

August

Skywriter

2012



**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!

Hard to believe we are already through the month of July! (Hopefully we are through the heat wave for the rest of the way too!)

July's Events:

Our Warbirds and Scale event on July 15th was a real sweet outing, and highlighted by some incredible hand crafted models! The smoother field seemed to pay off as well with nearly no nose over landings. I would like to thank Gary Weaks, Joe Finkelstine and Greg Brausa for making this event such a success!

The Helicopter Fun Fly was huge success this year!

From a fantastic scale turbine helicopter, to cutting edge 3D helicopters there was not a dull moment all day! Paul Goelz was able to organize a visit from Ted Labbe, flying in a full scale Border Patrol Helicopter! Please join me in thanking Ted for taking the time to help enhance our event like he did! Thanks to Paul for doing such a nice job once again!

Also, I would like to thank Bill Dezur, and all of the others that have helped Bill run the kitchen for both of these great July events. Both jobs done well!

Student nights are finding a nice groove, with three students being signed off this month! Please

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

join me in congratulating Bob Chapdelaine, John McFarlane, Michael Johnson, and David Vigne for joining the ranks of "Pilots" and to Jim Vigne for soloing.... it won't be long now, Jim. It sure is exciting to see how well all students are progressing this year!

During our July summer meeting, the students emphasized that they are thankful to have such a devoted group of instructors, and I have to agree. Thanks to each and every instructor this year, for helping our new students achieve their goals! August is going to be a busy month signing students off as pilots, because there are more that are progressing really well.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, August 11th will be the next Stewardship Day, meeting at the East Graham Boat Launch parking lot on the north side of Predmore Road in the park's North Unit. Waterproof boots, either knee-high rubber boots or hip waders, are recommended for this site, but not necessary. Rubber boots are available to borrow, upon request. Old boots that you don't mind getting muddy will work too.

Wednesday, August 15th will be our annual Skymasters Fish Fry! Bring a dish to pass and your own non-alcoholic beverage. The grills will be fired up if you prefer a meat or meats other than fish. Bring your family to enjoy!

Sunday, August 26th will be the Corn and Pig Roast along with Top Gun for 2012! All food and beverage provided by the club so please bring your family and enjoy this fantastic social outing!

Just the weekend after Labor Day our Midwest Regional Float Fly will be upon us! This is one of the premier float flying events nationwide, so get your float planes ready as early as possible! We will need as much volunteer help as possible, so please put your name in the hat. If you are new to the club this year, save the weekend and see what this event is all about!

Dave Lange

President, Skymasters

Front Cover:

Ted Labbe from the US Customs and Border Patrol visiting the Heli FunFly in his AS350. Ted also flies models.... helis and fixed wing.

Paul Goelz photo

Two of our newest pilots!



Bob Chapdelaine



Michael Johnson

Lost foam, the great disappearing act!

The next time that you need a cowling, wheel pant or other such shape, consider making it yourself using the rewarding and easy method of a lost foam mold. I have used this process on several of my scale planes and want to share my technique with you.

First of all, lost foam, the process of dissolving the plug after forming a permanent shell, is really a misnomer; we know where the foam goes. Styrofoam™, is a trade name for foamed polystyrene. Here comes the chemistry lesson; Polystyrene is a plastic that by itself is a hard, colorless material. Everyone is quite familiar with polystyrene as it is the most common material for those clear, glass-like CD jewel cases that we all have. In a molten state, under high pressure, a foaming agent is dissolved into the polystyrene. Removing the pressure causes gasses to expand and froth the plastic like the head on a beer (or like blowing air through a straw in chocolate milk if the reader is under 21). Cooling the frothy mixture "freezes" it in this state. The white color comes naturally from the bent and scattered light waves going through the froth (the same reason that snow is white even though it is composed of colorless water). Some sources tell us that Styrofoam™ is nearly 98% air. Well, so are trees, but try flying through them and see what happens!

