



SKYMASTERS RADIO CONTROL CLUB

OF MICHIGAN

AMA Chartered Club #970

15 Year Gold Leader Club

www.skymasters.org



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### From the President...

**Hello, Skymasters!**

We are already nearing the end of February, and a lot has taken place! We started this month with the Skymasters' "Super Swap of Auburn Hills", which ended up being a huge success for our club. This was the first year that we held the swap event on a Saturday, and the response in both attendance and tables sold was very encouraging.

I would like to thank all Skymasters volunteers that helped set up tables the night before, door admissions, food sales, and all work during the event. The 2012 Board of Directors are all to be thanked for the decisions, thought, and support for the change of venue this year.

Mark Smith made up new event signs that will work for both the swap event and our nationally recognized Midwest Regional Float Fly, while Joe Hass took care of

the vinyl graphics to bring the signs to life. Thanks go out to Mark and Joe for giving our club such a professional look!

Joe Hass was responsible for being Event Director, and took this event to a totally new level. There is a tremendous amount of work involved with a swap meet of this size, and Joe carried a large part of it all. This is the personal dedication that brings our club the proceeds needed to enjoy field improvements, new events, and other enhancements we sometimes take for granted. I thank you Joe, for your tireless efforts in making this swap such a hit!

On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, Bill Stark and I met with the new DNR manager, Andy Cole, at the Bald Mountain Recreation Area headquarters. Bill and I left the meeting very impressed with Andy! It will not be hard for the Skymasters to be enthused to help our DNR friends meet

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their upcoming objectives. However, there are some hurdles for this enjoyable park that we call home.

The recreational area that we are a part of is struggling with a true distinctiveness as to why the public may be attracted to it. Andy will be working to find what it may be that will give Bald Mountain its identity. We can help by keeping involved with the community and having events at our field, which brings public usage to the park. There are many other ways that we can be effective, including Saturday volunteer work and especially the Skymasters Bald Mountain Involvement Day.

Fred Engelman will be the B. M. Involvement Day Event Director this year, picking up where Steve Fredericks left off. This year it is as important as ever to support Fred, and make this a solid show of workers to accomplish some of the larger needs that our park is presented with. If you have never come out, give it a try! I can guarantee you a great feeling of gratification, because this makes a positive difference for our community. Please look for notification and planning for this event in the near future!

Steve Fredericks has been the "go to guy" who organized the Skymasters Involvement Day for many years, and will help by giving Fred some direction. Behind the scenes Steve has helped on countless projects and performed many fixes for Bald Mountain, which many of us may never have heard of. Thank you Steve, for your hours of service to both the Skymasters, and DNR!

**Website Info!**

This year the Board of Directors has voted in favor of a new Webmaster to run the Skymasters website. Ed Saumier has stepped up to take over the duties of running and maintaining Skymasters.org. There will be a small team of interested people doing art and writing for the site, so it will be taking on a new look this year. Thanks Ed, for taking on the new role!

Closing in on nearly a decade, Greg Cardillo has been taking care of building and maintaining the current Skymasters website. Greg has put in many hours writing custom code to create a highly automated site that has covered the needs of the Skymasters R/C club. I would like to thank Greg for all his years of commitment towards our internet needs!

The Skymasters will be having (2) meetings in the month

of March! Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Ultimate Soccer Arenas, Ken Gutelius and Tom Wheeler will be giving an IMAC presentation. IMAC or International Miniature Aerobatic Club is an organization dedicated to the competitive sport of radio controlled Scale Aerobatic competition. May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> the Skymasters will be hosting an IMAC Clinic event at our field, so Wednesday's meeting is a must for those who may be interested in learning more about this great aspect of our hobby.

Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be doing our typical "In the Bones" meeting, where all members are encouraged to bring in their off season projects. Hopefully there will be some float planes near completion, because the Chet Brady Memorial Float Fly will be right around the corner! We have condensed the spring float fly to one day, one location. The event will be held Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at Trout Lake in Bald Mountain.

