

May 2020

# Balsa Dust

An Official Publication Of Genesee Valley Aero Modelers, Ltd.

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

Thursday 10/8/20 6:30pm at the Honeoye Public Library  
(8708 Main St. Honeoye)

## No Mowing Schedule

Some of you may have noticed that I haven't published a mowing schedule yet this year. Well, I hadn't received one from Glenn so I inquired about it when I saw him at the field. Turns out we don't need one for this season. Jim McBride and Max Wright have graciously taken on all the mowing responsibilities themselves. Who knows whether it's because they're overly generous ambitious wonderful human beings or they just really like blasting around on that fancy new mowing machine? As far as I'm concerned it really doesn't matter. Either way I feel grateful that the job will be done for us. Many thanks Jim and Max!

## Did You Know?

By Nick Trezza

Well gang, hope everyone is fine and getting to the field to fly. One good thing about this staying home because of this virus stuff, I'm putting a big dent in my "to do" list. Presently I have 7 airplanes to give maiden flights to. Some new, some used, 3 glow and 4 electrics. So, I just have to get to the field. Now it's time for Did You Know?

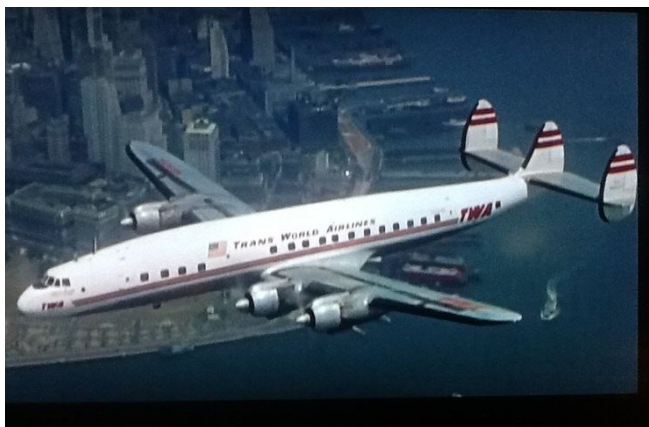
This first item is unbelievable to me but it's true. It's an airplane designed and built by Convair - the NB-36H. From the outside it looked just like a B-36 but what made it different was how it was powered. It was powered by (get ready for this) a nuclear reactor! They made a couple of prototypes and then thought about it and figured it may be a problem refueling it and protecting the flight and maintenance crews from radiation. Thank God they put a little more thought into it and realized that if one of these planes were to crash, they might have



a problem with not only a crashed airplane but radiation contamination that couldn't be contained. WHAT THE HELL WERE THESE GUYS THINKING?!?! I don't have 10 years of college in aeronautical design and engineering and even I can tell you that this might be a substantial problem!

Anyway, the next couple of items are quick facts...

The first president to fly in an airplane --- Theodore Roosevelt in 1910. The pilot was a guy who worked for the Wright Bros. named Archibald Hoxsey.



Next, in 1944 a new plane was starting to come on the scene. It was quite a technological advancement. It was the Lockheed Constellation. One of the first passengers was none other than Orville Wright. He got in the plane and made his way up to the cockpit, sat in the pilot's seat and looked around in amazement at all the instruments, dials and gauges and said, "I knew airplanes would eventually fly themselves." So, he made his way to the back of the cabin, took a seat and was going to go for a little ride. By the way... The pilot for that little trip was Howard Hughes.

Last item is a plane called the Wagner Twin Tri-Pacer. It was developed in 1952 in Portland, Oregon by Harold Wagner. It was 2 Piper Tri-Pacer engines with one cockpit cabin (it looked really goofy). One of the props had a spacer to the engine so the prop arcs would overlap but were staggered. I think some of these guys develop these types of planes just to be different. They may not make much sense or have many benefits but they are different.