Cutting, gluing and shaping foam is a subject all to itself. Once you have the part shaped, about



Foam discs and sanded plug

1/16" smaller in all dimensions than it will actually be, it is time to cover it with glass and epoxy resin. You cannot use polyester resin which is supplied with many fiberglass kits because the aggressive components of polyester resin will dissolve your foam plug. I use at a minimum

three glass layers and cross-link the glass with finishing epoxy resin such as Z-Poxy™ brand. Some builders like to thin the finishing resin with denatured alcohol. I use it "as is" successfully. If you decide to thin it, only use denatured alcohol. Other solvents will attack the foam. Allow the resin to cure between layers and rough-sand before applying the next glass layer. I like to start with a heavy glass cloth such as 6 oz. and work down to a 0.75 oz. for the final layers. If the cloth is stubborn and pulls away from the foam, you can tack it down with odorless CA until the resin cures. Like the technique for glassing sheeted wings and other large parts, use only enough resin to saturate the glass. Brush as much excess off as you can. Strength comes from the fiberglass, not the resin.

Once the final layer dries, sand the shell smooth. Although dissolving the foam and freeing your shell is the fun part, resist that



Plug with 3 layers of glass

urge. Mechanically remove as much foam as possible with carving tools. The reason is that the foam does not disappear as I enticingly suggested at the opening of this article, but returns to a thick, compressed polystyrene residue that is only dead weight and hard to completely remove. Use acetone sparingly to dissolve the remaining foam from the interior. Never use aggressive solvents such as MEK which can



Shell and removed foam residue

(Continued from page 3)

swell and distort your fiberglass shell.

Your parts are now ready for finishing and mounting on your scale project!

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

Gary Weaks

weaksqt@yahoo.com



Author's 8 ft. Seneca with cowls made with the "lost foam" method.



A Hot Day at the Field
7-2-2012



Nose gear replacement on a giant scale aircraft

By Wade Wiley

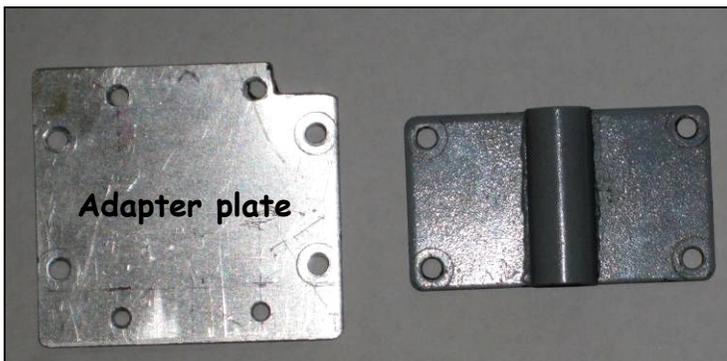
One problem with some rare models is lack of parts. I have an Advanced Scale Models 10 foot Cessna 182 ARF. On a too steep approach, the stock nose gear main strut bent badly and broke while straightening. This is a 30 pound aircraft, and the OEM gear is all odd metric dimensions (I tried looking for tubing) so replacement could have been a problem.



to the firewall using the original mounting holes.



Upon internet research, I found that Robart makes a large scale steerable nosegear with comparable dimensions, product number 159F. To mount the Robart gear, all that was needed was an adapter plate. This was constructed from 1/8" aluminum.



All nose gear maintenance can be performed by just unbolting the plate, and repairs can be easily handled by ordering parts from Robart.

Wade Wiley

The steering pushrod had to be relocated from the bottom of the firewall to the top of the new nose gear, the gear was bolted to the adapter plate, and then bolted



**Student Night,
July 5th 2012**



ON THE WING



**August Skymasters
Meeting**
August 8th (at the field)
8PM

Ken Meyers inducted into the Model Aviation Hall Of Fame!

In an award ceremony Saturday July 7th at the Mid America Electric Fly (Northville, MI), Ken Myers was informed that he had been inducted into the Model Aviation Hall of Fame. Ken's beautiful plaque was presented to him by AMA District 7 VP Tim Jesky. Ken was completely surprised.

Jesky worked with AMA staff member Erin Dobbs as well as Executive Director Dave Mathewson and AMA President Bob Brown to make sure everything arrived in time for the presentation at Mid Am. The announcement letter was matted and framed to allow all those in attendance to extend their personal wishes to Ken.

This picture below includes Jesky on the right as well as other Michigan based Hall of Fame members Keith Shaw and Art Adamisin. Fellow Hall of Famer Pete Waters was out of town.



During the festivities many of Ken's accomplishments were reviewed. They include writing and distributing the AMPEER newsletter for 23 years (the longest running electric newsletter in the world), running the Mid Am event for 27 years, running national electric events at AMA headquarters, developing numerous electric programs to help modelers find the right power combinations, and speaking engagements too numerous to mention. Last November Ken was awarded the coveted Carl Goldberg Vital People Award for all of his efforts.



