



February 2020

Balsa Dust

An Official Publication Of Genesee Valley Aero Modelers, Ltd.

www.gvam.org

www.facebook.com/gvaero/

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NEXT G.V.A.M. MEETING

Thursday 3/12/20 6:30pm at the Honeoye Public Library
(8708 Main St. Honeoye)

Dues Are Due

The 2020 flying season approaches 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

LAST CHANCE! COMMENT BEFORE MARCH 2ND!

Never before has the very existence of model aviation in the United States of America been so much in doubt as it is today. The new restrictions, limitations and requirements put forth in the latest FAA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) would all but destroy model aviation for the vast majority of hobbyists if the proposal is allowed to become law as it's currently written. New cumbersome limits would be placed on where we can fly, what we can fly and how we can fly. New requirements would include remote identification of anything in the air and extensive training courses and certifications and heavy penalties that have never been a concern to safe, law abiding model flyers dating back almost a hundred years.

My fellow modelers, it's not overstating the current situation to consider it nothing less than a metaphorical "call to arms" to defend our hobby as its future is threatened by a piece of legislation that gives almost no regard whatsoever to the amateur RC hobbyist community. It will become irrelevant that as a community we've flown safely and almost incident-free for a hundred years. It will become irrelevant that we are members of a long-standing CBO (community-based organization - AMA) that promotes safety and education and inspires so many Americans to become involved in aviation of all kinds. It will become irrelevant that we're upstanding citizens

with the greatest regard for safety and the law as the simple rights we've enjoyed all our lives are stripped from us.

My friends, THE TIME IS NOW! There is a VERY small window for us to comment on the NPRM (the comment period ends 3/2/20) or write our representatives or lobby for action, etc.

If you wish to read the proposal, the title of which really only scratches the surface of how intrusive the new law would be, it's posted for public viewing here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/12/31/2019-28100/remote-identification-of-unmanned-aircraft-systems>

You can comment directly from there if you wish. You can also use the simple templates AMA has set up here:

<http://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2020/01/20/submit-a-formal-comment/>

If you're a Facebook user there is a new group dedicated to discussion of this very issue:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/467991824112804/>

There is also a Political Action Committee established to lobby for our cause:

<https://modelaviationpac.com/>

It was satisfying and encouraging to see that the EAA has realized there is much to be concerned about and has apparently joined the fight:

<https://www.eaa.org/eaanewsandpublications/eaanewsandaviationnews/news/01-16-2020-Proposed-Remote-ID-Rule-Contains-Concerning-Requirements>

For anyone who has not taken the time to submit comments and join the movement to defend the future of model aviation I implore you to do so before the deadline. If you have, comment again (it's allowed). Submit comments, write and/or call your representatives, reach out to President Trump... Anything you can do to make our collective voice heard and make it known that we are a large, dedicated, law abiding group of harmless hobbyists could help put an end to this ludicrous proposal before it becomes law and is unstoppable...

Did You Know?

By Nick Trezza

Hi Gang! It's time once again for "Did You Know?" First item; Towards the end of the war (WWII) around November or December of 1944 the Germans were losing pretty badly and running out of material, fuel, oil and ammunition. Well, come to find out when the war was over and several of the high commanders were interviewed, they said there were many times when they looked up and saw our bombers on the way to bomb Berlin or other important targets like the ball bearing plants or steel plants and all they could do was watch them make the bombing runs because they had no ammunition to fire back or fuel to run their tanks or other vehicles (sucks to be them).

Another item from WWII is something you don't think about but it happened. Many bomber crews were making bombing runs in Europe and Asia. That meant being in the plane 10 or 12 hours at a time to get to the targets, drop their load and return to base. Well, before the mission they had breakfast and usually several cups of coffee.

