

# Pilot Briefing

Mid Hudson Radio Control Society



Volume 10, Issue 1

January 2018

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## President's Corner

Greetings Everybody,

Welcome to a new year, hope all stayed safe. As the new year starts we are getting closer to opening the George Busco field and the days are longer.

The new membership renewal form is on our web site, please start renewing your membership.

Hope Christmas brought some of you new toys to bring to the field or to the building table.

The MHRCS Board is looking into how to start bring in some new members, if you have any ideas let one of the board members know. We need to start attracting new members into the club.

Also we need instructors, Warren has been doing a good job but would like to slow down, and we would like other members to start pitching in. If anyone wants to help out please contact a board member. Also anyone wanting to be CD this will also help the club, and Warren will help anyone wanting to be a CD or instructor.

Regards,

Pete

MHRCS 2018 President



## MHRCS Membership Renewals

A Fresh Reminder – Be Mindful of your AMA Membership Renewal Date!

Something to be aware of...

As many of you are aware by now, the AMA changed its billing policy last year so that your membership is on a rolling 12-month basis, where single- and multi-year AMA memberships had previously started 1 Jan and ended 31 Dec of any year.

It is up to you to keep current on your Membership. You cannot fly at any MHRCS field without active AMA registration. Revised MHRCS Bylaws will include a clause reflecting serious penalties if you do fly without a current AMA membership.

## Attracting New Members in 2018

Did you know that you are eligible for the yearly MHRCS dues discount if you attract a new member into the club??? If you find yourself talking up the hobby/past-time/addiction and our MHRCS to someone you know, invite them out to the field or a meeting – they could end up being a new member, with benefits to you, as well. We welcome Neal Biener as the fresh 2018 Membership Director – Go Neal!



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## Skis and Floats in 2018

It's not too late to get your planes on skis, nor too early to think about floats.

Here's a combo article on both topics, and remember floats work great in the snow as well.

Article [HERE](#)



## Speaking of Skis in 2018

Well, with temps hovering around 10dF on Saturday, 6 Jan, I think you would have to think far in advance to get properly set up to fly comfortably in those conditions, without risking frostbite or glacier blindness – ha. The Frost Fly has been postponed until further notice – and temps rise a bit. It seems we may be through this cold snap as current forecast for this coming Fri is – wait for it – 49dF. Remember to hydrate often and wear your sunblock.



## Speaking of Floats in 2018

Jerry Rohling has tentatively set Saturday 19 May 2018 as the annual float fly at Lake Taconic. Get yourself some floats and have some fun.



## When Life Imitates RC

Electric-powered flight at commercial application is a reality. The Alpha Electro, an electric Lite Sport airplane from Pipestrel in Slovenia, is being seen as a quiet shuttle craft for training and air taxi operations. Manufacturer's info [HERE](#)- and click pic for vid.



Would you rather fly in a quadcopter? Then this might suit you better... Article [HERE](#) (pic follows on next page)



## Solving that Perpetual Mystery

I know you all stay up late at night pondering tough, nagging questions, like “Just how does one pronounce Guillows?” Read to find out [HERE](#). There will be a test at the next meeting.

Now, just how does one pronounce Dumas???

Anyway...

Nice RC conversion for Guillows Spitfire (click for vid)



What? Of course it flies - and – admirably. (click)

## KJU an avid RC flyer?

Guess one of KJU’s toy planes was found without proper identification on the drone. Just assuming it is his because his FAA registration was not found anywhere on the plane... Article [HERE](#)



## Builder’s Corner

(all building tips and accounts welcome!)

1. Great to hear from our Southern contingent – thanks, Tom, for keeping us up to date... And per your comment in the article, I hope we see you this Sept at the Jamboree. That is just a fine-looking airplane, skillfully done.

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I finally finished the engine and radiator on my new Pietenpol. I shaped a piece of blue foam for the engine block, added a few different sizes of plastic pushrod tubing for the exhaust stacks, intake manifold, and water lines. 1/4" balsa frame for the radiator with fiberglass window screen for the cooling fins plus business card cuts outs to face off the radiator both front and rear and a slotted screw with a piece of 1/16" plywood for the radiator cap. The spark plugs are made from 2mm nylon locking nuts used for the bases with a short piece of plastic tubing slid inside and a piece of servo signal wire inserted for the plug wires going into a balsa distributor on the back of the engine. There are two rare earth magnets imbedded in the blue foam on the bottom of the engine block plus two opposing magnets hot glued under the fiberglass cowl that let me pop it on and off in an instant. Kinda neat if I say so myself. The entire Ford Model A engine/radiator assembly weighs 10 gr. I used the curve of a paint can with some sandpaper taped to it to sand down the bottom of the engine block to fit the contour of the fiberglass cowl so the engine fits nice and snug on the top of it. The model test flew quite well a few weeks ago so it was time to add the graphics and engine detail. She's a keeper for sure. Might even bring it to Rhinebeck in Sept. It has a 56" wing span and weighs exactly 3 pounds with a 3s 2200 lipo installed. Tom

