

# Propwash

The Newsletter of the Mercer County Radio Control Society  
January 2007

## 2006 Turkey Fly: Good Flying, Good Food, and a Few Turkeys

Fewer turkeys made their ways to the tables of MCRCS club members this year than in years past. But no one felt shorted and no one went hungry. The first observation was probably due, in part, to the exceptional flying weather we all enjoyed that day in early November. With dry earth and clear sky, who could reasonably complain about needing a jacket? Or going home without a turkey? (Well, okay, a few years without a turkey and the wife might become suspicious.)



**A Turkey Fly from long ago established the tradition. Winners, left to right, were Dick Louis, Alex Nyere, Dave Babcock, (unidentified), Warren Kruse, (unidentified), Dick Moloney, and Ronnie Texaier. (Photo from Sal Lucania Archives)**

And with regard to the second, we have to thank John Pinho for supplying and preparing hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone who showed up at the field this year. Not to minimize John's substantial culinary skills in any way, but there's something about the faint smell of charcoal smoke mixing with the not-so-faint smell of spent glow fuel in the otherwise crisp fall air that makes whatever comes off the grill taste like the cuisine of the best five-star restaurant. At least that's how it tasted that Sunday. Thank you, John.



**Bob Levanduski's and Keith Zimmerly's D-VIIs, ready for a formation takeoff.**



**Representing the French, Jans Brower finishes the assembly of his Morane Saulnier MS-29.**

Closer to the airstrip, the Jersey Dawn Patrol was showing its colors in a local re-enactment of "Meet the Fokkers." Our local gang seems to be growing as more WWI aircraft show up at the aerodrome. This day, Keith Zimmerly's distinctively red, white, and blue D-VII made its first appearance sporting the Assunpink Aerodrome decal.



**In case anyone should question the allegiance of Keith's Fokker.**



**Frank Figurelli kept track of flyers and flights.**



**If every engine started on the first flip, there'd be a lot less to talk about.**



**The anticipation was palpable as flyers lined up for the drawing.**



**John Pinho provided hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone.**

Of course the WWI scale models can't keep up with the models designed for serious fun, like Dave Sagot's Diamond Dust. Dancing about at a leisurely 140 MPH, his model only hinted at its 200 MPH possibilities, which Keith Zimmerly promised to bring out another day with his own version of the model.



**Bill Zentmayer accepted the last turkey of 2006.**

But, regardless of the number of turkeys or the temperature and consistency of the sky, the MCRCS Turkey fly is a longstanding tradition with focus on flying and fellowship. No one quite remembers when it started, but looking at the youth of a few identified members in the photo from Sal Lucania's files, it's been going on for quite some time. And we expect that it will continue for quite some time into the future.

## Like a Night at the Oscars

The awards meeting of the MCRCS is traditionally one of the best attended meetings of the year. In the past, lavish displays of door prizes along with plentiful supplies of coffee and donuts were part of the draw. This year, it was just coffee, donuts, the opportunity for good fellowship, and the possibility of recognition for one's acumen as a modeler that drew the crowd.

Jans Brower and Tom Dyl shared top honors in the Scale category of the Building Contest, Jans with his Monocoupe and Tom with his Corsair. Both models exhibited the extreme attention to detail that MCRCS scale modelers are known for. And Bob Levanduski's Fokker D-VII, which won second place (and also the Peoples' Choice award at the Jumbo Jamboree this year), barely paled by comparison. Finally Mike Luciano, who might have upset the order of awards with his spectacular P-47 had he been able to start his engine at the flyoff, settled for a participant award.

Bob Scott took first (and only) place in the Non-Scale category this year with his sheet-foam Fokker DR-1.



**Tom Dyl shared first place in the Scale category for his Corsair.**



**Jans Brower also shared first place in the Scale category for his Monocoupe.**



**Bob Scott won first place in the Non-Scale category with his sheet-foam Fokker DR-1.**



**Jim Feszchak took first in the ARF category with his Hangar 9 AT-6 Texan.**

Jim Feszchak won first place in the ARF category for his AT-6 Texan by Hangar 9. Jim reports that it was easier to look at than to fly. Rick DeBastos took second place with his Stearman PT-17, which sported a real five-cylinder radial engine. Dave Vale took third in this category with his 81" Great Planes Cub, which he had converted to electric power. Bob Scott was awarded fourth place for his foam P-51. Frank Figurelli received a participant award; his Fulton 330 did not fly at the flyoff.