Next month the AMA will have an article in the April Model Aviation Magazine covering The Heartland of America Float Fly in Kansas, and our own Skymasters Midwest Regional Float Fly held at Island Lake State Park! It will be exciting to see the coverage, because Steve Fredericks, Bob Donohue, Bob Dukelow ("Duke") and I participated in both events! Keep your eye out for the April AMA magazine coming out next month.

Until next month, keep your workshops organized, and the building focused for the upcoming season!

Sincerely,

**Dave Lange**  
**President, Skymasters**



**2012 Club Officers & Appointees...**

President:	Dave Lange	2477 Trinity Ct.	Oxford	48371	248-969-3914
Vice Pres.:	Mark Smith	1955 Hopefield	Orion	48359	248-391-5970
Secretary:	Ed Saumier	2822 Benjamin Ave.	Royal Oak	48073	248-288-0619
Treasurer:	Bob Donohue	3323 Baldwin Woods	Lake Orion	48359	248-915-9791
Editor:	Paul Goelz	328 Powderhorn Ct.	Roch. Hills	48309	248-375-9461
CFI :	Roger Schmelling	688 Ashburnham	Auburn Hills	48326	248-321-7599
State Park:	Bill Stark	1010 E. Clarkston	Lake Orion	48362	248-693-8639
Membership:	Joe Rubenstein	155 Cayuga	Lake Orion	48362	248-693-4265

**Newsletter Submissions**  
Please send all articles, photos and announcements to the Skywriter editor at:  
**newsletter@skymasters.org**  
Deadline is the 20th of each month.

# Scale Tails



By: Gary Weeks

March 2012

They say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and that it is only skin deep. That statement is also very applicable to model airplanes! When choosing a subject to replicate, one has to not only decide on the type and version, but also in the aircraft's experience. Sometimes we are replicating a freshly minted machine, other times a war-ravaged bird. Both are beautiful in my opinion. This month I will share some of my techniques for finishing the exterior of a scale model.

If you have ever visited the annual Weak Signal's Toledo RC Expo, you have seen the best in scale radio controlled models. The static contest attracts the most talented builders, many of whom are right from our local area. These builders put as much effort into the look of their model as they do the function of it. However, it does not have to be that way in order to get an authentic appearance. I have a few favorite techniques that I will share in this article.

First the fabric covered airplanes; I love the drum-like sound that a fabric airplane makes as you touch it and as you run up the engine. There are several quality, iron-on wovens available, so you don't need to go through the effort of silk and dope (unless you want to). Some modelers of larger scale fabric planes will even use full-scale Stitts™ fabric. I have not tried that one myself yet, but would love to hear from those readers who have. On most full scale fabric planes the covering is mechanically held to the ribs and

frame with stitching or rivets. Because the fabric is penetrated with these stitches or rivets, it is reinforced in those areas with a strip of cloth. These reinforcing strips are sometimes pinked to prevent them from fraying in the wind. All of this mechanical fastening and reinforcing makes a beautiful three dimensional surface that is full of character.



Pinking strips cut with Fiskars® scissors

Commercial pinking strips are available. However, I have had great success in cutting my own strips right from the same iron-on covering that I am using for the skin. I have a Fiskars® brand pair of mini pinking shears for the job. I believe the size is technically larger than what is correct for  $\frac{1}{4}$  or smaller models, but the effect is pleasing. I have included a picture of the Gloster Gauntlet aileron section with my pinking strips applied prior to painting.



Pinking strips on the Gauntlet aileron.

Now for the aluminum-skinned airplanes: These airplanes are not without their own character. They include panel lines, rivets and dimples near fasteners. I have used traditional techniques such as balsa sheeting covered with fiberglass followed by painting. The result is a durable and realistic look with the fiberglass hiding the wood grain. Working with fiberglass and paint requires time for curing and sanding. Iron-on plastic coverings do well over sheeted areas. Quick panel lines can be simulated with pin-strip tapes. Many widths are available where you buy your covering. Flush rivets are easily simulated by replacing the tip on a trim sealing iron with a short copper tube.