Well gang, that's it for me. Always remember --- 2 wrongs don't make a right but 2 Wrights make an airplane. See you at the field!!! Fly on!... *Nick T. V.P.*

## Thanks from Above

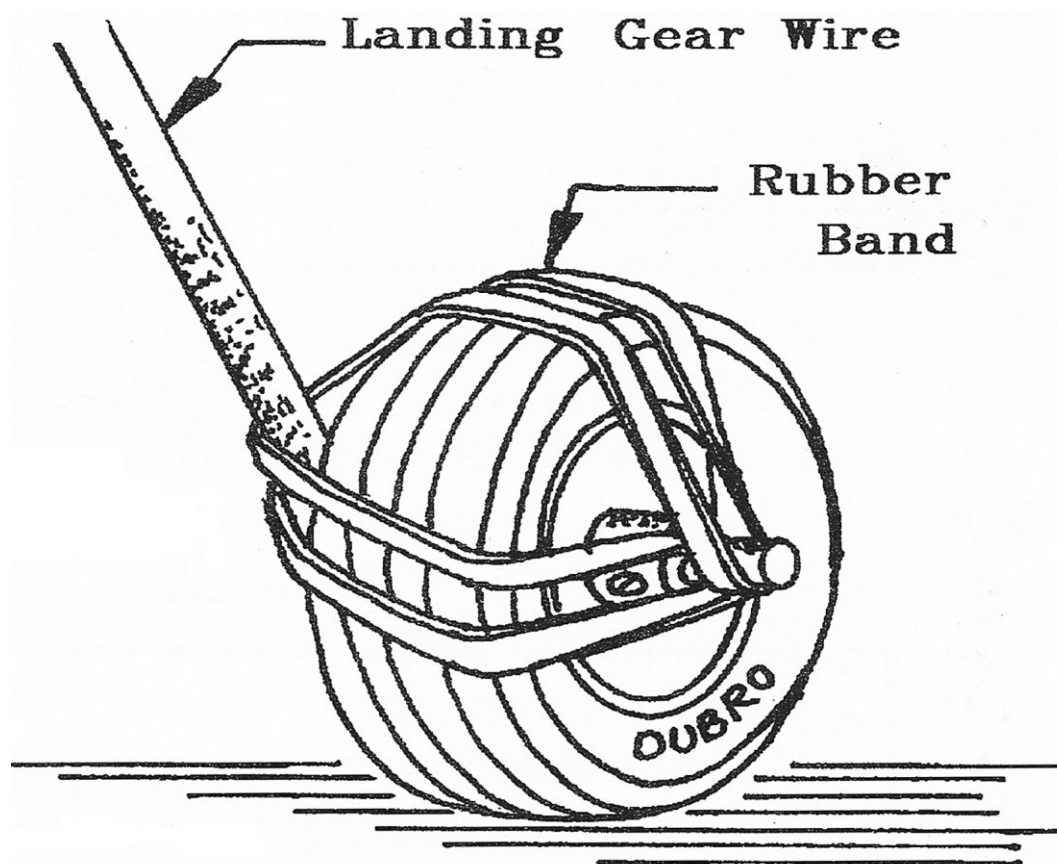
On May 16<sup>th</sup> the National Warplane Museum embarked on Operation Thanks From Above. During much of the day the venerable "Whiskey 7" (Douglas C-47) accompanied by the P-51 Mustang known as "Mad Max" could be seen in the skies over much of Central and Western New York. Their intent was to spotlight and focus on the efforts of all the front-line workers who have done so much during the COVID-19 pandemic and give the general population a reason to look up and smile even if only for a few minutes.

Their flight path just happened to take them directly over the towns of Honeoye, Canadice and Springwater which had them flying right past the GVAM flying field about midway between the field and Honeoye Lake. The field was a perfect place to see them fly by with them being so close and it being about 4:30 in the afternoon so the sun was at our backs and the planes were well lit. It really was an impressive sight.



## Tips and Tricks

Here's one that might come in handy for some. Keeping a plane from rolling around all over your vehicle while transporting is sometimes problematic. Some build elaborate wheel chocks or stops or whatnot to control the load (I just jam enough planes in my truck that there's nowhere for them to move to 😊) but this ridiculously simple technique might be just what the doctor ordered for certain situations. I would guess for larger planes you'd need jumbo heavy-duty rubber bands or small bungee cords but I suspect the application would be identical.





# Photos from the Field



Nick and Max preparing to deploy goose-impeding fishing line across the pond with a drone



The mission is underway



Nick feeding out the line as Jim awaits the drone's arrival on the far bank



Glenn making ready with Old Faithful



Taxiing out for another great flight



It was supposed to be "maiden day" but a faulty ignition module led to a scrubbed launch ☹️

Hope to see you all at the field 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-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](mailto:peterdonk@aol.com)