

The Wright Flyer



Volume 24 Issue 4

AMA #4143

April 2010

Newsletter of the WRIGHT FLYERS R/C Club

Website: www.joeld.net/wfrc

Meeting Highlights

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

On Tuesday, March 9th, the Wright Flyers held the monthly membership meeting at the Monticello Middle School, room 29. This was the sixth of seven indoor meetings for the winter season.

The meeting was called to order by President Wayne VanDenBoom at 7:19 PM. There were 14 members present including four out of five club officers.

Leo Davids reviewed the minutes of the February meeting as published in the March issue of the club newsletter. The minutes were approved as published.

Perry Dziuk gave the treasurer's report. Two membership renewals were collected at the meeting and \$50 deposited from previously paid dues. A check for \$150 was issued for the 2010 AMA charter. The balance in the account is \$3729.05

A guest, Brad Maas, attended the meeting with the aim of joining the club. He lives in Columbia Heights and hopes to join our club on the way to re-energize his past involvement in the RC hobby.

Tom Springer checked with the City of Big Lake mayor about WFRC using the city's park on the lake for a float fly picnic in May. The mayor did not have a problem but wanted to check with the city council to ensure that it would be all right. Tom will know by next meeting if it would be a go to hold the float fly on Big Lake.

Mike Munoz got affirmation from Kevin Jepsen of Xcel Energy to locate a storage building for the club on the north side of the field. Only stipulation was that the storage building is either sized to not need a building permit or conforms to Monticello building code requirements. A member will check what the size

The next meeting is scheduled for
7:00 PM on Tuesday, **April 13th**,
2010. It will be held in **Room 29** of the
Monticello Middle School.

limit is for not requiring a building permit.

Tom Springer has been getting weather instrument components configured and tested to function as a remote transmitting station at the field. He still needs to acquire a battery and solar panel re-charger to complete the setup for installing at the field. Tom may not be available in April but thinks the system could be installed in May.

Garth Landefeld will be contacted to have the portable toilet vendor begin service at the field in April.

The annual field cleanup day was selected to be Saturday April 17th with inclement weather alternate to be the next day, Sunday April 18th.

In followup to the discussion of field incursion problems brought up during February's meeting, Scott Leiferman said he possesses two or three warning signs that former member Rich Johnson had made for the club. Tom Springer volunteered to get metal fence posts to mount the signs on so that they could be installed as part of the field cleanup in April.

Wayne VanDenBoom asked about interest in ordering more club logo apparel. He still has access to silk screened t-shirts and sweatshirts. Wayne will email members to solicit orders for styles, sizes and colors by the next club meeting in April. Any orders will require

prepayment of the approximate cost so he doesn't have to finance the order out of his own pocket.

Scott Leiferman noted that the discussion forum on the club web site has gone silent for a number months. He encourages people to use this forum to help keep the club's camaraderie alive during the off-season.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Show & Tell

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

Nate Ewing - Nate returned with the progress on the scratch build of the Pitts S1 which he had at the previous meeting. He has the fuselage fabricated as a profile model with a 40 glow engine for power. Nate also had one of the wings framed up.



John Kossiek - John brought in his water powered rocket that he recently campaigned with at his company's annual employee competition. John managed to bury the competition with his unique

design of a 2-stage rocket. The design has all the stage separation and parachute deployment enabled purely mechanical pressure decay mechanisms. John estimates the rocket attained an altitude of around 800 feet for his winning flight. This altitude was about twice the height attained by his nearest competitor.

Upcoming Events

WFRC Field Cleanup - Saturday, April 17th, at Montissippi Park. The normal starting time is 9 am. As of the publishing of the newsletter, the condition of the field was such that not much work should be needed. There are no signs of ruts or gopher mounds to smooth out. Possibly some small trees and brush could be trimmed at the west end of the field. The field may be rolled unless it is done the weekend of April 10th to take advantage of recent rainfall. Wayne hopes to have some kind of lunch to serve for the workers.

Monticello Community Center Senior Hobby Day - May 14th or 21st.

WFRC Float Fly - May 1st or 8th. Presuming that weather allows it to be held on the 1st, details of where (Big Lake or Twin Lakes Parks) will not be timed for the next club newsletter. Look for details on the club forum or by email notice if you have a email address on file.

TCRC Spring Float Fly - May 8th, Bush Lake Park in Bloomington. More details may be in the next issue of the club newsletter.

Grassfield Electric Funfly - On Saturday, May 15th, the Grassfield club will hold an electric only aircraft fun fly from 8 AM to 3 PM at their field on Hi-way 169 and 101st St North. There is no fee to fly but must have current AMA card. There will be a drawing for an F-15 ARF for everyone who puts in a flight. Contact Don Granlund for more information at 763-561-5282.

