



Harbor Soaring Society

Charter #128 Costa Mesa, California

AMA's Oldest Radio Controlled Soaring Club

Silver Leader Club Since 2009

Gold Leader Club Since 2011



HSS is now incorporated as a non-profit Public Charity under IRS section 501(c)(3)

HSS is the oldest AMA chartered R/C Soaring Club in the USA. Founded in 1964.

October 2026

HSS IS NOW 62 YEARS OLD!

Volume 105

HSS PLANE RAP NEWSLETTER

Fairview Park flying field is open!

RC gliders can fly 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 8am-2pm, weather permitting.
Hand launched & rubber powered free flight models are allowed any day.

Oct will be 2nd & 4th!!!

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Coming Events

October 2026

- Pacific Airshow, Hunt Beach, Oct 2-3-4
- **Flying days Sat Oct 10 & 24**
- Our next meeting will be Tuesday, Oct 13



Meeting Location

We hold our meetings at First Team Real Estate, 10072 Adams (at Brookhurst), Huntington Beach, in the Stater Bros shopping center. I will arrive with pizzas & beverages; I ask for \$5 for pizza and \$5 for beer. There's lots of room, so c'mon down!

T-Shirts

Erv Szego has made inquiries about getting new T-shirts made up with the club logo on the back. We need to get commitments for at least 50; cost will be \$12. The logo will be in three colors on the back of the shirt. Please let Mat or Mike know how many you'd like!



Embroidered HSS Patches

We now have beautiful fully embroidered patches available. These are 3.5" diameter and look really sharp! Cost is a whopping \$3 each.



Meeting Activity

VP Dan Vozenilek came up with various pieces: foam board plank, 3D printed "fuselage," index card, popsicle stick, & sheet of paper and challenged us to build something that would fly. Lots of creative solutions! October's activity will be hosted by Scott Smith.

Nominations & Officer Election

The election will take place at our November meeting. Mat has hit the term limit for Pres, and the rest of the officers agreed to continue, so we're electing a Pres & VP.

Nominations were Dan Vozenilek for Pres, Mat Garcia for VP. Please attend the Oct meeting and vote. You may also nominate others if you wish.

Aquila & Hoerner Wingtips: Curved Up or Down?

At the field Sept 19, I asked Henry his opinion. He suggested I write to his friend Bob Parks, an aerodynamics brainiac. Mr. Parks agreed to allow me to publish his reply:

A bit of background.. I have been an aero engineer (specializing in aircraft design) for about 45 years. And I have been following tech discussions about tip shape for most of that time.

And, my conclusion is: it basically does not matter, once you get a few basic things correct.

The reason I say this, is if there were some tip shape dramatically better than others, then the advantage could be measured and people would know that was the best shape. Since the arguments about it just keep going and going (and I mean at the level of peer reviewed published technical papers, not the web or urban legends or RC flying field discussions), I have to believe that the differences are so small as to be immeasurable...

The basic things:

- 1) the maximum span should be at the trailing edge. i.e. the rounded tips on a Piper Cub or P-51 are not that great.
- 2) the aft tip should be pretty sharp. (look at the Gnome tips. mc)
- 3) do not let the airfoils get to too large a % thickness at the tip. The chords get small, and people tend to let the % thickness increase, when it really should be decreasing.

Up or down or flat does not seem to matter. That is styling and landing damage issues etc.

FWIW, I did some searching of professional literature and never did find anything published by Hoerner about tip shapes! So, I have no idea what the history of these really is.

Curling down will not really do much to the tip vortex. It's going to be there regardless; the best you can do is get the two tip vortices as far apart as possible... rule #1 above.



When you have a physical limit on wingspan, winglets can help, but they are REALLY hard to design properly so that they actually help... and they work best only at one particular angle of attack. (i.e. lift coefficient).. and on models, the low Reynolds Numbers due to the small chords really hurts. They really do not have any place on RC gliders. If you do not have a limit on the span, then, for example, a 5" span extension on each tip has the same drag reduction as a 10" high winglet on each tip... and the span extension is easy to design and works well over the whole range of angle of attack.

