

# Propwash

The Newsletter of the Mercer County Radio Control Society  
January 2006

## Thanksgiving at Warren Kruse Field

As the sun rises over the cook shack, now closed for the winter; as mist drifts over the grass, now dormant for the year; as a flock of Canada Geese migrates south, high against a cloudless sky; as the ripples on the lake twinkle though the all but leafless trees; and as we recall the flights, sights, and sounds of the past summer, it is clear that in our club and in our field, we have much to be thankful for.

Every year we celebrate Thanksgiving at the field with the MCRCS Annual Turkey Fly. This year, the event occurred on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, an almost perfect day for flying that made summer seem a less distant memory. The morning opened with light winds; the temperature was 60 degrees and rising, ultimately to 74 degrees in the afternoon. Coupled with full sun and clear skies, the weather helped make our last official outdoor event of the year a resounding success, ensuring that the only things frozen this year were the turkeys. And while the great turnout may have made it harder to win a prize, no one was complaining.



Joe Raimondo was fully in the spirit of the spring-like weather.



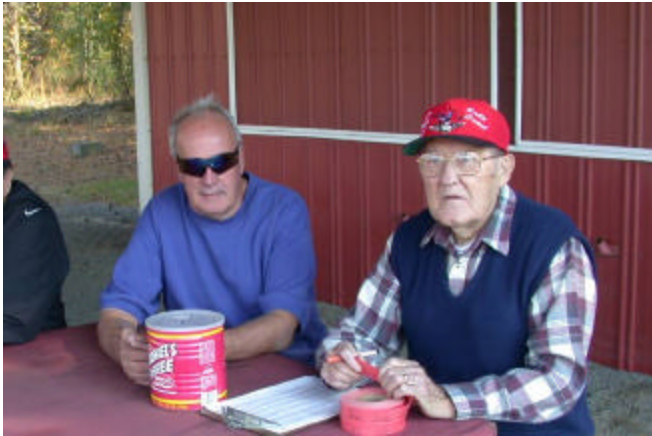
We should also give thanks to C.G. Taylor and Bill Piper, without whom there would be no Cubs.

The rules for the annual event go something like this: Everyone who shows up gets a raffle ticket. Then, everyone who flies gets one more ticket for each flight, up to a maximum of three additional tickets. At the end of the event (1:00 if the weather is good, somewhat earlier when it snows), tickets are drawn and the winning ticket holders receive a turkey. This year, sixty-one members attended the event and forty left with turkeys.



Mike Garze restrains Don Rowley's brilliant yellow PT-17 biplane.





**While others flew, Joe Spett took care of business.**



**Joe Spett and Doug McMillan unload the turkey wagon.**



**For Terry and Drew Watros, stalking turkey is a family affair.**



**Propwash editor David Vale was otherwise engaged and unable to attend this year's Turkey Fly.**



**The flight line wasn't quite as congested as the turkey line.**

Thanks are due Joe Spett for finding and procuring the turkeys and Doug McMillan for delivering them to the field. Newsletter editor David Vale was on assignment in the Pacific and regrets that he was unable to attend the event; he thanks Sal Lucania for taking photographs in his absence.

## **And the Winners Are**

The Annual Awards Meeting was held on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Lawrence Branch of the Mercer County Library.



**Awards Night drew one of the biggest crowds of the year, which began with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

It's difficult to tell whether it was the holiday spirit, the suspense of the Building Contest, the chance for a



Tower Hobbies gift certificate, or the promise of coffee and donuts, but as always, the awards meeting was one of the best attended meetings of the year. Contest Director Joe Raimondo, with the able assistance of Sal Lucania, announced the winners of the 2005 Building Contest. The results of the contest, which began with static judging last April and flight tests on Opening Day May 1<sup>st</sup>, had been Joe's secret for over six months.



