

Prop Spinner Chatter

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 9 AMA Charter # 529 Eugene Prop Spinners <http://flyinglines.org> September 2026



Club News and Other Information

Last Club Meeting

Aug 20 – Attending were Jim Corbett, Mike Hazel, Dave La Fever, Gene Pape, John Thompson and Gary Weems.

Next Club Meeting

Sep 17 – 10 a.m. - Ranch / Eugene Equipment Auction. Rain meeting Stockman's Café.

Local Flying

Aug 20 - John Thompson reports – We had a good meeting and flying session at the ranch. Attending were Jim Corbett, Mike Hazel, Dave La Fever, Gene Pape, John Thompson and Gary Weems.

It was a warm day but not too hot while we were flying, and wind was fairly steady and mild. The usual array of stunt, sport and combat planes were flown, including Gene's new ultra-light 80mph Combat plane.

Aug 27 – John Thompson reports – We had a great flying session at the ranch. Attending were Bill Badstubner, Jim Corbett, Mike Hazel, Dave La Fever, new member Paul Lancaster, Gene Pape and John Thompson.

Lots of flying was done, including Paul's successful test of our new electric trailer. Takeoff, flight, and a good landing!

Sep 3 – CANCELED – Due to forecast of rain.

Sep 10 – Attending were Gene Pape, Jim Corbett, John Thompson, Dave La Fever, and new member Paul Lancaster.

Out of town Flying

Aug. 29-30 - Gary Weems represented the Prop Spinners at the resurrected R.F. Stevenson

Memorial Raider Roundup in Puyallup, Wash, flying in several Stunt events. See report on flyinglines.org.



Randy Ling photo

Gary Weems' Vector 40, flown in Advanced Precision Aerobatics.

R.F. Stevenson Memorial Raider Roundup

Aug. 29-30, Pierce County Airport, Puyallup, Wash.

The race was on to get the sanction in place and the flyer published. Mike Hazel quickly approved the sanction request, John Thompson published at least six versions of the flyer on Flying Lines, and Colleen Pierce created the sanction. We were in business. The Northwest Skyraiders worked to make this contest happen. Special thanks to Rodney Claus, David Skau, Steve and Mike Dukes.

After all of the flying Mike Haverly and Mark Schluter were tied for the winner of the RF Stevenson Memorial Crock Pot Award. They split the spoils and we concluded the contest.



Ranch / Eugene Equipment Auction – August 20



Meeting



Watchers



Dave's planes



Gene's planes



John's planes



Gary fueling



Ranch / Eugene Equipment Auction – August 20– continued



Dave launching for Gary



Dave flying



Gary flying



Getting ready



John launching for Dave



John flying



Ranch / Eugene Equipment Auction – August 27



Pit crew



Dave launching for Mike



Gene launching for Dave



Mike flying



Dave flying



Dave launching for John



Ranch / Eugene Equipment Auction – August 27– continued



John flying



John's planes



John launching for Gene



Gene's planes



Dave launching for John



Bill's Super Clown



Ranch / Eugene Equipment Auction – September 10



Items from ETH



John launching for Gene



Gene launching for Dave



Pits



Dave flying



Gene's Combat planes



Ranch / Eugene Equipment Auction – September 10 – continued



Dave launching for John



Dave flying



John flying



John launching for Dave



John launching for Dave

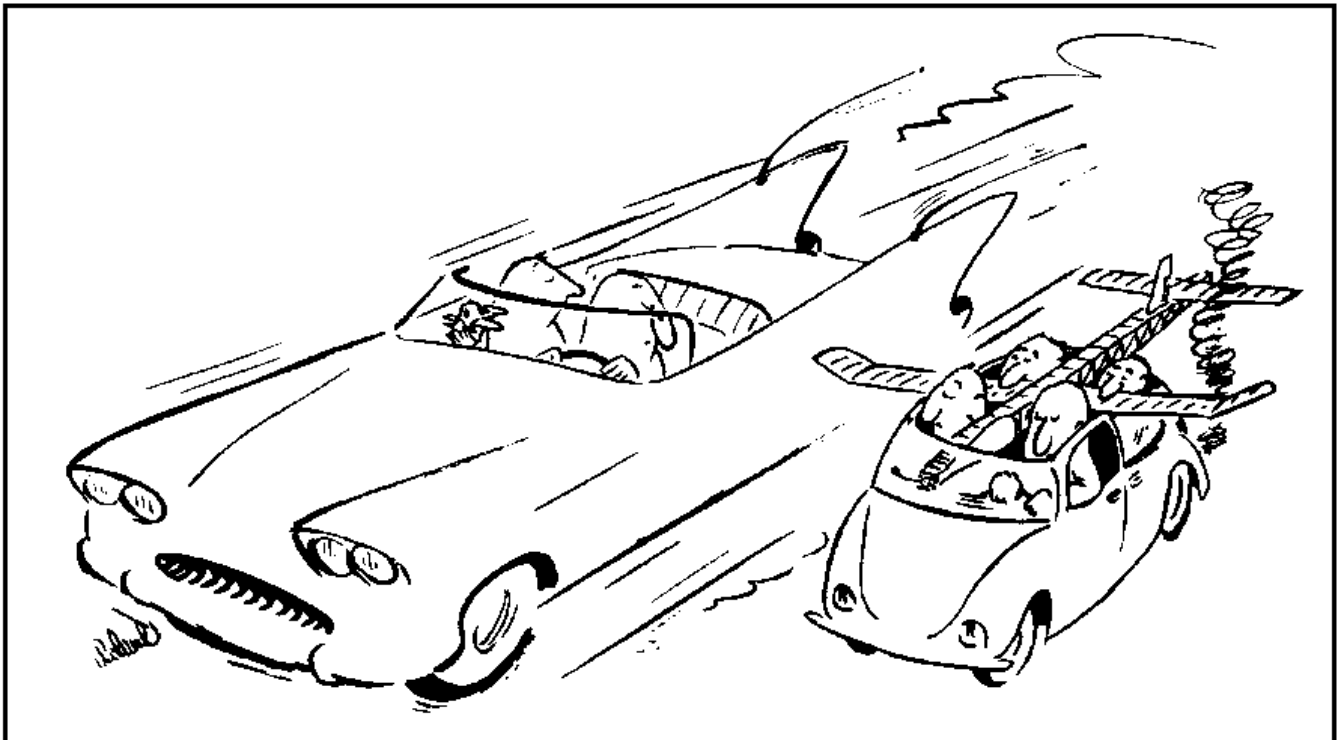
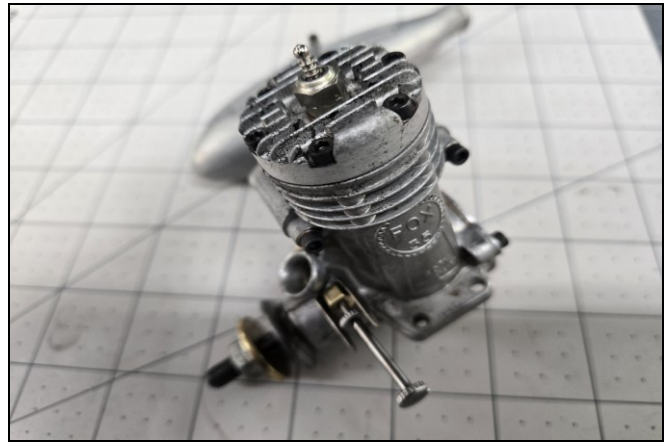


