

July

Skywriter

2012

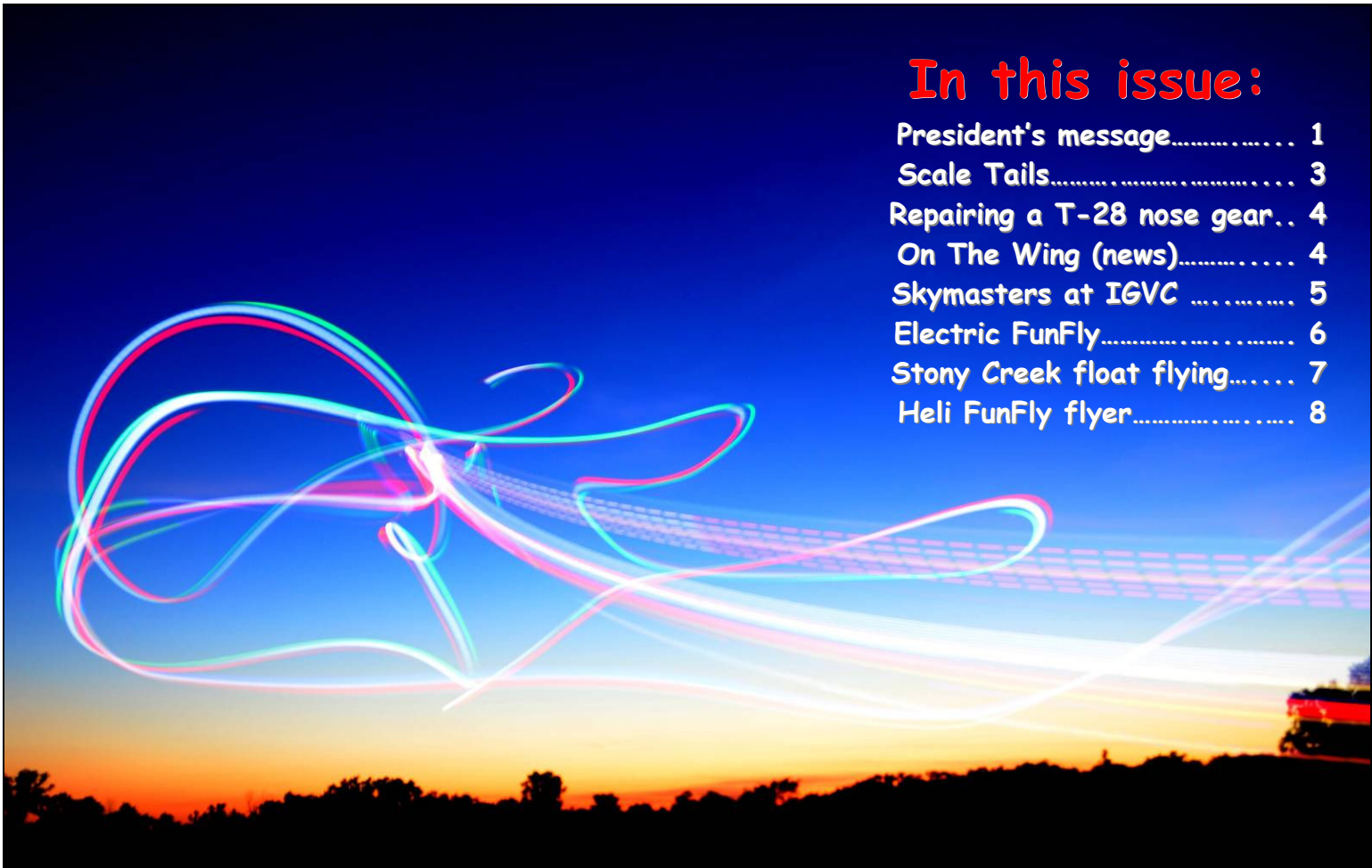


SKYMASTERS RADIO CONTROL CLUB
OF MICHIGAN
AMA Chartered Club #970
15 Year Gold Leader Club



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From the President...

Hello, Skymasters!

We are moving into full swing of summer now that the month of June is nearly past us! On June 9th the Electrics over Lake Orion event was held, and despite pretty heavy winds there were 20 some pilots that took to the air. After a windblown day of flying, there was a nice potluck dinner! As dusk started setting in a nice fire was stoked up, and the night flyers started plugging in their lights. The flying field was packed with both pilots ready to give it their first try, as well as those curious about the concept (*see photos beginning on page 6*). Most agreed that night flying is not too awfully hard, as long as the aircraft is lit with a decent light pattern.