**Donuts, coffee, and Tower Hobbies gift certificates were part of the draw.**



**Contest Director Joe Raimondo kept the Building Contest results secret for the better part of a year.**

The contest, which accepted entries in up to five categories, saw aircraft this year limited to three; there were no competitors in the Old Timers or Unorthodox categories this year.

Bill Zentmayer was awarded first place in the Scale category with his impressive and highly detailed AD-6 Skyraider. Although his workmanship was breathtaking, there are those among us who, to perhaps an even greater degree, silently admire his competitive spirit in also entering this beautiful aircraft in the Crash of the Year contest. Twice.

John Tanzer took second place in Scale with his Curtis Robin. Sporting the Texaco Star, John's brilliant red

Robin is always a delight to photograph against the lush foliage and blue skies at Warren Kruse Field. Dick Moloney secured third place with his red and white Modified Mong biplane. Finally, worthy contenders Tom Dyl, with his Spitfire, and Gary Ebert, with his Corsair, got participant awards in the Scale category.



**Bill Zentmayer's AD-6 Skyraider took top honors in the Scale category of the Building Contest.**



**Impressive detail work was part of the reason.**



**Mike Luciano's Antic took first place in the Non-Scale category.**

Mike Luciano took first place in the Non-Scale category with his Antic. Although the Antic looks like a

scale replica of an early twentieth century monoplane, it actually first came into existence as a model. Like an accurate scale model, the detail of Mike's Antic is a pleasure to survey.

Sal Lucania received the second place award with his red, white, and powder blue Balsa Nova, a sport aerobatic model. Carl Gubkin won third place with his Something Else. (The canopy and tail of this airplane had seen prior service in a Something Extra, but in this model were merged with the wings and nose of something like a Fourstar 40, yielding Something Else.) Lucien Garcia, with his Super Sportster Twin, and John Pinto, with his Diamond Duster, received participant awards for their attractive models.

In the ARF category, Rick DeBastos and Sal Lucania shared the first place award, both achieving an identical number of points. Rick's giant scale Super Cub is always a pleasure to watch in its Cub-yellow splendor. And Sal's Robin R2160 gives the impression of being easy to fly, but perhaps that's just because of the pre-adolescent pilot occupying the cockpit.



**Rick DeBastos' Super Cub tied for first place in the ARF category.**



**Sal Lucania's Robin R2160 won the other half of first place in the ARF category.**

David Vale secured second place with his electric conversion of a Hangar-9 P-51 Mustang, a model originally intended for a .60-size glow engine. Bob Levanduski won third place with his blue and yellow Pitts M-12 biplane. The ARF division drew the most participants and three contenders received participant awards: Paul Abati with his Ryan STA, Mike Garze with his Mini Funtana, and Woody Miller with his Spectrum.

In addition to the Building Contest awards, the MCRCS Board of Directors recognized several club members for their service and/or accomplishments. The first was the hotly contended Crash of the Year Award, given annually to the most impressive crash at Warren Kruse Field. This year's award was shared by Augie Lucidi and Keith Zimmerly for their spectacular midair, staged amidst ribbon-cutting games last August. In this crash, Keith's giant-scale Sopwith Pup and Augie's giant-scale Fly-Baby biplane were scattered across field, accompanied by dust, smoke, and realistic sound effects.



**Keith Zimmerly shared the Crash of the Year Award with Augie Lucidi for a most exciting midair.**

Rich Green and Dan Geerders were recognized for their ongoing efforts at maintaining the clubhouse, the kitchen, and the field in general. The kitchen staff, especially, appreciates their work in plugging the leaks in the roof.

Brian Bunda was recognized for his efforts in rebuilding the bulletin board enclosure at the field. Having built the original display case some fifteen years ago, Brian this year replaced the worn parts and added several improvements.

Patrick Meighan was recognized as the Most Improved Pilot of 2005.

Finally, David Vale received the Warren Kruse Award for Meritorious Service for his work managing the club kitchen this year and serving as the newsletter editor.





