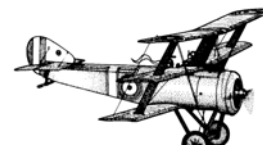


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The Johnstown R/C Club Digital Dope Sheet



July 2008 Newsletter

Johnstown R/C Club's Forty-Sixth Year

Join us online at: www.Johnstownrc.org

Next Club Meeting....

Our July club meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 1st at 8:30 pm at the Richland Twp. Municipal Building. Weather permitting, we will fly at the field first! Hope to see you there!

Family Picnics.....

We have had two monthly family picnics so far, and both have been a success. As you know, the last Sunday in each month is reserved for the whole family, so we hope to see your family at this Month's outing on Sunday, June 29th. Bring the kids, the wife, girlfriend, or significant other, and enjoy visiting with the other folks between flights, and of course bring a plane or two to join in the fun. All we ask is that you bring something along to eat to share with the group. The club will provide the hotdogs, buns, fixins and the utensils and plates. July's family picnic will be held on Sunday, July 27th. We usually eat around 5pm. Come on out and bring a guest!

Flight Box Repaired!

Bill Majercsik did a wonderful job the end of May repairing our flight box. Over time the boards had deteriorated, and Bill replaced them, added a new coat of paint, and it now looks really sharp! Thanks Bill! Sam Kaplitz also helped out by weed-eating the fence and gate area. Thanks Sam!



New Member Matt McKinney.....



Joining our club at the May meeting was new member, Matt McKinney. Matt is a junior at Richland Twp. High School and has a real interest in RC flying. Matt is 17 years old, and has put together a Tiger Trainer with a 40 size engine. He has been working closely with Sam Kaplitz on getting things set correctly, and on Friday May 30th, he made his first training flight. And what a

job he did! I was there to watch, and Sam had Matt doing figure 8's, loops, ovals, and he caught on very quickly to the basics. Matt's other interests are in computers, 3D Graphic Design, and using Photo Shop. He also has had an interest in full scale flying, having taken some lessons from our March Banquet speaker, Frank Strittmatter of MTT Aviation. Matt has a large scale Piper Cub (9 foot wingspan) in his garage, which he is anxious to get into flying condition after getting his trainer wings. Matt also likes to play computer games and enjoys hiking. His future plans after high school include college and engineering, or perhaps navy aviation. Matt now has his AMA license and is looking forward to more "stick time" to develop his flying skills.

On Sunday June 1st Matt was flying again with Paul as his mentor, and unfortunately came in too low at the north end of the field and caught a treetop. He had to hire the “tree climber” to get his plane back. Matt says the damage is repairable and he should be back in the air real soon! That’s the spirit Matt!

Former Club Member Tim Thomas.....



I was fortunate to get in touch with former club member Tim Thomas a few weeks ago. It turns out my brother knows Tim’s dad from down in the Virginia area, and he was able to get me Tim’s phone number and email address, so I called him. Tim is living in Maryland now, and is flying real helicopters! Yup, he has graduated and is now flying R-22’s and sometimes R-44’s. He has earned his private helicopter license and is currently working on his instructor rating. He has actually ferried full scale new choppers from California back to the east coast for delivery! His tour in Iraq is now finished, having worked for a DOD (Department of Defense) Navy contractor over there. He said he

couldn’t tell me the details of his work or he would have to kill me! Very secret UAV type work though. For you members who never had the pleasure of meeting Tim, he is an awesome helicopter and fixed wing RC flyer! He said he is going to try and come back up to the Johnstown area and visit us at the field sometime this summer. We will be looking forward to his visit I’m sure. I also sent him some email copies of the last two club newsletters to bring him up to date on our clubs activities. Tim wishes all the club members who remember him the best and that all our landings are soft and smooth perfect “10’s”!

June Meeting Recap

Our June meeting was special in that we had a visit from AMA Region III Vice President, Bob Brown. Bob and his wife Joann drove clear down from Bradford, PA to visit our club. He got here in time for evening flying, but due to the rain that started to fall about 5:30 at the field, we had to continue our visit at our meeting site. Bob gave the 22 club members present some real insights into the AMA, and covered several other important issues relative to our RC hobby.



AMA Region III VP with Sam

Bob talked to us about several current problems with the FAA relative to our RC hobby with the rapid increase in UAV flying. They (the FAA) are not really too friendly toward our hobby right at the moment, and having our parent organization (AMA) lobbying for our sport is now very important. Bob also reviewed some of the goals and the mission of the AMA. He also talked about the rapid increase use of the 2.4 Mhz radios, and how our clubs use of the Futaba FASST system seems right on target! There are now 5 club members who fly on this new radio system which does not require the use of the frequency pins. He said that at a recent test event, over 100 RC flyers had their planes up at one time... on the same field... to test the spread spectrum 2.4 Mhz system. While they were at it, they created a new Guinness world record for the most RC planes flying together at one place. The 2.4 Mhz system worked fine with no frequency problems, however there were several mid-air crashes! We seem to “peak out” at about 6 planes flying at once on our field! I can’t imagine trying to keep your eye on “your” plane with a hundred flying around! Bob also covered some recent

AMA insurance questions and how they could affect our club. He also discussed the new Park Pilot Program and how it is intended to induce more, and younger flyers, into the AMA by targeting the newer small electric planes that can be flown at smaller venues. Current average age of all AMA members is 54, and by reaching out to the younger, Park Flyer crowd, we may obtain more younger members, who may stay with our hobby and grow into the larger, gas and electric type of flying.

