

The Wright Flyer



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Newsletter of the WRIGHT FLYERS R/C Club

Website: www.joeld.net/wfrc

Meeting Highlights

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

On Tuesday, September 13th, the Wright Flyers held the monthly membership meeting at the Montissippi Park Flying Field. This was the last outdoor meeting of the season.

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM by club president Wayne VanDenBoom. There were 4 officers and 8 members present.

The Secretary read meeting minutes and they were approved as read.

The treasury report was given by Perry Dziuk. The following expenditure was noted, \$76.84 for monthly portable toilet rental. Revenue of \$55 was booked for a membership. The current treasury balance is \$4547.72.

Garth Landefeld handed out a preliminary program for the upcoming fun-fly set for Saturday September 17th. In addition to the \$100 gift certificate to Hobby Zone in Plymouth, the club is budgeting \$200 from the treasury for Garth to use for prizes in the pilot competition events.

Jeff Nelson gave the particulars on the meeting room we have reserved for the monthly meetings through the winter (Room #29 at Monticello Middle School). The official reserved time is the second Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. The November meeting will be on election day, so the meeting cannot official begin until the polls close at 8 PM. The cost for the room for all seven meetings will be \$31.26 total.

John Kossieck has found that because the grass on the field continued to grow under the white section of

The next meeting is scheduled for
7:00 PM on Tuesday, **October 11th,**
2011. It will be held in **Room 29** of the
Monticello Middle School.

runway mat, that section had to be removed from the field. John hopes that from this experience he can be selective to get just black mat whenever it becomes available. The section of white mat will be stored at the field along side the roller on the far side of the field pending ideas on how it could be used in the future runway scheme.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

WFRC Fun Fly Results

by Garth Landefeld, WFRC Safety Officer

On Sept 17th the club held a member fun fly that included various contests and a delicious picnic lunch. It was great to see everyone out enjoying camaraderie.

The day started with a quick pilot meeting to insure we had a safe and fun day and then it was time to get serious! They say this is a fun fly. Ha!

There were four different events to test the skills of our pilots and to gain field bragging rights. Each contest offered an offbeat challenge to level the playing field between the diverse field of 9 pilots and the various types of planes (electric and glow). The 4 events were:

1. Dice Roll – 6 maneuvers are identified and numbered, Pilot rolls for the maneuver and rolls for

the numbers of times it must be completed. Timed from engine start to landing and shut down. Lowest time wins.

2. ETA! – Pilot draws time from a hat, time starts at take off, ends at landing shut down. Closest time wins.
3. OH CRAP! – Pilot rolls a pair of dice to get his number. Starts engine completes one roll, one loop, lands taxi's back and shuts down. Then roll the dice until number is rolled. Lowest time wins.
4. SPOT Landings TEAM EVENT – 3 Squares are outlined on the runway. Each pilot has three landings – Team with the high score wins.

In addition to the piloting skills needed to successfully compete, the pilots all had to contend with strong, gusty winds throughout the day. Even with that extra degree of difficulty, everyone flew each of the events! There was only one mishap that caused aircraft damage. The most entertaining was the spot landing event due to the wind making this event extremely challenging. It was amazing that there was no lawn darts!

The spot landing had both individual and team elements. Teams of two were drawn that paired electric and glow pilots together, with the highest point team winning a cash prize of \$25 above the individual performance.

Lastly we had 3 door prizes that were drawn for:

- \$100 gift certificate to Hobby Zone - Alex Stang
- Hobby Zone Champ Electric plane - Chris Martin
- \$50 gift certificate to Baker Hobby Shop in St Cloud – Leo Davids

Thanks to Wayne for the great burger and dog grilling and those who contributed side dishes and desserts that insured the judge was taken care of!

The results for events are as follow: (*=Electric)

<u>Event</u>	<u>1st place</u>	<u>2nd place</u>	<u>3rd place</u>
Dice Roll	*John Kossieck	Chris Martin	*Alex Stang
OH Crap	*John Kossieck	Dave Nims	*Leo Davids
ETA	Chris Martin	*John Kossieck	*Alex Stang
Spot Landing	*Alex Stang	*Leo Davids	Dave Nims
Spot Landing Team Winner: "Crows" Dave Martin & Alex Stang (The Buzzards – Leo Davids & Dave Nims) were a close second!			