Dave flying

Ringmaster project - Gene Pape

About a year ago, the club acquired 2 Ringmasters from Eugene Toy and Hobby. One was finished but suffered age related damage and is now in flying condition. The other was only partially finished and we elected to keep it that way until we found a direction to go with it. I just received 2 60th anniversary Fox Stunt 35s from Craig Bartlett.

It occurred to me that finishing the Ringmaster using the box picture as a guideline for finishing and installing one of those engines on it so it and the other model could be flown by club members during the Ringmaster Flyathon each year would be a fitting goal for the unfinished model. We should discuss this at the upcoming meeting.





From Flying Lines

Prop Spinners icon Mel Marcum dies

Longtime Eugene Prop Spinners President and lifetime member Mel Marcum died on Aug. 1, 2026.

Mel was a control-line flier in Eugene, Ore., for most of his life, and was instrumental in the reformation of the club in the mid-1960s after a brief hiatus. He went on to serve as president and newsletter editor.

As a member of the City of Eugene staff, Mel was instrumental in obtaining and developing two flying sites at the Eugene Airport that the club used for approximately 45 years.



Flying lines photo

Mel Marcum with his .38 Special at the Eugene Airport flying site.

From Register-Guard Obit

Melvin Grant Marcum: Life Story/Obituary

Born: January 16, 1933 Died: August 1, 2026

Melvin is survived by his daughter Crystal Marcum Mills(Dave), Michael Grant Marcum(Sunny), and granddaughter Cierra Mills-Buelman(Skyler).

From Mike Hazel

I remember Mel all the way back from when I was a teenager. Mel, along with my dad and a handful of others were flying models during the dormant period of the Eugene Prop Spinners club. This was in the mid 1960's. Mel was instrumental in officially reforming the EPS organization and was one of the spark plugs of the Eugene area model aviation activity.

One of the things I remember about Mel from way back was that he was a kind and gracious man. Over my knowing him for several decades I can't think of a time when he veered from those characteristics. I have in my possession one of the planes he built long ago, the 38 Special. With that plane's future flights, it will always remind again of that kind and gracious man.

From Jim Corbett

I returned to Control Line flying in 2007 after a long break since 1962. I met Mel at the EUG overflow parking / CL Flying area. He was aware that I was also flying RC planes and did the website and newsletter for the ERCA club. He asked me if I would consider taking on the Propspinners Newsletter. I said I would give it a shot starting in 2008.

After a couple months Mel had me stop by his place and pickup a couple boxes of files of old newsletters and misc articles. It contained some of the info on the 1957 Endurance Flight, photos and some other archival stuff.

Mel donated his aircraft storage trailer to the club and it is still in use at our current flying site.

Newsletter Editor
1618 Gilham Rd.
Eugene, OR 97401



September 2026

«FirstLast»
«Street»
«CityStZip»



Upcoming Model Activities

Sep. 19 - The Zoot Ranch Fun Fly and Picnic is scheduled for Mike Hazel's backyard circle in Mehama on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Sep. 26-27 - Fall Follies for Aerobatics, Combat and Racing, Bill Riegel Model Air Park, Salem, Ore.

Oct. 3-4 Joey Mathison Memorial Ringmaster Fly-a-Thon. Control-Line fliers around the world count their Ringmaster flights and report their tallies to the Brotherhood of the Ring. Goal in 2026 is 10,000 flights. Make your flights and

report to Brotherhood of the Ring. Also, send your results to Flying Lines for an article on Northwest fly-a-thon participation. (Note: Send your data to both; FL will not report to the Brotherhood.

Prop Spinner Club officers

Gene Pape, President
Jim Corbett, VP, Secretary, Newsletter Editor
John Thompson, Treasurer
Gary Weems, Safety Officer

Where the Action Is: <http://flyinglines.org/Action.html>

Visit: <http://flyinglines.org> web site.