



Chino Valley Flyers

December Club Newsletter



December 30, 2024

Volume 27 Issue 12

www.chinovalleyflyers.org

"To create an interest in, further the image of, and promote the hobby/sport of model aviation"

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Quote For this Month:

"INITIATIVE IS THE BEST FORM OF OBEDIENCE."

UNKNOWN

We hope you left plenty of cookies and milk for Santa Clause members.



Merry Christmas Members



Perpetual Club Trophy Awarded at Christmas Banquet



Jeff Moser, was awarded the Jay Riddle Perpetual Trophy by President **Brian Sutton** for his outstanding club support. More information can be found on page ten of this issue.



President's Column

By Brian Sutton



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

We just finished our last function of the year, our annual Christmas party, a great time for all. Compliments to the staff at Antelope Hills for great food and hospitality. A special thanks to **Bob Steffensen** and family for putting it together.

As we move into the winter season, the weather has been great for flying so far, as long as your fingers don't freeze. Remember, the winter is a great time to work on those building projects. I will be working on an Old School Model Works "Raider."

Tuesday, a group of students from Embry-Riddle came out to test their final project for their cohort. I'm pleased to say that they were very respectful of the field rules and guidelines, as well as considerate of other flyers. Hopefully somebody will write up a report on the project.

A reminder that our next meeting will be January 22, 7:00 PM at a new location, the Chino Valley Senior Center. Check the website for directions.

Finally, thanks to everyone for supporting the club and practicing safe flying. See you at the field.

Brian



Flight Instructors

Randy Meathrell:
Control Line Flying

Bill Gilbert:
Helicopters

Jeff Moser:
Gliders, Multi Rotors

General Flight Instructors

Al Marello

Steve Shephard

Club's Board of Officers

President — **Brian Sutton**



Vice President - **Al Marello**



Treasurer — **Don Crowe**



Secretary — **Bob Steffensen**



Safety Officer — **Rick Nichols**



At Large Member — **Dan Avilla**



At Large Member— **Gary Cosentino**



At Large Member— **Lee Boekhout**



At Large Member— **Jeff Moser**



Newsletter Editor — **Bob Shanks**



WHAT HISTORIC AIRCRAFT COCKPIT IS THIS?



See Page Eight



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Chino Valley Flyers Events for 2025 are coming: Soon to be Developed.



SAFETY SHOULD ALWAYS COME FIRST

By Bob Shanks, Temporary Safety Column Writer

We have a new club safety officer, Rick Nichols, he is not actually new to the position but has decided to again take up the responsibility again for 2025. So this December issue's column is written by your editor.

As we come to the end of 2024, and enter into our winter cold months we should all think about how we approach our flying activities.

Not only our equipment needs to be closely checked for cold flying, but we should also dress appropriately wearing warm clothes, gloves when not flying and making sure we have hats with good ear coverings for the cold. We can too easily forget about our faces too. Get a good scarf that can be easily pulled up over your face when not flying. Also, remember it doesn't take much of a breeze to make it seem far colder than it actually is in the pit area.

Many members have been observed using some electric hand warmers to keep hands nice and toasty after flying.

We have experienced some very nice warm fall weather in late November with only a few cold snaps but as we all know that can end very suddenly thrusting us into winter.

As we have noted in this column in past issues, we should not take our batteries for granted and especially in cold winter months. Lithium Polymer batteries (LIPOs) don't function well in cold weather so be aware of that as our weather turns colder and don't expect the same amount

of instant power from your LIPOs, it will not happen in cold weather.

We should all be aware of cold weather protocols when it comes to cold weather so make sure you know and follow those procedures as well as following your gut instincts. Now for a very different safety slant.

There is one safety issue we have not covered in this column in the past and that is cybersecurity. We all order a lot online and do a lot of business online. Then the definition of cybersecurity is a good place to start this discussion. What is cybersecurity?

Cybersecurity is the practice of protecting systems, networks, computer programs from digital attacks. Most cyberattacks are usually aimed at accessing, changing, or destroying sensitive information on computers.

