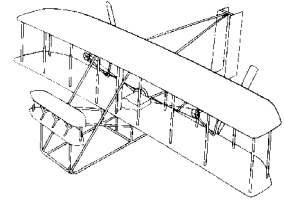


The Wright



VOLUME 21 ISSUE 10

AMA# 4143

OCTOBER 2007

NEWSLETTER OF THE WRIGHT FLYERS R/C CLUB

Meeting Highlights

On Tuesday, September 11th, the Wright Flyers held the monthly membership meeting at the Montissippi Park flying field. This was fifth and final meeting of the summer flying season to be held at the field.

The business meeting was called to order at 7:21 PM by Vice-President Wayne VanDen-Boom. There were 8 members present including four club officers. The secretary presented the minutes of the August meeting. The minutes were approved as read. A treasurer's report was given which included receipt of \$160 into the treasury and expenditures of \$472.94 from the treasury. These expenditures included two field mowings, cost of the picnic fun-fly, portable toilet rental and newsletter printing and mailing.

Jeff Nelson has contacted the Monticello school to reserve the meeting room at the middle school (room #30) for October through April club monthly meetings. The room is reserved from 7 to 8:30 PM on the second Tuesday of each month.

Discussion was continued from last month about the placement of safety tables in the pit area at the flying field. The only other orientation suggested was pointing the tables so the aircraft faced the flight-line. That would cause the air and exhaust blasts toward the parked vehicles which did not appeal to those at this meeting. No one had any recollection of props tending to fly off an aircraft in the direction they were pointed, more often the electric starter kicks

The next meeting is scheduled for **7:00 PM** on Tuesday, October 9th, 2007. It will be held in **Room 30 of the Monticello Middle School.**

them sideways, So the tables will be left as is for now.

Garth Landefeld will notify the portable toilet contractor that we would like the service terminated on the 15th of October. He also had just mowed the field for hopefully the last time this season but noted there are two large gopher holes the need filling and a number of pocket gopher mounds that should be leveled. Anyone is welcome to bring a shovel and rake to do this while they are flying at the field.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Maple Lake EAA Fly-in Dinner

As part of this annual event at the Maple Lake airport on Sunday September 9th, our members set up a static display for the public to view in the main hanger where the dinner was being served. This display included at least a dozen aircraft brought in by members Garth Landefeld,

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Mike Ackerman, Al Amundson, Leo Davids and John Kossieck.

In addition to the aircraft we had a photo display board of flying activity at the club field and a table with club information brochures and signup sheet for membership packages. There were quite a few of our club emblem stickers that were given out as well.

John Kossieck and his wife Joyce spent a good part of their day at the display with their laptop PC showing the results of their aerial photography. still shots and video, from John's RC camera plane.



The DeHavilland Caribou that came in from the Air Museum at Anoka (above). The display of airplanes was great. Thanks to all who contributed.



John Kossieck and his wife Joyce spent a good part of their day at the display with their laptop PC and airplane.



An Evening at the Amusement Park - Almost!

On Monday evening September 10th, The Minnesota Valley RC Club invited the MARCEE group to their field to fly electric aircraft and hold their monthly member meeting. Three members of the WFRC club, John Kossieck, Al Amundson and Leo Davids joined the activities at the MVRC field in Shakopee. The field is located on the south side of Highway 101, not far from the Valley Fair Amusement Park. The field is a spacious opening in a commercial industrial area along the Minnesota River Valley.

The MVRC facility is a 2-runway field with stapled down smooth mat surfaces. The pit area includes safety tables and a shelter. The flight stations (5 or 6 in number) face east for the main-north-south runway. There is a sparse grass covering surrounding the runways.

The flying started at about 5 PM and was interrupted by a short meeting before continuing until sunset. As the sun went down, sufficient MARCEE members had arrived to keep all the flight stations occupied and the sky filled with aircraft. Al, John and Leo got in some enjoyable flying and John documented yet another RC field with his aerial video equipment.

This was the last outdoor flying/meeting this season for MARCEE and everyone was grateful for the opportunity to visit great fields like this one to put on an exhibition of electric powered flight.



The Minnesota Valley RC Club flying field.



Valley Fair Amusement Park. Both photos taken by John Kossieck using his aerial camera equipment.