I had an Aquila ages ago, when they had just came out. It was a really great plane and a huge step up from anything else available at that time. I guess this was around 1978 or so.

I remember staying up until about 3 am getting mine done, then getting up at 6 to drive a couple of hours to a pretty big regional contest (this was in Massachusetts). Did a couple hand tosses, then a high start launch. On that launch, it went absurdly high, still huge stretch on the rubber at the top, so I did a dive and pullout to get off the line, but that pitched out the radio battery! Since there was a lot of down elevator in it at the time, the glider pitched down past vertical, and came in inverted at about 30 degrees past vertical. The flat bottom airfoil was pretty draggy in that mode, so it came in pretty slow and went into a pretty soft bush. NO damage! Whew! The battery almost hit someone walking out to fetch the histart, so we had the battery back. I got a bunch of masking tape, put the battery in, taped around the fuselage, then got a magazine cover that happened to be in the back of the car, taped it on to be the canopy. And the next flight was an official competition flight.

The result was that I won a 60 person contest!

Yeah, it was a good plane!

BTW, there was a common mod to the plane in that era. Do some 1/16 balsa sheeting on the lower surface between the LE and the spar. You can build the whole wing and add that sheet afterwards. Just be careful to not let the wing twist when the sheet is added. (you might want a bit of washout on the outer panel).

Then shape the LE to blend into the extra thickness of this sheet... leave the forward most point about where it is for the stock airfoil, so you are just adding some "fullness" to the bottom. When covering, just let the covering bridge between the back of the sheet and the TE.

This will give quite a bit better performance at "get out of sink" cruise speeds, as well as a MUCH stiffer wing in torsion since the D tube is now a full tube.

Hope this helps!

September Flying Days

We flew Sept 5 & 19. We had numerous great flights from the winch & two hi-starts Plenty of lift and lots of learners giving our collection of Wanderers a workout. The lift was surprisingly good; on the 19th, a student got 14 minutes on a Wanderer.







The TRUST Test and FAA Registration

TRUST is The Recreational UAS Safety Test. It provides education and testing for recreational flyers on important safety and regulatory information. If you fly your drone recreationally under the [Exception for Recreational Flyers](#) you must pass the test before you fly. To take the test, go to <http://trust.modelaircraft.org>. This is the AMA Site. Take the test (Don't worry, it is fail proof) then obtain your "Completion Certificate."

All recreational flyers must pass this aeronautical knowledge and safety test and provide proof of test passage (the TRUST completion certificate) to the FAA or law enforcement upon request.

Go to <http://faadronezone.faa.gov> and create an account for your FAA Registration. Apply for "I fly under The Exception For Recreational Flyers." They will issue you an FAA registration number that must be affixed to the outside of all of your radio control model aircraft. The charge is \$3 for three years, for all of your R/C aircraft.

All recreational flyers must pass this aeronautical knowledge and safety test and provide proof of test passage (the TRUST completion certificate) to the FAA or law enforcement upon request.

HSS Membership

Our 2026 HSS membership enrollment season is running full speed. Note that annual membership dues is now reduced to \$15. The latest membership application is included in the last pages of this newsletter. This can be mailed to our post office box shown on the last page, or given to a club officer. Alternately, HSS and AMA membership applications can be obtained from any club officer, or available on our club web site at www.harborsoaringsociety.org. Applicants must be members of the AMA prior to joining HSS. AMA Membership applications can also be obtained at the AMA web site www.modelaircraft.org, download document No. 902 from the publications page. Or you can apply on line. If you renew your AMA membership online, be sure to print the receipt that they provide as proof that you joined.

HSS Club Decals

We now have a new shipment of 1,000 decals / vinyl stickers with the HSS logo available. We got such a good deal, we can offer these to you for the unheard-of cost of FREE!

Social Media Links

Here's how to find HSS on various social media. Check them out!

HSS FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/harborsoaringsociety>

HSS Website: <https://www.harborsoaringsociety.org/> (New Vendor Page)

HSS YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@HSS-RC-Glider-Club>



HSS Planned Activities and Events

Thanks to John Rittenhouse for the preparation of the following Calendar of Events.