The night flying was a real hit, with quite a diverse field of lighting ideas. The darker it got, the easier it was for many pilots to see. The dark skies were very busy until approximately 10:30, when most batteries were drained, or those not wearing the mosquito repellent were drained from the bites! Flying from 11:30 till midnight was at its best, because the mosquitos subsided for the night and it was nearly bug free flying at last.

When it came time to sleep, four campers and two tents housed tired pilots and family members for the night. In the early morning, four or more Sand Hill Cranes gave the Skymasters camp a wakeup call! A little while later in the morning Greg Cardillo and Pete Foss were making coffee, pancakes and bacon for all. Thanks to Pete and Greg for putting on such a great multi - event!

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

I would like to personally thank Dave Shea for coming to my house and soldering all the wires and light strips on my V-tail glider! Of course the project went way over on hours, but Dave was relentless! I had a great time, and I hope everyone else did as well! Many are looking to do it again in the near future!

Field improvements:

The flying field has now been smoothed with a vibratory roller and if you have not flown off of it yet, you are going to love it! It took a minimum of five days being dry, and rolling it in a dehydrated state to achieve the outstanding results.



A little piece of trivia about the roller: The roller weighed 6,800 lbs but when in vibration mode it provided 15 tons of compaction to the field.



Thanks to Dan Stolz for not only suggesting that we try this process, but also heading up a team of Skymasters to carry it out. Helping Dan coordinate was Gary

Wells as "Field Foreman", and the rest of the crew: Tom Acx, Bill Gage, Ray Nawara, Eric Nordlie, Bill Pesch, Ron Wlosinski, and Paul Zabawa. I would like to thank everyone else that showed up to help, should I be missing any names!

Worth noting is the fact that the workers ranged from first year, second and third year, to long term Skymaster members. It is the broad range of member participation that makes our flying field such a great place to call home field. Thanks again to all involved,

Front Cover:

Night flying at the "Electrics Over Lake Orion" electric FunFly event June 9, 2012. A tripod mounted 30 second time exposure (Nikon D5100, at ISO 150) as several lighted planes flew by.

Paul Goelz photo

because this made a significant improvement to the quality of our runway.

Flight Instructors Needed!

This year the Skymasters are blessed with quite a crew of new, soon to be pilots! We have dedicated Thursday's to our students, and the format is beginning to take shape. However, we have been stretched a little thin with the number of flight instructors on occasion. We are asking for established pilots with good flying skills to please contact Roger Schmelling for volunteer Instructor help. The future of our hobby is the success of our new members!

Upcoming July Skymasters Events!

Get your Warbirds or Scale civilian models dusted off! July 15th we will be hosting the Warbirds and Scale event at our Scripps Road flying field. If your retractable gear gave you troubles in the past, this is the year to test them out on the super smooth flying field!

July 29th is the Helicopter Fun Fly at our field! This is a great event, and brings in some really talented pilots. Do not miss this date!

Bill Dezur is running the food stand for both July events, and is looking for volunteers! More helpers will keep the amount of time committed for each individual to a minimum. Please contact Bill at:

bill.dezur@yahoo.com

Until next month, keep up on the sun block and time on the sticks!

Dave Lange

President, Skymasters



Scale Tails



By: Gary Weeks

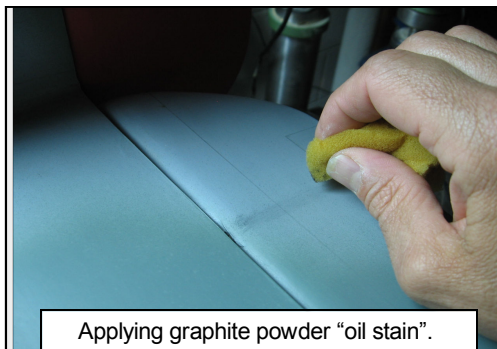
July 2012

This month we are getting down and dirty. For scale effect, that is! I marvel at the fact that while flying and taxiing, our models tend to get dirty and stained in the same places that full scale planes get dirty. Look underneath a full-scale plane next time you are at an airport and you will want to grab a giant bottle of spray cleaner! So, evidence of use is a nice scale effect in my eyes. It can also be convenient - I'll explain that one later on.

