

August 2020

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 10/10/20 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.

Annual GVAM picnic Canceled

The annual club family and friends picnic which normally happens this time of year has been canceled. Concerns over the COVID-19 virus and associated restrictions left little choice in the matter. Let's hope that all aspects of life return to normal and next year everything gets back to business as usual.

2020: A year to Forget?

2020 is only 2/3 over and there is already so much that many of us would most likely prefer to purge from the memory banks as if it never happened. Better yet, we'd prefer to have a "do over" and find a way to make it all come together differently. A virus that convinced the powers that be to shut down an entire country, storms, injuries, lost or destroyed careers, riots and violence on a national scale... It's a long and dire list I needn't review in its entirety 'cause we're all living it every day.

Maybe I'm selfish but as I sit here reflecting on everything that's happened (and continues to happen) in the world around us I find myself focusing mostly on more friends lost from my favorite RC club. In short order three names have been added to a growing list of people we will never see at the flying field ever again. Dave Beckwith, Tom Brown and Ned Holmes passed recently and are already missed dearly.

***Dave Beckwith was 68 and passed away on July 14th. He was born in Rochester and moved to Honeoye about thirty years ago. He had many interests including photography, boating, summer concerts and community activities but what I remember most is everything I've been told about so many years of active involvement with RC planes and, specifically, his membership in the Genesee Valley Aero Modelers.



In recent years Dave was less active in GVAM but was still responsible for upkeep of the club website and whatnot. However, through the 90s and early 2000s, he was a real driving force in the club. Throughout those years he was very supportive and directly involved with things like the infamous Hornet races (.049 powered pylon racers), boat building with an offshoot of the club (Genesee Valley Marine Modelers), website design and he was instrumental in securing a permanent regular meeting location. I'm told he was a self-appointed head chef for the club's outings to the annual STARS rally in Olean and no one argued with it 'cause he was a great cook (wish I could have been there for that).



I recently found out that Dave taught an adult education class in Honeoye (along with Charlie Vogel) on model aircraft construction and it was through that class that Max Wright found his way into the club. On one Thursday "club night" Dave showed up with a plane rigged with a special cradle to carry gliders aloft and a servo release mechanism to set them free. It was a simple effective design and soon several club members had planes that were "glider ready." From everything Glenn and Jim have told me in recent weeks it seems there's no way the club could be what it is today without Dave Beckwith as a member.

***Ned Holmes was also a very active member of the club until more recent years. He was 85 and passed peacefully on July 31st. I wish I knew more about him but just from what I do know he was a very interesting guy.



Ned had a 37-year career with the New York State DEC and when he retired he was the Natural Resources Supervisor for DEC Region 8. He was involved with the Livingston County Center for Dispute Settlement as a mediator for 25 years. He was also involved with the Fiddlers of the Genesee, was a mentor for youth through Catholic Charities and a board member for the American Wildlife Research Foundation.

Ned was very active most of his life. He was an avid cyclist touring much of North America and Europe, was a hunter and fisherman, Hell, the man even climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro at age 73 to help raise money for cancer research. He was active on numerous church boards and, of course, was into model airplanes like the rest of us.

***Tom Brown (aka The Titusville Terror) was 89 and passed on August 10th. As with Ned, I wish I knew more of his story but I'm told he always livened up the field when he showed up and it was worth the price of admission to watch Charlie trying to teach him to fly. Tom graduated from Edison Tech in 1950. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War aboard the USS Missouri. He worked at Lawyers Co-op, was a building inspector, then became the Assistant Superintendent of Public Works for the Village of Spencerport and was active in the American Legion Post (also in Spencerport). He was an avid pilot of a plane he shared with a friend for many years.

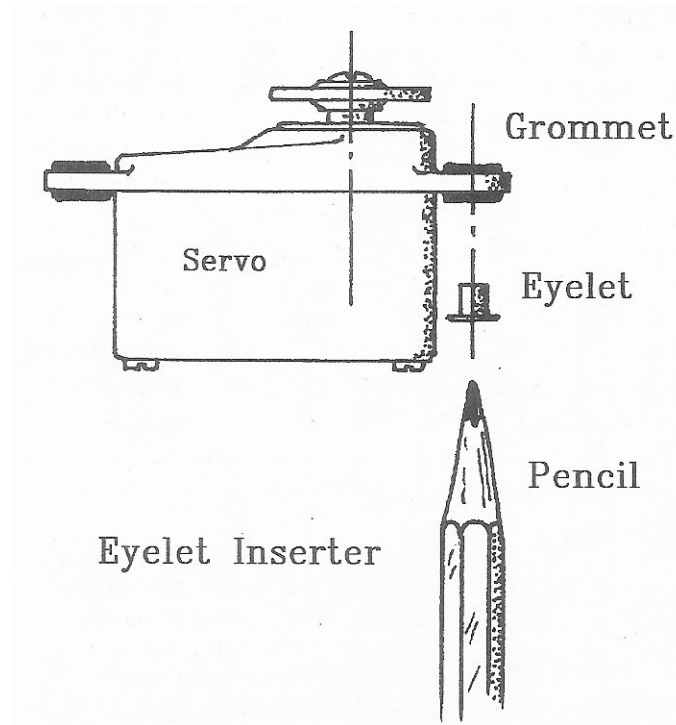
He also enjoyed many activities throughout his life including boating, skiing and hunting. Above all he loved being with his family.

Three more amazing, colorful people brought together with us by a common interest in model aviation. It amazes me how diverse the hobby is when you take a really close look. They will be dearly missed by all but are no doubt watching over us from a far better place where planes never crash, it's never windy or rainy and everyone is a Top Gun champion pilot.



Tips and Tricks

Ever get frustrated trying to insert those little servo mounting screw eyelets into their rubber bushings? Seems to me they keep getting smaller every year. I'm sure it's not my diminished manual dexterity or failing eyesight or plain ol' lack of patience or anything like that. This actually works pretty well. A pencil works wonders compared to my old guy fingers.



2020 REALLY SUCKS!!!!!!



Photos from the Field



Decathlon "before"



Decathlon "after"



Glenn "before"

I don't have a Glenn "after" picture but even if I did I suspect it would probably be inappropriate to publish. For any who don't know, Glenn had a nasty run in with the Ford tractor. He was hospitalized after somehow finding his way under one of the rear wheels while the tractor was moving. I don't know the exact details of how or why but I can say last I heard he was home from the hospital and starting the recovery process. Hopefully, with a little luck, we'll see him at the field very regularly again very soon...

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-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