

January 2019

Balsa Dust

An Official Publication Of Genesee Valley Aero Modelers, Ltd.

www.gvam.org

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NEXT G.V.A.M. MEETING

Saturday 2/9/19 1:30pm at the Honeoye Public Library
(8708 Main St. Honeoye)

Dues Are Due

The 2019 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

Did You Know?

By Nick Trezza

Alright gang, it's time for Did You Know?... A lot of folks in our hobby tend to like the old war movies especially the ones with airplanes in dogfights. Well, in the movies we see the pilots engaging in dogfights coming up behind his enemy with his guns blazing, tearing up the enemy aircraft, looking for another enemy plane, chasing him and firing on him, and on and on. The truth is, the fighters of the day (P-51s, P-40s, etc.) held ammo for several guns in the wings or in the nose and could only fire between 12 and 16 seconds continuously before running out of ammo. So, you had to make every shot count and also not hold your finger down long firing your guns.

Another item a lot of us know about is a rocket plane of WW2 - the German Messerschmitt Me 163. It's that stubby looking aircraft that took off on a two wheeled trolley that would drop away when the plane left the ground. Well, this could have been a game changer for the Germans if they figured out all of the problems with it. First, the fuel they used for it was highly volatile and corrosive. Some planes exploded in flight if the fuel bounced around too much. Next (this one's really important), it



had a top speed of 597mph which was unheard of at the time. The bad news... it only had 4 minutes of fuel. That doesn't give the pilot much time to find his enemy. After the fuel was used up it had to glide back to earth. Now this plane weighed 9500 lbs. and had a wing span of 30ft. so it glided about the same as a grand piano. Again, back to the drawing board.



And lastly, in 1932 my paisanos at the Caproni Aircraft Company came up with this great idea of making a plane called the Stipa. Basically, it was a barrel with a pair of wings. The diameter was about 12ft. and they put a Tiger Moth engine in it. It could only hold a pilot and 1 passenger that sat in a hump at the top of the barrel with no payload. One of its main problems was that the pilot and passenger could not see ahead of the plane because of the hump they sat in so on takeoff and landings they had to hang out of each side of the cockpit to see where they were going. I'm not sure but it could be that in Italian Stipa means stupid!

Well that's it for me gang. Hang in there --- spring is coming and we'll be tearing up the sky before you know it. Fly On!!! *Nick T. V.P.*

Frozen Finger Fun Fly

It looked like January 1st was going to come and go this year with no flying at all at GVAM Flying Field for the annual Frozen Finger Fun Fly. In the morning it was very windy and cold and truly unfit for model aircraft. Add to that the fact that the restaurant where we were to gather for breakfast was closed and it was no surprise when an email was dispatched to cancel the whole affair. As it turned out, later in the day the wind let up some and 2 daring souls (the McBrides) took a couple planes to the field and managed to keep the tradition alive with a couple quick flights before Mother Nature got the best of them. Here are a few pics Jim and Glenn forwarded to me.



Looks like a nice warm spring day



One warm hand... One cold...

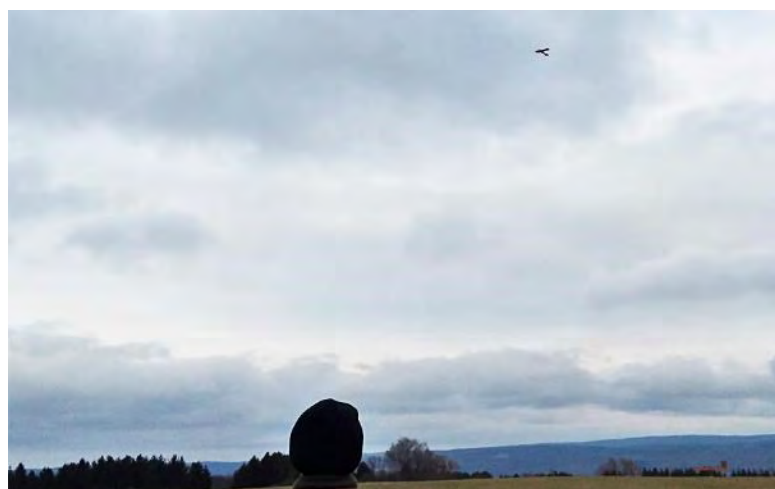




Gettin' 'er good and warm



Lost in the clouds?



Fly on your way like an eagle (Iron Maiden lyrics)



Almost home



Safe and sound back on the ground

Spring will be here before you know it!