When you attend a full-scale airshow where antique warbirds are part of the act, you will most likely see glossy, very clean aircraft resembling a fresh Monokote™ finish. Models intended to represent these aircraft should be equally clean. However, the rough and stained look of other warbird models conjures up feelings of the utility for which the planes were actually created. The low-gloss look is very easy to achieve in paint or film coating. Gloss can be removed from film coatings with very fine sandpaper. I keep a collection of 3M™ brand SandBlaster™ abrasive foam pads. The older they get, the softer and better they are for lowering gloss on paint, decals, and film coverings over many shapes. Always try gloss removal on scrap parts first to see if you like the effect. I will use grit sizes ranging from 320 to 1500. Never sand covering over an open frame. For open frames covered with plastic film, lightly sand and remove the gloss on the covering before applying it to the frame.

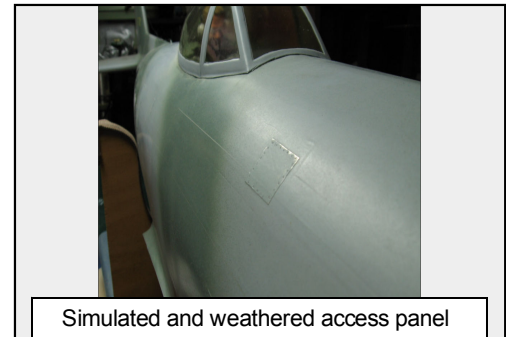
Back to the full-scale aircraft and a

careful examination of the skin down-wind of hinges and access panels will often reveal oily stains from the metal parts wearing. I have an easy way to simulated this staining using pencil lead dust. Sand the lead of a pencil and collect the dust. Using a dry sponge, smudge the aircraft surface in areas down-wind of hinges and hatches for a nice streaked effect. The graphite can be removed with solvents if you don't like the effect or have put too much on, but stands up O.K. to light, post-flight cleaning. This technique is much less intimidating than air-brushing black paint on your aircraft.



Here is that convenient weathering tip I mentioned earlier... We have all had an opps, a small blemish from contact damage or over-heated film. In these cases, it is great to have a scale model. Simply cover the

blemish with an inspection plate. Full scale airplanes, both metal and fabric, have them in so many locations that an additional one or two will disappear into the surface detail. I like to make access panels from aluminum tape, paint them, and then lightly sand them after they are on the model. The paint does not adhere well to aluminum so the light sanding reveals the shiny aluminum edges giving a nice weathered look. This technique works well for both intended and non-intended access panel locations.



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

Gary Weeks

(weaksgt@yahoo.com)

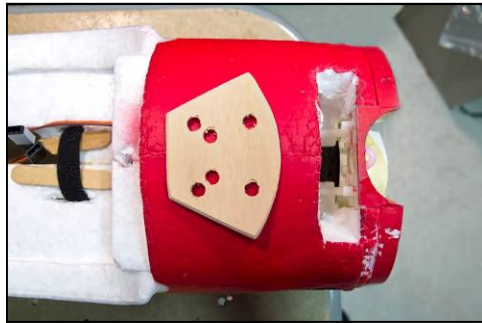
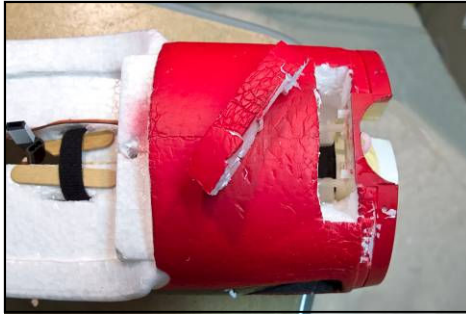
Procedure for repairing a broken firewall/nose gear plate on a T-28

By Bill Pesch

Editor's note... The nose gear on the popular T-28 is a decidedly weak link. Here is Bill's great repair method.

Remove the prop, cowl, wheel assembly (including the push rod assembly) and motor and set all aside.

Cut out a plug from just behind the plastic firewall to allow insertion of a plywood backer plate and set aside. The plug is approximately 5/8" wide, to allow free working space behind the plastic firewall plate.



Make a paper template for the plywood backer plate. Cut out the plywood backer plate and drill holes for the plastic firewall prongs to pass through.

Tape up the holes in the front side of the plastic firewall where the nose gear and its push rod assembly were removed, to prevent glue from oozing out in the following steps.