Trim iron with copper tube tip for rivet heads

Choose a tube diameter that would be accurate scale for the rivet head diameter. Place the hot tube on the covering with a slight pressure and the resulting depression ring simulates a nice flush rivet. Use a rule to space the rivets evenly. Greg Brausa is building a Cessna Bird Dog. He included simulated corrugation and rivet heads with drops of glue, lots of drops of glue. I have included a close-up picture of Greg's elevator (Photo by Greg Cardillo).

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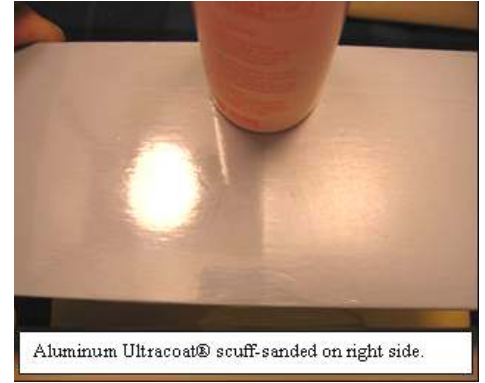


Elevator detail on Greg Brausa's Bird Dog



Monocote® on a blister shape before trimming

open-frame areas. For these areas you can sand the covering before applying it to the framework.



Aluminum Ultracoat® scuff-sanded on right side.

For compound curves, pull the covering while heating it with your iron. Pulling can actually stretch the covering over the shape before using additional heating to shrink the covering after it is placed on the wood. I have included a picture where I used this technique to cover an egg-shaped blister for the *Gloster* project. For the addition of camouflage, trim

color or insignias, the plastic coverings can be painted. However, the covering first needs to be lightly scuff-sanded for the paint to properly adhere. Scuff-sanding with 600 or finer grit can also be done to remove some of the gloss of the plastic covering to simulate weathering or matte finishes for war-birds. Of course, scuff sanding can only be done over sheeted area, not

Until next month, "keep it real (looking)".

Gary Weaks

You can reach Gary by Email at: [weaksqt@yahoo.com](mailto:weaksqt@yahoo.com)

## Cornerstone Church School Flying Club Kids, Teachers, and Parents at Ultimate Soccer Arena, 1/31/12 (Roger Schmelling photos)



# 2012 Skymasters Super Swap at Baker College

(Fred Engleman photos)



## Hello Skymasters!

Having the Super Swap event on a Saturday made it possible for a wider variety of individuals to attend. Being a Skymasters member since 1996, this was the first year that I have actually been able to buy a table for our swap event. The swap mission was quite successful, as very little came back home with me! I will be doing this as often as possible now, just to keep my



arsenal more focused to what the current interests actually are.

During the event conversations could be heard from both familiar and unfamiliar voices of how nice this swap meet was! For the first run at a new day, time, and location our Skymasters swap was a great success, and a lot of us are already excited for next year's event!

I would like to thank all Skymaster volunteers that helped set up tables the night before, door admissions, food sales, and all of the work that happened during the event that



made this experience a real winner. Our club is full of members that know how to get the job done right!

Thanks to the 2012 Board of Directors, making some tough decisions that emerge with a change of this magnitude.

Thanks to Mark Smith for making the many sandwich signs that will have dual purposes for both Super Swap and Midwest Regional Float Fly events. Mark was also instrumental with the new location for our Super Swap event.

Also a huge thanks to Joe Hass for adding vinyl information that went on all of Mark's signs, along with the responsibility of being director at this year's Super Swap.

Sincerely, David L Lange  
President, Skymasters



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting Skymasters R/C Club**  
**January 25, 2012**

Meeting called to order by President Dave Lange at 7:10 p.m.

Approximately 51 members attending.

