



April 2010

Flying Season!

by Andy Kunz andy@montanadesign.com 217-762-2384

FINALLY! The time of year we enjoy so much – Flying Season. When we think of Flying Season, we should associate that in our minds with “flying site.” Winter is over, and it's time to get the field ready for the new season by filling in tire ruts in the grass (please, stay on the gravel or concrete), filling in the wash-outs along the ditch, moving hay bales, and re-seeding the grassy areas that need it. As Pete mentions below, May 1 (**THIS SATURDAY**) we will have a work day from 9AM – Noon to address these items. Bring a shovel, rake, and wheel barrow along with a plane or two for the afternoon. Since the Subway at the gas station is out of business, you might want to think about bringing a lunch too. **If anyone has access to dirt or knows someone who does please give Pete Bergstrom a call (217-840-3400) to discuss and make arrangements.**

To mark the end of Building Season and beginning of Flying Season, our first *Builders Contest* will be on May 8 at the field. Bring your complete or incomplete model from the past year to show off (and maiden). It can be scratch, kit, ARF, etc. and it doesn't even need to be complete. Entry is only \$5 per plane (one per class). We still need a few people to volunteer to register entries and to judge; let me know if you're interested in helping out.

The day following will be the first Second Sunday Club Fly & Barbecue – yet another reason to get the field ready on May 1.

Attached to this newsletter you will find contest flyers for several events around our area. Our own events are listed on the last page. Be sure to bring family and friends!

I am in the process of building an e-mail list of everybody in the club so we can send out newsletters and special notices. If somebody forwarded this to you, please e-mail me your address so I can get you on the list for next month.

He's a Traveling Man

by Jim Booker jimbooker@flycontrolline.com

Busy month at my house! Sometimes our hobby tends to sort of overwhelm a person. In short I attended the Toledo Weak Signals show, traveled on to Detroit and the Ford Museum, came home and jumped in a minivan

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and traveled to Wichita, Kansas with the University of Illinois Aero Engineering class I have been involved with for 5 years now. And had a friend stay with us for a couple days in Monticello, it was a busy month!

First, the Toledo show was great, it is all about modelers getting together and talking about airplanes. Every booth was filled so it appears the hobby is strong. I saw so many niche products from small companies that it was difficult to get through the show in the time I had available. How about an on board thermal sensor for the Radian? Yep, very cool and only \$45.00. More new foam airplanes than ever and more people making larger composite airplanes than ever. It sure looks like a guy has a lot of interesting options with what he can do with his hobby these days. Airplanes are a big part of it but some people are now facilitating their other hobbies with RC airplanes. But it is all about the people and I think there was no shortage of people at the show. Everybody talking and pointing and talking and eating and talking, wow, I had break away on Saturday afternoon to go to Detroit.



My wife wanted to follow some of her ancestry in the Detroit area so we headed up there, not a long drive from Toledo. But she did have us set up to go through the Ford Museum. All I can say is that when you have a chance, spend a day there, that will only get you through the air exhibits! When you walk in the door of the room where the Spirit of St. Louis is displayed your knees get wobbly! Of course this is the replica used in the Jimmy Stuart movie but it sure looks like some master scale builders detailed this one out! We were both emotionally moved by the significance of this one display. Then after having photographed the Ford Tri Motor model at the Toledo show I got a close-up of the real thing in the Museum, again, a phenomenal picture of our aviation past, I was literally knocked off my feet by the presentation these people have put together! Amazing.

Got back just in time to jump in with Dr. Selig's (our distinguished club member!) Design, Build, Fly competition group, of which I am advisor and pilot. We drove all night to Wichita where the action was intense. What an experience, I love the kids and they all were coming to me from previous years events to ask questions and show me what they had done this year, one more time, Amazing! This year had the largest number of competitors ever and the most entrants from foreign countries (it is a world wide event). Some of the schools bring well over 100 kids with their entry. Oklahoma had two teams and they showed that they were ready, they won first and second place, Pardue was third. USC Trojans had a very competitive model and I think their cheerleaders (yes they had the cheerleaders!) had their egos busting out a bit. But the pilot pulled a bit too much elevator on the first turn and the wing was not up to it, pow! They had previously flown it and no doubt it would have been hard to beat but the crowd cheered when it went down so I think maybe it was a big lesson to keep the ego in check when you fly model airplanes!! It is absolutely beyond me why the modeling community shuns this event, magazines don't cover it. Heck Horizon ought to be part of it as over 75% of the radios are Spektrum and JR thanks to the programmed failsafe they offer. I go to this one on my own nickel, not as a Horizon employee but they sure hold me responsible and I was able to help a lot of people set their failsafe, the local HobbyTowne dealer gave me a big slap on the back for selling every Spektrum radio he could get his hands on! I did bring the first DX7 radio to the competition and it seems people haven't forgot about it! What an experience, when you get a chance to be involved in such an undertaking jump in with both feet, the good feelings go all the way through!!

And then back home in time to pick up a long time friend and past world championship joint team member friend who stayed with me for a few days. This guy is a master business idea guy and we had a blast talking about some things he is working on. More ideas than I can keep together right now.