Big Sky Hobby Swap Meet - Sunday, May 23rd, at their store in Eagan.

Great Minnesota Air Show - Mark your calendars for June 26th & 27th, 2010 when an air show will be held at the St. Cloud Airport with the headlined act of the Navy Blue Angels. Check the event web site <http://www.thegreatminnesotairshow.com/> for

details as the show dates approach.

American Barnstormers Tour - July 3-5 at Chandler Field in Alexandria. Twenty meticulously restored vintage aircraft from the 1920's and 1930's will stop here as part of a seven-city nineteen-day tour through the northern Great Plains states. Admission is free. The program includes a professionally narrated Barnstormers Parade of Flight. Air rides can be purchased and these vintage biplanes will be on the ramp for display. Check for details on www.americanbarnstormertour.com.

How to Glass a Wing Center Section

by Scott Wilke, From the Milwaukee Area Radio Kontrol Club, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Many folks have asked me how I manage to get such a smooth polyester resin center section on my wings. Believe me when I say that it wasn't always that way! However, I found that following these techniques, while taking a little more time and effort, is quite affective.

1. Make faint pencil markings, 3-4 inches apart, as a guide on the center section indicating the width the glass cloth and resin will eventually cover.
2. Cut two pieces of glass cloth to the proper width and length. For the wing bottom, cut a length that just approaches the width of the wing (chord), but does not go over the leading or trailing edges. Next, cut a length for the wing top that goes over the top, around the leading and trailing edges and overlaps the bottom glass cloth about 1/4 inch or less on both ends. The purpose of this is to keep your seams, if any, at the bottom to avoid having to mate the two pieces at the exact center of the leading and trailing edges where it can be quite difficult to get the cloth to lay down.
3. Mix up about 1/2-ounce polyester resin and put one drop more hardener in the mix than the instructions call for. This works great with K&B resin but might be a little too hot for some other brands. Test your brand before you try it as you will need about 10-15 minutes working time.

Using the pencil lines you made before as a guide, paint a light coat of resin on the center section bottom, just enough so that it is almost absorbed into the balsa, but not entirely. (Note: This is important and you should avoid excesses here, a little less than more would be better.)

Next, lay the bottom piece of glass cloth on the resin and work it into the resin with your fingers, working all bubbles or wrinkles until it lays flat. You

should have good lighting and look at the work from all angles to make sure it is lying perfectly flat. Also, if you are sensitive to the resin, you may wish to consider wearing rubber gloves.

Repeat the above procedure on the top except you will also be painting the leading and trailing edges and overlapping on the bottom. If you think you need more resin to get the cloth to stick, particularly at the LE or TE, use your finger to paint it on because the bristles of your brush will sag the cloth.

4. Let the resin cure for 24 hours in a horizontal position to avoid drips from forming.
5. Mix up another 1/2 ounce of resin and paint it over the already hardened surface until you can see the cloth is completely filled and the surface is smooth. Let it cure for 24 hours.
6. Cut off the cloth that covers the servo or wing bolt openings. Sand the center section lightly to remove stray cloth fibers and to blend the resined center section into the rest of the balsa wood. If you did the job right you will have very little or no sanding at all. Isn't that what you wanted in the first place?

Tips & Tricks

Balsa Dents

When you accidentally dent a piece of balsa during construction of a model, try this old cabinet-maker's trick. Put a few drops of white vinegar on it instead of using filler. The vinegar will pull 99% of the dent out. Works best overnight. Try it; it really works!

Construction Tip

When taking an airplane apart for repair, put all the parts into a clear freezer bag with the name printed on the outside. This will save time in looking for the parts needed, as the airplane repairs are being completed. Some freezer bags have a spot for the name to be printed on and, if you put in a piece of the airplane's MonoKote, this will speed up the ID.

—both from the Woodland Aero Modelers, Downers Grove, Illinois

Servo Connectors

To hold your radio/servo connectors together, use a piece of thin string or dental floss and wrap it around the connectors, looping it through the wires so it pulls the two connectors together. Use a nonslip knot to tie the string so it does not come untied. Don't let an unplugged connector cost you a crash.

Antenna

When collapsing your transmitter antenna make sure to grab the bottom of each section and pull down.



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Pushing from the top can easily bend the antenna.
—both from the Privateers, Mills, Wyoming

Cartoons

From the 1995 Warped Wings Calendar by Bob Zimmerman



2010 Club Officers

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Café Express

Want club logo apparel & other items? Shop here:
<http://www.cafepress.com/wrightflyersrc>.

If you have news or ideas for articles you would like to see, you can email me at jedweb@charter.net or call me at 763-263-3577. Jean Davids
