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Balsa Dust

An Official Publication Of Genesee Valley Aero Modelers, Ltd.

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NEXT G.V.A.M. MEETING

Thursday 11/14/19 6:30pm at the Honeoye Public Library
(8708 Main St. Honeoye)

A New Runway?

Submitted by Max Wright



Is there a new model aircraft runway in the club's future? That is the question I have been asking many of our club members recently and the answer I have so far is, "Maybe." In the last few years two technologies have come together to help increase the variety of aircraft flown by RC clubs across the country without the expense of paved runways. The first is electric aircraft, both propeller and jet type of varying sizes, with tiny wheels that don't like grass runways. The second is called **geotextiles**. This is a heavy-duty tarp-type material that has been used in applications from home gardens to road construction. It comes in rolls of varying lengths and widths. The idea is to lay down a roll of the material to create a smooth "runway" that smaller electric aircraft can fly off of.

Clubs started experimenting with available materials with limited success for short periods of time. The main problem being that the material was designed to be buried underground with no exposure to the sun. Also was the issue of using larger aircraft with glow or gas engines that could cause rips in the material. A company in the business of making these fabrics for commercial use has worked with several RC clubs to create a product to solve these problems. Their name is US Fabrics. Their website is <https://www.usfabricsinc.com/products/rcaircraftgeotextile/>.

US Fabrics sells a material by the roll for creating a fabric runway that could be used at our field. One roll is 300 feet long by 15 feet wide. It can be used as a single width or doubled to create a runway 30 feet wide. Each roll is \$800. Shipping by truck is \$300. The cost to ship one or two rolls is the same so there is a slight "discount" if we purchase two rolls. The material can be laid out over the existing grass runway and is held down with garden staples. If a rip did happen in the surface of the material it can be easily repaired with a patch glued on. The fabric can be left down year around and will last for years. I have been flying with a club down in Florida that has a runway that is ten years old and still going. If we were to lose our field the material can be rolled back up and moved to a new location.

Besides the benefits to our current members one of my thoughts is that the ability to fly the small electric planes and jets at our field might attract new members that currently fly elsewhere. I will also be applying for a possible grant from the AMA to help pay the cost. Their current grant program can pay for up to 25% of a project. I am sure this will be a subject at the next meeting so be sure to attend.

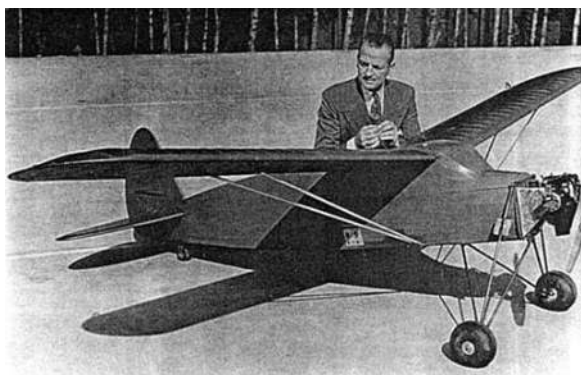
Did You Know?

By Nick Trezza

Alright my pals of the propeller, it's time for "Did You Know?" I recently came across this book titled "Aviators in Hollywood" and it had some interesting facts. For instance, early aviation and the movie making industry started at the same time in history. The first movie to win an Academy Award for Best Picture was a WWI flying movie called Wings. Big movie stars and Hollywood big shots like Cecil B. DeMille not only had their own airplanes but their own airfields as well. Charlie Chaplin's airfield was called Chaplin Aerodrome. DeMille's airfield was Mercury Aviation Airfield.



Next, I'll bet you didn't know this, the first man to fly in a powered airplane over Australia... The great magician Harry Houdini.



Reginald Denny with his "Radioplane"

In the 30s there was a guy in California (outside Hollywood) named Reginald Denny who had a radio-controlled airplane business that the studios would sometimes use instead of flying the costly full-scale planes. Old Reggie, not being a dummy, hired a model to show his products. The model was Marilyn Monroe. It was her first paying modeling job and, as they say, the rest is history.



For all you trivia buffs here is something I ran across a little while ago. Do you know why Adolph Hitler had that cheesy small mustache that was under his nose? Because for years he had a handlebar mustache and he was afraid of being attacked with mustard gas in WW1 and the handlebar wouldn't allow for a good seal with the gas mask.