**forward to hearing more about progress and the eventual maiden. We're having the right weather for much bench time, these days...**

"Hi Pete here are some more pictures of my Wendell Hostetler 33% GEE BEE R2"



**2. Here comes another beauty from Charlie Knight. The venerable Gee Bee R2 – what a great classic. Looking**

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3. From Neal Biener – another precision builder! Keep us posted with progress and maiden, Neal.  
Current project Hobbyking 1800 Balsa J3 Cub. 1.1 Hp electric power.



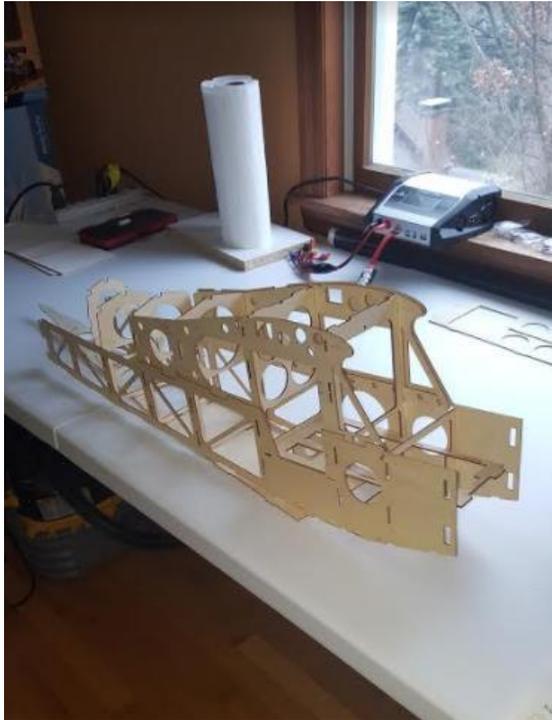
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#### 4. LIPOs in the Cold - from Peter G.

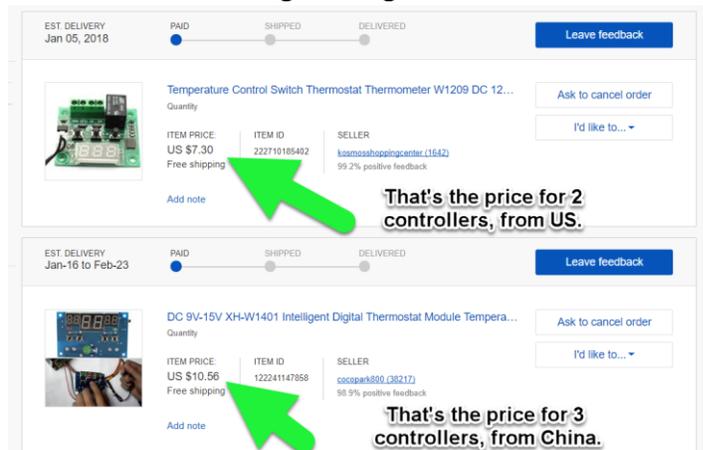
Have you had trouble with power delivery from LIPO's when the temp drops below freezing temp outside? I saw this first-hand for the first time at last years Frost Fly and I was thinking about what to do this winter flying season to avoid cold LIPO's that can't put out full power, or anywhere near it. With temps for the next 10 days forecast to be in low 20's, at highest, I thought I would just google for a solution and taa daa would get an instant answer as to how to compensate for cold temps. Not so, not so! Boy, was I surprised. So, I googled "heating pad" and got all kinds of expected non-solution hits, heating pads meant for ever kind of ache and pain a body can suffer. With a little patience in searching further, an interesting company popped up, Adafruit, which sells all kinds of neat LED lighting with microcontroller boards to create different lighting effects. With no apparent common use for these

little heating pads, the peeps at Adafruit seem to just think they are neat, I guess, and put them in their online catalog. The heating pads are not too expensive so I ordered up 4 of them to test out.



However, not one to leave things under-complicated, I also googled around and found cheap temperature controllers from China on eBay – surprise, surprise. And when I say cheap, we're talking \$3-\$4 whether you order from China or from resellers in the US. These each come with a thermistor to mechanically attach to the main battery. My original thinking was to power this with an alternate, small LIPO through a resistor of a value that allowed about .5A to keep it around 60-70 degrees F.