EDF Bungee Launch Learning Curve

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

The 2011 summer flying season started off with great hopes that the second addition to my electric ducted fan (EDF) fleet, another military jet (F-4 Phantom), would be complementing the missions that my two-season veteran L-39 Albatros had flown so effortlessly. Since hand launches with the L-39 were a non-event, I presumed that the F-4 (without undercarriage as the Brits would say) would easily hand launch as well, even though it was a little bigger and heavier than the L-39.

However, it soon became clear that something was amiss. Four of the first five hand launches were close to disaster. After about 10 feet of level flying out-of-hand, the F-4 would rear up to a hair raising tail-stand hover at full power. Only by throttling back would the nose drop and only in one instance was a save made to get it back flying level without impacting the ground. Most of the damage was minor until the sixth hand

launch where the impact with the ground broke the entire nose off.

I was aware that some F-4 EDF's have exhibited a tendency to rotate over on their backs if full power is applied near their stall speed. I wasn't about to refit this plane with the fixed undercarriage that it comes with (need a hard surface runway and looks terrible with gear down in the air), so I began to investigate the age old bungee launch. The usual elastic material of choice for the bungee is latex surgical tubing. However, the recommended 15 feet of tubing was going to cost between \$30-\$40 if purchased at local hardware stores or just about anywhere I could find it on the internet for that matter.

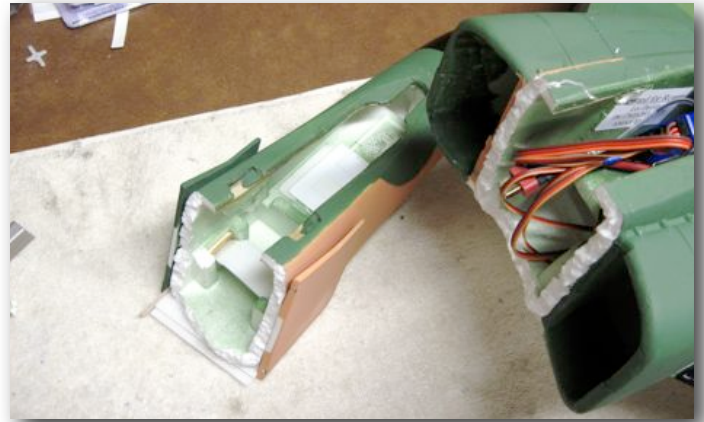
I read that someone had success using regular cargo tie-down bungee cord that was much less expensive. So with a great deal from Harbor Freight, I got enough to make 3 or 4 bungee launchers. I used about 30 feet for the launcher, because I noted it didn't stretch nearly as much as latex surgical tubing. After fitting a launch hook on the belly of the F-4, I got two successful launches. But due to the cord weight and down pull, those launches were from the ground, skidding it on the drop tanks. However, when I tried the first standing launch, i.e., holding the plane chest high, it didn't develop enough speed and did the infamous tail stand. Fortunately, it attained enough altitude to recover and fly out level.

Seeing that the bungee cord was only providing a marginal launch force, it was back searching for latex surgical tubing. I finally found a vendor on eBay that sold a 15 foot length for \$15 which I purchased. It was indeed more stretchy and much lighter in weight. And now the launch success has gone from a "flip of the coin" to a perfect 5-for-5. The launch velocity obtained is well beyond stall speed so the plane tracks solidly on the launch heading and picks up speed for climb in less than 150 feet.



Because of the summer long learning curve, I have

only about a dozen missions on the F-4, less than half what I hoped for, but at least now I have good assurance that it will reliably fly on any give day.



*Above: broken nose of airplane after crash.
Below: Bungee cord on left, surgical tubing on the right*



EAA Fly-in Dinner

by Jean Davids, WFRC Newsletter Ed.

The Maple Lake EAA Chapter held their 25th annual pork chop dinner at the Maple Lake Airport on Sunday, September 11th, starting at 11:30 AM. Along



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with the dinner, there were airplane rides available, door prizes and a prop clock raffle.

WFRC once again displayed R/C aircraft in the hanger where the dinner is served. John Kossieck brought his laptop with simulator for anyone who wanted to brave a flight or two on it. Leo Davids, John Kossieck, Joel Dirnberger and Garth Landefeld all contributed airplanes for the display. We also saw Al Amundson attended the event as well as Mike Ackerman. It was perfect weather and a fun day. Thanks John Kossieck for manning the WFRC display for the day. It is greatly appreciated!



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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