Visiting clubs: RCCD, Detroit Soaring Society

First time attendees: Ken Cook

President asked for vote approving At-Large members of Executive Operating Committee:

Dave Lange nominated Roger Schmelling, second by Joe Hass and others

Vote: Yeas - unanimous

Dave Lange nominated Randy MacGuinness, second by Joe Hass and others

Vote: Yeas - unanimous

Dave Lange nominated Dave Wendt, second by Joe Hass and others

Vote: Yeas - unanimous

President announced that because of request to pay club dues after January 1, 2012, deadline will be extended to March, 2012.

Scott Detray of ModelAero talked about ModelAero products: Polaris (their most popular), Mini-Polaris, AquaCat, AquaJet, Stinger, Cessna 310.....

**Show & Tell**

Joe Hass: showed a ModelAero Cessna 310, two ModelAero Stingers

Greg Brousa: showed a half-scale L-19 BirdDog powered by a D62. Built by Bill Shaffmaster, finished by Greg.

Larry Parker: showed a AT-6 Texan, highly modified from a kit.

Pete Foss: showed a FlyGuy

Paul Zabawa: showed and flew a Blade Quadcopter

50-50 Drawing: Won by Ron Wolsinski

Joe Hass gave an update on the upcoming Swap Shop. Most of the 60 tables are "reserved". Most important: Need help from members for setup on Friday evening,

February 3, also Saturday morning, February 4.

Raffle for a Polaris donated by Scott Detray and ModelAero: won by Ron Wolsinski (No, that's not a typo!!)



Respectfully submitted:

**Ed Saumier**

**Secretary: Skymasters R/C Club of Michigan**



# ON THE WING



## *Skymasters Breakfast*

First and Third Monday  
of each month  
**9AM Everyone welcome**  
Red Olive restaurant  
In the strip mall on  
Walton, across from  
Crittenton Hospital

## *Winter Indoor Flying!*

Indoor flying  
**every Tuesday**  
**from 11AM to 1PM**  
At Ultimate Soccer  
Opdyke and South Blvd  
Pontiac, MI  
(See flyer in this issue)

## **Other local area indoor flying sessions**

51379 Quadrate, Macomb MI

(north of 23 mile and east of Hayes)

Thursdays, 9AM to 3PM

Small electric planes and helis (separate heli space)

AMA required

\$10/session

Information: Steve Durecki 586-246-4203

## **Next Skymasters Meetings**

3-14 at Ultimate Soccer, Auburn Hills  
and

3-28 at Larson Middle School, Troy, MI

## **RC Model Aircraft Show**

March 10-11 (Saturday and Sunday)

Gibraltar Trade Center, Mount Clemens

<http://www.gibraltartrade.com>

## *Classifieds!*

### **Two package deals:**

#### **PACKAGE 1**

Seawind EP (GPMA5750) with Motor, ESC and Servos.  
NIB. Tower price \$198.00. For Sale \$175.00

#### **PACKAGE 2**

Dualsky XM5060A-10 (305 rpm/V - 1650 Watts - 40  
Amps, Castle Phoenix HV 85, Electrify GPMG1260 Large  
Brushless Motor Mount. Dewalt 36Volt A123 battery pack

Street Price \$450.00. For Sale \$350.00 O.B.O.

Both of these are being sold for a fellow Skymaster.

Contact: Joe Hass

248-321-7934

### **Like new flight box.**

Varnished birch or ash plywood. Includes an electric  
starter, power panel, battery, electric fuel pump and glow  
driver. \$100 firm, you know that's a great deal.

Contact: Paul Zlotoff [pmz@uniprop.com](mailto:pmz@uniprop.com)



# Skymasters R/C Club

In conjunction with Romeo Skyhawks,  
Radio Control Club of Detroit,  
Greater Detroit Soaring and Hiking Society

## Winter Indoor Flying!

**Tuesdays - November 1, 2011 thru March 27, 2012 \***

**Mondays - Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day!  
Thanksgiving and Christmas Week Holiday Sessions!**  
**Ultimate Soccer Arenas - 867 South Blvd, Pontiac, MI**

R/C Flying Schedule: **Tuesday Sessions 11am-1pm**  
**MLK and Presidents Day**  
Nov 27<sup>th</sup> 12pm-4pm & Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 11am-3pm

\* No session on  
December 27<sup>th</sup>

**54 hours of  
Indoor Flying!**



365 ft by 260 ft Flying Area with 45 ft to 75 foot ceilings.  
Concurrent 3D, Heli, Sport Flying in different areas of arena!  
Temperature controlled, well lit. Restaurant on site.



