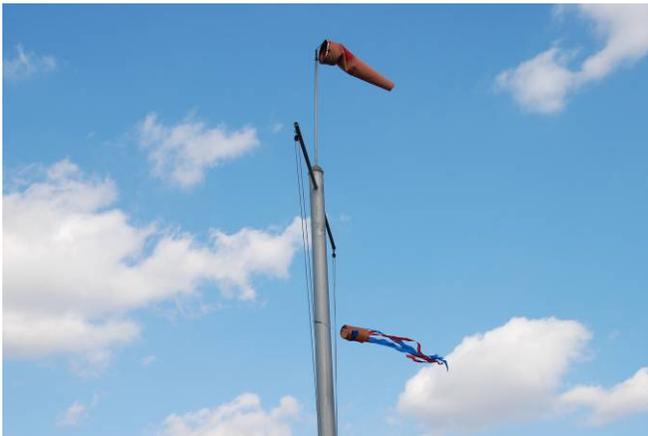


Propwash

The Newsletter of the Mercer County Radio Control Society
January 2009

2008 Turkey Fly: Cool, Clear, and Windy

November is the month we hold our annual Turkey Fly. We didn't pick the month for its outstanding weather, but historically we have almost always been treated to unseasonably good weather. And this year was no exception. Perhaps some might suggest that a temperature of 55° was a bit chilly, or that a wind of 15 MPH with gusts was a bit strong. But not the hardy flyers of the Mercer County club who viewed the temperature as good for the turkeys and the wind as good for a short takeoff.



55° and 15 MPH, almost ideal weather for a Turkey Fly.

No one actually bothered to count, but Warren Kruse Field was pretty well covered with models and pilots. And most of them flew, despite the wind and chill. Many just loafed around the sky, bouncing to and fro on the wind. Some, like a couple of Strykers, took the opportunity to dogfight. And there were at least a couple of crashes. One doesn't count, though, because it was one of the Strykers; it isn't really a crash when you go in thinking midair.



Rich Green and Dan Geeders demonstrated that even skilled pilots can enjoy a trainer.



Hitesh Anlkesaria's thorough preflight included a stretch of the landing gear.

But the other was pretty spectacular. Former club member Rodger Fowler brought his new gas-powered Ultimate Pitts out for a maiden flight. The takeoff was uneventful and the flight was pretty routine. Until Rodger turned his biplane into a monoplane. Perhaps you remember the USS Enterprise from Star Trek and how it could fly as two separate parts (Is it really flying if you're in space?). Or maybe you've seen the video of that Extra that lost half its wing in flight and made a landing. Well, the good news is that Rodger's top wing landed pretty much unscathed. The bad news is that the

lower wing (along with the fuselage) hit pretty hard and was essentially unrecognizable. It seems the problem was weak plywood in the wing mount that broke during a maneuver. And the worst part: Rodger, not being a club member, is ineligible for the Crash of the Year Award.



Henry Zilbauer's bright red Sr. Kadet was easy to see.

But, obviously, not everyone was there because of the great flying weather. Frank Figurelli, as usual, gave out tickets (one per flight, up to three) and ran the drawing. This year, Pat Monacelli and Drew Watros helped hand out the turkeys.



One time member Rodger Fowler brought this attractive Ultimate Pitts (bi-)plane.



You had to look more closely to see Bill Blake's Micro Flyer.



The upper wing landed gently in the grass at the north end of the field.



Alex Nyere's Great Pumpkin is a staple at these events.



The rest of his model experienced a more abrupt encounter with the terra firma.

Frank drew the first ticket and the winner was Bill Blake. Bill drew the next ticket and the process continued through seven boxes of turkeys. This year's final turkey winner was Don Rowley. More important, however, was the fact that the newsletter editor also won a turkey and didn't have to explain to his wife, once again, why he wasn't a good enough flyer to win.



The annual Turkey Fly is one of the most popular club events of the year.



Of course it's not just the flying that draws the crowd.



Frank Figurelli led the Turkey Team, Pat Monacelli and Drew Watros.



This year, Bill Blake got the first turkey.



And Don Rowley got the last one.



Even the newsletter editor got a turkey.

