

# The Hammerhead

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#### **The Pitts Stop, by Steve Pennypacker IAC Chapter 35 President**



Pitts Stop, October 2003

I'm writing this a bit early this month, so some of this may be a bit dated by the time you read (or ignore) it.

After a long and not always easy spring and summer, I am beginning to get a renewed sense of optimism about where we are headed and the future of acro in New England. This year we've had more than our share of bad weather, impacting both of our contests. We've had the noise problems that you're all aware of, and we've had to cancel a contest, something I've

painfully had to do a few times now, and it grates on me each time. To top it off, most of you know I have my plane for sale. Ugh.

But then there's the good news. They say good things come in threes, and that's certainly been true this week. First, I learned just how many new people are coming into the sport locally. Rob Holland had nine, yes nine, pilots flying his airplanes at Monticello. I spoke with Rob and he's got over 50 active students in total. Executive Flyers has a new instructor, Matt Crane, who is starting to compete and I'm told he's got about 4 potential competitors on board. These are numbers that we haven't seen since Michael Goulian and Jim Thompson were both teaching full time a bunch of years ago, and it's hugely encouraging.

Second, on Saturday we firmed up plans for the Return of the Outlaw, which will be held on November 1 (rain date Nov. 2) at Plymouth in conjunction with the Wright Experience ([www.wrightexperience.com](http://www.wrightexperience.com)). The Outlaw is a zany day of fun flying that Jim T. held for the students, and we're bringing it back this year, even better and wackier than before and targeted at everyone but especially the newcomers. If you're a chapter member, come on out for the last blast of the year before hibernation season. If you're not a member, why aren't you?????

Third, a couple of very encouraging things happened on the right-to-fly front just today.

Many of you know that some of our members have begun to organize in order to defend against the small but dangerous and resourceful local group of people who are working so aggressively and persistently to put an end to our right to fly aerobatics (their published goals don't stop there, but that's a different story). Today I learned that the new organization is just days from becoming a legally recognized reality - an accomplishment that should be complete by mid October. This is a big deal because it is a key enabler of institutional support from AOPA, and because it is indicative of the increasing level of understanding and support from within our community that this is a serious issue requiring serious attention and resources. Also today, we had a key and encouraging meeting with the Chairman of the EAA Legal Advisory Council, who is helping us in this effort to maintain everyone's right to fly recreationally. A huge THANK YOU from all of us to Peter Schmidt and Drew Ganter for stepping up and leading the charge. Even before incorporation, the new organization already has well over 30 members, many but not all of whom are chapter members. If you haven't yet joined, or don't know what I'm talking about, you need to get in touch with Peter at [peter@burning-blue.com](mailto:peter@burning-blue.com) or (781) 883-4818 immediately. Do it now before you read any further- it's that important to you and to your continuing to be able to fly, even if you don't yet realize it yet.

Steve

### A Letter From Janet Burns

Dear Chapter 35,

The family of Ron Burns will treasure the tributes to Ron Burns which appeared in "The Hammerhead", written by Steve Pennypacker and Stephen Till, with photos and poem arranged by Elle Hilliard at Executive Flyers.

Ron enjoyed many rich hours associated with flying and the friendships he found there, friendships which helped sustain him until "he coasted to a stop" as someone said. The response of Chapter 35 members to a seriously ill member was generously supportive. Members connected with Ron in ways that were caring, amusing, helpful, energizing, and compassionate.

Thank you all, Janet Burns

### "To Fly"

OK, it's not acro but it almost makes you feel like it is. "To Fly" is back at the Mugar Omni theater at the Museum of Science from Dec. 17 thru Jan. 4. If you belong in the sky and haven't already seen it, this is a must-see.

### Chapter 35 Members at the Nationals

The US Nationals took place September 21<sup>st</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> in Denison, Texas. Two chapter 35 members made the journey and performed very well. Janusz Becla flew in the Sportsman category and placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 14. Rob Holland flew in Advanced and placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall. Rob also finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in AWAC team selection and took 1<sup>st</sup> in the 2<sup>nd</sup> unknown. Congratulations!

### Joining the Fight

Here are the instructions on joining our group to help fight the anti-aviation activists at Stop the Noise: just send me email. <g> ([peter@burning-blue.com](mailto:peter@burning-blue.com))

It's that simple.

Well, almost. Please do indicate your preferred email address and telephone number for addition to the confidential members list. I will add you to the email list and to the members list and send out instructions on how to post to the list and how to access our website. I am handling this all by hand right now for security, so it may take a couple days for me to have the chance to add you, so please be patient.

We're making a lot of progress already, but we still need everyone's help, so go ahead and send me email right now.

