

November 2019

Balsa Dust

An Official Publication Of Genesee Valley Aero Modelers, Ltd.

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NEXT G.V.A.M. MEETING

Thursday 12/12/19 6:30pm at the Honeoye Public Library
(8708 Main St. Honeoye)

November Meeting Recap

From Glenn's Notes

Thanks to Glenn for forwarding a few notes about the meeting. My current work schedule doesn't allow me to attend. Hopefully that won't be the case forever.

There were about 10 in attendance this go around.

The Ford tractor repair is complete and she's back in the barn ready for next year. Thanks go out to Max, Jim and Mark Smith for their efforts to get it back in shape. Max drove it back to the barn with his wife in the chase car. We now have a new mower and a basically new tractor so we should be in great shape for a while.



There was some discussion about the geotextile runway option and the general consensus was that the need isn't great enough and it may be wiser to keep the bank account strong for rainy day emergencies. A vote was taken and it was decided not to pursue the runway upgrade at this time.

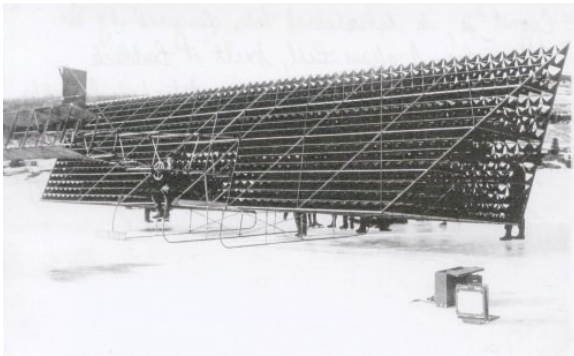
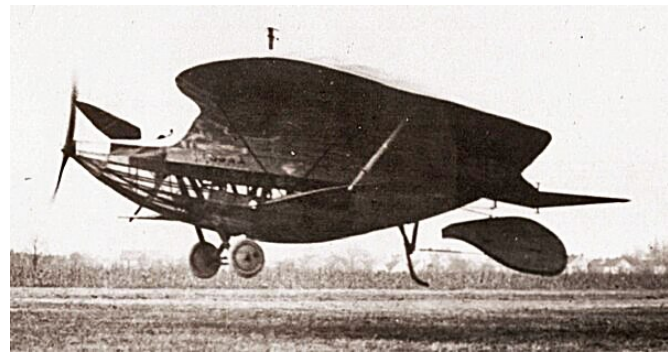
Max said he is negotiating with the school to do some indoor flying. He said it would most likely be on Sundays because that is when he could get the higher gym.

Did You Know?

By Nick Trezza

Ladies and gentlemen and children of all ages, it's time for "Did You Know?" --- Our friend from down the road, Glenn Curtiss, spent a lot of time and lawsuits against the Wright Brothers regarding patent rights and who invented what. Well, in the meantime (around 1916) he came across plans from 1883 drawn by Frenchman

Alexandre Goupil for a steam-powered design called the Duck (it looks more like a pregnant seagull). It had a very large and wide fuselage with large chicken looking wings and a small tail. It was built per the plans but fitted with an internal combustion engine. First it was put on floats and they couldn't get it off the water (because of the weight) then they tried wheels and made a maiden flight in January of 1917. The performance wasn't that good so Curtiss headed back to the drawing board. While we're on the subject of Glenn Curtiss, did you know he was the first to put operational ailerons on a wing and make a successful flight?



Next item, a design from Alexander Graham Bell (yes, the telephone guy). Bell designed a tetrahedral kite called the Cygnet. The newly-founded Canadian *Aerial Experiment Association* ran with the concept and designed an aircraft based on Bell's kite using a "wing" consisting of 3,393 tetrahedral cells. The first model had no engine so it was towed behind a boat and there were no controls for the pilot to operate. There were several variations like the Cygnet 2 and the Cygnet 3 where they added an engine and a canard elevator and rudder in the front but then decided that's a lot of material and

equipment to get a guy a few feet off the ground so they dropped the idea. Thank Heavens Bell didn't waste more time in aviation and started thinking about working on the telephone.

The last item is really something else. This plane was called the Larsen Speed Bird. Now this plane had a Taylorcraft fuselage but the overhead wing was only about 10' wide with flaps over the cockpit. The flaps were also used as ailerons and used the slipstream of the propeller for lift and power. Well, on the maiden flight in 1953 after a few minutes in flight, the 85HP engine overheated. The engine stopped and because the prop slipstream was gone the plane dropped like a rock. The pilot had a parachute and came down safely.