In today's connected world, everyone benefits from advanced cybersecurity solutions. At an individual level, a cybersecurity attack can result in everything from identity theft to extortion attempts, to the loss of important data like family photos. Everyone relies on critical infrastructure like power plants, hospitals, and financial service companies. **Securing these and other organizations is**

essential to keeping our society functioning.*

Without good cybersecurity, one has to be very careful in using the Internet looking for good prices on a variety of RC equipment and other associated equipment. We all get emails from companies wanting to sell us everything one can imagine so a lot of careful thought has to go into "clicking" on that incredible buy's website not realizing by doing so may open one up to unwanted access into your computer system and often revealing too much personal information. We all should try to shop from reputable well known companies. These outlets all usually have good well protected systems against cyber attacks. Using credit cards too easily can be dangerous, use discretion members as we know all of you probably do.

Overall, U.S. 2024 credit card debt is currently considered higher than normal, with Americans holding a record high amount of credit card debt, reaching over **\$1.16 trillion as of the latest data**, signifying a significant increase compared to previous years. (Internet data from open sources.)

The higher credit card debt is largely attributed to rising inflation and increased reliance on credit cards for everyday living expenses. **It's holiday time so we all should use discretion and careful consideration before using credit cards.**

* <https://www.cisco.com/site/us/en/learn/topics/security/what-is-cybersecurity.html#:~:text=Cybersecurity%20is%20the%20practice%20of,or%20interrupting%20normal%20business%20processes.>



MEMBER FLYING EXCITEMENT AT THE FIELD



At right, John Riese's Phanto electric pusher. Photos by Rick Nichols.



Harold Ellis' glow powered open cockpit shoulder wing tail dragger.



Shel Leibach's very nice EP King Twin.1700.



Above is Shel Leibach's very scale EDF F-100 historic Thunderbird. At right is a photo your editor Bob Shanks took of the F-100 Thunderbirds in a fly over of the old medieval church located in Mildenhall, England that is close to the RAF and USAF Air Force base where the Thunderbirds preformed. Bob was stationed there while on active duty in the Air Force in 1962.

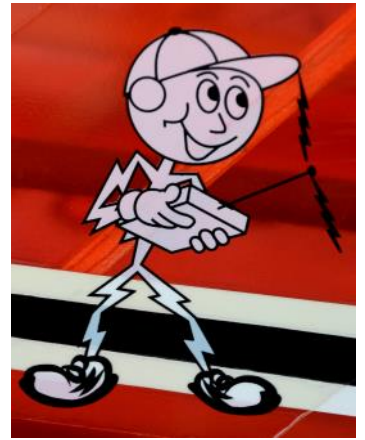




More Activity Observed at Our Flying Field



Jeff Moser checking out the charging station batteries and system.



Electric Icon on Rick Nichols Senorita airplane.



New gravel has been laid down on the road and part of the parking lot. Member Greg Flowers has a terminal medical condition and donated his airplanes to the club, Jack Potter sold them and the money went for the gravel. [Thanks Greg](#)

Vantage Pro2™

Precision Weather Station

- Updates every 2.5 seconds (10X faster than the competition)
- Wireless transmission up to 1,000 ft./300 m* (3X farther than the competition)
- Solar-powered*
- Professional quality

*Wireless models only



A precision weather station is soon to be installed at the higher elevated gun range adjacent to the field. This will allow members to check the weather via the internet before driving out to the field.

Don Crowe delivered it to the field and discussions have taken place to get it installed at the gun range.

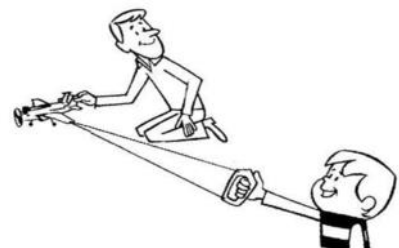
More information will be shared as this gets installed along with the link. As our members know, the weather is often quite different at the field than in town at Prescott or Chino Valley.

Paul and Lisa Gendarme Christmas Banquet Award

Photos by Bob Vaught



Paul and Lisa couldn't attend the Christmas banquet so Rick Nichols awarded it to them at the field. They always bring treats out for our events. A favorite is their popsicles.



The Background Story of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

<https://performingsongwriter.com/rudolph-rednosed-reindeer/>

As the holiday season of 1938 came to Chicago, Bob May wasn't feeling much comfort or joy. A 34-year-old ad writer for Montgomery Ward, May was exhausted and nearly broke. His wife, Evelyn, was bedridden, on the losing end of a two-year battle with cancer. This left Bob to look after their four-year old-daughter, Barbara.

