

April 2020

Balsa Dust

An Official Publication Of Genesee Valley Aero Modelers, Ltd.

www.gvam.org

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NEXT G.V.A.M. MEETING

Thursday 10/8/20 6:30pm at the Honeoye Public Library
(8708 Main St. Honeoye)

Dues Are Due

The 2020 flying season has arrived and that means annual GVAM club dues are due once again. Many members have already paid this year's dues but for any holdouts the time has come. Adult membership remains at \$75.00, junior membership (19 and younger) \$1.00 and social membership (non-flying) \$15.00. Dues can be mailed to:

Glenn Crocker, GVAM Treasurer
21 Highview Trail
Pittsford, NY 14534

Did You Know?

By Nick Trezza

Ladies and Gentleman and children of all ages, I hope everyone is safe and virus-free. I'm going a little nuts. When my wife goes to work it leaves me in the house alone with my dog Sadie. I talk to Sadie all day long and lately she's starting to talk back to me. I gotta get the Hell out of the house real soon!!! Anyway, here is this months' "Did You Know?"

We start with the Doolittle raid at the beginning of WW2. The President decided the U.S. had to do something in retaliation for what the Japanese did to us at Pearl Harbor so it was decided to get Jimmy Doolittle (who was already a great aviator and won several air races) to lead a raid. As everyone knows, Doolittle decided to launch the raid with B-25 bombers from an aircraft carrier (the Hornet) which had never been done. To make the bombers light enough for takeoff from the carrier they took all kinds of equipment out of the planes like machine guns and ammo. Then Doolittle was worried about the planes being attacked from the rear. What he did was put 2 broom sticks out the rear of each bomber to simulate a tail gunner. Well, the raid was a success but there wasn't much damage done to Tokyo. However, it was said at the time it made a statement and boosted morale for the U.S. after Pearl Harbor.

Next, in the mid 1920's when airplane manufacturers formed small companies to hold the contracts for passenger transportation and flying the mail the government got involved and told them, "You companies can't do that because you're creating a monopoly." So the corporations had to break up the smaller companies and create larger companies. Here are just a few; Transcontinental Air Transport (TAT) merged with Western Air Express to become the world-famous TWA. Aviation Corporation (AVCO) became American Airlines (AA). Boeing Aircraft purchased United Aircraft and Transportation Corporation to become separate companies Boeing and United Airlines.

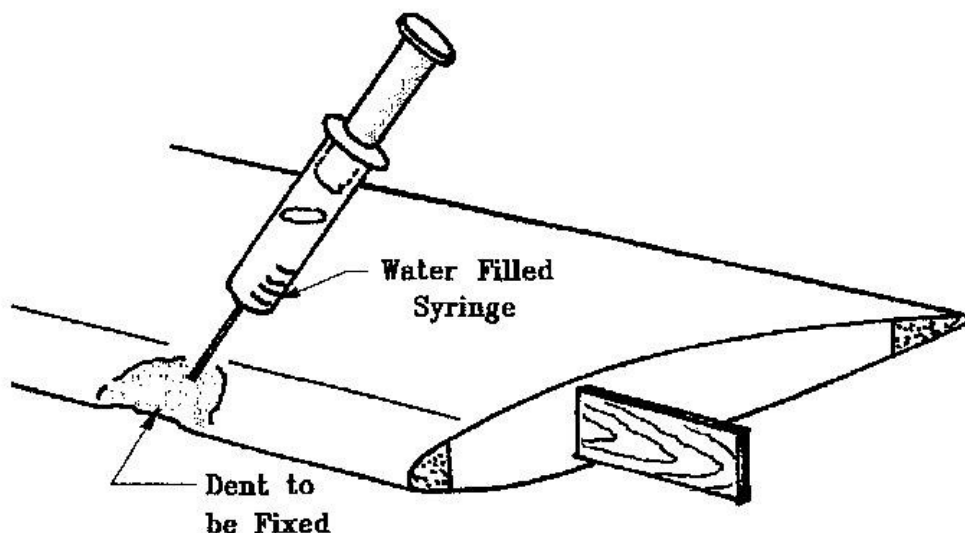
Lastly, when passenger service first started in the aviation industry the in-flight stewardess was not a stewardess at all. She was a registered nurse who served coffee and fluffed your pillow. She had medical training just in case something happened in flight. My, my, how things have changed. Now you have to kill somebody just to get a bag of peanuts.

Well that's it for me gang. Stay healthy and I hope to see you at the field soon. Please remember those two men that made it possible for us to be able to soar higher than the clouds, travel into space and visit other planets. NO,NO,NO!!! Not Orville and Wilbur Wright. I'm talking about the wine makers Ernest and Julio Gallo. Fly On!!!
Nick T. V.P.

Tips and Tricks

It's time to start doing some flying. I'm sure we've all been looking forward to it and we'll have great fun all summer long. However, with regular flying comes additional risks for our prize possessions. Bump a wing on a door, maybe drop something by accident, perhaps an inopportune gust of wind slams something into the pit fence or God forbid, you find yourself looking at a bit of minor crash damage. There's a myriad of ways our planes might acquire a few dents and dings as they live out their lives. Here's a simple way to repair some of those smaller unsightly blemishes.

Use a small syringe (available at farm supply stores or pharmacies) to inject water beneath the covering and into the dented balsa soaking it fairly well. Then run your trusty covering iron over the area and witness the magic as the balsa swells back to its former glorious shape. Success rates will depend on the balsa density and the specific nature of the damage but in many instances this little trick will make it difficult to see where the damage was.