Some of the activities have not been cancelled yet, but are subject to cancellation at a moment's notice.

Repeating activities include:

- Monthly General Meetings - 7 to 9 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. These are now in person.
- Monthly Steering Committee Meetings - 6 to 7 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. These are now in person. Additional meetings to be planned as required.
- Flying field maintenance on an as-needed basis.
- Quarterly meetings with the Orange County Parks Department. .

Annual Events:

- 2.10.2023 Wix, website management payment due.
- 3.23.2024 Wix, harborsoaringsociety.org domain name re-registration payment due.
- 7.2023 Network Solutions, website domain name re-registration payment due.
- March AMA charter and "Gold Leader Club" renewal.
- March Club must purchase "Certificate of Liability Insurance" from AMA.
- April Imaginology - This is a public service event held at the Orange County Fairgrounds. HSS provides booths containing static displays of model aircraft, build & fly foam plate gliders, and model flight simulators.
- June Lions Club Fish Fry. HSS has a booth at this annual event
- July Concerts at the Park - Three evenings on Tuesday nights in July at Fairview Park. Music is sponsored by the City of Costa Mesa. HSS supports this public service event with a pop-up sunshade, and static display of model aircraft.
- July Bent Wing Glider Competition. This event is open to all club members and guests.*
- August National Model Aviation Day. Open house, demonstrations, free flying lessons, and acquiring donations for charity.*
- August Dollar Foam Design/Build/Fly competition. Tentative schedule. Aircraft are original designs, electric powered RC models made from a single sheet of paper backed 1/4" foam. Performance criteria to be determined.
- September Club Secretary shall submit annual 501(c)(3) report to IRS (include \$25 payment).
- October Pumpkin Festival/Scarecrow Competition. This is a public service activity for HSS. It is planned by the city, to be held at the Lions Park
- October Nominations made for new club officers.
- November New club officer election. General Meeting.
- December Christmas party and new club officer installation. Location to be determined.
- TBD Letter of Agreement with John Wayne control tower. Renew every two years.



Next Meeting

Our normal schedule is to meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 PM at the First Team Real Estate office located at 10072 Adams Ave (at Brookhurst), Huntington Beach, in the Stater Bros shopping center. Phone is 714-875-7994. Bring your favorite plane for show-and-tell. Bring your family and friends. There may be a raffle. The new location map is shown at right. The monthly HSS Steering Committee meeting is held from 6 to 7 PM just prior to the General Meeting.



Invitation To Members For Contributions To The Plane Rap Newsletter

Your editor would love to hear from club members. If there is anything you would like to share with the rest of us, I would like you to send it to me. I will add it to the next newsletter. My favorite things to publish are items sent in by members!! These can be anything like reviews of your plane or equipment, links to good videos, links to articles, and things you have built or created. Bad spelling and/or grammar gladly accepted. Anything from a picture with a caption to a full blown build/review article is good. Letters-to-the-Editor are always welcome as well. Tell us what you think. Please help make the newsletter and website more interesting with your submissions. Embarrassing pictures/videos are the best. I look forward to hearing from you.
Mike Costello - Plane Rap Editor - mikeftre@gmail.com.

Photos of Your Planes

John Rittenhouse has become the club photographer, with Mike Costello as a backup. This is your newsletter, so if you want to see your models featured, or photos of something that interests you, please send to the newsletter editor.





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2024

Harbor Soaring Society

AMA Chartered Club #128 - AMA's Oldest Chartered Soaring Club

P.O. Box 1673 Costa Mesa, CA 92628

Revised October 3, 2022



I understand that by applying for membership in the Harbor Soaring Society I must be a current member of the AMA (Proof of status required, may be photocopy of membership card or AMA receipt of fees paid). In addition, I will take the AMA TRUST test and show my Completion Certificate. When I acquire or already have acquired any Unmanned Radio-Controlled Aircraft, I will apply for an FAA Registration Number and affix that number to all my aircraft.

