

# CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2015 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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**Project Number** 

**J0109** 

**Project Title** 

# What Is the Best Aerodynamic Design for a UAV Wing?

## Abstract

# **Objectives/Goals**

My science project was to identify the best aerodynamic design for a Unmanned Aerial Vehicle wing. I understand why different UAVs had such a larger difference in the shapes and sizes of their wings.

#### Methods/Materials

I built 8 different shapes that could be tested within the wind tunnel. 5 of the shapes were non-flying shapes but were used to demonstrate smoke patterns off of different surfaces. 3 of the shapes were traditional wing shapes of varying aspect ratios. I placed each shape into the wind tunnel and used video to record the test events. Each shape was moved through a series of directions. The point of turbulence noted on each shape was identified. Using a contrasting grid pattern I was able to utilize a ratio to compare each shape as to its aerodynamic attributes.

#### Results

The smaller wing shape had the least noted turbulence.

## **Conclusions/Discussion**

My conclusion is that a traditional wing shape is preferred shape but the most important characteristic for the long loiter time requirement of a UAV is aspect ratio. The higher the aspect ratio, the better the lift characteristics.

# **Summary Statement**

My science project was to determine what is the effect of changing the shape of a wing and how that affects its flight characteristics.

## Help Received

My entire project was built in my garage. I used household items that could be repurposed for this project. My father helped with the cutting of the cardboard while building the wind tunnel and provided a second set of hands for the larger items.