

43rd Annual Rhinebeck Jamboree



This is a view of the flight line on Sunday, taken by Jen Lilley, with Jean Chevalier's prize winning Ercoupe in the foreground.



Another Jen Lilley photo, showing conditions on Friday.

The 43rd annual Rhinebeck Jamboree is in the record books, and, like its predecessors, was fun with some unexpected twists.

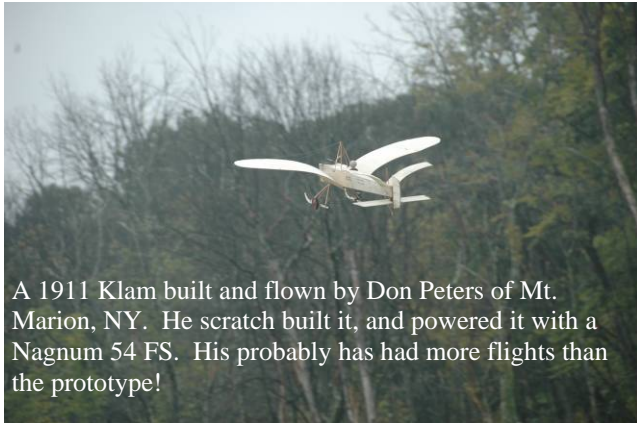
It was scheduled for three days this year, extending earlier to Friday to accommodate early arrivals. That may not have been early enough. On Wednesday, a contingent from the sponsoring Mid Hudson RC Society (MHRCS) had finished mowing and raking the field and

after a bit were joined by Rich Feroldi and a friend from Florida. It wasn't long after that before Ken Hall and a colleague from up state NY showed up. Rich and his friend soon were flying a D VII and a Spad, both from Great Planes; Ken may have tossed in one of his Tiger Moths. So the first flights took place on Wednesday (I won't mention the first crash).

Thursday was temperate but breezy, so some of

the bolder new arrivals got in some stick time. Friday dawned cloudy and breezy, but the flight line was already full of tents, and lots of trailers were scattered along it as people unloaded and set up in the misty rain. There were occasional planes in the air, but mostly people were talking to each other, setting up their planes, and hoping that it would dry out. Unfortunately, it didn't, and we waited for better things on Saturday.

Though the weather forecast had called for a continuation of the rain, it largely held off except during the full scale show. The MHRCS 14 year old flier, Jonathan Elie, started things off by putting up his electric Cessna, and picking up a banner announcing the opening of the Jamboree, to start things off. So people did



A 1911 Klam built and flown by Don Peters of Mt. Marion, NY. He scratch built it, and powered it with a Nagnum 54 FS. His probably has had more flights than the prototype!

1:30 came all too soon, but allowed recognition of five beautiful models as the top ones at the contest. Then a fleet of 1/3 scale (and larger) models were launched as a precursor to the full scale show. And the show itself was quite good, with a Red Baron Stearman trailing a stream of smoke dancing around the sky, three pre- WW I aircraft hopped or demonstrated, and five WW I replicas in the air at various times as part of the continuing saga of Trudy Truelove, Sir Percy, and the evil Black Baron.



Tom Losewski's Moraine Saulnier. This plane has flown at Rhinebeck Jamborees for over 20 years!

a lot of flying, with small and large electrics (a fast, 1/3rd scale Morane Saulnier parasol wing was quite impressive.) Our sponsors had been generous, so names kept being called for prizes through out the day.

Sunday was the best of the weekend. The sky was bright but cloudy initially, but what wind there was came straight down the runway. The cloud cover blocked the early sun; by the time the clouds went away, the sun was high and flying was even more fun.

For all of the predicted and realized bad weather, the event was well attended. Over 172 pilots and helpers were registered, coming from as far south as Florida and S. Carolina, and as far north as Canada. Fliers represented fifteen different state and two provinces in Canada. Balsa USA, Trains and Lanes Hobbies, AirLandSea Hobbies, Skways/ WW I Aero publishers and Glen Torrance Models were among the sponsors physically present. Reports and photos of the event were on line by Monday (see, for instance, the Model Airplane News web site) and grew after that. If you weren't there this time, plan on coming next year!!

Time Flies When You're Having Fun By Jennifer Lilley

That old comment about time going by fast may be cliché, but it's true. And it's especially true when you're at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome in Rhinebeck, NY, where several fun-filled days seem to whirl by so fast, you feel like you're no sooner greeting familiar faces hello than you are wishing them a safe drive back home. So it goes at the Model Airplane Show at the Aerodrome . . . where you have nothing but a spectacular runway and pleasant smiles to start your every day . . . and the only bad part is the whole thing just doesn't last long enough.



Ron Prestin (Long Island), Bob Allen (Poughkeepsie, NY), and Gerry Yarrish, Sr. Technical Editor for Model Airplane News, probably flying Bob's Nieuport.

From the surface, it looks as if the attraction of the Rhinebeck Jamborees lies in the opportunity to fly at a gorgeous field, and to see the historic full scale aircraft based there. But there is more to it than that. Jen Lilley, wife of Adam Lilley from southern New Jersey, has attended several of the recent Jamborees, camping in one of the parking lots along with her husband and a number of the other attendees. Here's her perspective on the event.



Three of the big birds launching before the full scale show.



For the most part, everyone from our club brought a variety of planes, but primarily flew one or two in particular. Adam Lilley flew his Sopwith Pup and Buhl Pup, Bob Keibley his SE5A, Frank Beshears his Taube, John English his GeeBee and Jim Baye his PT-19. Sunday's noontime airshow consisted of the amazing flights of the Aerodrome's planes, where the likes of wing-warping aircraft lifted off the ground, if only for a moment, and barnstorming thrills also took place.