Annual Ham Fly January 1st

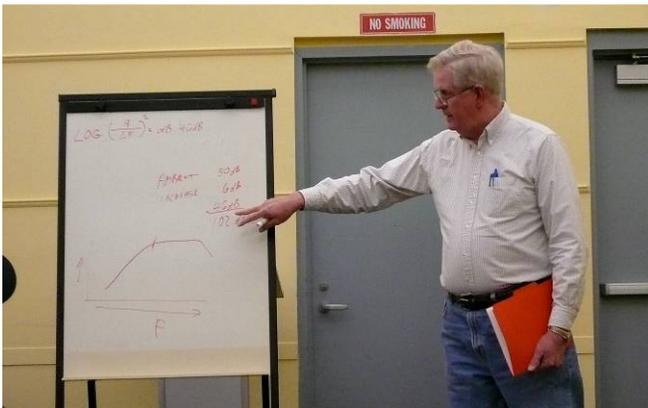
This year's Annual Ham Fly will be held on Thursday, January 1, 2008 starting at 10:00 AM. Get a raffle ticket for coming and up to three more tickets for getting a flying start on the year. The raffle will occur at 1:00, or a bit sooner if it's cold or wet. And Dave and Patty Sagot will keep us all warm with an endless bowl of one of their legendary hot soups.

Awards Night 2008

Our annual Awards Meeting was held this year on December 3rd at the Lawrence Library. Thanks to Allan Schear for the photographs as the newsletter editor was in cold storage out west that night. (And please forgive the possible factual inaccuracies you may detect in this story and the flights of creative excess invoked to camouflage those inaccuracies as the story was pieced together from numerous second hand accounts.)



The Awards Meeting is typically one of the best attended meetings of the year.



Jim Meighan, winner of the Doug McMillan Leadership Award for his work with sound levels, explained his work in some detail.

As gleaned from the official minutes, the meeting of 36 members was called to order by Keith Zimmerly and the membership recited the pledge of allegiance. At some point thereafter (we deviate from the official report here), President Zimmerly, in his usual subdued demeanor, made the “No bucks, no Buck Rogers” speech, which may have referred either to the timely payment of dues or the necessity of enthusiastic participation among members in our sponsoring of public events. It was reported (albeit not officially) that the membership readily and enthusiastically filled out participation pledge forms promising vigorous support.

The report of a large (about quarter-scale) hole in the kitchen wall was probably met with stunned silence, punctuated by a few animated denials. This would have led into Jim Meighan’s talk on the inverse square law of sound attenuation in free space at standard temperature and pressure, undoubtedly delivered in the concise and unadorned manner we’ve all come to expect of Jim. But then, this is all speculation.

The real draw of the meeting, beyond the free coffee and doughnuts, was the awards. President Zimmerly presented the club awards, which were as follows:

Honor Roll plaques for meritorious service were awarded to the following members:

- Bob Bennett
- Seth Hunter
- Nobu Iwasawa
- Ron Niebo
- John Tanzer

The Doug McMillan Award for Outstanding Leadership:

- Jim Meighan, for his work on establishing field sound limits.

Most Improved Pilot:

- Jim VanBuren

Instructor of the Year:

- Pat Monacelli

Most Spectacular Crash:

- Keith Zimmerly

Thank You Award:

- The Graziani family



Brian Bunda took second place in the Scale category of the Building Contest with his quarter-scale Nieuport 17.

Joe Raimondo announced the winners of the Building Contest and presented plaques to each:

Scale:

- 1st – Tie between Tom Dyl and Mike Luciano
- 2nd – Brian Bunda

Non-scale:

- 1st – Dan Geerders

ARF:

- 1st – Dan Geerders
- 2nd – Frank Figurelli
- 3rd – Paul Abati

Participants: Jim Feszchak and Irwin Keshner



Rich Lee took first place in the Bomb Drop Contest.

Carl Gubkin presented awards for the Bomb and Parachute Drop contests:

Bomb Drop:

- 1st – Rich Lee
- 2nd – Jim Feszchak
- 3rd – Tie between Jim Van Buren and David Vale

Parachute Drop

- 1st – Jans Brower

Officers for 2009

Club elections were held, as scheduled, at the regular club meeting on November 5th. With the exception of the late Terry Watros, all officers and those board members whose terms were expiring chose to run again. Brian Bunda was nominated to fill Terry Watros' slot on the board. There being no further nominations, Secretary Jim Feszchak acclaimed the

nominees officially elected. Thus, the officers of the club for 2009 will be as follows:

Keith Zimmerly, President
Bob Levanduski, Vice President for Membership
Armand Graziani, Vice President for Events
Jim Feszchak, Secretary
Bruce Evertsen, Treasurer
Brian Bunda, Board member
Sal Lucania, Board member
Augie Lucidi, Board member
Jim Meighan, Board member
David Vale, Board Member

Your Dollars are Due

Club dues are (were) due January 1, 2009. You may pay your dues in person to Treasurer Bruce Evertsen, or you may mail your dues to him at Mercer County Radio Control Society, ATTN: Dues, PO Box 84, Hightstown NJ 08520.. Dues are \$75 for Full Membership and \$37.50 for Junior Membership. As before, you must show your AMA card or AMA paid receipt or enclose a copy with your mailed payment. Invoices will not be sent, but you must pay your dues by January 31st to avoid being removed from the club roster.