Thanks! -- Peter

2003 Outlaw II Rules (Nov. 1 @ Plymouth)
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1. Schedule
  - a. Briefing @ 8:30 a.m. at the Crawford Research And Performance (C.R.A.P.) Center
    - i. Arrive early to register
  - b. Flying starts 9:00 a.m. Awards & cleanup 2:30 – 3:00 (sunset is 4:37 p.m.)
2. Safety
  - a. Safety First.
  - b. Flight sequences must be reviewed by a Deputy & approved for safety before flight
3. Fun
  - a. Must be had at all times
  - b. No protests except for math mistakes on the scoring
  - c. Judges can be bribed
    - a. But not with offers of rides in way cool airplanes
4. Registration requirements
  - a. Outlaw (pilot): Licensed pilot, current medical, paid-up chapter member (join at the jail)
  - b. Mount: Proof of current \$1m liability insurance, copy of weight and balance
  - c. Safety: Parachute, working two-way radio
  - d. Entry fee: \$20
5. Posse
  - a. Grill-meister(s). The most important job of the day.
  - b. Historians (photographers & video). 2<sup>nd</sup> most important job. All of us – bring your camera.
  - c. Judges:
    - i. At least 3 Judges per category.
    - ii. Can be any paid chapter member not flying in the category being judged
      - a. Do not have to be IAC judges
  - d. Sheriff (Chief Judge): controls the flow of Outlaws
  - e. Scorer(s) & Registrar(s) – to be conscripted that morning.
  - f. Mayor (quasi-CD) – town administrator (Steve)
6. Flying Rules
  - a. 2 categories:
    - i. Misdemeanors: Sportsman, Primary, and Contest Virgins
      1. May fly with a qualified accomplice to avoid collisions with low-flying planets
    - ii. Felons: Intermediate, Advanced, & Unlimited
  - b. Timing & Order of Flight
    - i. Flights will be scheduled at 10-minute intervals.
    - ii. Misdemeanors fly first, with the most experienced flying first
    - iii. Outlaws must be ready at altitude and in the aerobatic hold when their box time starts.

- iv. Sheriff will call you into the box at your assigned clock time and as soon as previous pilot is safely out of the box.
  - v. Sheriff will evict you from the box when your 10 minutes is up.
  - vi. If you finish your sequence early, you can stay in the box for the full 10 minutes.
- c. First flight
- i. Figures do not have to be standard FAI catalog maneuvers
  - ii. Flights are the first 10 figures you fly
    - 1. 5 mandatory figures as published by the Mayor (below)
      - a. May be substituted as needed for safety reasons
    - 2. 5 figures determined by each individual Outlaw
      - a. At least 1 must not be an IAC/FAI maneuver
      - b. Figures must be at a reasonable and safe difficulty level for the pilot. Townfolk are encouraged to slander, libel, and otherwise harass Felons (but NOT Misdemeanors) for too-easy sequences.
      - c. No figure repetition
  - iii. Figures may be flown in any order. Any number of breaks are allowed.
  - iv. No paperwork will be used except as provided by the Mayor (registration & scoring)
  - v. Repeat offenders (experienced competitors) must ground-fly their flight for the assembled townfolk and general riff-raff, any time before saddling up for flight.
    - 1. Optional for newcomers.
  - vi. May fly to music or smoke but you have to arrange this yourself.
- d. Second flight
- i. Anything goes. 10-minute flights until time runs out. Start with Misdemeanors again.
  - ii. First-timers get top priority. Flying ends @ 2:30 p.m.
  - iii. Not scored but can be critiqued.
7. Judging
- a. A "hard" score is assigned to each maneuver, based loosely on IAC-style objectives
    - i. Lines, angles, circles, points, etc. No K-factors.
    - ii. All scores will be 0-100 in increments of 1 (ie- 0, 1, 2, ... , 99, 100).
  - b. A single "soft" score (0-100) is awarded at the end of the flight
    - i. Artistry, symmetry, presentation, rhythm, creativity, difficulty, positioning, bribery, etc.
    - ii. The soft score is multiplied by K=10 so it is equal in weight to the flight's technical score.
8. Bonus & penalty points added before & after the flight
- a. Firepower
    - i. Cannon (Yak55, Pitts, Lazer, or anything Guenther flies): -100
    - ii. Rifle (Decathlon): 0
    - iii. Sidearm (Citabria) +100
    - iv. Buckshot including no inverted system (Stearman): +250
      - 1. Running the fuel tank dry in flight does not qualify for this bonus
  - b. Apprenticeship
    - i. Advanced/Unlimited 0
    - ii. Intermediate +100
    - iii. Sportsman +200
    - iv. Primary +350
    - v. None +500
  - c. Costume

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|--|----------------|
| i. Costumes  | 0-250          |
| ii. From the golden age of whiskey, women and barnstorming             | 0-500          |
| iii. Dressed as the opposite sex                                       | 0-750          |
| iv. Naked  | -2000 to +2000 |
| d. Open Bottle (Open cockpit)  |                |
| i. Over 60 degrees OAT   | 0              |
| ii. Over 50 degrees OAT  | +50            |
| iii. Under 50 degrees OAT  | +200           |
| iv. When combined with c.iv above:                                     | - 400 to +400  |
| e. Morning Hangover (hand-fly or "dance" the sequence prior to flying) | 0-200          |
| i. Score to be based on Townfolk applause as heard by the Bailiff      |                |
| ii. Outlaws may not fly until fully recovered from their hangover.     |                |
9. Final scoring:
- a. Final score for each flight is the sum of all scores, bonuses, & penalties.