Projects



Bill Henchen sent me this great pic of a new Seamaster he just finished. He didn't say a whole lot about it other than that's an .80 4-stroke engine and the finished weight is 7 lbs. He said he hopes it flies well. I can't recall anyone ever talking about a Seamaster flying poorly so I'm guessing he'll have a real winner when he gets it dialed in and I don't think there's much doubt that it'll be easy to see in the air.

Well, I'm looking back on the winter building season and it's all been a bit of a blur much like last summer was. In recent years I've managed to complete a scratch build or two and an ARF or two as well. This year I have only found time to complete one ARF. It's an Elite Models (Value Hobby) 96" Super Decathlon. I mounted a DLE 35cc gas engine on her nose which should make for a pleasantly overpowered little airplane. I have dual 2300mAh NiMH receiver packs powering a Futaba receiver and some VERY fast/strong Savox servos. Another 2300mAh pack feeds the ignition. I made a few structural improvements along the way 'cause there were some load bearing areas that just didn't seem to be built well enough to suit me (I guess I expected that 'cause it is a pretty cheap plane). I'm not sure what grade of aluminum the gear is made of but it seems a bit springy. That may have to be upgraded as well. I have a carbon fiber piece ready to go. It balanced right on the numbers according to the manual with two battery packs strapped to the engine standoffs and one right behind the windshield with no additional weight added. Should be just a touch nose heavy with a full tank of fuel. All in all I like the look of the plane (I'm a sucker for Decathlons anyway) and can't wait to get 'er in the air and see how she flies...



Mother Nature is losing! Real spring weather is almost upon us!



Photos from the Field



Jim and Max installing fence around the pond



Glenn giving the brush cutter a workout



New goose-proof fence. Part of the feces reduction program



First day out (4-25-20) the Super Sportster got the call



Jim's sailplane looking for some lift



Jim at the controls of the sailplane



Likeable Links

Genesee Valley Aero Modelers website - <http://www.gvam.org>

Genesee Valley Aero Modelers on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/gvaero>

GVAM YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck7v-HTFGO-6NRtHYM5C6Q>

Windy.com (wind/weather forecasting) - <https://www.windy.com/42.737/-77.542?41.810,-77.542,7>

Weather Underground - <https://www.wunderground.com>

Academy of Model Aeronautics - <http://www.modelaircraft.org>

AMA District II - <http://rcpilot.wixsite.com/amadistrictii>

AMA YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBnIE7hx2BxjKsWmCpA-uDA>

Rochester Aero-Modeling Society - <https://www.ramsrc.org>

Windy Ridge RC Flyers (Hammondsport) - <https://www.rcflightdeck.com/club.cfm?id=1283>

Canandaigua Sky Chiefs - <http://www.canandaiguaskychiefs.org>

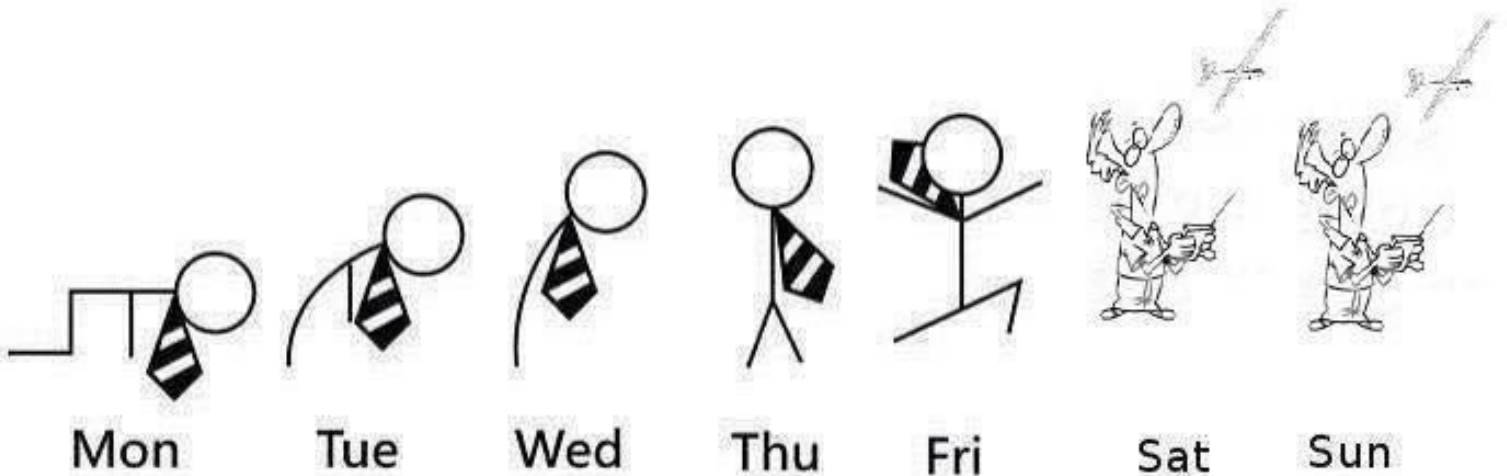
Southern Tier Aero Radio Society ("STARS" - Cuba) - <http://www.rcstars.org>

Sky Rovers RC Flying Club (Phelps) - <http://www.skyrovers.org>

Finger Lakes Air Pirates (Seneca Falls) - <http://www.flapsrc.com>

Radio Control Club of Rochester - <http://www.rccr1957.com>

AeroFred (free model airplane plans) - <https://aerofred.com>



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

If anyone has any projects or experiences or anything at all RC-related you'd like to share here please feel free to send it to me and I'll include it in a future edition... Pete peterdonk@aol.com