So that pretty well finished off a month of phenomenal hobby activities, both work and away from work for me. Now I have to catch up on a million things I haven't taken care of this month!!

Field Rules Reminder

Just a quick reminder – AMA membership is required. Have you renewed your membership for this year yet? Don't get caught grounded because of a little procrastination!

The Last Word

by Pete Bergstrom, President pbergstrom@horizonhobby.com 217-840-3400

Hi! I'm just getting back from a pretty heavy travel month with the Toledo Show and SEFF. There is a lot of pretty cool modeling going on out there and I'd love to see our club at the forefront one of these days of one of these bigger events.

Work party - Saturday May 1 from 9:00 to 12:00. We need to take the time to do a general cleanup of the field in preparation for this years flying season. We need to move the hay bales off the taxiways, repair the spectator fencings, do maintenance on the pit tables (picnic tables), etc.

Grass runway south of the paved runway. We are in the process of making plans to have additional tile laid into the sod south of the runway to handle all the runoff that is occurring from the runway. This work will hopefully begin soon so if you are out there and you find Andy Brennan and his crew working adjacent to the runway please give them the room they need to work. We don't have definitive dates yet when this will be done but we will send out an email when they begin to work. While they are working on the south side of the field the runway will be closed. He doesn't think it will take more than 5 days but when we get done and the grass grows back again I expect we will have a permanent solution to the runoff problem and an actual working grass strip in the future.

Hangar Building. Mike H. has compiled three different bid options and we are in the process of deciding which option works best for us in the long run. I expect we will have that decision by the meeting on May 7th so stay tuned.

Don't forget to support our first annual "Builder's Contest/get-together" on Saturday May 8th. Andy has put a lot of work into this and I think it will be a lot of fun to see what you all have been working on over the winter time.

Membership drive. The officers and board have been discussing way to increase our membership. We have a few ideas but I would like to hear your ideas on what it will take to get your buddies to join in on the fun at Eli Field. Please email your ideas to me directly. Each one will be given serious consideration.

See you next Wednesday. **MEETING IS AT THE FIELD 7:00** - Pete

Swap Shop

Got an old model or equipment you'd like to sell or trade? List it here! Send listings to andy@montanadesign.com

Top Flite Gold Edition **Cessna 310 ARF** – IMAA-legal, ready to fly (needs batts), includes OS engines, pneumatic retracts, shock-absorbing struts, Futaba R1490P PCM 1024 rx, and light system. \$900/OBO/Trade. John Hammond, 217-979-3656 or 762-3656.



Upcoming Events

We have a busy summer on tap, with at least one event every month of the flying season. As a club, we need to promote these events. Participation by members, non-members, and spectators helps the club raise the funds needed for field maintenance and improvements, insurance, and taxes. But aside from those very real financial concerns, participation in these events helps bring us together as friends and makes us visible to the community in a positive light.

May 8 – **M3 Builders Contest** – Eli Field. This low-key event gives our members an opportunity to showcase their building (and buying) efforts for the past year. A flyer is included with this newsletter. Event Director: Andy Kunz.

May 9 – **Second Sunday Club Fly & Barbecue**. And Mothers Day! Bring Mom for fun, food, and flying!

June 3-6 – **JR AeroTow** – Piatt County Airport. Pilots from across the nation come out for 4 days of intense model glider flying. See gliders up to 8m spans towed by 80-100cc tow planes. Event Director: Pete Goldsmith.

June 13 – **Second Sunday Club Fly & Barbecue**.

July 1 – Club Membership Renewal

July 3 – **Open House & Fireworks** – Eli Field. Open to all AMA members to join us for a day/night of flying, food, fun, music – AND a great view of the Monticello Fireworks at 9:30. Bring the entire family! Event Director: Pete Bergstrom.

July 11 – **Second Sunday Club Fly & Barbecue**.

August 4 – **Horizon Dealer Day** – Eli Field. This is a closed event for Horizon invited dealers only. The field will be closed for open flying after 12pm until dark.

August 7-8, 2010 – **Eli Field Giant Scale Fly-In** – Eli Field. This is open to all AMA members and will follow IMAA Guidelines for aircraft size (minimum 80” monoplane, 60” Biplane, or ¼ scale aircraft only). IMAA membership is not required but will be available at the field. Come out, see some great airplanes, and enjoy the fun and camaraderie. Event Director: Pete Bergstrom.

August 26-29 – **Illini SuperJets** – Eli Field. Our second annual jet fly-in is now in August so we can enjoy warmer weather. See turbine-powered models traveling up to 200MPH! Event Director: John Redman.

September 12 – **Second Sunday Club Fly & Barbecue**.

September 17-19 – **JR Challenge NC Region IMAC Championships** – Eli Field. Come watch the best pilots in the region compete with planes up to 200cc engines for year-end honors! This will be the duel of the year! Event Directors: Mike McConville and Mike Hilderbrandt.

There were several flyers attached with this newsletter. Support our neighboring clubs – you want them to come to our events!