#### **Appendix A: Compulsory Misdemeanor Figures**

1. Card Shark = Any form of shark's tooth (wedge)
2. Rifle Barrel = Barrel roll (fear not, for nobody else has done one recently either)
3. Hangman's Knot = Wingover (1/2 roll at knife-edge may be added for extra ooh-aah factor and +15 points figure bonus)
4. Slurred Speech = Slow roll (really slow, the slower the better – graded on duration and roll-rate consistency, not attitude (but stay somewhere close to horizontal for safety reasons)
5. Running From The Ol' Ball And Chains = Immelman (½ loop up with ½ roll on top)

#### **Appendix B: Compulsory Felony Figures**

1. Whiskey Keg = Three point roll
2. Gallo's Pole = Hammer w. 1/3 roll up, 2/3 down (must enter and exit on x-axis)
  - a. A 25 pt. bonus will be added to the figure score if you hammer opposite to the normal direction for the plane flown –i.e. left for Lycomings and right for M14-Ps.
3. Escape From Jail = 1 1/4 snap to knife edge. Also known as Zoley's Revenge.
4. Bar Fight = Any roller (Smooth snapping roller rewarded with bonus of 20 pts)
  - a. Greenhorn Felons may substitute any inverted turn for safety reasons
5. Passed Out Cold = Humpty with ½ roll centered on loop (i.e. pull, pull-roll-push, pull humpty)

Questions? Call Steve- (508) 429-1171 or  
[steve@pennypacker.org](mailto:steve@pennypacker.org)



For Sale
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**EXTRA 230**, 535 TT, 50 SMOH, Fuel totalizer, Electronic Oil Pressure & Oil Temp, Becker Comm, Garmin GPS, Sight Gauge. Price \$79.9K. Call Charlie (603) 885-6719, Hans (508) 994-5957

**SUKHOI-SU-29 1993**, impeccable, premoritorium, 314T.T., advanced category only, unique blue, white, red, gold paint, Northstar GPS, KX 125 nav/com, KT 76a w/encoder, T/B, smoke, pilot/copilot chutes, B/C alternator and battery, Champion plugs, all prop mods, intake drain system, aircompressor relief valve in cockpit, Cleveland brakes, Full wheel pants, hard rubber tail wheel, new engine mount rubbers(02), ailerons balanced by Nick T., hooker harnesses, complete tool kit and jacks, spare parts, detailed maintenance records/oil samples-one pilot history, no damage history-if you want the best call Art 800-540-7098, cell 207-776-1044, asking \$174,500 or best offer, brokers protected.

**Yak-55 available for import**, \$45k ready to go, well under the going rate. Contact George Coy at (802) 868-5633.

**NEW ENGLAND AEROBATIC CLUB - IAC CHAPTER 35  
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORM**

Send to:

Steve Pennypacker, 68 Pilgrim Rd., Holliston, MA 01746.  
Home: (508) 429-1171 email: steve@pennypacker.org

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ (work): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot? \_\_\_\_\_ Rent/own? \_\_\_\_\_

EAA #: \_\_\_\_\_ IAC #: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 (color electronic email newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 – printed/mailed newsletter



## Calendar of Events

October 9

Noise Meeting  
Hanscom  
MassPort Conf. Room  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

October 18

Practice Day  
Littlebrook, ME  
There will be no October  
Chapter meeting

November 1

Outlaw '03  
(See Article for Details)  
PYM  
Rain Date Nov. 2

Future Chapter Meetings  
(Tentative Schedule)

Nov. 15 @ Mansfield  
Dec. 13 @ Nashua  
(One week early due to Xmas)  
Jan. 17, '04 @ Mansfield  
Feb. No Meeting, Banquet  
Mar. 20 @ Nashua

### Chapter 35 - Officers

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### Chapter 35 - Web Site

<http://acro.harvard.edu/IAC35>

#### Newsletter stuff goes to:

Rob Petit at  
<mailto:rjpetit@earthlink.net>

**Chapter 35 mailing list signup** (highly  
recommended):

[iac35-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:iac35-subscribe@yahoo.com)