

March 2019

# Balsa Dust

An Official Publication Of Genesee Valley Aero Modelers, Ltd.

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## NEXT G.V.A.M. MEETING

Thursday 4/11/19 6:30pm at the Honeoye Public Library  
(8708 Main St. Honeoye)

Reminder - The April meeting is the traditional "show and tell" meeting so if you have any new planes or winter projects or items of interest of any kind you'd like to share please don't hesitate to bring them along.

## 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

## March Meeting Recap

It was a cozy little meeting with only 6 of us in attendance (Jim, Glenn, John W., Dick N., Dave B. and me). Fortunately, Mother Nature gave us a bit of a reprieve and it was actually a pretty nice night for a drive to Honeoye.

The Ford tractor repair plan was discussed briefly but it seems there isn't a whole lot that can be done until the cylinder head can be liberated from its current state of captivity in Max's basement. If worse comes to worst it was agreed that renting a machine to cut the high grass the first time it's needed wouldn't be out of the question at all so regardless of whether or not the cylinder head has been paroled the mowing won't go undone.

Glenn indicated that there are new tarps and bungees ready to go so as soon as the weather turns for good the shelters will be up and ready for business.

After a very brief discussion it was decided to forego the open house event at the library for this year. Weak past attendance and such a late date to try to put things together coupled with the fact that all the materials are also currently incarcerated at Max's house with little to no chance of early release due to good behavior and it was pretty obvious that it just wasn't gonna happen.

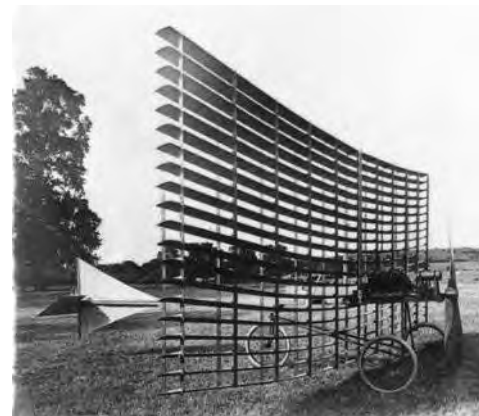
Many of you may be unaware (I definitely was) that some damage was done at the field recently. Apparently 2 different individuals drove in and sank into the wet ground and had to be towed out. One was a non-club-member who knew about the field and wanted to fly a drone so thought they'd help them self to the field and drove right in. The other was a homeless woman looking for a place to park for the night. Both vehicles got stuck and had to be towed out and left some damage behind. As I understand it both individuals were identified and can be pursued if the damage ends up requiring substantial repair work. That all led to a discussion of possibly creating some kind of a barrier on the driveway for the off-season to discourage people from driving in. No decision was made but a few ideas were kicked around as to what the best deterrent might be and I'm sure there will be more discussion before the snow flies in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 but we stuck around for a bit discussing various flying-related topics. I think we're all chomping at the bit to get the season underway...

## Did You Know?

By Nick Trezza

This first item is something else. In 1942 the Russians came up with an idea to put a set of biplane wings and a boom (for the tail flight controls) on a tank. They called it the Antonov KT Flying Tank. It was (believe it or not) supposed to be a glider. I'm not an aerospace engineer but I can see tons (no pun intended) of problems. First, because of its weight, the tow plane overheated and had to release it on its maiden flight. The weight of this so-called glider was a little over 9 tons!!! For take-off the tracks would spin free but for landing they would start the tank's engine in flight, engage the tracks and hope they would spin as fast as the landing speed. When it was released on the maiden flight it did glide down in the middle of a corn field and got banged up. Well, the Russians then decided to have 3 or 4 tow planes to get this thing in the air but opted to drop the whole idea (thank heavens) because it wasn't worth the fuel and manpower just to get 1 tank behind enemy lines.



The next item involves a British inventor named Horatio Phillips. He tried to invent a better airplane by concentrating on the airfoil. So, he came up with an airplane that had 20 airfoils stacked on top of a frame with an engine and landing gear. This thing looked like a 20' wide venetian blind on a frame. He called it a Multiplane and it had a 22 hp motor. Oddly enough it did get off the ground for a 50-foot hop but after the first flight old Horatio decided it wasn't worth all the money and time 'cause it only carried the pilot (I could have told him that before he started to put this thing together).