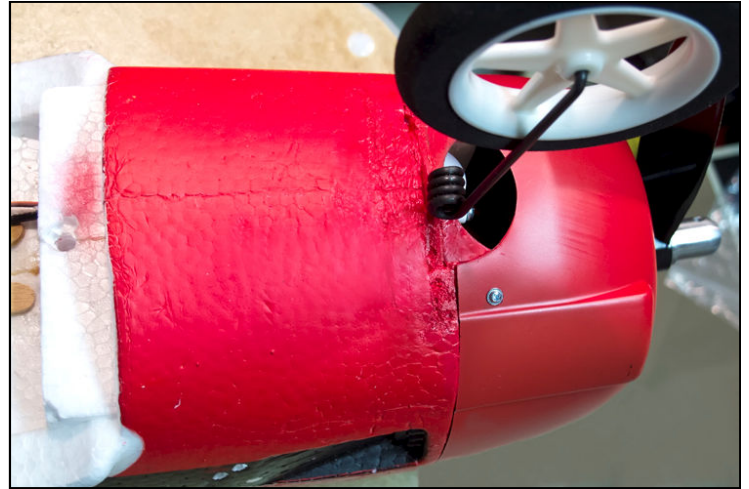
Apply Gorilla glue to the plywood backer plate and spray some water to the exposed backside of the plastic firewall plate (the glue needs water to setup and cure). Hold the plywood tight against the plastic firewall plate. Let glue cure for at least 20 - 30 minutes.

Apply Gorilla glue to the backside of the plywood backer plate and to the three exposed faces of the foam fuselage where the foam plug was cut out. Carefully cut about 1/16" from the foam plug face that will set against

the plywood backer plate. Moisten the foam plug and reinsert it into the void space left between the plywood backer plate and the foam fuselage. Place some low tack painters tape over the foam plug to prevent the expanding glue from oozing out. Let the glue cure.

After the glue has cured, remove the tape from the plug and from the face of the plastic firewall. Cut (Dremel) the plywood backer plate where the steering gear push rod is to be reinserted into the fuselage.

Reinstall the wheel assembly, motor, cowl and prop. Touch-up paint the foam plug where the original paint was disturbed and where some of the Gorilla glue may be showing.



Here is what the completed fix looks like.

Bill Pesch

ON THE WING



July Skymasters Meeting

Wednesday, July 11th

8PM

(at the field)

Skymasters at the 2012 Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition at Oakland University, Rochester Hills, MI

Story and potos by Paul Goelz



This past winter, several local indoor modelers were approached by OU robotics professor Dr. KaC Cheok and asked to provide demos of small model aircraft that might have some relevance to autonomous vehicles. I said I would be happy to demo my Eflite mQX quad-copter

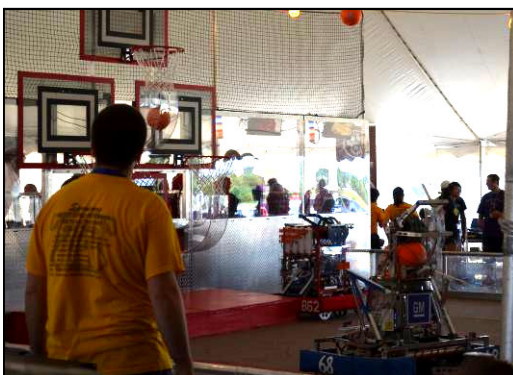
as well as my Trex 450 / Hughes 500D. I also volunteered to bring a flight simulator and give folks the opportunity to try flying.



The event was a national autonomous vehicle competition and I tried to show how RC aircraft, and quad-copters in particular were available off the shelf and adaptable to autonomous use. I also used the occasion as outreach for Skymasters and RC flight in general.

There were two HUGE tents in the field at the corner of Adams and Walton. One tent was the HQ for the vrious teams plus food and judging. The other was divided into three sections.

The center was middle school "Lego Sumo" competition, where the robots tried to shove each other off the table. One end was high school "autonomous basketball" where robots ran around and tried to shoot baskets while avoiding (or not) each other. I never did totally figure out the rules. The last section was a demo area and this was where I was. There were



displays of military robots, an android, a very slick autonomous car from Continental, a mine sweeping robot, and more.

On Saturday, I was by myself. PMAC had a booth but I never saw anyone in it. But I was mobbed by kids and their parents, so I was far from lonely.

Sunday was much slower. Sherman Dickson and Joe Hass came by to lend a hand but we spent most of the time talking amongst ourselves.

Over the weekend, maybe 50 kids tried their hand hovering a heli on the simulator. It was interesting to watch how they did (or did not) adjust



what they did based on what the heli did. Of those 50 kids, maybe two or three actually made progress. Most of them were solidly and unalterably in "video game" mode, regardless of any

coaching we tried.

Several parents asked about the club, and I gave them the name and web site. Lets see if e get any new members.