Rich Feroldi's Tog Gun prize winning Ansaldo

This year, members of the Jersey Coast Sport Fliers (JCSF) did as they—and hundreds of other clubs and RC enthusiasts do every September—pack their trailers and vans to the gills and head on over. There, they become captivated by the whimsical realism of days gone by, as only the Rhinebeck Aerodrome can do so well.

Within its hangars sit WWI-era planes and wing-warping aircraft, and down its long runway land Avros and other spectacular planes. Add to that the Aerodrome officials who dress in vintage fashion and an occasional spotting of an old-time automobile, and one is instantly transported to another time. What better place to fly your Fokker, Jenny or Taube? Unfortunately it rained Friday and was on and off Saturday, but Saturday still allowed for many of our own flights as well as the regular Aerodrome show. Sunday, the sun came out and it was simply beautiful.

Of course there was ribbon-cutting fun as a Great Lakes plane tried to get the most cuts from the falling stream of paper; the ladies vintage fashion show, and the adventures of Trudy Truelove and the evil Baron running about the field.

Additionally, like last year, Adam Lilley flew his Sopwith Pup along with about six or seven other Sopwiths as part of the Sunday show.

Seeing them all at once against the blue sky, some trailing smoke, was a wonderful sight.

Can't Get Enough . . .

And while the spectators return home and some pilots head to nearby hotels, there are several of us who prefer to let the spirit of the Rhinebeck Aerodrome linger on. Rather than return to air conditioning or cable TV, it's the famed "top of the hill" where we've returned to for decades after a day of flying. It's where we go, well, because we don't want to go.

You see, there's a welcome solitude at the top of that hill, where after a day of loops and landings, the fun of Rhinebeck continues. Being up there is simply an extension of the very essence of the Aerodrome itself—like the Aerodrome, it too has a history of friends, fun, nostalgia, and imagination. It's there where we fire up our little portable grills as well as great conversation. We reflect on



Cole Palen used to start the Rhinebeck Jamboree by launching a rubber powered model he had built. This is the group who carried on that tradition this year



Prize	Sponsor	Winner	Model
Best of Show	Arizona Model Aircrafters	Rich Feroldi	SVA-5 Ansaldo
First Place	Airtronics/ Hobby People	Marvin Erbsfeld	Sopwith Camel
Spirit of Rheinbeck	Balsa UA	Tom Kosewski	1/2 Scale Fokker D VIII
Best WW I	Glen Torrance Models	Dave Lewis	De Haviland DH-4 (BUSA prototype)
Best Civilian	The Aeroplane Works	Jean Chevalier	Ercoupe

Rhinebeck through the years—everything from memories of Cole Palen to the earlier afternoon’s events, passing the spirit of it all to others who want to hear the memories again, or learn about them for the first time.

It’s where we are taken from flying with friends during the day to getting to know them all over again as the night goes on—even after not seeing some for a year—and stories are told, updates on lives are shared, new changes unfold and most of all, laughter echoes through the trees.

People make their way up that hill gradually throughout the evening, fresh faces semi-visible only by the flicker of a campfire, so they too, can be part of the fun that so many others have been drawn to for decades. This year, there was (again) Poncho Man and Alien Man and new this year: The Distractor as well as The Jumper. You have to be there to know. From fashion (shirts with statements and socks with toes) to some unexpected memorable moments, it’s a place where fun is had and never forgotten. And it’s all true to the spirit of Rhinebeck: filling up

Sponsors

Best of Category

Arizona Model Aircrafters,
Airtronics /
Hobby People,
Balsa USA,
Glenn Torrance Models,
The Aeroplane Factory

Primary Sponsors

AirLandSeaHobbies.com
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EmbroidMe
Great Planes Model Distributor Co
Hobby Lobby
Horizon Hobby Distributors
Kondor Model Products
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Medusa Research Inc.
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PSP Manufacturing
Quest Engineering & Development
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Trains and Lanes Hobbies
Wally Zober Plans
Williams Brothers Model Products
Zirol Plans

Secondary Sponsors

Sig
Dremel Rotary Tool Division, Robert Bosch Corporation

on a good dose of nostalgia and creating new memories, all with—like at the bottom of that hill—a backdrop of music and yes, entertainment. (Self-created, admittedly, but entertainment nonetheless).

Up there, we prefer to get wrapped up in the stars and each other’s presence, rather than a hotel blanket. We prefer trees over TVs. We



One of the lovely, big Avro's referred to in Jen's article.

silly playing “guess the band” whenever a B-side song comes on, and tell lots of jokes (some hokey puns, others to make you blush). We roast marshmallows—and each other—pointing out one another's unusual, but still likable quirks. Corn becomes funny. “Imagine if” scenarios are made up. Daring moves are made between canopies as little electric planes dart about them, much to the cheering of others.

dub areas within a canopy, “The Cozy Alcove Cafe” (complete with some leaking patches in overhead spots, hot dogs and LED lanterns), get

There are smiles. Lots of them.

It's really that simple. Being at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome for this particular show may only last a few days. But it's a few days where the day starts with the roar of an engine and extends into the evening with roars of laughter. In the end, your heart is a little lighter and your mood better, all because of the flying, the camaraderie, the spirit and yes, that hill. It gets a hold of you and stays with you.



What's a Rhinebeck Jamboree without a Sopwith Pup?

While packing, I heard someone shout, “364 days



Here are the big birds lined up before the pre-show flight on Sunday.

left ‘til Rhinebeck!” That's how excited people are to arrive, and how much they don't want to leave.

I'm counting the days.

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