Finally, Fred Doldy's Quaker was awarded first place in the Oldtimer category, a category in which Fred would certainly have challenged the competition, if he had had any.

Carl Gubkin presented John Tanzer, the master of dropping things, with plaques commemorating his first place finishes in both the bomb and parachute drop contests. Jim Feszchak finished second place in the bomb drop and Jans Brower and Bob Bennett tied for second in the parachute drop contest.



**Fred Doldy won first place in the Oldtimer category with his Quaker.**



**John Tanzer accepted awards for first place in both the bomb and parachute dropping contests.**



**Tom Keegan was honored as the Most Improved Pilot of 2006.**

Jim Feszchak and Bob Levanduski were added to the honor roll this year for service to the club. Their names now appear on the honor-roll plaque in the clubhouse.

No Crash-of-the-Year award was presented. That's not to say there were no crashes, but after last year's giant-

scale disasters, it was just difficult for anything smaller to measure up.

However, Tom Keegan received the award for Most Improved Pilot this year. While this was most certainly due to his demonstrated skills in controlling his models in flight, observers could be excused for wondering if there are those on the awards committee who feel no pilot's training is complete without at least one midair collision, a requirement that Nobu Iwazawa helped Tom fulfill earlier in the season.

Finally, David Vale received an Award of Merit from the Academy of Model Aeronautics, "In recognition and appreciation of [his] efforts in developing *The Propwash*, the Newsletter of *The Mercer County RC Society*." The award was presented by District II associate vice president and MCRCS member Alex Szemere.



**David Vale accepted an AMA Award of Merit for the newsletter from District II AVP Alex Szemere.**

## New Club Officers

Annual elections of officers and three of the five directors at large were held on November 1<sup>st</sup> at the club meeting that night. Vice president Sal Lucania and treasurer Jans Brower decided not to run again for their respective offices. The following members were voted into office for the 2006 year:

President:	Keith Zimmerly
Vice President, Membership:	Bob Levanduski
Vice President, Events:	Armand Graziani
Secretary:	James Feszchak
Treasurer:	Bruce Evertsen

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

- Jim Meighan
- Terry Watros
- Sal Lucania

Jim Meighan and Terry Watros were voted in for two year terms; Sal Lucania will serve out the remaining year of Keith Zimmerly's term, which he vacated to become president. Directors at large Augie Lucidi and David Vale have one year remaining on their terms.

At the last meeting of the year in December, club members gave Sal Lucania and Jans Brower a round of applause for their years of service as officers. Both acknowledged that it had been an honor and a pleasure. Sal summed it up with, "I have held office at several clubs, but at this club I have experienced the least trouble and I have received the best support for my efforts."

## MCRCS 2007 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 18, 2007 at the Lawrence Library. The fly-off will be on Opening day, April 29, 2007.

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

### ***Building Contest Rules***

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 or bungee 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.

## The Rumor Mill

In a club such as ours, where talking about flying can be almost as much fun as flying itself, ideas often germinate on the flight line. For example, the oft-discussed idea that the frequency clipboard should be moved closer to the parking lot probably started on the flight line. More recently, the thought that our club could survive with fewer business meetings floated up.

The idea was that maybe the important business of governing the club could be accomplished in one meeting each month. That would preserve the other meeting night for more topical activities such as building workshops, ground school, technical discussions (and who knows, maybe even more exciting aerial videos of flight around the pattern). Or maybe night flying at the field.

Of course, it's just a rumor.

## Annual Ham Fly January 1<sup>st</sup>

This year's Annual Ham Fly will be held on Monday, January 1, 2007 starting at 9:00 AM. Get a raffle ticket for coming and up to three more tickets for getting a flying start on the year. The raffle will occur at 1:00, or a bit sooner if it's cold or wet. While we cannot expect Doug McMillan's legendary soup this year, we can look forward to the start of a new tradition as Dave and Patty Sagot plan to provide a sample from a recipe of their own.

## On the Bench

Joe Raimondo is an aviation enthusiast and recently his enthusiasm has been directed toward the Pietenpol Air Camper, a plane designed in the 1930s by Bernard Pietenpol of Spring Valley, Minnesota. Publication of its plans in a 1930 issue of "Modern Mechanics" magazine led to the Pietenpol becoming one of the most successful, widely accepted homebuilts of its time. According to Joe, what made the plane so attractive was that it was constructed from wood and was very economical to build; it required no special tools or equipment and anyone with mechanical aptitude could build one. Many are still being built today.