Well gang, that's it for me. Remember what FDR once said... "We have nothing to fear flying RC except fear itself." Happy Turkey Day and get to work and build something. *Nick T V.P.*

Indoor Flying Schedule

Sunday 12/1/19 - Livonia Middle School Gymnasium, 1pm-4pm

Sunday 1/5/20 - Livonia Middle School Gymnasium, 1pm-4pm

Sunday 2/2/20 - Livonia Middle School Gymnasium, 1pm-4pm

Mr. Hughes' Charitable Donation

Andrew Hughes would like to give this plane rack and airframe to a club member if anyone is interested. In his words, "I have a plane holder (holds 4 planes and wings) that I would like to give to someone in the club if they want it. The CAP airframe is included as a bonus. Some repairs on it but it flew fine before I took out the radio equipment and engine." Andrew can be contacted via email at: ahughes3214@hotmail.com



Glenn's pics from Oshkosh



XP51 (P51 prototype). The only one in existence



Shorts 330 (C-23A Sherpa). Used for fighting forest fires



F8F Bearcat in original Blue Angels markings



Grumman Avenger

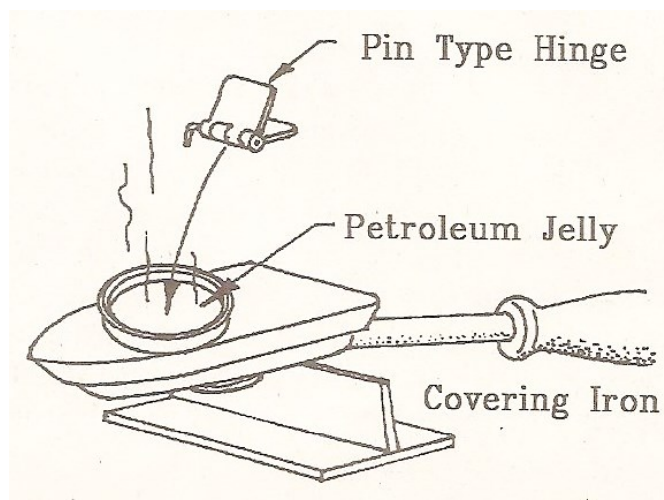


Newly restored Hellcat as it rolled out of the factory in 1944

Tips and Tricks

We're coming into the thick of building season so this might very well come in handy for many. Even if ARFs are your thing they often come with control surfaces still in need of hinging so this can be for most anyone.

If you heat up a little Vaseline and dip just the pivot point of your hinge into it the fluid petroleum jelly will penetrate then immediately cool and gel and provide a protective coating your adhesive (be it CA or epoxy or what have you) cannot stick to. You'll never have issues with adhesive setting up in the pivot point and binding your surfaces. A metal cap or lid works great for a container and a covering heat gun or small hotplate work well for a heat source too.



Photos from the Field



John Miller's electric P-38



Mr. Control Line making ready



Nick making the preflight walk of fame



Glenn firing up the land/air/sea vehicle



A couple of years ago (BEFORE)



A couple of years ago (AFTER)

Time to get building!!!





My new truckster wanted to see where church would be during the summer months



October 20th

Projects

I'm sure everyone will be completely shocked (not) that Glenn has several irons in the fire with projects he plans to complete before spring. The pics are of an 87" Hangar 9 Fokker D.VII he's already completed. He said it balanced so well he wasn't sure it was right. After checking and rechecking though all was well without making any further corrections. He mounted a DLE 30cc gas engine for power in the "upright" position (notice the exhaust exiting through the top of the fuselage). If that thing flies as good as it looks it'll be a great addition to his squadron.

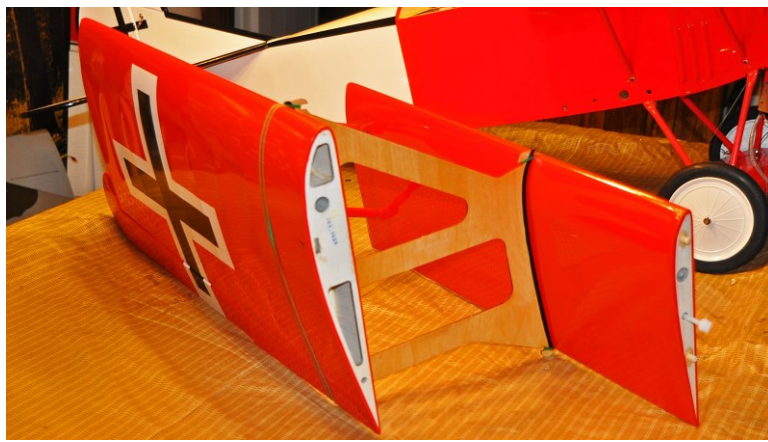
Among the planes on his "to do" list are another P-51, a WACO biplane and he has short kits for a 76" P-47 Razorback and an 81" Mosquito on the way from England. Sounds like the Crocker shop will see plenty of activity this winter!



This is a big bird



Cool dummy engine and guns



The wings detach with struts in place for easier transport

My job continues to eat up most of my ambition and energy so I have almost nothing crossed off of my “to do” list. I did manage to get my new Super Decathlon ARF unpacked. I wanted a Bill Hempel 100” model but after I ordered it he sent me an email saying it wouldn’t be available ‘til mid-summer at the earliest (that just wouldn’t do). My second choice was an RC Guys 98” model but they’re currently all but out of business and have nothing available except some miscellaneous replacement parts. I ended up going with a much cheaper Value Hobby (Elite Models) 96” ARF.

It actually seems to be fairly well made for a less expensive ARF. Everything looks pretty true and the covering job seems just fine. It will be pleasantly overpowered by a DLE 35cc gas engine and she’ll be equipped with some very nice Savox SA-1258TG servos (by far the fastest servos I’ve ever owned). With a little luck it’ll fly well and be lots-o-fun next summer. I’ll be getting this one together first ‘cause at the rate I’m going I may not have much building time this winter.



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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