2 Hour Session \$10 – Five Session Punch Card \$30  
4 Hour Sessions \$15 (or 2 ‘punches’)

Pilots must show proof of AMA membership

Spectators Welcome – No admission charge!

Ultimate Soccer Arenas - [www.ultimatesoccerarenas.com](http://www.ultimatesoccerarenas.com)

**Season Pass  
for \$100 includes  
All 23 Mon/Tues Sessions  
PLUS Holiday Flying!!**

For more information call Roger Schmelling 248-321-7599  
Visit our website at [www.skymasters.org](http://www.skymasters.org)



# March 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 Breakfast at Red Olive	6 Indoor flying at Ultimate	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Indoor flying at Ultimate	14 Skymasters Meeting 7PM at Ultimate Soccer	15	16	17
18	19 Breakfast at Red Olive	20 Indoor flying at Ultimate	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Indoor flying at Ultimate	28 Skymasters Meeting 7PM at Larsen	29	30	31

# Indoor Flying at Ultimate Soccer

(Paul Goelz photos)





## MCPx to Bell 47G conversion

By Paul Goelz

OK, let me start by saying that I am not really a "builder". Unlike my father, I've never had the patience to do a "from scratch" scale build so I tend to fly ARFs. But I do love scale aircraft and have a soft spot in my heart for the Bell 47G helicopter so this project was an ideal compromise.

When I read on an internet forum about someone who converted a Revell plastic scale model of the Bell 47G to fit the Eflite MCPx, my interest was piqued. I have an MCPx but the Revell kits were selling on Ebay for about \$35 so I put it into the "maybe some day" file. But cruising a local shop the other day I found them for \$12.99 and decided that "some day is now".



The kit is the Revell "Bell H-13H 2 in 1", part number 85-5313. This is a 1:35 scale static model in olive drab styrene. It is almost a perfect fit for the Eflite MCPx.

This article describes the project in general terms. You can see from the photos how I did most things, but I leave the tiny details up to you.

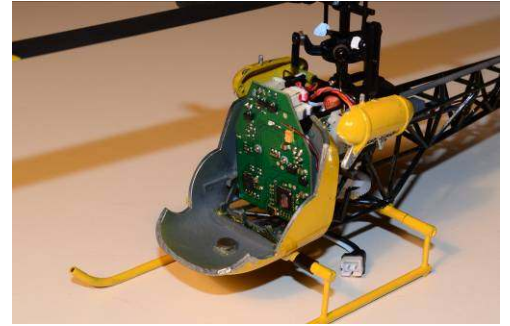
I did some head scratching as I built mine, trying to come up with the best way to fit the mechanics into the model but in retrospect, the kit can be built as-is with the exception of the cabin interior and bubble because the required modifications mostly consist of cutting a few pieces of plastic and using a Dremel to cut a slot in

the cabin rear and relieving the bubble a bit. That's basically it!

First, build the Bell 47 but do not add the cabin interior or canopy bubble. Omit the tail rotor.

From the MCPx, remove the canopy, skids and tail boom.

Lay the MCPx on the top of the Bell 47 with the control board ahead of the rear of the cabin. This will show you where to cut a slot in the rear of the cabin and also what supports to remove in the Bell frame so that the MCPx mechanics will fit.