Indoor Flying

Remaining confirmed indoor flying date at Livonia Middle School.
Sunday, February 17th (12-3pm)

Thanks to Glenn once again for sending along these pics from the January indoor flying session.



Jim taking a close look at Doug's electric control liner



Jim's giant drone



Okay... Maybe not so giant after all



The team at work sorting out the mini Transition



Doug's triplane ready to go



Jim's collection of hardware



Doug and Dick working with the Transition



Doug's "mini me" version of Tom's Transition

From Wing of Eagles

Many of you have probably seen these planes before but I hadn't and happened to notice them while driving through Big Flats a few weeks ago. These are decommissioned aircraft on display outside the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center. I don't have details of these aircraft 'cause it was starting to rain that day and I didn't read the aircraft info plaques but I wanted to share the pics. I bet most of you can identify them all anyway.



An airplane



An airplane



An airplane



An airplane



A helicopter



An airplane



An airplane



An airplane



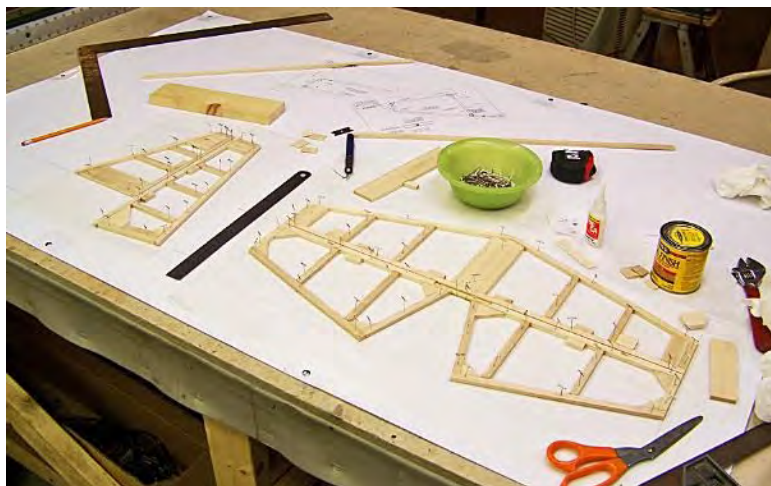
An airplane

Projects

No one sent along any winter project info so I guess I'll share mine and call it good enough. I'm in the middle of a scratch build of an ultralight model loosely based on an aircraft called a Cubchel. It's approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ scale and will have a single-plane aluminum fuselage made from $\frac{1}{2}$ " square tubing bolted together with gussets. I think the plane's most unique feature is it doesn't use ailerons. Each entire wing panel will pivot for roll control and ultimately the wings will be mixed with the elevator so the wings' angle of incidence will change with elevator input. Should be pretty cool... ☺



It all starts with blank paper and a few simple lines



A few hours later tail feathers were taking shape



Too many clamps are sometimes just not enough



Wing panels almost ready to start sanding

Tips and Tricks

More and more the modern smart phone finds itself in new and useful places. If you're like me one of those places is the RC workshop. Whether using it as a simple calculator or for viewing things I don't want to print out or for a little quick online research or even just to have it near so I don't miss an important call you'll almost never see me in the shop without it. A potential problem with that is phones don't take kindly to CA glue or dust or dirt or a myriad of other substances they might accidentally come into contact with. Here's a simple safeguard. Slip that fancy phone into a typical ziploc type storage bag. No more fears of a damaged phone. Many touch screens will still work through the bag even. Take care with anything with cooling fans like tablets or PCs. Can't bag those up 'cause they'll overheat but you can keep your garden variety cell phone nice and safe in the workshop.



Rest in Peace Big Brother

On Thursday, January 17th, 2019 my oldest brother (Jim) passed away at the all-too-young age of 69. It's been rough for the whole family since he passed but it's also been a time when things long gone and wonderful have been remembered. That's why I wanted to share this here.

The earliest memory I have of anything related to model aircraft was the family telling stories of Jim (and my other older brothers) building and flying control line airplanes. He was done flying by the time I was old enough to have witnessed any of it for myself but the stories remained and were passed on to us kids from time to time. Stories of building and crashing and repairing and flying some more. Fascinating food for thought for the child I was at the time.

I have come to truly love building and flying RC planes and I can't even really imagine what life would be like without it any more. I wonder where I would be today if those early seeds of model aviation interest hadn't been planted so many years ago. Life may indeed have been completely devoid of so many things I value so very much. Thank you, Big Brother. Rest in peace...

Likable 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