**Patrick Meighan accepts the Most Improved Pilot Award from Doug McMillan.**



**David Vale accepts the Warren Kruse Award from Doug McMillan (Photo by Armand Graziani).**

## MCRCS 2006 Building Contest

By Joe Raimondo, Contest Director

The annual MCRCS Building Contest is less than four months away. All the new airplanes that are being constructed at this time hopefully will be entered in the up and coming building contest. Static judging will take place on April 19, 2006 at the Lawrence Library. The fly-off will be on Opening day, April 30, 2006.

There have been some revisions to the Building Contest rules. The club has voted to eliminate the cash awards. Hopefully this will not deter anyone from entering. We have had good participation in the past. The second revision is to provide a category for junior members of the ages from 12 through 17. This way a young member should not feel disadvantaged by competing against an adult.

The building rules are published below in the newsletter. If anyone has any questions please do not hesitate to call me.

## 2006 MCRCS Building Contest Rules

By Joe Raimondo, Contest Director

1. Contestant is allowed only one entry in each class. A contestant must be a current member in good standing. A separate category will be provided for junior members (ages 12 to 17).
2. Classes shall consist of scale, non-scale, old timers, almost ready to fly (ARF), and unorthodox.
3. The model that places first, second, or third, may not be entered in future contests.
4. The model, as flown, must meet all AMA and club rules.
5. Model must be built and finished by the member entering model.
6. The builder of model is not required to fly the model; a substitute pilot is acceptable.
7. The contest committee and/or Contest Director will select judges.
8. The judges may not have an entry in the class that they are judging.
9. Static judging will be held on a regular meeting night as specified by the Contest Director.
10. Model airworthiness will be judged at a later date as specified by the Contest Director.
11. Weather conditions for flying will be determined on the field at 9:00 AM, on the day of flying. If weather conditions are unfavorable, flying will take place two weekends later, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM.
12. Flying must be conducted between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM with no exceptions; builder of model need not be present.
13. Models presented for static judging must be demonstrated to be operational at the static judging.
14. The flying portion will consist of a takeoff, a 360-degree turn, and a controlled landing as a minimum (hand launching is acceptable).
15. If a score of zero is received for the flying portion, the model will be disqualified.
16. An award will be given to each member entering a model. The top three (3) scores in each category will be recognized as first, second, and third.

## Annual Elections Held

Annual elections of officers and three of the five directors at large were held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the club meeting that night. At the elections, the following members were voted into office for the 2006 year:

President:	Doug McMillan
Vice President, Membership:	Sal Lucania
Vice President, Events:	Armand Graziani
Secretary:	James Feszchak
Treasurer:	Jans Brower

Three director-at-large seats were up for election and the following members were voted in for two-year terms:

Augie Lucidi  
David Vale  
Keith Zimmerly.

Directors at large Jim Meighan and Terry Watros have one year remaining on their terms.

## Dues are (Still) Due

As noted in the last issue of Propwash, club dues must be paid by January 1<sup>st</sup>. It is not widely known what happens to members who fail to pay their dues on time, and this is probably for the best. Although there are stories of delinquent members finding themselves on interminable kitchen duty or being vanquished to the realms of simulated flight, these are just rumors. But, then again, paying the dues on time is probably more prudent than defying the rumors. Dues remain \$55.00 for Members and \$27.50 for Junior Members. You can mail your check to MCRCS, P.O. Box 84, Hightstown, NJ 08520 or pay your dues directly to Jans Brower at a meeting. Remember, if you mail your dues, you must include a photocopy of your 2006 AMA membership card. **Your payment cannot be processed without a copy of your 2006 AMA membership card.** If you pay in person, you only need to show your card.