Keith Shaw, a contributor to the nomination said it best. "Ken's works are the major reason for the growth of electric flight. Ken has been, and still is, a tireless promoter of electric flight. He is also an energetic flight instructor, a great friend and flying buddy".

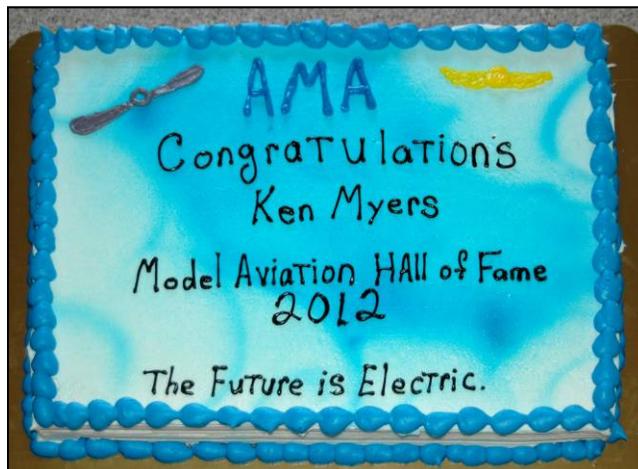
Ken's masthead on the AMPEER newsletter sums it up "THE FUTURE IS ELECTRIC".

We are very fortunate to have such valuable modelers so close in Southeastern Michigan.

Join me in congratulating Ken. His Email address is

kmyersefo@yahoo.com

Joe Hass

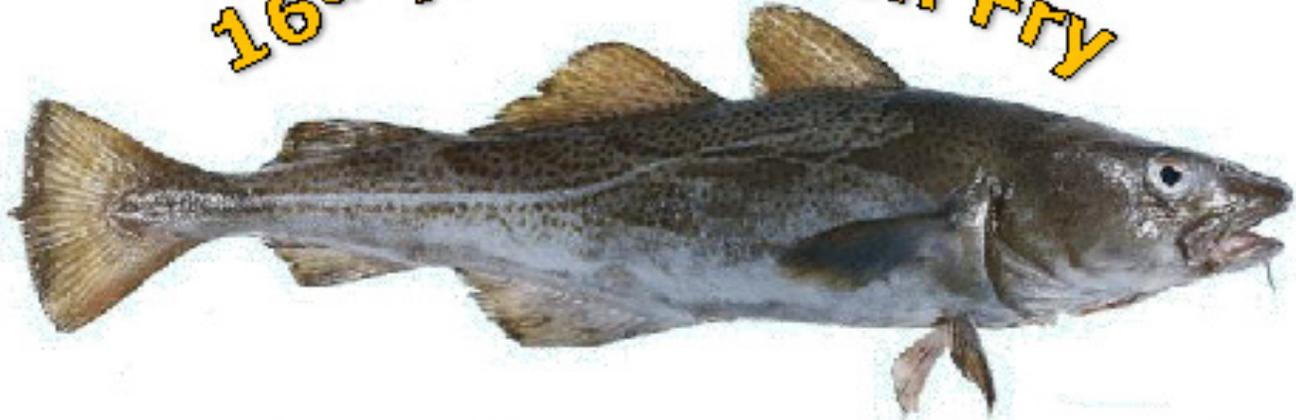




Skymasters R/C Club of Michigan
"We'll teach you to fly!"

**Join the Skymasters R/C Club for
Scale R/C Flying!**

16th Annual Fish Fry



Wednesday, August 15th

*Rain or shine, dinner will be served 6:00 PM at Scripps Rd
Flying Field - Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Lake Orion, MI*

- Bring family, a dish to pass and your own non-alcoholic beverages
Wondering what to bring? *Pick an item off of the board hanging under the pavilion next to the gas grill!*
 - Want a different main dish? *The gas and charcoal grills will be fired up!*
 - Donations accepted to cover cost of fish and supplies; *The Fish Fry is supported by those who participate at no expense to the club*
 - Open flying, with priority to Student flights
 - *All motor vehicles require a Recreational Passport available at Michigan Secretary of State, or DNR*
-

**For more information contact: Bill Dezur 586-739-7124
or visit our website for location and map at: www.skymasters.org**