Lastly, back in 1952, Douglas Aircraft came up with a plane called the X-3 Stiletto. This plane looks fast when it's parked. It's a beautiful plane. It was supposed to be what the X-15 was - a research plane for speed, heat and possibly space travel. It was supposed to go faster than twice the speed of sound but because of it being underpowered they could never get it much over Mach 1. So, the Air Force and the Navy dumped the project and said the best place for the plane was in a museum.



Well, that's it for me gentlemen. It won't be long now before we start throwing balsa and foam in the sky!!!  
Fly On!!! *Nick T. V.P.*

## Projects

With winter winding down I'm guessing most of us are trying to wrap up any projects we have in the works and gear up for what will hopefully be a great flying season. Glenn sent me these pics of his final winter project, a 1/5 scale Hangar 9 WACO biplane ARF he has about ready to go. He set it up with a DLE 30cc gas engine and modified the aileron setup to use linkages between the upper and lower ailerons just like the full-scale version. He suspects it will be challenging to assemble at the field and said something about penciling in time for a summer Viking funeral just in case it turns out to be too much of a struggle. He said it went together well and all that's left is painting the aileron linkages and finding a suitable pilot figure and she'll be ready to fly.



My newest scratch build is done, balanced and ready to fly (3-16-19). This model is an ultralight of my own design but it's heavily inspired by a French plane called a Cubchel. It's a "control wing" design with no ailerons. The entire wing panels pivot for roll control and can also be coupled with the elevator to increase the angle of incidence with up elevator input. 86" wingspan, 14.5lbs. (including a pound of lead over the engine for balance), DLE 20, 110.25 hours on my log sheet. I'm really hoping it's as much fun to fly as it was to build.

**SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!!!**





It looks like the last project I'll have time for before we get some good flying weather is the resurrection of an 87" Sbach I acquired from Randy Holmes last year. Randy decided to let it go when the plane suffered a very untimely midair full-throttle engine separation incident. He did a great job getting it on the ground in repairable condition so when he asked if I wanted the airframe of course I said, "Yes." So far I've repaired, recovered and reassembled the wings. The only modification I made was increasing the bevel angle on the trailing edges to allow for a bit more aileron travel. The next step will be repairing the nose so I have something to mount the DLE 55 engine to. Once that's done the worst of the repairs will be finished and I'll be in the home stretch. Really looking forward to getting this one in the air... 😊



Most of the damage was on the left aileron but I found a couple of broken ribs and cracked sheeting also



All repaired and ready to cover



I found a place online that makes some very cool custom vinyl decals for RC planes 😊



Contrasting stripes on the bottom side



## RC Van Man

Max sent these pics of a van he saw at the field down south. Yep, the bastards fly in the winter down there. No consideration or sympathy for the feelings of us underprivileged Yankees whatsoever. He said this guy set his van up to really pack 'em in but it's nothing compared to the full Air Force he has at home. I bet Nick could best him with his trailer though.





## Tips and Tricks

Knife edge flight is a lot of fun but it's fairly easy for some of us to get confused or disoriented when performing maneuvers with crossed controls or in attitudes that can feel unnatural at times. A good/easy way to keep the thought process and potential mistakes to a minimum when executing a knife edge maneuver is to remember "STICKS TOGETHER/STICKS APART." When entering/holding knife edge you'll need opposite aileron and rudder inputs so:

**Right** roll with right aileron input countering with lots of **left** rudder to maintain level flight

-or-

**Left** roll with left aileron input countering with lots of **right** rudder to maintain level flight

If you were to watch the sticks while doing a knife edge maneuver in either direction it's always one or the other, sticks both moving to the center (sticks together) or sticks both moving toward opposite sides of the transmitter (sticks apart). Sticks together/sticks apart. Easy to remember when you're ripping across the field and want to show off with a little hot dogging.

## On the Calendar

**Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Finger Lakes Air Pirates Annual Swap Meet & Auction**

Seneca Falls Community Center, 35 Water Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Doors open at 9:00am, \$5.00 admission, free tables and no sales fees

**Saturday & Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>**

**S.T.A.R.S. Annual Fun Fly**

S.T.A.R.S. Flying Field, Cuba Lake Road (near 446), Cuba, NY

# 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>



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](mailto:peterdonk@aol.com)