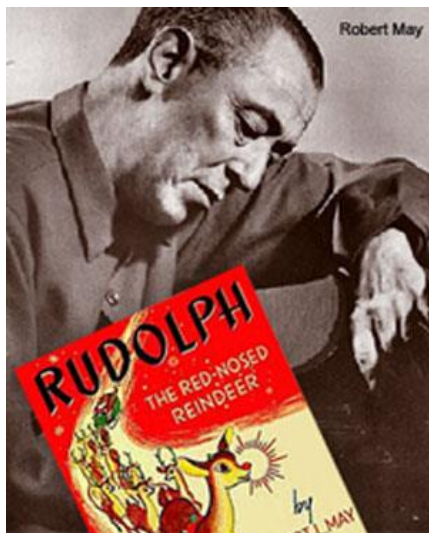
One night, Barbara asked her father, "Why isn't my mommy like everybody else's mommy?" As he struggled to answer his daughter's question, Bob remembered the pain of his own childhood. A small, sickly boy, he was constantly picked on and called names. But he wanted to give his daughter hope, and show her that being different was nothing to be ashamed of. More than that, he wanted her to know that he loved her and would always take care of her. So he began to spin a tale about a reindeer with a bright red nose who found a special place on Santa's team. Barbara loved the story so much that she made her father tell it every night before bedtime. As he did, it grew more elaborate. Because he couldn't afford to buy his daughter a gift for Christmas, Bob decided to turn the story into a homemade picture book.

In early December, Bob's wife died. Though he was heartbroken, he kept working on the book for his daughter. A few days before Christmas, he reluctantly attended a company party at Montgomery Ward. His co-workers encouraged him to share the story he'd written. After he read it, there was a standing ovation. Everyone wanted copies of their own. Montgomery Ward bought the rights to the book from their debt-ridden employee. Over the next six years, at Christmas, they gave away six million copies of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to shoppers. Every major publishing house in the country was making offers to obtain the book. In an incredible display of good will, the head of the department store returned all rights to Bob May. Four years later, Rudolph had made him into a millionaire.

Now remarried with a growing family, May felt blessed by his good fortune. But there was more to come. His brother-in-law, a successful songwriter named Johnny Marks, set the uplifting story to music. The song was pitched to artists from Bing Crosby on down. They all passed. Finally, Marks approached Gene Autry. The cowboy star had scored a holiday hit with "Here Comes Santa Claus" a few years before. Like the others, Autry wasn't impressed with the song about the misfit reindeer. Marks begged him to give it a second listen. Autry played it for his wife, Ina. She was so touched by the line "They wouldn't let poor Rudolph play in any reindeer games" that she insisted her husband record the tune.

Within a few years, it had become the second best-selling Christmas song ever, right behind "White Christmas." Since then, Rudolph has come to life in TV specials, cartoons, movies, toys, games, coloring books, greeting cards and even a Ringling Bros. circus act.

The little red-nosed reindeer dreamed up by Bob May and immortalized in song by Johnny Marks has come to symbolize Christmas as much as Santa Claus, evergreen trees and presents. As the last line of the song says: *"He'll go down in history."*



There are Major Concerns, Risks and Challenges Facing Science Using Artificial Intelligence*

As one looks at Artificial Intelligence (AI) today it is hard not to revisit the epic 1968 movie 2001 A Space Odyssey produced and directed by Stanley Kubric and Arthur C. Clark the famous and very notable Science Fiction writer.

The movie follows a voyage by astronauts, scientists and the sentient supercomputer HAL 9000 to Jupiter to investigate a strange alien monolith.

This film was far head of its time and was noted for its use of scientifically accurate depiction of space flight and travel. The movie avoided conventional cinematic narrative techniques and used dialogue sparingly with long sequences of only classical music. A very well done movie worth seeing. Some of Clarke's short stories were used as well in making this film like his 1951 movie "The Sentinel. He also published a novelization of 2001 after its release. There seems to be no universal definition of AI but it is accepted by many scientists to be very transformative to human history.

