

Pilot Briefing

January 2013

Volume 5 Issue 1



Upcoming Events– January

5th Frost Fly Redwing Field 9 AM

7th– Regular Meeting PUMC 7 PM

19th– Scale Building Seminar PUMC 10-5 PM

21st Board Meeting PUMC 7 PM

Officers:

President :
Warren Batson

Vice President:
John Philbrick

Secretary:
Flavio Ambrosini

Treasurer
Fred Dimaria

Membership:
Rob Stubbs

Field Director-Wallkill
Rick Rizza

Field Director– Red Wing
Rob Shulze

Flight Instructor
Warren Batson

Safety Officer
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Ron Revelle

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Bob Allen
Mark Giardino

President's Corner

Hi members,

I would like to start out wishing everyone a very Happy New Year.

The last year for so the Board had been kicking around the idea of having a members only section on the Mid Hudson RC web site. This area will be password protected and will only be available for viewing by MHRCS members. The main intent of this area will be to post members pictures so we all will be able to know and recognize each other. There will be no other personal information. Flavio is already working on 2 interactive ways to find a member. One will be a membership list (name only) that you can click on and a picture will pop up. The other way is a listing of pictures that will enlarge when selected and give your the members name.

You may ask why is this necessary. One reason is that many members are uncomfortable approaching people they don't know at the field. So this is a way of getting to know our membership. Another is that the Hopewell field was the meeting place for the entire club, and since losing that field 3 years ago the club has not been as cohesive as it used to be. This past year I have had many people asking me about someone they meet at the field and where not sure who they were or if they were a member. Or they could not remember what a member looked like, etc.. This has also happened to myself while approaching someone at the field that I did not recognize, fortunately for me I know most members names from maintaining the membership list.

So I would like to ask our members to send in a picture of yourself, (preferably a head shot) but does not have to be. Do keep in mind that it should be large enough for others to see who you are.

You can send your Digital pictures to Flavio at XXXXXXXXXXXX Or you can mail a standard photo to Flavio where it will be scanned. I would like to encourage all members to do this, however it is voluntary.

Activities:

Frost fly Sat, Jan 5th 9:30 at the Red wing field, Please watch emails to see if this event will take place. Need to determine if we can get at the field due to the snow.

Building Seminar Sat Jan 19

Warren Batson, President

Happy New Year! 2013

Three birds safe in the cars are better than one in the tree!

By Ron Revelle

The New Year and the new flying season have begun. As has been a tradition for four years now, Rick Rizzi and I have managed to get to a field to open the New Year with a flight or two. This year Jeff Burton joined the tradition. With our usual winter field closed to flying, we decided to meet at a town park near us. This year was a bit different than other years in other respects as well as location. Past years, New Years Day has seen us flying comfortably without winter jackets. Not so this year. January 1 2013 arrived with very cold temperatures and in addition, we faced a steady gale wind. As Rick arrived at the park, I was ready to bite the bullet for a January flight with my Park Zone Corsair in spite of the wind As it was taxing down the pave road the wind picked it up and turned it over on its back. That was enough to change my mind about another attempt at flying the Corsair on January 1st. And my brand new Radian was going to stay in the truck.

Jeff Burton had decided a bit earlier that his plane would stay in the car. But Ricky "Rickenbacker" Rizza was determined to get some air time with his T-Whatever it is. So with a left handed launch provided by Jeff, Rick's plane was in the air. It gained altitude and seemed to hold its own for a while against the very strong wind. Rick put it through a loop or two before the wind took its toll on Rick's eyes. At least that is what he said. The plane began to lose ground against the force of the wind and was soon heading for the tree line. Then it began a spiraling dive toward the trees. Rick said that the motor control wasn't working properly- or something like that and the bird landed in a tree.

Rick and I trekked through the snow to take a closer look. After unsuccessfully trying to shake a smaller tree near the plane to bring the plane down, we headed back to the vehicles to look for "tools" to recover the plane. Fortunately I had some rope and a couple plastic bottles of water in my truck. Rick and Jeff fastened them together and all three of us headed back to the plane. After a couple of 'almost' tosses Rick got the rope in a position to shake the plane free of thee branches. It came down with only a couple of damaged areas to the wing. It will fly another day.

The three of us then headed to Rick's place to see his latest building project the DH 4 which is featured in this newsletter. Thanks Rick for the hospitality. Congratulations on getting your January 1st flight in Rick. You're no wimp!



Check out the flags!



And the launch.



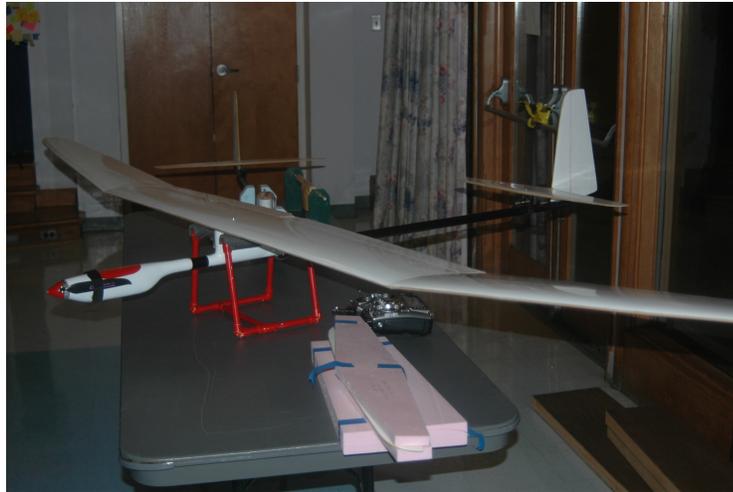
The bird on the limb!



