

# Pilot Briefing

Volume 1, Issue 8

September 2009



## Upcoming Events!!!

Sept. 12th and 13th Rhinebeck Jamboree  
Sept. 14th Regular meeting 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

For several years now I have been attending the IMAA giant scale fun fly hosted by the Lazy 8's club in Johnstown, NY on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of Aug. The Lazy 8's is a great group of guys and they go out of their way to welcome everyone to their event every year. As you can see in the pictures they also have a great field. Their event is a fund raiser for a local Pet organization. This organization provides free pet food to senior citizens that are having trouble affording pet food in these economic times. The clubs entire profit from this event is donated to this organization. They usually raise between \$3-4k every year.

This year 7 fellow MHRCS members joined me at the event. Six of the 8 entered the event and flew. Although it was in the upper 80's and very humid, MHRCS members got in many flights. Sat there was a special noon time demonstration by a restored P51 and AT-6 Texan and a full scale helicopter. These aircraft are owned by a local family that has a very successful business. I had an opportunity to meet the pilot of the P51 Sat evening when he brought his 3 children to the field. Since I had my nephew on a buddy box one of the Lazy 8 members asked if I would mind giving the pilots 3 children a few minutes on the buddy box. The kids were in age from 5 to 9. The Pilot started out in RC as a youngster and he took a turn on the buddy box as well.

Since it was so hot there were not many people flying, but the MHRCS members did fly and Ron, the President of the Lazy 8 club thanked me Sunday night. It seems that although there were other flyers the 2 days MHRCS members put in a majority of the flights. Ron was grateful for all the flights that MHRCS members put in for the spectators. He hopes MHRCS flyers come back in force next year.

Continued on Page 2.

# President's Corner Continued

Attending Mid Hudson member were:

Bob Allen	Whitney Philbrick
Warren Batson	Ron Knapp
John Philbrick	Al Stouter
Amy Philbrick	Rick Rizza

A great time was had by all.

Warren Batson



The editor's dog Montana thanks you all for helping with such a worthy cause!



The Squadron from Mid-Hudson!

A very worthy cause



Pat and Warren



Thanks to Ron Knapp for the photos on this page taken at the Johnstown fun fly! Ron did you loan Jim that thing he is wearing on his head? Don't you wear that when you are flying your Zero?

## Scream of Eagles-

Some of you may have already read it, but if not, consider buying a copy of Scream of Eagles by Robert K. Wilcox. It is a great read! It is an account of how the Navy Top Gun pilots changed the kill ratio from 2:1 to 12:1 during the Vietnam war. A couple of the Navy aviators members mentioned in a previous Pilot Briefing are cited in this book. It a fascinating and detailed account of the establishment of the Top Gun school and puts you in the cockpit with some of the top pilots of the war. Copies in soft cover are available from Amazon. If nothing else, get a copy for some ... ahem....Winter reading when you are snowed in..... Did we have summer yet?



## Some Rhinebeck Memories! By the editor

Well, I missed the first one in 1966. But in 1967, at the time when I was starting to experiment with single channel radio control, I read an article in the newspaper announcing the Rhinebeck WWI Jam-boree! After parking my 66 VW in the lot adjacent to the field at Rhinebeck, I started to walk through the parking lot. At the same time, an olive drab scale WWI biplane came flying over head! I couldn't believe what I was seeing. That sight is still burned in my mind. Amazing! A realistic miniature WWI aircraft flying and sounding like the real thing... I was instantly hooked! During the day I took some photos and met a number of the club members. Not long afterward, I joined the IBM R/C Club and got my first proportional radio, a PCM four channel system. In the following years I attended Rhinebeck as a club member. I even camped in a tent on the other side of the runway. What a way to wake up in the morning. It was like being back in time. The sound of one of Cole Palen's full scale WWI planes being started up. Dawn patrol! At several Rhinebecks I served as a flight judge and at the mic explaining to the public what they were seeing.

After leaving the area in 1972 to take a promotion, my next Rhinebeck experience was to return as a contestant in 1975 with a VK Nieuport 17 and my old pal Neil Hunt flying a Bristol Scout designed by Hale Wallace of early Rhinebeck fame. Neil and I flew the combat event. Our flight that was going pretty well till, I lost the elevator servo on my 17. I was very aware of the hundreds of spectators that were lining the runway. I was able to keep my plane at a good altitude using just motor control. I quietly told Neil he would have to attack my plane since I had a bit of a challenge just keeping the plane flying. So our dog fight left a bit to be desired. I knew I would have only one chance at a landing. I throttled back, carefully lined up with the runway and managed to grease a beautiful landing. Really! Didn't ground loop, just rolled straight to a nice stop. Nobody, including the judges, knew what was going on. In 1976, after quite a few combat rehearsal flights in Hancock, NY, Neil and I returned to Rhinebeck for a second shot at combat! This time I was flying a Bristol Scout which was built and loaned to me by our good friend Dave Richardson, a State Trooper from Deposit, NY. Imagine loaning someone a airplane to fly in combat? Dave was that kind of guy. That time we managed to finish in the Great Waldo Pepper slot of second best in combat! What an honor! It was a lot easier to dog fight with an airplane with a working elevator!

After all these years, I am equally excited about attending Rhinebeck 2009....and once again as a club member!



The editor and Neil at Rhinebeck '75



The 1975 crowd that I wanted to avoid landing on!