August 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Family night (pot luck) at the field Stony Creek float flying	2 Student night (student flying only) at the field 3PM to 8PM	3	4
5	6	7	8 Family night (pot luck) at the field Stony Creek float flying Meeting 8PM at the field	9 Student night (student flying only) at the field 3PM to 8PM	10	11 ALES (sailplane) contest at Addison Oaks RCCD "Big Bird" fly in
12 ALES (sailplane) contest at Addison Oaks RCCD "Big Bird" fly in	13	14	15 Fish Fry at the field Stony Creek float flying	16 Student night (student flying only) at the field 3PM to 8PM	17	18 PMAC Electric FlyIn
19	20	21	22 Family night (pot luck) at the field Stony Creek float flying	23 Student night (student flying only) at the field 3PM to 8PM	24	25
26 Corn / Pig roast at the field	27	28	29 Family night (pot luck) at the field Stony Creek float flying	30 Student night (student flying only) at the field 3PM to 8PM	31	

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
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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.

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

Photos from the 2012 Warbirds and Scale meet

July 15th 2012

Fred Engelman and Bob Chappeldine photos (continued on following pages)







3rd annual Skymasters Heli FunFly

July 29th, 2012

Sunday brought letter perfect conditions... temperatures in the 80s and light and variable winds. Folks started arriving at around 9:30AM and by the end of the day we had a total of 35 pilots registered.



Flying began promptly at 10AM and continued until noon, when Ted Labbe from the US Customs and Border Patrol arrived in his A-Star AS350 for a visit. While the flight stations were closed, the crowd gathered around



the A-Star and questioned Ted about his chopper and his fascinating job "chasing bad guys". Ted stayed for about an hour and got a chance to see a really nice turbine powered Llama fly. He then fired up the A-Star and did a fly-by before leaving. He enjoyed his stay so much, he came back on his motorcycle and flew with us later in the afternoon (he also flies model fixed wing and helis).

Bill Dezur did a bang up job in the kitchen as always. We had so many pilots and spectators that we actually ran out of food! At the peak, the parking lot was full and we had cars parked along the access road! I spoke to several people who came as spectators but wanted to know more about the club and membership. This event was great outreach.

We had four crashes that I remember... one was potential pilot error, one was metal fatigue (tail boom snapped off in flight) and one was possibly an ESC failure. The fourth was traced to a battery connector that came unplugged. That crash reminded us how potentially dangerous our helis can be when part of a blade landed several hundred feet from the crash site.

Everyone had a great time and the folks I spoke to said they would be back.

See more photos on the next page.

Paul Goelz





More photos from
the 2012 Skymasters
Heli FunFly





Even more FunFLy photos from Bill Pesch



Liam's First Flight

By Joe Hass

After flying down to Muncie on Friday June 15 to watch my son Chris compete in the Extreme Flight Championships Paula and I landed back at Troy to get a phone call from my son David. David and his family wanted to "get together". I picked a restaurant to meet them.

The glass of chardonnay arrived just before my 4 year old grandson Liam came in to announce "Grandpa, we are going flying". Son David then came in with his wife Shawn. I told him that I would send the wine back. David encouraged me to not only have that glass but another. I looked at him and said "How am I going to fly with 2 glasses of wine". His response? "What makes you think that you are going to be the pilot?".



At the celebration of Liam's first birthday I presented the young man with a set of aviation earmuffs with the statement "You can wear these when you go flying with Grandpa". David responded "His first flight will be with me as P.I.C."

David is a private pilot but family, work and a child kept him from staying current. David used the small inheritance from my mother's estate to regain his currency. Financing wasn't the only issue. As a board member with the flying club we both belong to I see all of the flight hours, financials and schedules. A team of very crafty individuals "cooked the books" to make sure I never suspected a thing.



Nothing could have made me more proud, or cause my eyes to well with emotion, as David announced "Cessna 64477 departing runway 9 with 3 generations of Hass men on board " for Liam's first flight. A perfect Father's Day Gift. Couldn't help but think that my father, also a pilot, was with us in spirit too.

As we were preflighting, Liam found some parts that matched the color of the plane. "What are these Grandpa". "Wheelpants" I answered. "Why" was his response. "To make the airplane go faster" I said. With that we were preoccupied with the preflight. A moment later we looked around to see the wheelpants sitting next to the wheels. "Put them on. I want to go fast" Liam said.

Joe Hass





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!