Lavochkin La-11, a 29 Year Project



In the April 1978 issue of Model Aviation magazine, page 78 contained a simple 3-view drawing of a relatively obscure Russian fighter aircraft. To a 2-year veteran of the

RC aircraft hobby, this Russian Lavochkin seemed to be the culmination of the classic WWII piston powered fighter aircraft. If a person was looking to make a splash in the area of RC scale competition, this would be a worthy subject to scratch build. With some ingenuity employing an overhead projector, a set of plans was drawn to build a modest 40-powered model of the La-11.

At first, this project took shape at a reasonable pace considering the builder had but a couple years experience in scratch building. But as is often the case in a hobby, other priorities diverted attention. So the La-11 languished in its roughed in configuration for over 5 years before the builder became invigorated to complete the La-11. This time, there was significant progress to the point the model was nearly ready for paint and markings. But now other activities in the builder's life put his whole RC hobby on the back burner. It would be over 10 years before the RC hobby again rose to the forefront of the La-11's owner. But now, a new facet of the hobby, electric power dominated his interest. It was now looking like the La-11 was destined for swap meet, auction or maybe even the trash barrel.

Now, the clock had been running for over 25 years on the La-11 project and the builder realizes that he will likely

never have the inclination to return to a glow powered project with the newly acquired taste for electric power. Still that La-11 is not easy to let go of not knowing if it will ever make it into the air. Finally, an idea comes to mind!

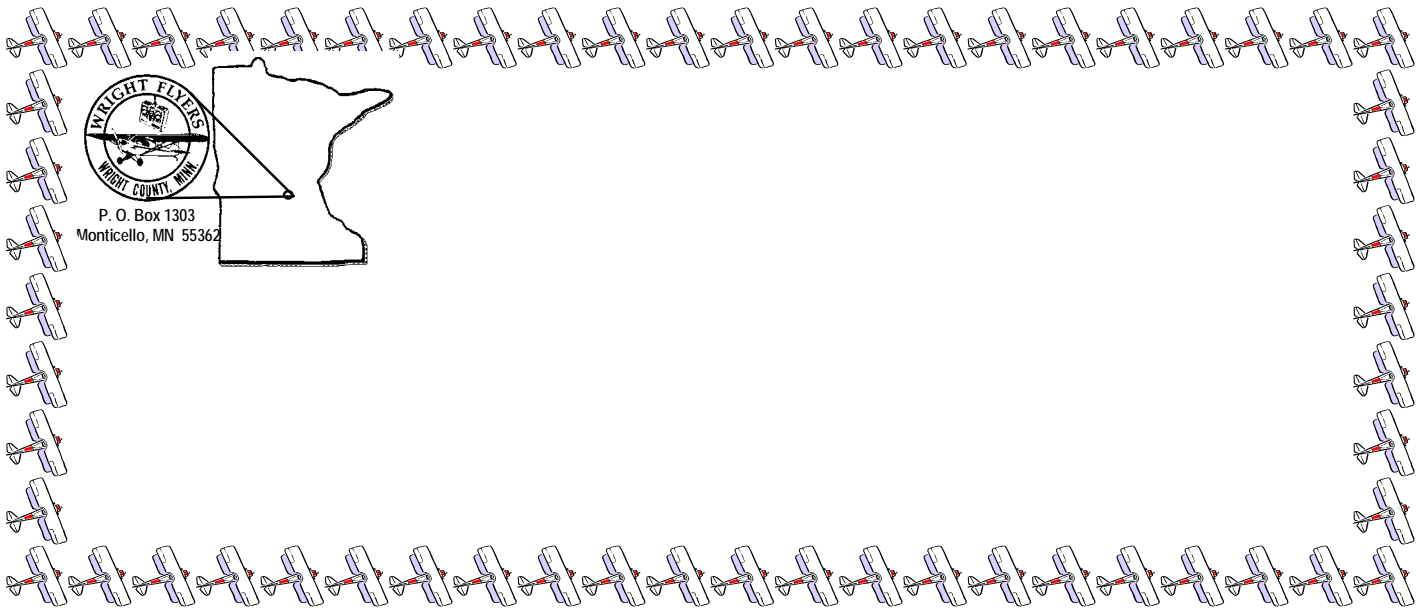
Garth Landefeld has been a lifelong model aircraft hobbyist. He joined the WFRC club a number of years ago and initially flew trainer aircraft but gradually progressed to more challenging scale aircraft. With his family background going back to the early days of the RC hobby, Garth was interested in scratch building and began to hone skills which scale building showcases. So last winter Leo Davids decided to give Garth an opportunity to acquire his now 29-year old Lavochkin La-11 project. Garth immediately liked the model and felt he could carry the project to its completion. So the deal was made and Garth took title to the La-11.