After a while a guy may have to take a leak. Well, warplanes usually don't have bathrooms and if a guy remembered they carried what they called a "thunder jug" to do their business. Well, sometimes (because your mind is on the mission) a guy would forget to take the jug. So what they would do was make their way back to the bomb bay area and let her rip! However, there was a small problem with that because they were flying at high altitudes and it was well below freezing. The doors and actuators would freeze up. So, when they would get to the target area the bomb bay doors were frozen shut and wouldn't open. Hopefully they had time to fly lower and thaw things out or someone would have to go down in the area and chip ice. I guess that's where the term "war is Hell" comes from. When ya gotta go, ya gotta go!

The last item is a term I heard recently in reference to pilots flying full size planes. Some pilots are called "type hunter pilots". These are pilots who try to find and fly as many different types of airplanes as they can to say, "I've flown this type or that type." Not different models of the same type, but different types altogether. Now, does this ring a bell with any of you guys? I've been in this hobby well over 50 years and I've never seen a guy with only one plane or one type of plane. So I guess that makes us all "type hunter pilots." I'm going to have to look for a bigger house soon because of the different types of planes I have.

Well gang, that's it for me this month. We're all just a little closer to tearing up the sky. If you look way off in the distance you can see the nice weather coming. Keep in mind what General MacArthur said... "I shall return" (He was talking about RC). Fly On!!! Nick T. V.P.

Glenn's pics from Oshkosh



A manned drone? If they think a 250gr model aircraft will be problematic what will this be?



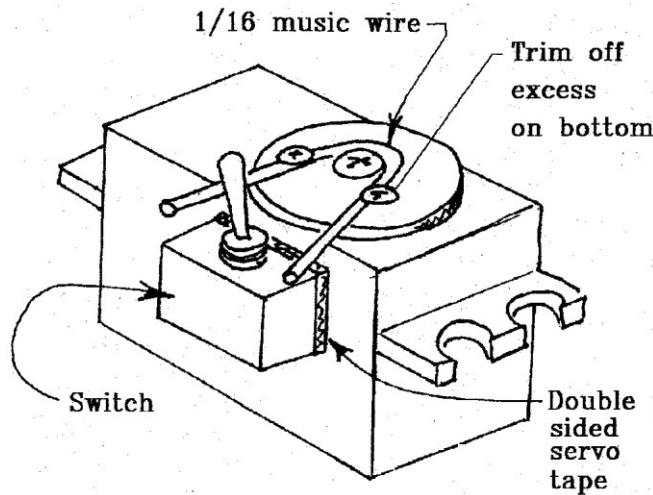
Here's another. Wouldn't catch me in THAT lawn chair



A concept model of a pilotless airborne Uber car

Tips and Tricks

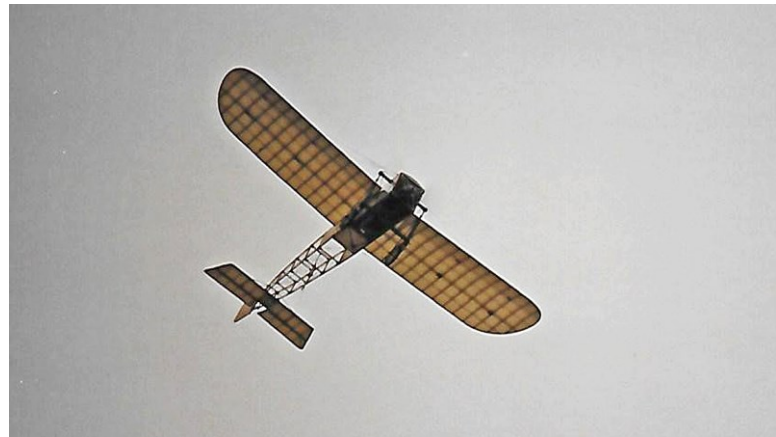
Here's a simple and inexpensive way to actuate a toggle switch remotely. I used a similar setup once but I used an extra-large servo wheel I had in my collection and simply cut an appropriate notch for the switch lever. In my case I was using the switch to manually activate an onboard glow driver only when I wanted it to be on. A switch could also be used for lights or ignition or any of a number of things you'd want to be able to turn on and off.



Photos from the Field



Jump in the Wayback Machine and watch Master John impart some wisdom on a younger generation



Could be a Bleriot. Hard to tell from this angle. Whatever it is it's a very cool model



Not sure what or who but that's a great looking plane



Spitfire!