Name _____ AMA # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Date of Birth _____ Email _____

AMA TRUST Completion Certificate Date _____

FAA Registration Number _____ Date of Registration _____

- ☐ New Applicants (Without Name Tag) (19 years and older): \$15.00
- ☐ Adult Member (Renewal Without Name Tag) (19 years and older): \$15.00
- ☐ Junior Member (Without Name Tag) (19 years and under): \$0.00
- ☐ Family Member (Without Name Tag) (At Same Address): \$5.00.
- ☐ Supporting Member Is non-flying member, includes newsletter. No voting, no AMA, no City permit. \$0.00.
- ☐ Optional or Extra HSS Name Tag: \$15.00
- ☐ I hereby give my permission to publish my [Name], [Address], [Phone], [Email Address] in the monthly Newsletter. **Strike out those not to be published.** Note that the Newsletter is published on the club website (<http://www.harborsoaringsociety.org>).
- ☐ I request Email delivery of the monthly Newsletter in place of U.S. Mail delivery of hardcopy
- ☐ I request a printed copy of the monthly Newsletter by U.S. Mail. Printing and Mailing: \$20.00/year

Only glider aircraft are allowed to fly at Fairview Park. Check all your interests.

Duration Gliders _____	Slope Soaring Gliders _____	RES Gliders _____
Large Scale Gliders _____	Hand Launched Gliders _____	Electric Motor Gliders _____
Indoor Electric Planes _____	Electric Helicopters _____	Free Flight _____

In accordance with the Federal Equal Opportunity Act, this organization prohibits discrimination against anyone based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, individuals with disabilities or veterans. New applicants making application between November 1st and December 31st will pay the annual rate indicated above and such dues will make the new member paid in full for the following year. Applications for adult members submitted between July 1st and October 31st will pay a reduced rate of \$15.00 (name tags extra). A signature is required from all Harbor Soaring Society members, agreeing to comply with the current AMA Safety Code, the current HSS and Costa Mesa City General Field Rules, and FAA rules and regulations applicable to the flying of RC model Aircraft.

The undersigned attests that: I will operate my model using only radio frequencies for the control of fixed wing or multi-rotor aircraft, and/or data transmission, on equipment certified and approved for such use by the AMA, FAA or FCC as applicable. I understand that my failure to comply with the above restrictions will result in nullification of liability coverage for damages caused or claimed.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Total Dues Owed and Attached: \$ _____

SIGNATURE OF CLUB OFFICER RECEIVING APPLICATION: _____



HARBOR SOARING SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR 2026

President	Mat Garcia	949-264-2624	mat.garcia@live.com
Vice President	Dan Vozenilek	949-231-8904	dv92627@yahoo.com
Director	Mike Costello	714-875-7994	mikefre@gmail.com
Treasurer, Membership	Joni Whitsitt	657-730-9121	whitsittjo@gmail.com
Secretary	Joni Whitsitt	657-730-9121	whitsittjo@gmail.com
Contest Coordinator	Randy Wilbur	949-683-9662	rwilbur@videotecheng.com
Safety Officers	Kevin Koch	714-847-7887	kev380@yahoo.com
	Dan Noon	949-735-7141	dnoon@gmail.com
Grounds Keeper	Sid Hood	714-963-4964	sidhood@yahoo.com
Editor, Publisher	Mike Costello	714-875-7994	mikefre@gmail.com
Club Photographer	John Rittenhouse	714-222-8660	johnritt@yahoo.com
Social Media Manager	John Rittenhouse	714-222-8660	johnritt@yahoo.com
Lead Flight Instructor	Henry Smith III	714-322-6537	henry_ccs@mac.com
Flight Instructor	Jerome Mezzasalma	714-887-7913	sdgusa1@msn.com
Junior Flight Instructor	Nick Vozenilek	949-231-8904	

Web site at www.harborsoaringsociety.org, our YouTube site at <http://www.youtube.com/user/hssletsfly>,
Facebook at www.facebook.com/harborsoaringsociety and E-mail at harborsoaringsociety@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT First Team Real Estate, 10072 Adams (at Brookhurst), Huntington Beach, in Stater Bros shopping center.

SEE DETAILS INSIDE