See <http://www.youtube.com/paulgoelz> for video of the military robots from my mQX.

Paul Goelz



Skymasters Electric FunFly, June 9th 2012

(more on page 10 in the web version)

Paul Goelz and Fred Engelman photos



Stony Creek Float Flying

Fred Engelman photos



Skymasters Third Annual

Helicopter FunFly

Sunday, July 29th

The event is held at the Skymasters Scripps Road field in Bald Mountain state park, Lake Orion MI. North of Silverbell and west of M24. See map below.

Large shelter and tables for shade and repairs.

Restroom onsite.

Recreational park pass required for park entry. If you do not have one, it may be purchased at the event for \$10 from the park rangers and is good for the whole year.

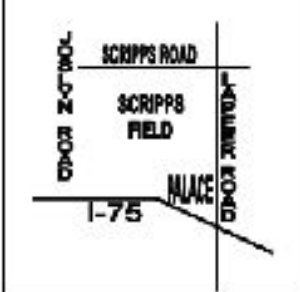
For more information, contact the event director, Paul Goelz at paul@pgoelz.com or call 248-933-5814

Skymasters web site:
www.skymasters.org



- Registration opens at 9AM.
- First flight at 10AM
- Field available until 8PM
- 3D, scale and sport flying
- Electric, glow, gas and turbine welcomed
- Three flight stations plus separate area for 450 and smaller
- No landing fee
- Ample parking and space for canopies
- Food and refreshments available
- Proof of AMA membership required
- Recreational park pass required (see sidebar)
- 72MHz and 2.4GHz welcomed. No impound for 2.4GHz

SCRIPPS ROAD FIELD



July 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Family night (pot luck) at the field Stony Creek float flying	5 Student night (student flying only) at the field 3PM to 8PM	6	7 Mid-Am Electric Fly-In (Midwest RC, Salem Twp MI)
8 Mid-Am Electric Fly-In (Midwest RC, Salem Twp MI)	9	10	11 Family night (pot luck) at the field Short meeting, 8PM at the field Stony Creek	12 Student night (student flying only) at the field 3PM to 8PM	13	14 Mid Michigan FunFly (Midland RC Modelers)
15 Warbirds and Scale (Skymasters)	16	17	18 Family night (pot luck) at the field Stony Creek float flying	19 Student night (student flying only) at the field 3PM to 8PM	20	21 CL FlyIn and RC 2X2 FlyIn (RCCD)
22 4-Stroke Rally (RCCD)	23	24	25 Family night (pot luck) at the field Stony Creek float flying	26 Student night (student flying only) at the field 3PM to 8PM	27	28
29 Helicopter FunFly 10AM to ?? (Skymasters)	30	31				

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

The Skywriter newsletter is published monthly by the Skywriters Radio Control Club of Michigan
www.skymasters.org

2012 Club Officers & Appointees...

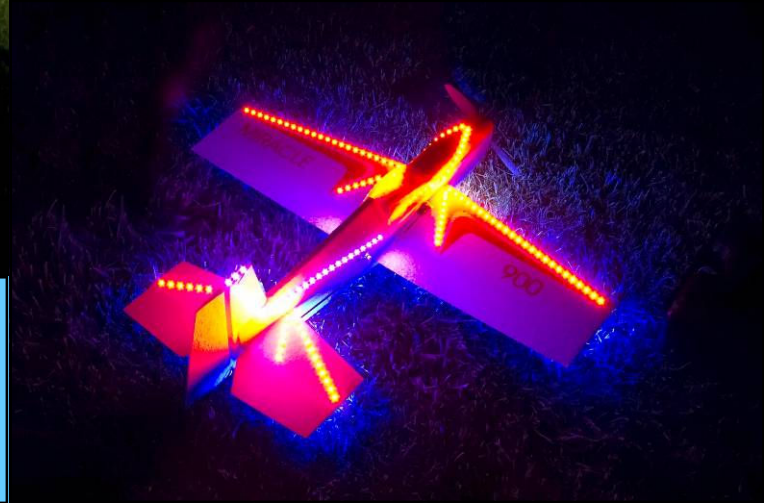
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Membership:	Joe Rubenstein	155 Cayuga	Lake Orion	48362	248-693-4265

Skymasters Electric FunFly, June 9th 2012

(continued from page 6)
Paul Goelz and Bill Pesch photos



More from
the
Electric
FunFly
"Electrics over
Lake Orion"



(Bill Pesch photos)

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.

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

Thursday 3PM to 8PM is Student Night throughout the summer 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.

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 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!