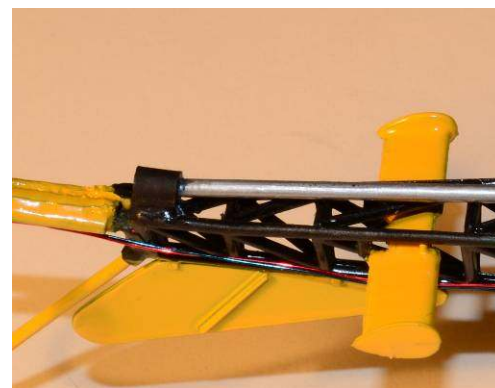
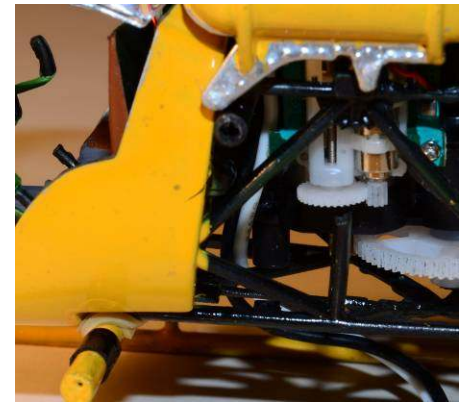


Once you have the space for the MCPx mechanics, you will find that you need to shorten the front canopy mounting studs just enough so they will pass inside the Bell frame. This is the only modification required to the MCPx, and can be reversed by making "adapters" that consist of a 2mm ID CF tube to slip over the studs, with a 1.5mm CF rod CA'd inside to replace the portion you cut off.

The MCPx mechanics are held in the Bell frame with two pieces of 2mm ID CF tubes press fit over the shortened canopy mount stubs.

When you have the mechanics inside the Bell frame, you will find there is an

interference with the left and right servos. Heat the frame gently and bend the frame so that the interference is cleared.

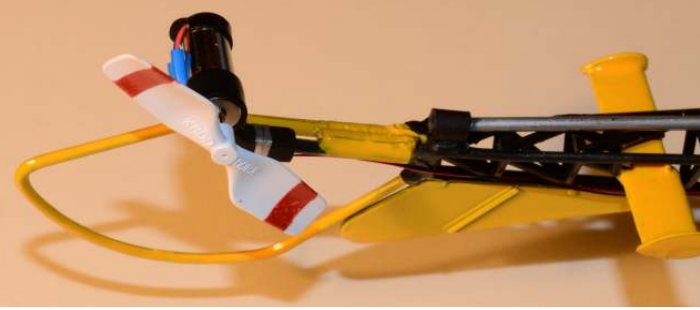


CA a short piece of CF tubing to the end of the Bell tail boom to accept the end of a dummy MCPx tail boom. This

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dummy boom acts as a rear support and also serves as a simulated tail shaft.

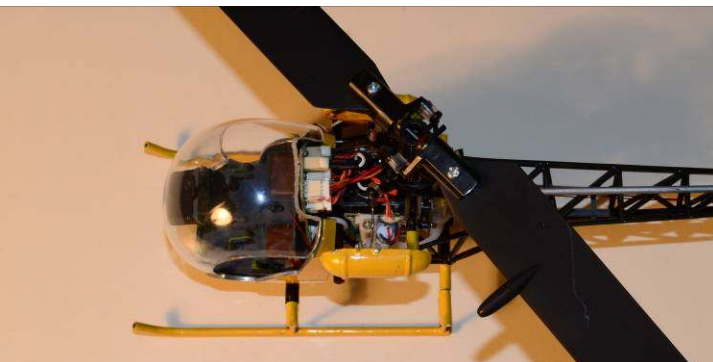
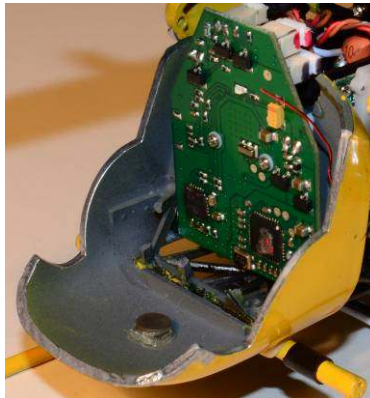


Grind a flat on a piece of 2mm CF rod and cut it so that when Ca'd to the tail cage, it will act as a mounting point for the MCPx tail motor.



