

# Pilot Briefing

Volume 1, Issue 9

October 2009



## Upcoming Events!!!

Regular Meeting. 7:00 PM, Oct. 5th- Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church

### Officers:

President :  
Warren Batson

Vice President:  
Vic Horton

Secretary:  
Flavio Ambrosini

Treasurer  
Whitney Philbrick

Membership:  
Rob Stubbs

Field Director-Hopewell  
Mark Monroe

Flight Instructor  
Walt Ericson

Safety Officer  
Jerry Rohling

News Editor  
Bob Magee

Directors at Large  
Bob Allen  
Rick Knight  
Bob Magee

Pilot Briefing Editor  
Ron Revelle

## President's Corner

Well, another successful Rhinebeck Jamboree has just passed. I want to thank all the MHRCS members that helped in making this event a great success. I received many positive comments and e-mails from our event pilots.

It seems that everyone had a good time again this year despite the lousy weather that Mother Nature decided to throw at us. We have had worse so, all in all it was a good event.

The passing of the Jamboree also signifies that the end of flying season is fast approaching. Overall MHRCS had another good year. The summer of 2009 will be remembered for one of the wettest and coolest summers in some time. There still seemed to be a lot of flying by our members from what I saw from my visits to the fields and the conversations on the MHRCS group forum. MHRCS was also fortunate to negotiate the use of the Red Wing facility. I hope this field serves MHRCS well in the future.

In the coming weeks I will be trying to get a few flights in before the cold weather sets in. Now that the day light is getting shorter I will be returning to the basement shop to work on uncompleted projects from last winter. I look forward to this break from the flying season as I do not get much building done during the good weather and I do enjoy building as much as flying. If anyone else is building some projects this winter I encourage you to show off your latest project at our monthly meetings.

# President's Corner Continued

Elections for club officers will be held in the coming months. If you are interested in running for any of the board positions please contact any present board member to have your name added to the voting roster.

Lastly, MHRCS is looking for some programs to have at our club meetings. If you have some building tips you would like to share or information on engines or electrics setups, anything. Please contact the board and we will work you into one of the meetings.

Look to see everyone at our meetings.

Warren Batson

**In Memoriam** We regret the loss of long time MHRCS member Dick Lowery. He was a good friend and a very active member of our club. He will be missed but certainly not forgotten. Our shared passion for flying and building forms such a strong and special bond between us. It is amazing how time and passing doesn't change that on bit! At the October club meeting the editor will have a card to be signed by all club members and to be sent to Dick's wife.

## 2009 NEAT FAIR—

On the weekend of September 19th and 20th, the annual NEAT Fair was held at Hidden Valley Campground near Downsville NY. As usual, there was a huge turnout. Loads of pilots and vendors. One of the more impressive pilots had recently returned from active duty in Afghanistan where he piloted UAV's. He put on quite a show with an electric powered ship. Dave Lockhart was present to demonstrate his FAI skills. After listening to Whitney Philbrick's presentation at the September meeting on the potential fire hazards related to charging LiPo battery packs, the editor picked up a Li-Po Guard for 12 bucks at the fair. Lots of good prices on equipment and planes could be found. If you have never attended the NEAT Fair, consider making the journey next September. It is well worth the trip. It was quite an experience to see such a long flight line at a campground where the R/C Barnstormers of Delaware County had flown alone decades ago!



Look who was caught by the paparazzi buying a new plane at the NEAT fair....We all know that he needs another plane!

## Rhinebeck 09

Most of you have seen and read the outstanding report on Rhinebeck put together by John, and Whitney Philbrick and CD Jim Rangitsch. A great job guys. This newsletter can only add a few additional photos and remarks.



One can only guess what the Doc is sharing with the Captain in this shot! Almost like the coach talking to his top pitcher before he takes the mound. During one of the flights, the editor was asked to join the team and overheard one of the conversations and it still brings a smile to his face. Clearly this was an airport and not the operating room!



United Airlines Captain Brian Silcox at work photographing a beautiful Spad.

Ransom Fairchild is seen propping the beautiful 1/3 scale Sopwith Camel which was built by Dr. Marvin Erbsfeld who is seen holding the plane. The Sopwith took first place and it was very easy to see why. What a beauty. Piloting the Camel was Ransom Fairchild who makes his home in Florida and is a airline captain for American Airlines. Ransom's dad was a barnstormer and was one of the first commercial pilots for Eastern Airlines. Ransom shared some fascinating stories about his dad's life in aviation. Hopefully in the future they will be available in book form. Wait till then to hear about how the Cuban eight came about! Doc. Erbsfeld is a heart surgeon when he isn't building scale planes. To protect his own heart, he was tempted to turn his head when Ransom put the almost \$11,000 Camel through it's paces!



Chip Koenig, another Captain for American is seen talking with Ransom and getting his beautiful Nieuport ready to go.

Be sure to check out Brian's outstanding work at [www. Flightof 2photography.com](http://www.Flightof2photography.com). for the "spectacular air-to-air photography of acclaimed aviation photography of Brian M. Wilcox" A great source of info for war-bird buffs.....

## Meeting a real hero!- by the editor



389th bomb group  
on a mission!

On Saturday at Rhinebeck I happened to overhear one of the pilots, David Smith, mention to a vendor something about a B-24. The vendor asked the David to pass along his thanks to his father for his service. Naturally, I asked David for some additional information. It turns out his dad, William O. Smith Sr. was a radio operator on a B-24 in WWII, having flown thirty missions. David informed me that his dad planned to be at Rhinebeck the next day. On Sunday I had the honor of meeting Mr. William Smith Sr. and found out that he had flown in the same bomb group and squadron at the same time as my dad. Both had been based in Hethel England. Mr. Smith also trained as a gunner and mechanic in order to be qualified to change positions if needed on a mission. It always amazes me when I am privileged to meet one of the members of the Greatest Generation, that they are so humble. What a fine gentleman! We talked about a number of things concerning his service on B4s as my dad would call them. Typically, the B-17s got all of the publicity. We shared a bit of disappointment that there hasn't been more recognition given for the job that the B-24s did in the Mighty 8th. We talked about Col. Jimmy Stewart the actor, being one of the commanding officers at that time. All of these men have been larger than life to me for as long as I can recall. They always will be! What they did to liberate Europe and to protect our freedom made all the difference.



David Smith getting his 1/3 scale Pup ready to fly.



Airman William O. Smith and his beautiful bride, Anna May during WWII



Left to right....David, William O. Smith Sr. and William O. Smith Jr.

You can tell that both of Mr. Smith's sons are cut from the same fine cloth. What an honor to meet Mr. Smith and his boys. This man, who along with so many of his fellow servicemen, made our lives free and full called me Mr. Revelle when we met. Talk about humility. I was truly humbled to be in his company. Thank you Mr. Smith. I salute you! You will always have my respect and deep appreciation. Some of us will never forget, no matter how long we live. And we will pass along your legacy. Airman William O. Smith, U.S Army Air Corp we cannot thank you enough! You and your fellow servicemen have been real role models!

CAVU till the next time, Ron