But this is a much more comfortable way to get air time in January! A Blade Scout which was a gift from my mom. And yes it did get checked out before Christmas! Flies great.

MHRCS December Meeting.

Bob McGee brought his most recently committee designed sailplane to the meeting. From the appearance of the plane there might have been a Klingon time traveler at the committee meetings. He was probably using a cloaking device to avoid being seen by the sailplane design committee.



What an impressive airplane and very high tech.



So now we know that in the future the Klingons will be using a ship that was in large part a copy of a MHRCS design. If they had used tip dihedral instead of anhedral they might have done better against James T. Kirk.



Bob making a presentation about the plane and the building process. At a future meeting Bob has agreed to make a presentation on cutting foam wings. Great presentation Bob. A very impressive plane as well. So much so that.....Next page....



On Christmas Eve this mysterious looking monolith appeared in my living room. It seemed be emanating a strange sound and I am certain I heard the theme from 2001 Space Odyssey. Too bad I can't share the video here so you could hear it. In any event, I blame Bob McGee for stoking the desire in me to do a bit more sailplane flying. In the package was a Park Zone Radian which is all ready to go. A report will be included in a future issue of Pilot Briefing .

Yes, I do have a Gentle Lady that saw some flights in December. But a couple of years ago I read a review of the Radian have been interested ever since. Perhaps some day I will get really serious about this and ask Bob for some coaching in building a plane like the one he brought to the meeting. He sure made it tempting. We have so many talented members in our club. Thanks again Bob for an outstanding presentation.

Credit Rick Rizza for saving you from seeing more

Adorable photos of my grandkids.....



A Dumas DH 4 Build by Rick Rizza

I won this Dumas DH 4 kit at the 2012 Biplane Bash in Farmington, Ct. Even though it is just a little (35 inch wing-span) park flyer 3 channel model, when I looked over the box contents it was a bit intimidating, but hey, I can do this. I think...

There was a build manual and full size plans to build on. An inventory revealed no short parts and no shortage of 1/16th by 24 inch long balsa sticks-a bundle thicker then my thumb! Not to mention piles of other "long wood" as well as five or six sheets of laser cut ribs and parts. All this for a little park flyer! What have I gotten myself into? Reading the build manual, I found that the first steps involved doing something I had NEVER done (laminating and bending balsa) before, using building supplies (something called "artist's foam board) I did not have on hand. So I did what any self respecting modeler would do in the same situation: I skipped ahead to the next step, which was building the wings. I proceeded to lay out the plans, pin down the leading edge (3/16th by 3/8th balsa-future step:"trim or sand off everything that is NOT leading edge! Where is my dust mask?) and trailing edge, and then start cutting those 1/16th sq balsa sticks down into "rib bottoms." Yes, it seems each rib has to have a separate bottom piece to be glued to.

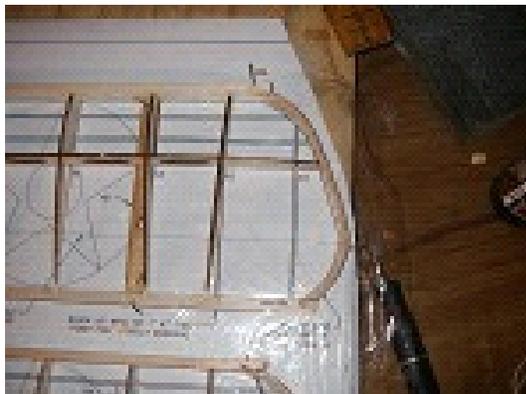
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Next we add the spars and the ribs. The plans say to glue them in place, then glue the wingtips in place (those pesky laminated foam board formed wingtips!). But wait! What about the washout? The plans call for raising the trailing edges 1/16th at each corner, but they don't tell you how or when to do it, so I decided to do it as I build the wing by gluing the wingtips in place BEFORE I glue the ribs in place, then raising the trailing edge off the build-board with a spacer and then as the ribs are glued, the washout will be fixed. At least, that's my theory.

So now I am stuck until I can manufacture laminated, bent around a form balsa wingtips so I ask at an art supply store for "artists foam board" in 3/16th thickness and am sold a sheet of foam core sign board. What do you know? If the plans called for foam core at least I would have known what they were talking about! I cut out the paper patterns and trace them on the foam board, then cut out the forms using a hobby knife. So far, so good. I have to do one rudder, two stabilizer halves and FOUR wingtips! Well, long story short, amazingly it worked out pretty good. I used warm water to soften the balsa and tape and rubber bands to hold it on the forms, gluing the laminations together with Elmer's white glue. and two of the wingtips are actually glued onto the wing! Progress!

This kit is practice for my next build, which I ordered today: a quarter scale Vailly Aviation Stinson L5. Hopefully, I will have the DH 4 done before the Vailly arrives sometime in January.

Rick



You can follow Rick's build thread on RC Universe. http://www.rcuniverse.com/forum/m_11324436/anchors_11327497/mpage_1/key_/anchor/tm.htm#11327497

Happy New Year and CAVU, Ron Revelle