines.

The day was started with the raising of the colors by the Coral Springs Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron Color Guard. The flag was presented to the Color Guard by **Mrs. Ernie Kraft**. (The event was blessed by good weather and good fortune and maybe Ernie helped us out a little bit.) Our thanks to **Commander Bruce Sage** and the Color Guard for getting the day off to a great start.

Twenty-five pilots registered an impressive array of fifty-three scale models of military aircraft dating from WWI through the end of WWII. A breakdown of the aircraft is as follows:

- 33 WWII fighters representing the U. S., Great Britain, Russia, Germany and Japan
- 8 WWI fighters representing the U.S., Great Britain and Germany
- 2 U.S. Bombers-
- 9 Trainer Aircraft from the U.S. and Canada
- 1 Military Transport aircraft

Each pilot that registered received a commemorative dash plaque as a gift from the club and a really great T-SHIRT especially designed for the event by our friends at **SouthEast RC**. We are just awed by magnitude of their generosity and support. We were also able to give most of the club members that worked the event on of these great T-shirts as well.

Thanks to the great job done by **Mal Lawrence** and **Art Mondell** we were able to give each pilot a mounted photograph of his airplane as a remembrance of the event.

We estimate that during the course of the day some 400 spectators were thrilled to see models of aircraft from times gone by once again take to the air. It is hoped that these spectators will talk about the event and our club and over time we will be recognized as the community asset we truly are. We are also glad to report the casualties were limited to three aircraft slightly damaged. While all the planes were special in their own right, the 1/9th scale B-17 just stole the show. The sight and sound of four engines thundering down the runway at an altitude of three feet is something no one that saw it will ever forget. We once again thank Doug Smith for bringing "Shoo Shoo Baby" to our event. For most of the day, the B-17 was flown by Dino DiGeorgio, president of the W.M.W.A. Dino left the frozen environs of New Jersey to spend the weekend with us and get in some flying. Just for the record, it was Dino that did the one wheel "touch and go's" with the B-17. Also with us from the W.M.W.A. was Emory Irons, the Secretary-Treasurer of the WMWA.

During the day we raffled off to the pilots an array of gifts from our friends at **RC Hobbies**, we thank them so very much for their continued support of our events as well as those events held by the various clubs in our area,

At mid-day, we gave the pilots and crews a chance to catch their breath and chow down at our famous **FIVE SPOON** kitchen run by **Bobbi Rice** and her great crew. While the flight crews were resting **Chris Handegard** and his combat guys took to the air and put on a great demonstration of RC Combat. Everyone enjoyed seeing this phase of RC modeling in action, and there was plenty of it. Thanks again to Chris and his merry band. Also, as is traditional during the noon time break, we have what is called by the pilots "Show and Tell", all the aircraft are lined up on the runway and the

spectators are invited out on the flight line to take pictures and talk to the pilots. This is always enjoyed by the pilots as much as the spectators, only the pilots don't admit it!!!

Also during the mid-day break we were treated to a couple of low passes mixed in with some aerobatics by a "mystery pilot" (the name is withheld to protect the guilty) in an awesome Pitts Christian Eagle. The mystery pilot also offered as first prize in the pilots raffle a one hour ride with him in the Pitts Christian Eagle. The prize was won by Doug Smith owner and operator of the heretofore mentioned B-17 "Shoo Shoo Baby"!

We were fortunate to have five of six event plaques sponsored by local business owners that are also model aircraft enthusiasts. Award winners and sponsors were as follows:

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>WINNER</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>
PEOPLES CHOICE	ALAN RICE P-51	BRIAN KESSLER BK POOLS 954-234-0173
BEST PILOT	RICHARD GRUBER ZIROLI P-40	DOUG SMITH DENTMAN PAINT & BODY 954-978-6231
BEST MULTI-ENGINE*	ED CHRISTIANSEN P-38	PAUL RICE PAR PAINTING 954-596-1222
CD'S CHOICE	CHRIS HANDEGARD P-51	ALEX ACUTI ENTREPRENUERS FINANCIAL SERVICES 954-718-1449
PILOT'S CHOICE	PAUL RICE HAWKER TEMPEST	ROBERT PURE ROBERT PURE & ASSOC. 954-749-0708
BEST WWI	JAY EICHLER NIEUPORT 28	GOLD COAST RC CLUB

*Note: The plane was flown all day by Kevin Knebel and he accepted the plaque in Ed's absence. Remember to support these fine business owners as they have supported us.

The club also sponsored a special "**360 DEGREE**" award in memory of the late **Col. Art Johnson** for the "**Best All-Around**" aircraft. The winner was chosen by our club President Howard Kellum and he presented the award to Doug Smith for his magnificent B-17. Yes, Doug had a very good day indeed!

It is time now to give thanks to the many club members that gave up their Saturday to work on the event. I will tell you right here and now, this event would not have happened with out the support and efforts of **Walt Dryfuss**, He handled a variety of issues and took care of a lot of the little details that

can drive a Contest Director nuts. Aside from the many administrative details he handled, he was able to get the necessary waivers from the county that allowed the great aircraft we saw at the event to be able to participate. **Howard Kellum** , **Ed Christiansen** and **Allan Rice** also took care of a great many tasks that had to done in order for the event to happen.

Special thanks to **Bobbi and Alan Rice**, Alan provided support in many ways, including providing the generator that powered the sound system. With the kitchen and food operation in Bobbi's capable hands there was no doubt that all would be happy and well fed. I know she was well supported on the day of the event by, **Howard Kellum**, **Mrs. Hy Frischman** and of course her husband, Alan. Again, great job and thanks to the whole crew.

Our Air Boss for the event, **Skip Wright** along with **Ray Murtha** and **Mike Waech** kept the flight line smooth and organized, no small feat when you consider the number and variety of airplanes that participated in the event.

Steve Westervelt took charge of the transmitter impound area, he along with **Hy Frischman** and **Mike Waech** (we kept Mike busy) played a key role in keeping things safe of all present.

Bill Unkes and **Gail Acuti** worked the registration table and in general kept the paperwork straight and me calm. They also mounted the photographs taken by **Mal Lawrence** and **Art Mondell**.

Before each plane was allowed to fly, it when through an inspection process. The inspection team was **Greg Triolo**, **Ray Murtha** and **Alex Moreno**. Since nothing fell off any airplanes we can assume they did a great job and we thank them all.

All during the day the event was recorded both on video and still photography by **Cliff Westervelt**. We are all waiting for the video to hit the website. Thank you ,Cliff, for your efforts. Finally a big thank you to **Chris Handegard** for giving us the use of his sound system for the day.

If I omitted anyone, please accept my apologies, I am still new to the club and I haven't matched all the names with the faces, in any case please accept my thanks for your help and support.

Lastly, thank you to the general membership for allowing us to hold this event and for the support it was given. After the event was over I spoke to several of the participants that had never been to our field before. They were very impressed with the support the event received by our membership as evidenced by the number of members helping out wherever they could. In summation, I feel **WE** had a very successful event and as one participant said , "...this event put the Gold Coast club on the map!"

ALEXANDER A. ACUTI
CONTEST DIRECTOR
WARBIRDS OVER THE GLADES
MARCH 4, 2006