

Don;

The formation of S.A.M.27 took place in 1976 ; John Pond, Ed Woods, Bill Hooks and others from S.A.M. 21 met and decided that a northern county chapter of S.A.M. should be formed to promote intra-club competition. A letter was sent to E. Woodman at SaA.M. national (see letter dated 08/31/76) by Ed Wood and we were designated S.A.M. 27 charter otherwise known as "WOODS RAIDERS".

The Clubs first flying site was "Kimes Ranch" this was located off Highway 12 towards Sabastapool, Ed Wood set up the flying there. We enjoyed club contests there. I remember we were to hold a contest at that site with S.A.M.21 & S.A.M. 30, we mowed a circle in the grass so the planes could take off; the farmer said we had stolen his grass, got mad and threw us out on the day of the contest. Everyone showed up for the meet, I remember going from farm to farm and finding a good farmer who gave us permission to use his pasture and we held the contest. It took a while to settle our problem with "Kimes Ranch " and we never returned to it.

ED Wood , Don Bekins, John Pond, and several other members of S.A.M. organizations including myself had a meeting at the "Holiday Inn" in Fairfield to form a uniform set of rules for our local contests.

As I can recall our next main flying site was " TWO ROCK" Coast Guard base which was set up by Tulp & Bekins. Our Club held many contests at this location, half the club flew Lonzo Record breakers during this period of S.A.M. we also flew .020 replicas with rudder only "Ace" single channel pulse. Tulp and I both had our 15' Dillares during this period. I lost a Pacific Ace at a contest O.O.S. and was contacted by a farmer weeks later that one of his cows had destroyed the ACE but I found it went seven miles. We abandoned this site due to radio interference with Santa Rosa modelers flying in the same area.

Our Club flew from several othe sites; Nicasio Road, Sears Point Parking area, Indian Valley College, Woodland, the park across from Terra linda by San Rafael Airport, and Schmidts Ranch , and a ranch near Napa, at a friend of Bekins. I remember at a contest that was held at the Napa Site John Pond and his sidekick Charle Critch were flying Texico, A large Dillare was seen flying over the lake on the property landing on the other side. John & Charlie were still flying a small black object that was circling high in the clouds, When they finally found it wouldn't turn the other way they finally believed the contestants that told them the plane landed on the other side of the lake

they allowed the Buzzard to fly its own way.

Don Bekins then got us a flying site on Atherton Road across from the Tennis Club. We enjoyed Flying and work partys and contests from this site for several years. A complaint from a near by homeowner to the County of Marin started the end of the field, they wanted a Use Permit from the property owner ,they required him to plant it,we tried to reason with the County to no avail; We lost the Field.

After our Loss we went from Woodland to Schmidt,s Ranch for our Annual "CRASH AND BASH". Ed Hamler has now found the club its new site on Lakeville highway in a nice open area behind the wine grapes which looks to have as much if not more area than our old site on Atherton road.

Some of my memories were of the good partys after our contests at "Kleist Heidelberg" in Santa Rosa, The Several Partys that Hilde & I Hosted at our home in Bel Marin Keys, the largest group was 97 modlers & family B.B.Q., VCR, Horseshoes, swimming, boating. Partys at Don Bekins by the Bay complete with Boston Wailer rides to see the Seals, Speed Hughes catching crabs of the dock and Hilde fishing. I also remember when Hilde made 36 cakes for a contest & an afgan as a raffel prize in Woodland. The Many Dinners & B.B.Qs with good friends and fellow modlers were the best.

At one contest on Atherton Road I remember a large man in a Large Van in which he lived decided to park on part of our flying area at the start of one of our contests; He was told to move, he got angry, we finally got him to move. I talked it over with him and made us a friend; he donated a Dooling .61 and a Cox. .010 as prizes.

Tom Brennan and I started combining free flight, .020 and rubber events with our R/C assist at our contests at Two Rock & Atherton read sites.

I remember My good friend John Drobshoff forgetting to turn on his receiver and loosing a few planes at contests; throwing his transmitter across the field and cursing. A good John story was when Tatum & I were helping him at the 1985 S.A.M. Champs in Madera, the wind was strong, John faced his Lonzo Record Breaker into the wind and launched, as it started to rise John started leaning back as his Lonzo was not penetrating the wind, John leaned further backstraining to see his plane,the higher it went the more John leaned, John Screamed" I Can't see it, hold my shoulders" , which I did lowering him to about 30 degrees from the ground. I asked john wh

John " Why dont you just turn around and fly it." John screamed " I cant fly it that way". Jack & I helped him get it back down. John was a good friend that I will never forget, we had many hours of flying fun together, I still fly his designs today and am proud to say he's finally made the S.A.M. Hall of Fame."

CLUB PRESIDENTS:

1976	ED WOOD
1977	RON KEIL
1978	BILL HOOKS
1979	DON BEKINS
1980	DON BEKINS
1981	RON KEIL
1982	RON KEIL
1983	RON KEIL
1984	JACK TATUM
1985	JACK TATUM
1986	JOHN DROBSCHOFF
1987	ANDY ANDREWS
1988	ED SOLENBERGER
1989	ED HAMLER
1990	ED HAMLER
1991	BRIAN RAMSEY
1992	BRIAN RAMSEY

Club News letter editors that I remember are:

PARK ABBOT	<i>Lloyd Gomez</i>
ANDY ANDREWS	
NED NEVEL	
KARL RIGHETTI	
JACK TATUM	
<i>Don Bekins</i>	