AI makes decisions using algorithms that either follow rules or, in the case of machine learning, review large quantities of data to identify and follow patterns. Because machine learning consists of multiple layers, and machines develop their own learning and patterns, it is opaque compared to traditional rule-following computing. Today AI applications are common in many economic activities including online shopping and advertising, web search, digital personal assistants, language translation, smart homes and infrastructure, health, transport and manufacturing. Artificial Intelligence has the potential to bring huge advantages to mankind in medical science, education, food and emergency aid as well as even tackling climate change in some manner.

If AI is used well, it could help humanity meet the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and make many processes swifter, fairer and more efficient. It is a technology which is likely to be as transformative to human history as was the Industrial Revolution.

However, there are serious ethical, safety and societal risks associated with the rapid growth of AI technologies. Will AI be a tool that makes rich people richer? Will it exaggerate bias and discrimination? Will AI decision-making create a less compassionate society? Should there be limits to what decisions an AI system can take autonomously, from overtaking a car on the motorway to firing a weapon? And if AI goes wrong – for example if a self-driving car has an accident – who should be liable? To ensure AI is used safely and fairly, up-to-date and rigorous regulation is needed.

AI creates serious regulatory challenges due to the way it is funded, researched and developed. The private sector drives progress in AI, and governments mostly rely on big tech companies to build their AI software, furnish their AI talent, and achieve AI breakthroughs. In many respects this is a reflection of the world we live in, as big tech firms have the resources and expertise required.

However, without government oversight the future application of AI's extraordinary potential will be effectively outsourced to commercial interests. That outcome provides little incentive to use AI to address the world's greatest challenges, from poverty and hunger to climate change.

Currently governments are playing catch-up as AI applications are developed and rolled out. Despite the transnational nature of this technology, there is no unified policy approach to AI regulation, or to the use of data. It is vital that governments provide 'guardrails' for private sector development through effective regulation.

But this is not yet in place, either in the US (where the largest amount of development is taking place) or in most other parts of the world. This regulation 'vacuum' has significant ethical and safety implications for AI in the future.



* [Challenges of AI | Chatham House – International Affairs Think Tank](#)

Name the Plane Answer: Lockheed Electra 10-E

<https://www.thisdayinaviation.com/amelia-earharts-lockheed-electra-10e-special-nr16020/>

For her around-the-world flight, the airplane that Amelia Earhart chose was a Lockheed Electra 10E, manufactured by the Lockheed Aircraft Company, Burbank, California. The Electra Model 10 was an all-metal, twin-engine, low-wing monoplane with retractable landing gear, designed as a small, medium-range airliner. In the standard configuration it carried a crew of 2 and up to 10 passengers.

Amelia Earhart test flew the new airplane at Burbank on 21 July with Lockheed test pilot Elmer C. McLeod. She accepted the Electra on her 39th birthday, 24 July 1936. It received civil certification NR16020. (The letter "R" indicates that because of modifications from the standard configuration, the airplane was restricted to carrying only members of the flight crew, although Earhart and her advisor, Paul Mantz, frequently violated this restriction.) Earhart's Electra 10E Special was powered by two air-cooled, supercharged, Pratt & Whitney Wasp nine-cylinder radial engines. Clarence L. "Kelly" Johnson conducted wind tunnel testing of the Model 10 at the University of Michigan.

A detailed engineering report was prepared by a young Lockheed engineer named Clarence L. ("Kelly") Johnson to provide data for the best takeoff, climb and cruise performance with the very heavily loaded airplane. The maximum speed for the Model 10E Special at Sea Level and maximum takeoff weight was 177 miles per hour (284.9 kilometers per hour), a reduction of 25 miles per hour (40.2 kilometers per hour) over the standard airplane. The maximum range was calculated to be 4,500 miles (7,242.1 kilometers) using 1,200 gallons (4,542.5 liters) of fuel.

Johnson, pictured at below in 1937, would later design many of Lockheed's most famous aircraft, such as the SR-71A Blackbird Mach 3+ strategic reconnaissance airplane. As a student at the University of Michigan, he worked on the wind tunnel testing of the Lockheed Electra Model 10 and made recommendations that were incorporated into the production airplane.

In January 2024, Deep Sea Vision, an ocean exploration company, captured a sonar image of a plane-shaped object near Howland Island. However, the object lacks some features of Earhart's Lockheed Electra, and was indicated as most likely a rock formation.