I'm sure these were all facts you were dying to know. I've been waiting for summer to get here and now it's almost gone. Try and take a day here and there to steal the last days of flying!!! That's it for me gang! Keeping in mind Albert Einstein's theory $E = RC + U$. *Nick T. V.P.*

Tips and Tricks

Here's another neat idea I read about in some old magazine pages John Ward handed me a while back. Many of us use silicone exhaust extensions or deflectors on some of our engines. Coincidentally, typical automotive spark plug wire boots have high silicone content and are very heat-resistant by design. They come in many sizes and shapes and manufacturers often sell custom boots separately from the rest of the wire set. I think the next time I clean out the shop and find some old ignition wires that seem destined for the junk bin I may just think twice and at least save the boots.



Fight for higher Flight!

Well folks, the FAA and ATC are at it again. After more than a year of assurances that the AMA and its members would continue to be allowed to operate as they have for 8 decades and would be integrated into the airspace as new laws are made moving forward it's come to light that they've been planning to implement laws that would significantly restrict and, in some cases, curtail completely recreational model aircraft operation. They're not planning to **integrate** model aviation into the airspace. They're planning to **ban** modelers from the airspace. The most troubling part of the proposed legislation ("proposed" may not be the correct word - depending whose word you take it looks like the next best thing to a done deal) is a 400' hard ceiling with no provision for exemptions or waivers whatsoever. This would put an end to thermal soaring, turbine-powered flying and large-scale flying of many types of aircraft.

Whether you agree or disagree with steps taken to this point by the AMA they remain our loudest and most powerful voice in the fight against obtrusive regulations. If you value our hobby and the American freedoms we've enjoyed for the better part of 100 years it will serve you best to stand with the AMA and fellow hobbyists and do everything possible to make our voices heard. Make it clear that we are a significant community that is deeply concerned when our rights are trampled on. If you haven't already, please use this link to send a letter to your representatives and add your voice to the chorus against unnecessary regulations that will permanently damage our hobby... <https://www.modelaircraft.org/higher-flight>

Glenn's pics from Oshkosh



Last surviving 1936 Stinson A Tri-Motor (1 of only 35 built)



Another view of an ultra-rare aircraft



1989 Pietenpol Air Camper



A newly-restored de Havilland Gypsy Moth

Mark's new Ride

For those of you who may not know, Mark Smith acquired a "new to him" full-scale 1946 Aeronca 7CCM airplane. The word through the grapevine is that much of the wing covering has been removed and it's in the initial stages of a good going through and refit and one day in the not-too-distant future we'll see this pretty little airplane gracing the skies of Upstate/Western New York. Gotta say I'm a little jealous. It's a great looking plane!





The control line guys discussing business



Your friendly neighborhood groundskeeper hard at work



Henry making ready to stress test some more wing spars



Yours truly about to fire up the big hot rod



A rare appearance by our old friends



My shiny new truckster. Matching Leer cap is on order.
I'll be hauling planes in style next year 🤪



August 25th. A good day to fly any plane



Jim doing a little FPV flying

Projects

Well, flying season is just about over. A glance at a long-range weather forecast offers little hope of many more days with decent flying conditions until spring comes around. That being the case, I'm sure many of us will be back at our building benches soon. I know I definitely will be.

Folks have been kinda quiet about their off-season plans but I have at least 2 projects I hope to complete before fair weather returns. The first is a vintage ¼ scale cub I acquired from Chris a few weeks ago. I believe he said the original build dates back to 1979. I can believe that based on some of the "old school" construction techniques that were incorporated. It's gonna require some retrofitting and a little TLC and I'll try to lighten it up a little if I can but all-in-all I think it should make for a fun project and a suitable replacement for the Super Cub I destroyed this year (gotta have a Cub in the squadron).



I'm also going to build a semi-scale powered parachute. I purchased a 5.1 meter Opale Paramodels chute a few weeks ago which should make a very good wing to base everything on. It'll be gas-powered with a MIG-welded steel frame. I ordered some inexpensive full-scale plans from which to derive some basic dimensions but beyond that it'll be my own design purpose-built for RC flying. It should also be a fun project and if the videos I've watched of Opale products in action are any indication it should be a nice flying model as well. The picture is of another model flying with the same type of wing I have.



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>

SOPWITH CAMEL



SOPWITHOUT CAMEL



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