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-HTFPgo-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>

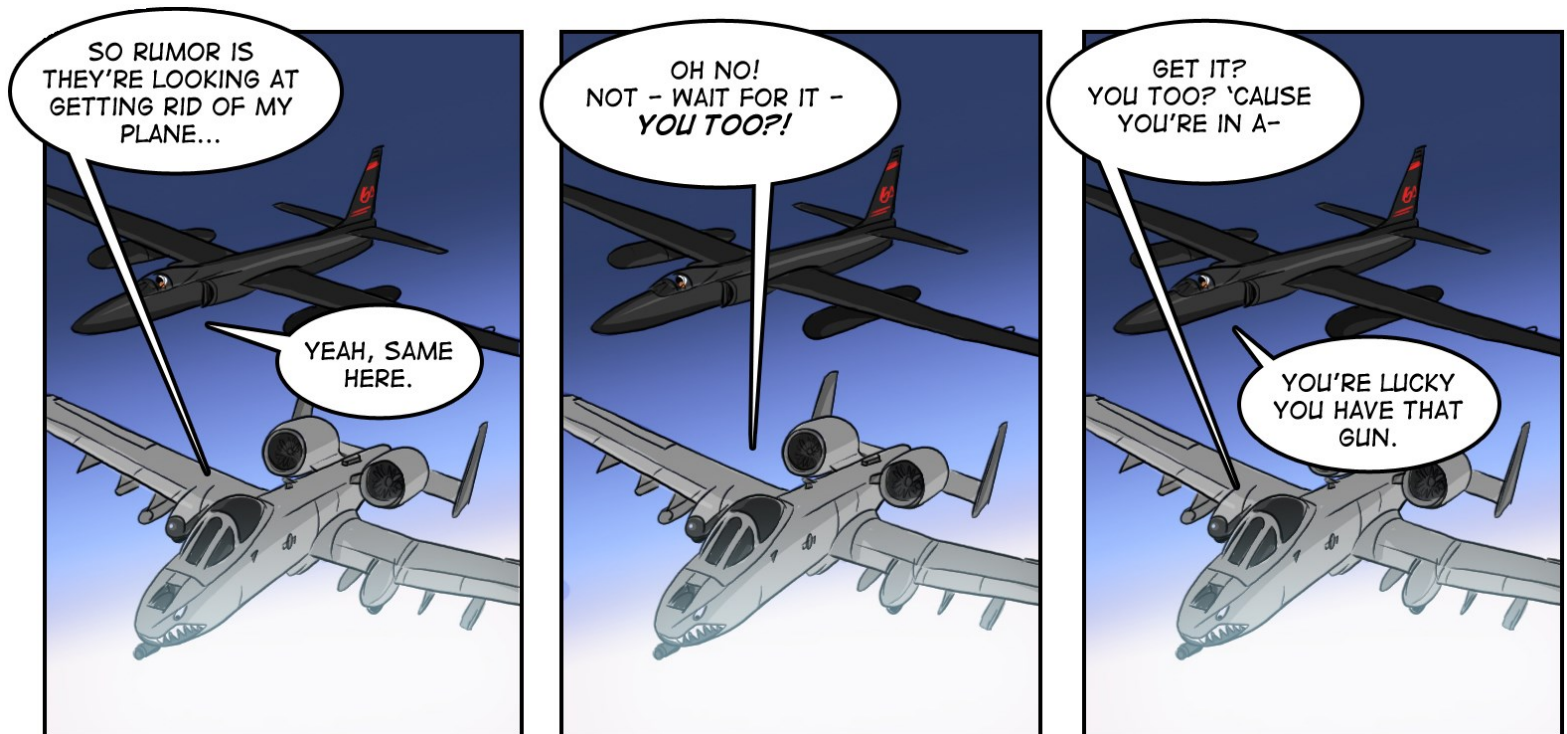
Southern Tier Aero Radio Society ("STARS" - Cuba) - <http://www.rcstars.org>

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>



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