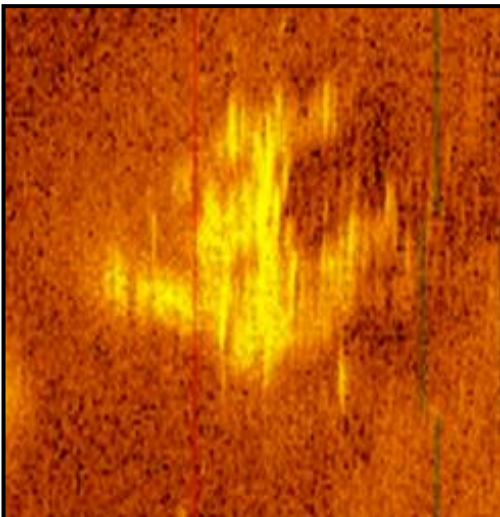
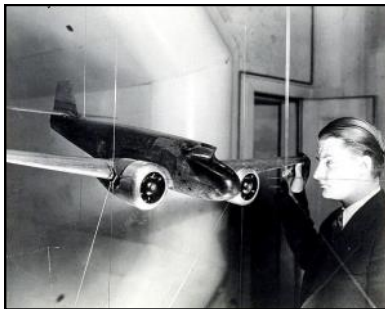
Editor's Note:

As most people know, the main theory is Amelia's Lockheed Electra sank near Howland Island in the Pacific but the hunt and interest is still there to find her plane or some key evidence will be found, but after all these years research indicates there may not be much left of the fragile aircraft but the interest is still high in finding it.

At right is the sonar image that looks like a plane that was found in January of this year. Is it really a rock formation?



Amelia Earhart stands in the cockpit of her unfinished Lockheed Electra 10E Special. Cost then was \$80,000 and was provided by the Purdue Research Foundation.



Earhart at the controls of the Electra.



Rendlesham Forest UFO Mystery

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-54649675>

Forty years ago in 1980, a remote forest in Suffolk England was the scene of one of the most famous purported UFO sightings in history. So just what did happen, and will we ever know for sure?

Vince Thurkettle was out chopping wood one morning in Rendlesham Forest in late December 1980 when a car pulled up. Out stepped two men, aged about 30, dressed in suits.

"Good morning. Do you mind if we ask you some questions?" asked one, in a well-spoken English accent.

Earlier, on 26 and 28 December, United States Air Force (USAF) security personnel stationed at nearby RAF Woodbridge air base had reported seeing strange lights in the surrounding forest.

Vince Thurkettle, now 64, was a forestry worker at the time of the incident. Forestry worker Mr. Thurkettle's unannounced - and unidentified - visitors asked if he had been out the previous night. "He said: No" he recalls.

"They said 'Did you leave the house at all? Did you see anything?' I said: 'See What?' "They said: 'Oh, there's a report of some red lights in the forest, We're just checking.' And the two of them, very politely but firmly, asked Vince probably about 20 questions. He thought they were journalists.

"They suddenly said: 'Oh well, fair enough. There's probably nothing in it.' And left. "So, I bought the papers every day for the next few days to find out what was going on and, of course, there was nothing."

USAF Lt Col Charles Halt was one of the servicemen who claimed to have witnessed the UFO at Rendlesham Forest. Three years later, however, the sighting made a *News of the World* newspaper's front page story. It proclaimed: **"UFO LANDS IN SUFFOLK, And that's OFFICIAL"**

The story was based on a memo from RAF Woodbridge deputy base commander Lt Col Charles Halt to the British Ministry of Defence (MoD). The story was released by the US government and described an encounter with an apparent UFO in the forest. Since then, the sighting has been the source of much debate and speculation among UFO enthusiasts and the subject of numerous books, articles, and TV programs.

A recent T.V. documentary concluded the sighting had achieved "legend" status, like Loch Ness or King Arthur. The forest even has its own official UFO trail, complete with a life-size replica of a flying saucer as sketched by the witnesses.

The British Forestry Commission has set up a UFO Trail in Rendlesham Forest, featuring a full sized model based on what the USAF personnel claimed to have seen that evening. Mr. Thurkettle, was one of the first people to suggest an alternative theory to explain the sighting. It could be the beam from Orfordness Lighthouse on the nearby coast to explain the



Life-sized Replica

British Forestry's UFO Trail



Photo by "Chill Factor" Films

UFO sightings? It took place, he says, in the only part of the forest where it was possible to see the now dismantled Orfordness Lighthouse.