The next bit is the only really tricky part. Cut the rear of the cabin floor (ie., the seat bottoms) short so the floor fits up against the MCPx control board and the front of the floor

just touches the inside of the canopy bubble. Then add the avionics stack assembly and position it so that the front of the stack touches the inside of the canopy bubble with the rear of the floor up against the MCPx control board. Set up this way, the canopy bubble can be carefully glued to the floor and avionics assembly so it all comes out as one



piece. Add a super magnet to the underside of the floor and to the bottom of the cabin and the cabin interior is removable.

In flight, the MCPx feels heavier and the flight time is reduced to 3 minutes with some reserves (more with Turnigy 300mH 35C cells). But it flies very well as long as you fly scale. And it looks WAY CUTE in the air!



You may need to reinforce the stock landing skids. Mine seemed a bit soft and tended to collapse under the increased weight of the completed model. I ended up breaking them in a crash and made more scale-looking replacements out of small diameter aluminum tubing and CF rod. Each side is separate and plugs onto CF rods passed through CF tubes glued to the bottom of the frame where the original skids mounted. They are (somewhat) held on with the black shrink tubing seen above, which also doubles as simulated scale anti-skid pads.

The battery just slips under a rubber band criss-crossed over the ends of the front skid mounting tube.

I painted mine yellow and black to honor N975B, the Bell 47G from the 1950s TV show "The Whirlybirds" with Ken Tobey and Craig Hill. As soon as I find some inkjet water slide decal material, I'll make some markings and add the Whirlybirds logo that will hide the ugly glue dot in the front of the canopy bubble.

**Paul Goelz**

[paul@pgoelz.com](mailto:paul@pgoelz.com)

Got a project to show off? Send it to me at [newsletter@skymasters.org](mailto:newsletter@skymasters.org) and I'll put it in the next newsletter.

# February 24th meeting photos



**From a recent Email from  
Ron Wlosinski...**

"Attached are photos of my current project.

Top Flite P-47D Thunderbolt Razorback

Wingspan: 85 in

Length: 75.5 in

Retracts: Robart main landing gear and tail wheel

Engine: DLE 55 gas

I have not decided on a color scheme. Hope to have it finished this spring."



Looks GREAT, Ron!

If anyone has photos of a favorite project, Email them to the editor, at:

[newsletter@skymasters.org](mailto:newsletter@skymasters.org)

**Skymasters Information...**

Skymasters field is located within the Bald Mountain State Park on Scripps Road (see map). State Park Permits are required and can be obtained from the Park Headquarters located on Greenshield Road or at club events. Flying is permitted from 10 AM to 8 PM. The noise limit is 94 dBa at 10 feet. This noise rule is strictly enforced.

In the summer, **Tuesday 3PM to 8PM is Student Night** but there are usually instructors around all day. Meet the Instructors and arrange for more instruction time together on other days. Our Chief Flight Instructor is Roger Schmelling, 248-321-7599.

**Wednesday evening is Family Night** with flying and a pot luck buffet. Bring something for the grill & a dish to pass.

From June to August, Club meetings are held at the field, on the second Wednesday of the month at 8 PM. A great chance to fly and socialize. Winter meetings—September to May—are held at Larson Middle School (on Long Lake just east of John R—see map) on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Bring a model for Show and Tell, enjoy coffee with donuts and listen to the speaker of the evening.

The Skywriter newsletter is sent to members, local hobby shops, and other R/C clubs in the area and around the country. All contributions are welcome. Please send photos and articles to [newsletter@skymasters.org](mailto:newsletter@skymasters.org) If you know of anyone who may be interested in R/C Aviation, please give them a copy of this newsletter

or a copy of an AMA magazine. It may spark their interest!

