

February 2021

Balsa Dust

An Official Publication Of Genesee Valley Aero Modelers, Ltd.

www.gvam.org

www.facebook.com/gvaero/

Editor: Peter Donk 2044 Deiter Rd. Wayland, NY 14572 peterdonk@aol.com

NEXT G.V.A.M. MEETING

Saturday 3/13/21 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:

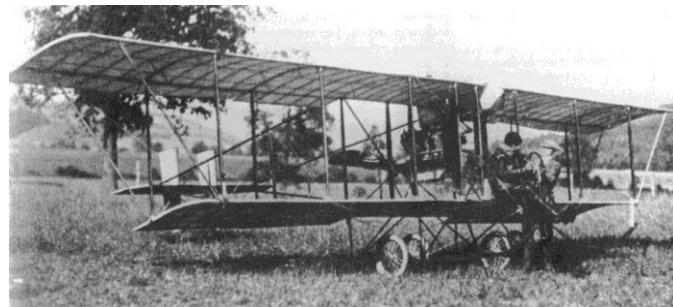
Glenn Crocker, GVAM Treasurer
21 Highview Trail
Pittsford, NY 14534

Did You Know?

By Nick Trezza

Hi gang!!! Hope all you RC pilots are getting ready for the new flying season. It's not here yet but you can see it from here. 2020 was a pretty rough year for all of us so hopefully we'll get a fresh start in 2021 and everything will be much better. Anyway, here comes my world famous "Did You Know?" column.

The first item is regarding Thomas Brothers Aeroplane Company. The two Thomas brothers, William and Oliver, were British guys born in Argentina. William came to the U.S. and got a job working for Glenn Curtiss in Hammondsport, NY as an engineer from 1908 to 1909. Not long after, in 1910, he decided to open his own shop in a barn in Hammondsport with the help of his brother. They recruited another Curtiss employee, Walter Johnson, who taught himself how to fly, turn wrenches and was



The venerable Thomas TA/E biplane

a test pilot and flight instructor. In 1912 they designed and manufactured the Thomas TA Biplane which sold fairly well. Then in the same year they opened a flight school in (of all places) Conesus, N.Y. In 1917 they merged with the Morse Chain Co. and became the Thomas-Morse Aircraft Co. Then they moved the whole thing to Ithaca, N.Y. and, as they say, "The rest is history." They were one of the few American manufacturers making planes for training pilots in WW1. If I recall correctly, none of the Thomas-Morse planes ever saw action but they did train many many pilots.



Looking west from the flying school at McPherson's Point, Conesus Lake, NY (1914)

The next item is one of those things that sounds great but was a terrible idea. At the end of WW2 Boeing (the largest aircraft manufacturer and technologically advanced company at the time) decided to come up with a small airplane design for STOL (short takeoff and landing). So, they come up with the YL-15. This had to be one of the ugliest planes ever to come across Boeing's drafting tables. It was a small, high wing all metal plane and the front half looked like an old Aeronca while the back half... Oh yeah, it didn't have one. The cabin stopped and the plane had a twin tail. It looked like someone forgot to add the rest of the plane. It had two outstretched main wheels with a third wheel in the rear at the end of the cabin???? It had full-wing flaperons that could be used as ailerons and flaps at the same time. It had folding wings so it could be towed behind a jeep or put in the bed of a 2 1/2 ton truck. It first flew in 1947 and the Army purchased six. Then the Army said, "We don't want this piece of junk" because the competition (i.e. Cessna, Taylorcraft, etc.) had better planes for cheaper prices (thank God). So whatever planes were made were turned over to the Game and Wildlife Dept. where they died a slow death. The thing is, because so few of these planes were made, if you can find one today it's worth a small fortune.



As of 2017, the only flying YL-15 Scout in the world. Owner Keith Brunquist pilots her over Minnesota Farmland

Well, that's it for me gang. Stay safe and it won't be long before we start sayin', "See you at the field." Fly On!!!
Nick T. V.P.

Projects

Glenn sent along these pictures of his ongoing de Havilland Mosquito project. Looks like it's coming along really well. Can't imagine how many hours of sanding goes into a build like this.





Glenn pointed out that the landing gear on this one is a bit of the Eric Higham legacy. Eric, master machinist, fabricated the parts and pieces that went into the gear. Glenn also said that he's had three Mosquitos with this custom Higham gear and there hasn't been a single landing gear failure. Sounds about right.



Glenn's new hot rod. It's a Redwing RC Edge 540 he says went together very well. He didn't mention what's onboard for power but he did say wide open it should "go like stink" and he expects he may just have to hold on for the ride. Sharp looking plane.



I may be a glutton for punishment but I really feel the need to make another attempt at having a Super Decathlon model that lasts for more than a flight or two. This is a 96.4" Black Horse Model Super Decathlon. I'll be using the same DLE 35RA engine that crashed and burned on last year's attempt along with some more-than-adequate Savox servos. Hope to do lots of flying with this one. 😊

SPRING IS COMING!!!



Photos from the Field



Nick making ready for a flight on a beautiful day



Jeremy's big ol' orange floater



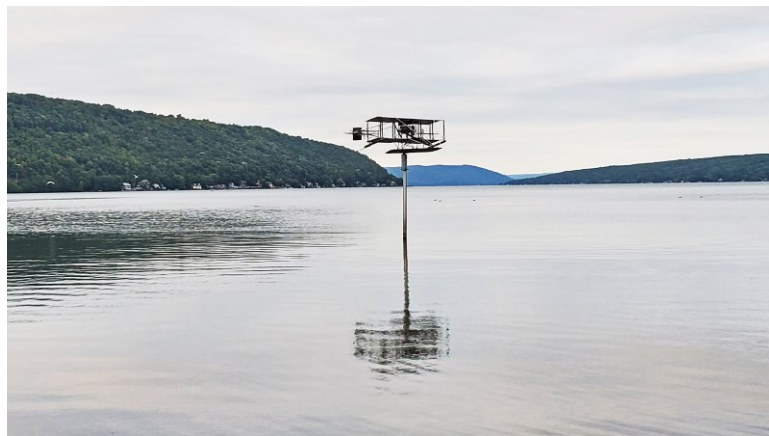
Looks like the Jim and David squadron on a nice Thursday night



Two of my favorites including Mighty Moose



Obviously sometime in the mid-twentieth century long before there were laws of any kind. No good could've come from this



The weather vane at Champlin Beach Park in Hammonsport.
A nice little nod to Glenn Curtiss

**WHATEVER YOU FLY. WHEREVER YOU FLY.
AMA HAS YOU COVERED.**



AMA ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS
THE LARGEST MODEL AIRCRAFT ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD
CALL THE AMA (800) 435-9262

Tips and Tricks

Here's something that sounds like a neat idea. You could stick a fancy little name tag on a transmitter. Maybe tell the world who the pilot of that stunning aircraft is. You could glue it to your forehead so no one will forget your name. Before you discard that expired credit card or bank card cut your name off of it and save it for when a need arises. Heck, some even still have that really cool looking raised 3D gold lettering. Sporty yet economical!... ☺



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