

The Wright Flyer



Volume 23 Issue 4

AMA #4143 April 2009

Newsletter of the WRIGHT FLYERS R/C Club

Website: www.joeld.net/wfrc

Meeting Highlights

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

On Tuesday, March 10th, the Wright Flyers cancelled the monthly membership meeting at the Monticello Middle School. Inclement weather prompted the school district to cancel school which meant that all evening community education programs were also cancelled. Our room reservation at the school is part of that program.

AMA Club Charter

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

The charter renewal and insurance certificates for our club field were sent to the club at the end of February. The club is chartered with AMA through March 31, 2010, and the field insurance for the Wright County Parks Department and the Xcel Energy Nuclear plant gives coverage for the club operating model aircraft, cars, boats and rockets from the Monticello Park flying field through March 31, 2010.

Upcoming Events

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

TCRC Spring Float Fly - The Twin Cities RC Club will hold their annual spring fly-in for float planes on Saturday, May 9th, at the Bush Lake park in Bloomington. The event will begin at 11 AM. Check the club's web site at www.tcrconline.com for more details as the event comes closer.

Monticello Senior Center Hobby Day - The center is hosting their annual hobby day for the students of the Pinewood Elementary School on Friday May 15th. Senior WFRC Club members are invited to display their RC models and demonstrate

The next meeting is scheduled for **7:00 PM** on Tuesday, **April 14th**, 2009. It will be held in **Room 29** of the **Monticello Middle School**.

Be aware that the room number can change but should be posted if it does.

various aspects of the hobby to 100's of students in groups of 40-60 at a time from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM at the Community Center on Walnut Street in Monticello. A complimentary lunch will be provided for the presenters. Call Leo Davids at 763-263-3577 if you can participate.

Grassfield Electric Fun Fly - On Saturday May 16th there will be an electric powered aircraft fun fly at the Grassfield club field at 101st off Highway 169 in Coon Rapids. The fun fly runs from 8 AM to 3 PM and has no entry fee, just AMA required. Everyone flying will be entered in raffle. Contact Don Granlund at 673-561-5282 for more information.

Big Sky Hobby Swap Meet - Jeremy Steinmueller is resurrecting his hobby store parking lot swap meet at his new Big Sky Hobby Store on 3402 Federal Drive in Eagan. This event will run from 8 AM to Noon on Sunday May 17th. There is no registration fee and complementary hot breakfast ? will be available. Call Jeremy at 651-905-8909 with questions.

Wright Flyers Spring Training Event

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

Through the well honed social networking skill of Scott Leiferman, the first assembly of club fliers was

marshaled for a flying exercise on Saturday, March 21st, at the Montissippi Field. Actually, Scott merely sent an email on the club distribution list earlier that week saying he was showing up mid-morning on the 21st to fly.

The day started cold and foggy. A few hardy souls were there before noon but had some severely low ceilings to contend with. No one would say if Scott used this opportunity to lead everyone in conditioning calisthenics prior to allowing the first plane to launch. The fog was predicted to burn off after 10 AM but didn't noticeably begin to open until after noon. By 2 PM, with the help of some CO2 emitting model aircraft engines (at least that's what one Al Gore would have you believe), it was horizon-to-horizon blue skies with very light wind. Before the afternoon was over, eight other members had joined Scott and got some pleasant early season flying in.

The field itself was dry and smooth for the most part. There were a few gopher holes that managed to bend or break a couple of planes' landing gear but no serious damage was done. The parking lot was still very muddy and sloppy where water was standing. The windsock had survived the winter but that day's pilots had to rough it with respect to toilet facilities.

There was a quite a variety of aircraft launched during the day. Most pilots brought their old standbys to work the cobwebs out of their brains. We had electrics, glow and gasoline each chewing up a good share of the sky. If your reporter hadn't gotten so engrossed in Scott's newly electrified Extra 300S, there might have been some photos to illustrate how great a day this turned out to be.

In the Blink of an Eye

Don Nix, InsiderSafety Column Editor

More often than not, that's about all the time it takes for most accidents to happen. I can think of one personal incident where the quick blink of my eyes saved me from more serious problems.

A couple of decades or so ago while living in Southern California, my wife and I decided to spend a long weekend at a cabin we rented occasionally in a small village up near Big Bear in the San Bernardino mountains.

Being born lazy and losing ground ever since, I'm usually quite content to do as little as possible; especially if it requires exerting any physical effort. This time, though, I had an idea about how to both relax and do something productive at the same time.

I'd just acquired a new RC kit I was anxious to get started, and since it was of the type that goes together rather quickly with a minimum of tools or accoutrements, I took it along to build.

Fortunately, the cabin was equipped with a rather large, long table perfect for laying out plans and materials. While my wife lingered over coffee the first morning, I got everything ready to go; punched out all the die-cut parts (pre-laser), identified everything, made sure nothing was missing (even read the instructions!), and reached for the thin CA.

I had been especially careful to bring along a brand new, unopened bottle of the stuff so I wouldn't be stuck without enough to finish or have old material. (Remember that word "stuck.") The container was one where you snap off the top to open, and then reverse it to become the cap to seal it back.

Looking at it carefully to be sure I snapped it cleanly, I did so and instantly got a face shower of CA.