Garth thought he had gotten an ARF of sorts but spent a lot of time and effort finding a suitable engine to fit into the cowling (Magnum 50) as well as authentic color and marking scheme for such an obscure subject. His research found a North Korean version from the Korean War era. Since the model came to Garth fiberglass-over-balsa, he opted to go with epoxy paint to match the North Korean livery. Garth finished up with a custom set of North Korean military markings and extensive panel lines. For a little more realism, Garth animated the pilot with a moving head.

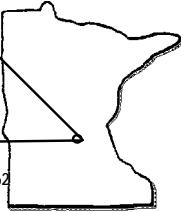
Garth graciously left the honor for the maiden flight with the La-11's creator, Leo. So, on Thursday September 27th, Garth and Leo met at the WFRC field to give the La-11 its maiden flight. Both were acutely aware that a first flight could be as big a challenge as all the work they had already put into this subject. Clouds were rolling in and the wind was picking up although right down the runway. The first takeoff roll was aborted with the wheels just lifting off due to tracking problems.

After a new prop and rudder adjustment the second takeoff attempt got the La-11 airborne. Jean Davids took video of the maiden flight, just in case. At first the plane needed lots of down trim but as that was getting resolved, one of the main landing gear fell off. The test team decided that the remainder of this flight would be conducted with the remaining gear retracted. The plane was trimmed a little more and some slow flight checked for the impending belly landing. Meanwhile, intermittent rain sprinkles added a distraction. A belly landing was executed with idle power glide and engine cut when the plane was into ground effect. The combination of ground effect and wind gust caused a nose pitch-up which gave rise to a wing tip drop and a cart-wheel. The wing broke away from the

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P. O. Box 1303
Monticello, MN 55362



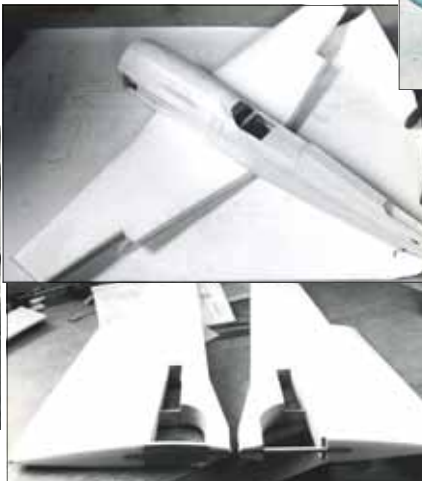
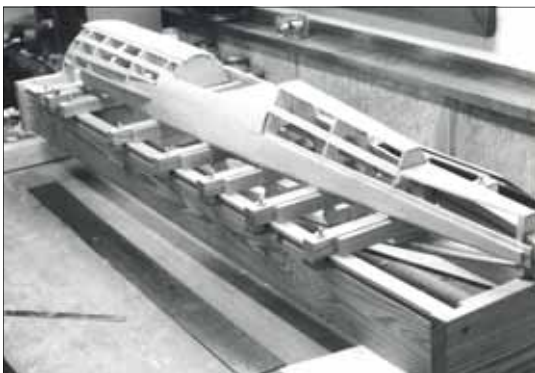
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fuselage and lay under the fuselage after everything came to rest. Other than wing attachment bolts, there was no structural damage and only a couple cosmetic nicks to the aircraft surface.

Currently, Garth has the La-11 repaired and adjusted the down trim it required for initial flight. We hope to get some more testing done to get to an awesome performing unique scale model that has been the goal of this project for 29 long years.



Before and after photos of the La-11 Leo and Garth built.



2007 Club Officers

Pres.....Scott **Leiferman**..... 763-682-2707
VP.....Wayne Van Den Boom... 763-428-2360
Treasurer....Perry Dzuik..... 763-477-6865
Secretary.....Leo Davids..... 763-263-3577
Safety Off....Garth Landefeld 763-497-5828
News Ed.....Jean Davids..... 763-263-3577

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

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