Sam reviewed the current field conditions, and informed the club that Don Hoffman has sprayed for grubs, and applied weed killer, in an effort to try and improve the flying field. The field is really healing very well from the turf damage with all the rain during the past month. All the members present really appreciated Bob's visit and his remarks. Unfortunately for Bob and his wife, they had to make a 3+ hour drive back to Bradford, PA after the meeting, while some of us enjoyed "pizza and a Pepsi" at Pappy's restaurant.



Club Officers with AMA Region III Vice President Bob Brown.

Annual Big Bird FlyIn

By Scott Hollsople

On May 24th, Ken Reese and I ventured out to Zelienople, PA for the 11th Annual Big Bird Fly In sponsored by the MARS club in Pittsburgh. This was a sanctioned event by the AMA and the IMAA. We left Ken's house, Big Bingo in tow, and headed for the turnpike in Somerset when Ken looked at me and asked, "Did you bring the fuel?" Well, after we went back to get the fuel, we headed out again and it took about two hours to get to the field, just off the Cranberry Exit of the PA Turnpike. We met up with Bill Scherle to join the IMAA but he said it was not necessary. All we had to do was fill out some forms and have fun! It is really something when all you see is Giant Scale airplanes flying around with the smallest one being a Hobby Lobby Telemaster, with a .91 glow engine. After registering, we went to unload the Bingo and get it ready. That is when I discovered that one of the 4 wing bolts had fallen out somewhere. We looked all over the van and the grass around the van but couldn't find it! Ken talked to a fellow pitting beside us and by golly he had one! After getting my radio impounded and obtaining a pin, we got the Bingo started and took off. I made several high speed passes but the wing was twisting and shaking, and doing everything it was not supposed to do, so I brought it in for a shaky, but safe landing. We first thought it was one of the wing bolts which came off, but after examining the plane we soon

learned that the right aileron servo mount had become completely dislodged, and was just hanging there. The gentleman beside us asked us what it would take to fix it, and we said "a little 5 minute epoxy." They offered to help, but after the fuel problem and a near loss of the Big Bingo, I had enough! So, we packed up and walked down the flight line and saw lots of beautiful scale and non-scale giant airplanes. If you like Big Stuff, I recommend attending this event. Good people, lots of fun, and it was FREE! Thanks Scott for this report! Below are a couple pictures Scott took at the event.



It's always fun to see BIG planes

Turf Damage Hearing Update.....

The hearing for the two boys who damaged our field in early April has still not taken place. I attended their arraignment hearing in May, but the actual hearing to

determine their fate has been continued several times by various people, including their attorney, and even myself. They were going to have it on July 18th, but I will be in Arizona attending our sons wedding, so it's continued again until Wednesday, July 2nd. Sam and your editor were asked to be there as witness's for the commonwealth case. We will give you an update here, when the final disposition takes place.

A Tribute to our Grounds Keeper.....



This month we feature the man who takes such good care of our flying field! Don Hoffman has been taking care of our field now for almost 27 years, and doing a fine job of it! We are fortunate to have a person like Don who has the dedication and work ethic that is missing in so many folks today. When the club first starting flying at this field, early club members tried to maintain it by sharing the mowing duties. That didn't work out too well, and Don came to the rescue. He has been keeping our field in great shape ever since. Don lives just down the way on Krayn Road, so it's fairly handy for him to drive his Kubota tractor up to the field on a weekly basis to keep our field looking sharp.

Don took early retirement from Bethlehem Steel in Oct. of 1982, where he worked in the cost department and calculated costs associated with the open hearth operations. Many of our club members never see Don in person, but they do see the result of his work! We appreciate you Don, and appreciate the great job you do in keeping the field in ship shape!



Don Hoffman at work!

Words of wisdom from Larry the Cable Guy.....

I came across of few of Larry's sayings and thought you might enjoy them.

1. A day without sunshine is like..... night.
2. 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.
3. 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
4. Remember, half the people you know are below average!
5. A clear conscience is usually a sign of a bad memory.

6. If you think nobody cares, try missing a payment!
7. Did you ever hear of a psychic winning the lottery? Why?
8. What happens if you get scared half to death, twice?
9. Hard work pays off in the future, laziness pays off now!
10. OK, so what's the speed of dark?
11. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap!

Club Phone List

We have updated the club phone list and included a copy with this issue of the newsletter. You can place this list beside your phone in case you want to get in contact with other members of the club.



Here Bob Brown, AMA Vice President of Region III shows Cliff Majercsik the details of the T-Rex 450 helicopter he brought with him to our June club meeting