



Balsa Dust

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***** **NEXT MEETING** *****
DATE: *Thursday December 9, 2010*
LOCATION: *East Bloomfield Town Hall*
TIME: *7:30 p.m.*

Reminder Dues are Due

Max Says

Hi there, and Merry Christmas. Actually as I am writing this it's the day before Thanksgiving but that's the way things work with a newsletter. But anyways, let's talk about airplane stuff and the holidays. I don't know how it works at your house but people are always asking my wife what to get me for Christmas. The stock answer has always been a Tower Hobbies gift certificate. Now that could be translated into a gift certificate or card from another retailer, weather online or local but at my house it is usually Tower Hobbies. And I have to admit there is usually something I can use from there. Now Tower Hobbies and I'm sure other online vendors have another way to get your holiday money.

It's called a "Wish List". Not a "Bucket List" Charlie but a wish list. This lets your family get you specific items that you want or need and then they can wrap them and put them under the tree. You have to admit, getting a wrapped box is a lot more fun than an envelope. The only catch with this is you have to have an account with the vendor and create the wish list. And of course you need to tell your spouse about it so they can pass the information along to the family. Christmas made easy and you won't get stuff that doesn't fit or you have to return later. What could be better?

Also, remember the "Frozen Finger Fun Fly" on New Years day. I won't be able to make it this year since I'll be away but I'll be thinking of you and wishing I were there.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Max

Protecting Yourself from Hazardous Materials

By Chris Myers

If we caught our kids out in the garage sniffing paint or glue, we would send them to counseling. Yet, as adults we do this and call it modeling.

Last year I read an article about a man who was working with acetone in his house. After using it, he almost collapsed. Getting out of the room and lying down, he returned to normal.

When I look at the shelves in my work room, the chemicals stored there range from Balsarite to various spray cans, paint, lacquer, pesticides, etc., to CA to acetone, along with a couple cases of fuel. In addition to this, I use balsa and do a lot of sanding, creating particles to clog my lungs.

In the process of repairing and maintaining our aircraft, our hands come in contact with several hazardous materials. Our body absorbs these chemicals, and consistent exposure to them can be a danger to your health.

If you dissect our hobby, it quickly becomes apparent that we often spill fuel and CA on our hands. We sniff the paint and glue fumes and use grease and oil in our maintenance. It all gets on our hands. If you are an active modeler, you have a lot of exposure to hazardous materials.

Below is a list of a few items you may want to keep around the workshop. They should help minimize the risk of exposure to hazardous materials.

1. Get a fire extinguisher.
2. Go to an auto paint and body shop and pick up a good face mask.
3. Buy a small fan for ventilation. **[Tech editor's note:** A large fan is recommended. In order to move more air, a small fan must be run at a higher speed and that causes some of its own problems. A large fan running slow

4. Moves sufficient air without making other problems.]
5. Work in a room that is properly ventilated.
6. Buy a box of rubber gloves.

Our hobby is great fun, but more than the propeller deserves some serious attention to keep you from being in harm's way.

Fly safe and have fun. ☐

From Notam, Bayou City Flyers, Katy Texas

"If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage, it's probably a helicopter - and therefore, unsafe."

26th Annual Frozen Finger Fly

Our annual Frozen Finger Fly will be on Jan 1st. The official flying will begin at 10:00 AM and last as long as you can stand it. We will then adjourn to Charlie's place for sticky buns and coffee. We promise you will be back in time for the football games.

2011 Dues are due

It's that time of year again. The club dues are due.

- Adults \$45.00
- Junior (19 yrs or younger) \$1.00
- Full time Collage students \$1.00

Please mail your dues to

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At The Field

We are closed up for the winter again. I would like to thank everyone that helped keeping the field in good shape and repair.

The wind didn't give us much of a break this year. There was less rain than last and it was warmer so we were able to enjoy ourselves on dry windy days. Normally the wind does not come up until mid to late morning and begins drop off around 5 PM. This year it was blowing at dawn and was still blowing at sunset. We did manage to get some float flying in at Canadice. John had a few attempts with his Sea Wind and decided he might put the landing gear on it and fly it from land.

Doug ended the season with a new plane that appears to be a keeper. I believe it is called a Revolver. It flies very well. Of course the pilot has absolutely nothing to do with this.

You should all be getting your Christmas lists in order. I am assuming all the modeling magazines and catalogs are getting a good going over. Remember Performance Hobbies **may** have an ARF sale between Christmas and New Years Day.

I will look thru the magazines and News Letters for building tips for the few of us that still build. It is hard to beat ARFs. Of the ones that I have assembled I would be hard pressed to build a plans built plane or kit as well or as light or as cheap as the ARFs. If you build you probably really like to build or are really desperate for something to do between flying seasons.

Joe, the pizza king, will be making repairs on his planes and be ready to put them in the air next spring Who knows he might even have his Spitfire ready next year. Dick Spong may have a new Sr. Kadet next year and Charlie may surprise us all with retracts on his Senorita.

If you do fly with the white stuff on the ground keep and eye out for snow snakes. They take the place of the plane eating trees during the winter.

Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything." - U.S. Navy Swabbie

Tips and Tricks

From Aircraft Proving Grounds

To fill small gaps, instead of filling with the usual putties etc. and waiting for them to dry, place some medium ca in the gap, then place a small amount of baking soda on and watch it set before your eyes. It is the strongest fill I have come across and is instant.

Trevor Williamson

Ever ironed covering and found out that your iron was too hot and some of the covering actually melted on the iron? Its a pain, especially when your doing multicolored coverings. A wise old man told me to heat the iron up to full heat and rub the face of it with Bounce or any other dryer static remover. WOW! It works great!!!!!! Now there's no more hassles of transferring different colors on unwanted areas of your plane.

Chris Thomas

Calendar of Events

1/1 Frozen Finger Fly

2/5/11 Indoor flying from 1:00 to 4:00 at Livonia Junior High.

The three most common expressions (or famous last words) in aviation are: "Why is it doing that?", "Where are we?" And "Oh S...!"



Jim and David having a go at it. It was good to see David again.



I don't know what is going on but it is quite an action shot.



More family picnic gathering. This must be pre dinner because they all look so hungry.



Nick checking his engine prior to flying.



Charlie and Harve on a warm sunny day. I bet the wind wasn't blowing either



Doug Goldberg getting his monster ready for another flight. We do have benches Doug!



Pete Donk taking a break before having another go at it.



Max's Bipe going for some more air time.



Henry getting ready to make a Mach 1 attempt.



This doesn't look like a Senioreta. Charlie actually has a different plane at the field. It still doesn't have retracts.



My Great Planes Yak 54. We are getting used to each other.



More of the Sky Rovers fun fly.