"It's weird because you've got a slightly sloping patch of Rendlesham Forest. Then, probably a couple of miles, then Gedgrave Hill. And there was a gap in the trees on Gedgrave Hill, then eight miles to Orfordness Lighthouse.

"UFO believers have talked to former lighthouse keepers who said: 'It never beamed towards the land'. Mr. Thurkettle often thought to myself: "That's Rubbish". I've stood in the beam of the lighthouse. I've looked at it and the forest in its light, so that's not an accurate comment."

Editors Note:

So, was it a secret government classified test of some sort? The UFO mystery remains and is unexplained to this day.

December 2024 Club Christmas Party & Awards

This year's Chino Valley Flyers Christmas party was very lightly attended with only 26 members present (Over 150 total membership).

Club President **Brian Sutton** started the festivities with a Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance. Following that **Bob Shanks** provided a short Christian prayer of Thanksgiving.

The food this year was excellent and many in attendance went back for seconds. The dessert section was also well represented.

Those that did attend had a fantastic time meeting with old and new friends and enjoying holiday spirits flowing from an available pay-as-you-go bar.

Randy Meathrell filled in as MC for **Rick Nichols** this year as Ricks wife Jolene was under the weather so was unable to attend, however, Rick did supply his usual embarrassing award items as noted:

Rick Nichols received the Retracts award for his innovative approach to A/C retracts. Just bend them UP or bend them DOWN as needed for landing or take off! **Don Crowe** (not in attendance) and **Brian Sutton** both received awards for trying to get show and tell points by presenting incomplete parts of projects at club meetings. (BUSTED)

This year's Show and Tell Award went to **Mark Lipp**. (Mark showed a 70% complete 4 wing WWI model. It did however look like an airplane). Mark was in attendance too and a big thank you also has to go to his wife Jane who tirelessly helps at our field cook outs.

Jeff Moser received the **Mr. Greenlegs** award for all his hard work around the flying field. (Award showed picture of Jeff's legs covered in GREEN weeds from all his mowing activities). **Paul and Lisa Gendarme** (not in attendance) received a Thank You from the club for their generous contributions to our First Aid and Safety supplies along with their Popsicles. (**\$50 Gift Card**) **Ethel Moser** won the Ladies Door Prize and **Randy Meathrell** won the Men's Door Prize. Both received **\$50 gift cards complements of the club**. The real fun began during the gift exchange with steals happening on a regular basis. A gift could be stolen a total of only 3 times. Favorite stolen gifts were: A Flying Monkey stuffed toy, (**You had to be there**), a compound helicopter, and a ZMAN (**Steve Zingali**)



Only five tables were used, very lightly attended.



A great Christmas party cake was also prepared.

propeller trimmer won by **Bob Shanks** then stolen by **Brian Sutton** and then stolen again by **Bob Shanks** who then got to take it home. The usual chocolate bars, ladies hand cream and hobby tools filled out the rest of the gifts for the exchange. Everyone had a GREAT time, and I hope you can make it to next year's CVF Christmas Party. ([Article and report on this page prepared by Randy Meathrell.](#))

Editors Note: *Our key award of the Jay Riddle Perpetual Trophy is given each year at our banquet to one outstanding individual club member who has contributed "above and beyond" tirelessly working for the club. Jeff Moser really stepped up this year in so many ways working hard at our flying field, so besides the "Greenlegs" award he was also awarded our yearly perpetual trophy.*



Above, president **Brian Sutton** gave **Jeff Moser** the perpetual trophy award.

At far right is a list of past winners dating back to 2014. **Congratulations Jeff, a very well deserved award.**



- 2014 - Jay Riddle
- 2015 - Jerry English
- 2016 - Bob Shanks
- 2017 - Steve Shephard
- 2018 - Marc Robbins
- 2019 - Don Crowe
- 2020 - Doug McBride
- 2021 - Dan Avilla
- 2022 - Bill Gilbert
- 2023 - Mark Lipp
- 2024 - Jeff Moser



Jay Riddle Perpetual Yearly Trophy