Event Cancellation Averted

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, President Keith Zimmerly addressed the membership at the December 3rd meeting on the necessity of obtaining assistance for the three public events we host each year. As previously stated and re-emphasized in Keith's presentation, the Mercer County Radio Control Society is known in the eastern region of the modeling community for the public events it conducts: The Jumbo Jamboree, Warbirds Over Jersey, and the Electric Fun Fly. These events, in addition to the money they raise, serve to raise awareness of our club and our sport in the local community.

In recent years it has become increasingly difficult to staff these events because of diminishing numbers of volunteers. Without adequate numbers of volunteers, we cannot continue to conduct events of the quality that we all demand.

Historically, the public events have raised money each year, a large portion of that money being directed toward our annual donation to the Sunshine Foundation. Without the events, the resulting shortfall would have to be funded by a dues increase and/or a reduction in our charitable contributions.

Keith described the situation at the meeting and invited discussion from the attendees. There was little discussion but, rather, an enthusiastic response to event assistance forms Keith passed out, virtually all members in attendance completing the forms to indicate their interests and availability.

3rd meeting. If you did not have the opportunity to complete the form at the meeting, please complete the form now and mail it to the address on the form so that we can contact you to participate in our events this year. While maybe not as much fun as flying, working an event can be rewarding in its own right.

The form Keith distributed is reproduced below for the benefit of all members who were not at the December

Mercer County Radio Control Society

2009 Event Assistance Form

Member assistance is essential for the success of our annual club events. Please complete this form and mail it to Mercer County Radio Control Society, ATTN: Events, PO Box 84, Hightstown NJ 08520.

Contact Information

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Event Availability

For which events are your available? (Check one or more)

- Jumbo Jamboree (May 23-24 – Setup May 22)
- Warbirds Over Jersey (September 19-20 – Setup September 18)
- Electric Fun Fly (September 26)

In which functions would you prefer to work? (Mark first choice 1, second choice 2, etc.)

- Setup
- Parking
- Flight Line
- Registration/Impound
- Kitchen
- 50/50
- Administration (CD, MC, Publicity)

MCRCS 2009 Calendar of Events

January	February	March	April
1 Ham Fly 7 Meeting 21 Meeting	4 Meeting 18 Meeting	4 <u>No meeting</u> 18 Meeting	1 Meeting 7 Student Days start 15 Meeting 26 Opening Day & Building Contest
May	June	July	August
6 Meeting 20 Meeting 22 Setup day 23- Jumbo 24 Jamboree	3 Meeting at <u>WK Field *</u> 7 Family picnic 17 Meeting at <u>WK Field *</u>	1 Meeting at <u>WK Field</u> 15 Meeting at <u>WK Field</u> 19 Dawn Patrol & Oldtimers	5 Meeting at <u>WK Field</u> 19 Meeting at <u>WK Field *</u>
September	October	November	December
2 Meeting 16 Meeting 18 Setup day 19- Warbirds Over 20 Jersey 26 Electric Fly	7 Meeting 11 Cub Day/ Bomb Drop 21 <u>No meeting</u> 27 Student Days end	1 Turkey Fly 4 Meeting to Elect Officers 18 Meeting	2 Awards Meeting at <u>Lawrence Library</u> 16 Meeting
		Note: Summer meetings at Warren Kruse Field will start at 7:30. Those marked with an asterisk (*) will be held at the West Windsor Library starting at 8:00 if the weather is bad. All other meetings will start at 8:00.	

Upcoming Events

January

1st Ham Fly at WK Field
7th Meeting at WWL
21st Meeting at WWL

February

4th Meeting at WWL
18th Meeting at WWL

March

4th **No Meeting**
18th Meeting at WWL

Club Information

The Mercer County Radio Control Society is a New Jersey-based AMA Chartered club (#422). Its field is in Assunpink Wildlife Management Area off Exit 11 of Hwy 195. It usually meets twice each month on the first and third Wednesdays at 8:00 PM, usually at the West Windsor Branch of the Mercer County Public Library. The club publishes this newsletter for members six times a year in odd-numbered months and operates a web site at www.mcrs.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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