

April 2021

# Balsa Dust

An Official Publication Of Genesee Valley Aero Modelers, Ltd.

[www.gvam.org](http://www.gvam.org)

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

Saturday 10/9/21 1:00pm at the Honeoye Public Library  
(8708 Main St. Honeoye)

This date/time is reserved but tentative as the library is not currently allowing group meetings due to COVID-19 restrictions. Max will pass along info to the membership when that changes and meetings become definite.

## Dues Are Due

The 2021 flying season is upon us 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

## Charlie Vogel

For those who may not know, on March 13<sup>th</sup> the club lost a founding member and a good friend. While I struggled with what to say about Charlie and dreaded another newsletter with such somber news, Glenn Crocker called me and offered to write something about a man he knew far better than I. I was very grateful to say the least and accepted his offer immediately. This is what Glenn sent to me...

I first met Charlie in 1979 when I joined the flying club. At that time it was called the "Flying Live Ones." Charlie was born and raised on a family farm on the hills above Dansville, NY. He and his wife Shirley moved to Honeoye where they lived for over 50 years. He was a printer by trade and also ran a small Hobby Shop out of his home.





Charlie loved to fly. In the 90s we had a group of flyers in the morning, a group in the afternoon and a few in the evening. Charlie would be up to fly with each group. He had a green Ford panel van he used to get to and from the field. I don't know how many miles it had on it when he bought it but it had 120,000 miles on it when he sold it and the majority of the miles were going to and from the field (at least three trips a day). In the early 2000s Charlie and I would meet at the field mid-morning to get our three flights in, swap lies, solve all the world's problems, eat lunch and then go do what we should have been doing. Charlie would still sneak back in the afternoon to see if anyone was flying. When he started having mobility problems he would walk his plane out and we would take his lawn chair out so he could sit to fly.

Charlie was a terrific asset to the club. Rather than recreate this information I thought I would include the nomination that was sent in for the **"Carl and Beth Goldberg Vital People Award"** Charlie received.

*We have been blessed to have Charles Vogel as a part of our Club since its inception in the mid-60s. He is a charter member and one of the club's founders. Charlie's reputation as a giver in helping newcomers to our hobby fits precisely the definition of this award.*

*Charlie has been involved with RC since the late 40s. He says he learned to fly through the school of hard knocks and as a result of his tough learning experience has been more than willing to help both new and experienced flyers. He has helped new pilots with building problems and learning to fly. He has helped 12-year-olds to 89-year-olds and usually has 2 or 3 students each year.*

*Charlie winterizes the club tractor and mower each year and each spring you can be assured of a good rolling of the field. If anything fails on the club equipment he will obtain parts and make repairs. Often Charlie will bring his own equipment to the field while waiting for parts. He has made countless trips home to get glue, nuts, bolts, props, etc. for members or even taken a plane home for emergency repairs so the*



*member could continue to fly that day. He assists new members with building, covering techniques, answering questions and helping them repair models. He has organized demos at meetings and the field for the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts over the years. He has helped members who were physically unable to keep their equipment in good flying order and has also acted as an agent for the people who could no longer fly to help them sell their equipment.*

*Charlie has obtained permits for club members each year for our summer float flying season. He is the go-to person if an engine is not running properly. He willingly shares his 50 plus years of RC experience. He is always available to get planes out of trees. He has his ladder and bamboo poles to assist members with this chore. Now that he can't climb trees anymore, he will check after windy weather to see if planes have been blown down, collect them and*



*let the flyer know he has the plane or in some cases make some emergency repairs. He has demonstrated that almost any crashed plane that looks like a write-off is repairable. He will rebuild it and fly it. There are far fewer planes in the trash barrel these days.*

*In addition to all of these "behind the scenes" activities that Charlie has done and continues to do, he took his turn as Club President and Secretary.*

*Charlie's positive manner and countless hours to benefit his fellow hobbyists make him an ideal candidate for this award.*

I believe that sums up Charlie as a person and club member. I would like to believe that Charlie is having sunny days, no wind and no repairs...



## Swap Meet May 1<sup>st</sup>

There will be an impromptu RC swap meet at the Perry-Warsaw Airport on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be held from 9:30am-3:00pm in a hangar on the property. There will be tables available and a \$3.00 fee. It is said that this will not be an "official" club event...

## Did You Know?

By Nick Trezza

Hi gang, it's that time of year when we can say, "Fly baby, fly!!!" I hope everyone is well and has a hangar full of planes ready to maiden. It's time for "Did You Know."