All-up weight will be about 5-6 ounces, so in choosing a plane to fly in the cold with this setup it would have to handle this extra wing loading.



One experiment will be to see what the useful dropout voltage of the 12VDC controller is – perhaps the actual

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low voltage will accommodate the voltage drop from a 3S LIPO. Something like a 800mAh LIPO may be able to handle a flight or two.

The main and heater LIPO's would want to be snuggled together with some kind of insulative wrap. Maybe this will turn out to be simply a corrugated cardboard box or Dollar Tree Foam Board that both batteries will fit in, with other insulation wrapping the batteries inside the box. I envision duct tape, too. Much duct tape.

Part II will be an article with results. The thought is in the back of my mind that somebody already solved this problem – if you have alternative solutions, please pipe up!

Cheers,

Peter G

## Upcoming Events – Save the Dates

See also [AMA Events Site](#)

**All Events** – approximate dates given when no exact date is published, yet.

1. January Meeting – Monday 8 January
2. Saturday Flying – get your skis on! Sunday flying totally acceptable, too.
3. [ATOMS Swap Meet](#) – 3 February, day before the Super Bowl –
4. [AMA 2018 East](#) – Fri 23 Feb – Sun 25 Feb
5. [Lebanon PA Swap Meet](#) Saturday 10 March
6. [64<sup>th</sup> Toledo RC Show](#) – Fri-Sun 6-8 April
7. [Joe Nall Week](#) – 12-19 May
8. MHRCS Float Fly – Saturday 19 May – get your floats on!
9. 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cole and Rita Palen Memorial Free Flight Meet – around the last Sunday in May

10. SMALL 2018– around first week of June - Wrightsville Arkansas – little birdies screaming (or struggling) around the pattern.
11. Warbirds Over Delaware – around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July
12. Flite Fest East 2018 – Malvern OH, around 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July
13. The Great Grape Gathering - Society of Antique Modelers Free Flight Geneseo – around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September
14. AMA Nationals Calendar [HERE](#)

## Regional Aviation Attractions

Multiple members have expressed interest in getting out to museums through the upcoming cold months (notice I didn't say flying-free months – don't give up flying just because it isn't 75 degrees and balmy out!). Rainy-Day Activities (click links, below, to follow) We always have the opportunity to organize a club caravan to any of these museums – contact newsletter director if interested.

1. [New England Air Museum](#)  
Windsor Locks, CT  
1hr 46 minutes from Rte 9 / US84 intersection, Fishkill  
Feb 18
2. [Glenn H. Curtiss Museum](#)  
Hammondsport, NY  
4 hours from Rte 9 / US84 intersection, Fishkill
3. [Cradle of Aviation Museum, Planetarium and Theatre \(Roosevelt Field\)](#)  
Garden City, Long Island  
1hr 35 minutes from Rte 9 / US84 intersection, Fishkill
4. [American Airpower Museum](#), many of their airplanes actually fly.  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

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5. [The Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum](#)

On the Intrepid aircraft carrier  
New York, NY

6. [Mid Atlantic Air Museum](#)

Reading Regional Airport  
Reading, PA

7. [Golden Age Air Museum](#)

Grimes Airport  
Bethel, PA

8. [Harold F. Pitcairn Wings of Freedom Museum](#)

Horsham, PA

9. [Piper Aviation Museum](#)

William T. Piper Memorial  
Lock Haven, PA

10. MHRCS Members – Let me add Your  
Recommendations Here!

11. Piper Aviation Museum  
William T. Piper Memorial  
Lock Haven, PA

12. MHRCS Members – Let me add Your  
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## Flights

Anybody logging their flight time, or even just have an interesting flight to share – let's chat.

## Competition

If you are competing or even accidentally win an award, please get in touch with me.

**Airborne Video:** Anyone thinking of connecting video in their planes for this season? Contact me about adding to a future newsletter stories.

## Battery Technology

Whether you fly fuel or electric, battery technology has revolutionized model flying

## Road Trip Reports

Did you visit one of the regional flight attractions listed in this newsletter or find a new one to add? Let's hear about it!

## From the newsletter editor...

### Request for Articles and News

Hey everybody, you can't spell newsletter without news! Let me know what's going on.

### **Builds**

Big, medium, small, rebuilds – it's all fair game for articles or just short mentions. We have a club of extraordinarily skilled builders with newsworthy projects. Tips, materials, skills, tools, and gotchas all welcome.

### **New Members**

Welcome to all new members. If all went well with getting you "onboarded" you should be getting these newsletters by email. I look forward to meeting up with you and getting your model aircraft story, to share with the club.