In fact Joe likes the design so much, he's building two of his own. The smaller of the two will have a wingspan of 74 inches, weigh approximately seven pounds, and will be powered by an electric motor. The larger is a full-scale model, which will have a wingspan of 29 feet and will weigh about 675 pounds. Working from plans drawn in 1932, Joe hopes to have the small model completed this year and the full-scale version in two or three years. All of the wing ribs, horizontal stabilizer, elevator, fin, rudder, and fuselage sides have been completed so far on the full-size airplane; Joe is presently working on a fixture to construct the steel motor mount.

Discussing the project, Joe says, "There are not many airplanes that have been designed over the last 75 years that can match the old Pietenpol's combination of simplicity, low cost, ruggedness and docile performance. I am building this airplane because I like working with wood and it reminds me of my youth, when I constructed many balsa-stick rubber-powered airplanes."



### Joe Raimondo displays a rib from his Pietenpol.

We look forward to seeing both of Joe's Pietenpols flying the pattern at Warren Kruse Field. In the meantime, Joe says that any club member who wishes to experience the enjoyment of flight in his Cessna 172 can call him at (609) 203-7977.



Here Joe holds the framework of the fuselage of his Pietenpol Air Camper.



If all goes as planned, Joe's Pietenpols should look something like this.

## Dues are (Past) Due

If you have not already paid, club dues are due by January 1<sup>st</sup>. The late Doug McMillan was known to chide members for failing to pay their dues on time. If you feel haunted by the fact that you're delinquent in your payment this year, it's probably just your guilty conscience. But pay your dues and you won't have to worry. Dues this year are \$75.00 for Members and \$37.50 for Junior Members. You can mail your check to MCRCS, P.O. Box 84, Hightstown, NJ 08520 or pay your dues directly to Bruce Evertsen at a meeting. If you mail your dues, you must include a photocopy of your 2007 AMA membership card. **Your payment cannot be processed without a copy of your 2007 AMA membership card.** If you pay in person, you only need to show your card.

# MCRCS 2007 Calendar of Events

January	February	March	April
<p>1 Ham Fly</p> <p>3 Meeting</p> <p>17 Meeting</p>	<p>7 Meeting</p> <p>21 Meeting</p>	<p>7 Meeting</p> <p>21 Meeting</p>	<p>3 Student Days start</p> <p>4 Meeting</p> <p>18 Meeting and static judging at <u>Lawrence Library</u></p> <p>29 Opening Day &amp; Fly Off</p>
May	June	July	August
<p>2 Meeting</p> <p>16 Meeting</p> <p>25 Setup day</p> <p>26- Jumbo</p> <p>27 Jamboree</p>	<p>6 Meeting</p> <p>10 Family picnic</p> <p>20 Meeting</p>	<p>4 <u>No Meeting</u></p> <p>18 Meeting</p> <p>22 Dawn Patrol Oldtimers' Day</p>	<p>1 Meeting</p> <p>15 Meeting</p>
September	October	November	December
<p>5 Meeting</p> <p>14 Setup day</p> <p>15- Warbirds Over</p> <p>16 Jersey</p> <p>19 Meeting</p> <p>22 Electric Fly</p>	<p>3 Meeting</p> <p>7 Cub Day/ Bomb Drop</p> <p>17 <u>No Meeting</u></p> <p>30 Student Days end</p>	<p>7 Meeting to Elect Officers</p> <p>11 Turkey Fly</p> <p>21 Meeting</p>	<p>5 Awards Meeting at <u>Lawrence Library</u></p> <p>19 Meeting</p>

## Upcoming Events

### January

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ham Fly
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting at WWL
- 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting at WWL

### February

- 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting at WWL
- 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting at WWL

### March

- 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting at WWL
- 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting at WWL

### **Club Information**

The Mercer County Radio Control Society is a New Jersey-based AMA Chartered 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 six times a year in odd-numbered months and operates a web site at [www.mcrcs.com](http://www.mcrcs.com). This newsletter is available, in color, on the web site.

### **Officers**

- President: Keith Zimmerly
- VP, Membership: Bob Levanduski
- VP, Events: Armand Graziani
- Secretary: James Feszchak
- Treasurer: Bruce Evertsen

### **Newsletter Editor**

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