## Ham Fly Set for January 1

After the holiday season's inevitable period of too little exercise and too many good things to eat, January 1<sup>st</sup> is the date we traditionally set aside to affirm that pigs can indeed fly. Thus, this year's Annual Ham Fly will be held on Sunday, January 1, 2006 starting at 10:00 AM. Get a raffle ticket for coming and up to three more tickets for getting a flying start on the year. Depending on the weather and durability of the attendees, the raffle will occur at 1:00, or a bit sooner. It is widely

believed that Doug McMillan will provide sustenance to all in the form of his legendary soup. Propwash sources have been able to confirm the veracity of this belief, so come with your airplanes and your appetite; this is the stuff of legends.

## Bob Levanduski Becomes an Instructor

It was announced in the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting that, by agreement of at least three existing instructors, Bob Levanduski would join their ranks as a qualified RC flight instructor. Bob joins other recently named instructors Bob Bennett and Seth Hunter. MCRCS has a faculty of over twenty qualified instructors to assist budding RC pilots. Although Student Days are over until April, the MCRCS instructors remain available to assist upon request.

## Impound That Transmitter

Just a reminder from the safety committee (that's all of us) that club rules require that you place your idle transmitters on the impound table and take a frequency clip when you are flying, even if you are the only one at the field.

## For Sale

**Great Planes Pitts biplane**, completely built. 68.5" wingspan, Approx. 17 Lbs. Does not include engine or electronics. \$325.

**Ace Extra 260 kit**, new in box. 87" wingspan. \$125.

**Aerosport CAP 231X ARC**, new in box. 87" wingspan. \$200.

**Contact Mike Garze**, Phone: 732-382-9054.

**.40 Size ARF Sports Plane** (similar to Four Star 40) For intermediate to advanced pilots. Includes prebuilt and covered wings, fuselage and tail assemblies, with basic hardware. Wingspan: 60" - Wing Area: 610 sq. in. - Length: 48" - Weight: 5 lbs - \$135.00

**.46 Size Fun Fly Pattern ARF** (similar to the Puma) Lightweight full fuselage all wood aerobatic plane for advanced pilots. Designed to be a very lively fun-fly aerobatic plane, shaped like a pattern plane with very large control surfaces. Includes basic hardware. Wingspan: 55" - Wing Area: 530 sq. in. - Length: 57" - Weight: Approx. 4.6 lbs. - \$150.00

**Contact Alex Szemere** at 732-816-1810 or drszemere@aol.com.

# MCRCS 2006 Calendar of Events

January	February	March	April
1 Ham Fly 4 Meeting 18 Meeting	1 Meeting 15 Meeting	1 Meeting 15 Meeting	4 Student Days start 5 <u>NO MEETING</u> 19 Meeting and static judging at <u>Lawrence Library</u> 30 Opening Day & Fly Off
May	June	July	August
3 Meeting 17 Meeting 26 Setup day 27- Jumbo 28 Jamboree	7 Meeting 11 Family picnic 21 Meeting	5 Meeting 19 Meeting	2 Meeting 16 Meeting
September	October	November	December
6 Meeting 15 Setup day 16- Warbirds Over 17 Jersey 20 Meeting 23 Electric Fly	4 Meeting 18 Meeting 31 Student Days end	1 Meeting to Elect Officers 5 Turkey Fly 15 Meeting	6 Awards Meeting at <u>Lawrence Library</u> 20 Meeting

## Upcoming Events

### January

- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ham Fly
- 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting at WWL
- 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting at WWL

### February

- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting at WWL
- 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting at WWL

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting at WWL
- 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting at WWL

### **Club Information**

The Mercer County Radio Control Society is a New Jersey-based AMA Chartered Gold Leader Club. Its field is in Assunpink Wildlife Management Area off Exit 11 of Hwy 195. It meets at the West Windsor Branch of the Mercer County Public Library on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 PM. The club publishes this newsletter for members approximately six times a year and operates a web site at [www.mcrcs.com](http://www.mcrcs.com).

### **Officers**

President: Doug McMillan  
VP, Membership: Sal Lucania  
VP, Events: Armand Graziani  
Secretary: James Feszchak  
Treasurer: Jans Brower

### **Newsletter Editor**

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