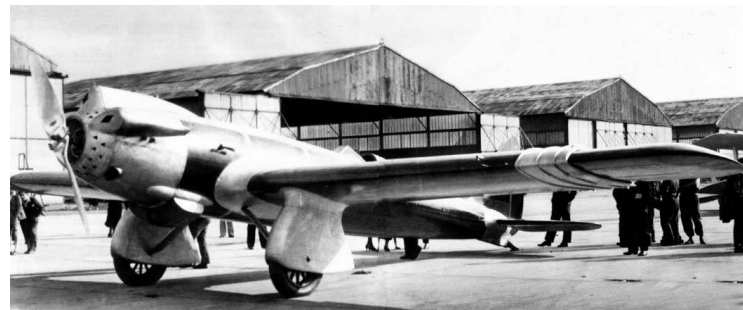
We've all heard of the famous Jack Northrop of Northrop Aviation and Flying Wing fame who's also associated with many other aviation milestones. Well, around 1931 he designed a plane called the Alpha. This was a sharp-looking all-metal-skin plane with a polished mirror finish. The thing with this plane was it was designed to carry the mail and/or six passengers in a closed cabin. The pilot, however, had an open cockpit. The pilots insisted that Northrop leave the cockpit open because they didn't trust the instruments at the time and said they could fly



better if they were out in the environment. That's nuts!!! Go ahead and freeze your butt off! The plane was cutting edge technology at the time. Cantilever wing, stressed skin construction and an internal frame made of all aluminum. You have to admit old Jack Northrop was some sort of genius. He was a self-taught engineer and worked for Lockheed and Douglas before starting his own company. He also designed

the innovative Vega used by Wiley Post to go around the world and another Vega for Amelia Earhart. This man was no dummy. He also designed a wing for Ryan Aircraft for old Charlie Lindberg's flight to Paris.

The next item should be filed under "What the Hell were they thinking?" Around 1931 a Russian guy named Ivan Makhonine understood that a plane with smaller wings could fly faster but larger wings would permit lower stalling, takeoff and landing speeds as well as higher altitudes. So, what did he do? He designed a plane called the Mak-10, a plane that had (brace yourself) telescoping wings. The plane looked like a normal low wing plane with fixed landing gear. The wing came out from the fuselage roughly 15 feet on each side and the wingspan went from 42 feet to a fully extended 69 feet. Ailerons were on each side of the fuselage on the center section of the wing. The outer wing panels extended or retracted pneumatically or manually. I would have loved to have seen that mechanism and how it worked. For the next several years Ivan designed larger planes with more horsepower but with the same basic idea. There's a big political thing about France buying this plane around the start of WW2 and Germany invading France and wanting to continue experimenting with the plane. Well, the French weren't too crazy about that idea and their test pilot intentionally crash landed the plane. It was towed to a hangar in France and was destroyed in an American bombing raid. Sometimes things happen for a reason.



Well, that's it for me gang. It's that time of year when I can happily say, "SEE YOU AT THE FIELD!" Fly on!...  
*Nick T. V.P.*

## Projects

I got word a few weeks ago that John Miller intends to do some flying this year. It'll be good to see him at the field again. It'll also be nice to see his new planes in the air. A B-24 Lancaster and an F4F Tigercat. Lookin' Good!





Glenn (AKA “Mr. Warbird”) is staying true to form with this addition to his squadron. It’s a 30cc Hangar 9 Mark IX Spitfire. When the pictures were taken, he only had to add some lettering and decide whether it should be armed with machine guns or cannons. He also mentioned this is the first time he had the patience to install the landing gear doors. Looks like it turned out great. It’ll look awesome in the air this summer.



## Photos from the Field



Many well-deserved thanks to Max and Jim for building more stands to replace three of the “seen better days” classics



They look even better in their natural habitat



February 25<sup>th</sup>. Not much flying was done that day



April 16<sup>th</sup>. Do we dare to dream of sunny and 70 yet?



# Tips and Tricks

# DON'T CRASH!

## On the Schedule For 2021\*

May 1 - RC Swap Meet at Perry-Warsaw Airport 9:30-3:00  
May 22-23 - Southern Tier Radio Control Society (STARS) Giant Scale Meet in Cuba, NY  
June 12-13 - Canandaigua Sky Chiefs Pattern Meet in Canandaigua, NY  
June 19-20 - STARS Warbird Meet in Cuba, NY  
June 26-27 - RCCR Fun Fly in Brockport, NY  
July 10-11 - STARS Fun Fly and Vintage Show in Cuba, NY  
July 10 (rain date July 11) - Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society Heli Jam in Phoenix, NY  
July 17-18 - Sky Rovers Fun Fly in Phelps, NY  
July 24-25 - Canandaigua Sky Chiefs Fun Fly in Canandaigua, NY  
August 7-8 - SEMAC Fun Fly at Perry-Warsaw Airport in Perry NY  
August 14-15 - Flying Knights Fun Fly in Hamburg, NY  
August 14 (rain date August 15) - Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society Air Show in Phoenix, NY  
August 19-22 - Windy Ridge RC Flyers AEROTOW in Wayne, NY  
August 28-29 - STARS Open House and Glider Event in Cuba, NY  
August 28-29 - RAMS Fun Fly in Macedon, NY  
September 4-6 - RAMS Heli Jam in Macedon, NY  
September 11-12 - Windy Ridge RC Flyers Gypsies Fun Fly in Wayne, NY  
September 11 (rain date Sept 12) - Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society FPV Race in Phoenix, NY  
September 18-19 - The Dave Lander Kanakadea Float Fly in Hornell, NY  
October 9-10 (weather dependent) - STARS Pumpkin Pass Fly-In and Heli Meet in Cuba, NY  
October 23 - Sky Rovers Auction in Phelps, NY

\*All dates, times and events are subject to change. Check current listings...



## 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>