That's where the blink of my eyes saved me. Amazing how fast our body can spontaneously and involuntarily react when attacked. Not a drop got into my eyes, although one lid was partially glued shut. That stuff does set instantly under the right conditions!

Surprisingly, I immediately knew what had happened. The material was packaged at near sea level, and I was up about 7,500 feet in the mountains. You can figure out the rest. The higher pressure inherent in the package at the lower altitude combined with the considerably reduced pressure at a much higher altitude outside effectively converted it to aerosol form for a split second.

This would compare to sudden depressurization in an airliner at altitude, and works exactly the same way. Everything inside responds to an urgent need to go out until the pressure is equalized.

(Brief digression: Don't you die laughing at those disaster movies that show an airliner decompressing with everything and everyone being sucked outside for several minutes? No way, no how.)

I got the model ready to cover by the end of the long weekend, but spent a good deal of time peeling CA from various locations on my face and neck. Incidentally, just plain soap and water will loosen the stuff in most cases so it can be more easily peeled. There are commercial debonders available, of course, but I don't think I'd use them on my face or near my eyes.

Later, in telling the above story to a friend in the CAbusiness, he told me about an experience his company had when installing a new CAfilling machine. They got everything—electrical, pipes, hoses, etc.—all hooked up and flipped the switch to give it a trial run. When they did, a hose connection failed and all in the area were pretty well showered with CA... the thin type that sets instantly.

Point: Most accidents do happen in the blink of an eye, and sometimes it's difficult to anticipate them. Fortunately, most are preventable with a little caution, good sense and forethought, and we'll deal with some of those in future columns.

In the meantime, if you've had an experience you'd like to pass on for the benefit of others, I'd be happy to hear from you: FLYERDON@aol.com.

Happy modeling and flying ... safely.

Think Again--Blink Again!

Don Nix, Insider Safety Column Editor

In my last column (In the Blink of an Eye), I told of a personal mishap with CA adhesive. Shortly after that issue went online, reader Darwin Hawkins of Kansas responded with his own personal incident:

“A few years back I put some CA on a rather involved joint. Hit it with the kicker and the joint exploded in my face. I had not noticed that a pool of it had formed in a corner. Lucky for me, I had my reading glasses on, as the CA splattered right into the line of vision in the center of my right lens and actually etched the plastic in several places. I still have those glasses. They hang on the end of the pull cord I use to turn on the light over my work bench. I can never turn on that light without being reminded that safety glasses can save your eyes. Who would have ever thought you need safety glasses when working with CA?”

Thanks, Darwin. Personal experiences from you readers out there are usually more interesting—and likely to be taken seriously—than anything I can preach about. Keep ‘em coming on any subject related to safety.

Since writing the previous column, I remembered a second personal experience with CA that threatened to be more serious than just getting my face splattered. I can't imagine any modeler who hasn't read the warnings on CA bottles about minimizing the inhalation of fumes, using with plenty of ventilation, etc. However, I have to admit that I sometimes

become pretty casual about such warnings, especially after using a particular product for a while without incident.

These days, we are inundated with a virtual Niagara of warnings. So much so that they become like wallpaper, and our eyes glaze over when reading them. Because of the litigious society we live in these days, lawyers insist manufacturers warn about every possible hazard, however slight the likelihood or how silly it might seem. For example, some manufacturers of model propellers are putting stickers on them saying something like “Do not put fingers in spinning propellers.” Uhhh ... yeah. As the old saying goes, “It's impossible to make anything foolproof, because fools are so ingenious!”

After using CA for years with no problems, I had assumed I was immune to any adverse effects. Well, we all know what happens when we assume something.

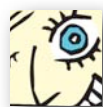
Staying up late one Friday night, I was doing a lot of sheeting on the leading edges of a pair of wings so I could cover them the next day. I spent a couple of hours using copious amounts of CA, with my face up very close so I could see in all the nooks and crannies.

Near the end of the task, I noticed I was beginning to wheeze a little, and by the time I cleaned up and made it to bed, I sounded like someone in the last stages of emphysema. Having had a daughter with severe asthma, I began to realize what she must have gone through in many of her attacks.

I spent the next two nights propped up about 30 degrees in my bed so I could breathe. The first thing I did the next day was to order one of those masks that control such problems. I think the one I bought was made by 3M and cost perhaps ten bucks. Yeah, it was a bit of a nuisance to wear the thing, but a couple of days wheezing around the house made a believer out of me. And my wife thought the Darth Vader look improved my appearance.

Now might be a good time to review the precautionary information on the various products you use—household materials as well as hobby products. They are there for a purpose, and usually because somebody somewhere has suffered ill effects.

I'm always happy to answer reader questions (if I can) at FLYERDON@aol.com. Until next time, happy modeling and flying ... safely.





In This Issue

- ✓ Meeting Highlights
- ✓ AMA Club Charter
- ✓ Upcoming Events
- ✓ Wright Flyers Spring Training Event
- ✓ In the Blink of an Eye
- ✓ Think Again--Blink Again!

2009 Club Officers

Pres..... Scott Leiferman..... 763-245-2859
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

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

Garth's modified fuel pump needed to be closely monitored.

