Propwash

The Newsletter of the Mercer County Radio Control Society

May 2007

Ground School Takes Off

The public ground school program that was a proposal in the previous newsletter is now a reality. The third class was taught on Monday, April 23rd. One class was held at Lawrence, where 18 students attended, and two were held at Hickory Corner. Fifteen students attended the first class at Hickory Corner and, of those, eleven returned for the second session. Although these are early results, they seem to suggest that students are valuing the experience.

Ground school director David Vale discusses the class with Mercer County Library director Ellen Brown.

David Vale originally proposed the idea of conducting this public ground school. He first proposed the plan to the MCRCS Board of Directors and then to the members at the March 7th meeting. Receiving favorable responses there, he proposed the program to Mercer County Library System Executive Director Ellen Brown who thought "It would be a wonderful program for the library to host."

Dave and Ellen worked together to identify three libraries that had meeting facilities available in April and/or May and settled on a schedule of classes in the Lawrence, Hickory Corner, and Washington Branches. Dave facilitated publicity in the local newspapers and Ellen arranged for publicity through the library system, including posters, the library web site, and cards distributed at the circulation desks.

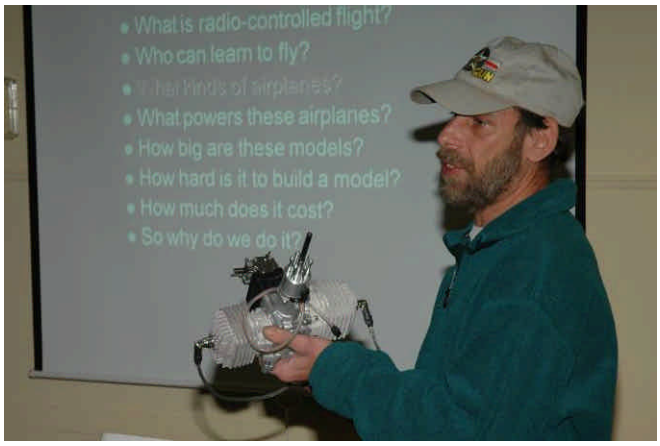
Students Mathew Waltrip, Abinav Janakiramen, Agamroop Singh, and Rose Soskind watch as instructor Ric deBastos demonstrates the controls.

The ground school, as implemented, consists of three two-hour classes that include an overview of RC modeling, basic aerodynamics, radio control systems, engines, motors, how to build a model from a kit, and preparation for the first flight. Dave and a faculty of twelve instructors met to develop curricula for these seven topic areas and to prepare presentation materials. Faculty for the ground school included the following club members:

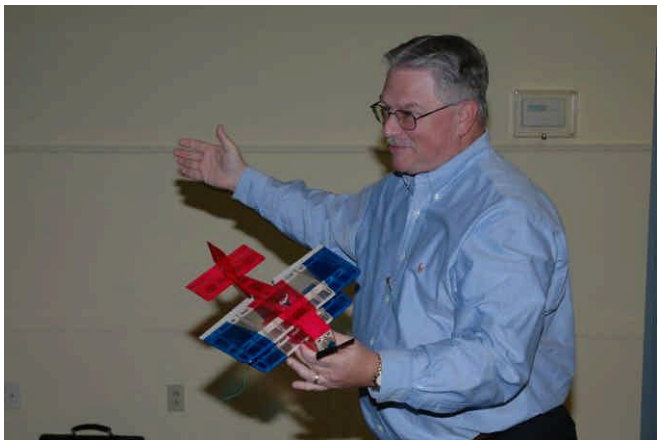
Bob Bennett – Building, First Flight
Ric deBastos – Aerodynamics
Bruce Evertsen – Introduction
Seth Hunter – Aerodynamics
Armand Graziani – Engines
Sal Lucania – Building, First Flight
Augie Lucidi -- Introduction
Jim Meighan –Radios, Motors

Copyright © 2007 by the Mercer County Radio Control Society, All Rights Reserved.

Don Rowley – Building, First Flight
Dave Sagot – Introduction, Engines
David Vale – Program Director
Terry Watros – Radios, Motors
Keith Zimmerly – Introduction



Instructor David Sagot displays what would be considered a large engine.



Instructor Bruce Evertsen illustrates the other end of the size spectrum.

Devoting about an hour of group discussion to each topic and significantly more time individually, the presentations came together and were documented in "class notes," a collection of written notes on everything the instructors intended to say in class. The notes, which served as guides for instruction, were supplemented by over 150 pictures and diagrams. Pictures came primarily from the collections of Ric deBastos, Sal Lucania, and David Vale. Sal and Dave took numerous additional photos to fill in where important illustrations did not exist. One set, for example, consisted of photographs of the complete set of parts that made up a two-cycle engine, which Dave Sagot had completely dismantled for the photo session. And last, but not least, Seth Hunter produced a collection of professional-quality computer illustrations of aerodynamic and electronic principles. Of course, the entire faculty contributed ideas and drafts that resulted in the final set of visuals.

The classes are conducted by instructors using PowerPoint slides of the pictures and diagrams and demonstrations with physical models and equipment to support the lectures; both the slides and class notes of the content presented are available on the club web site at www.mcrcs.com.

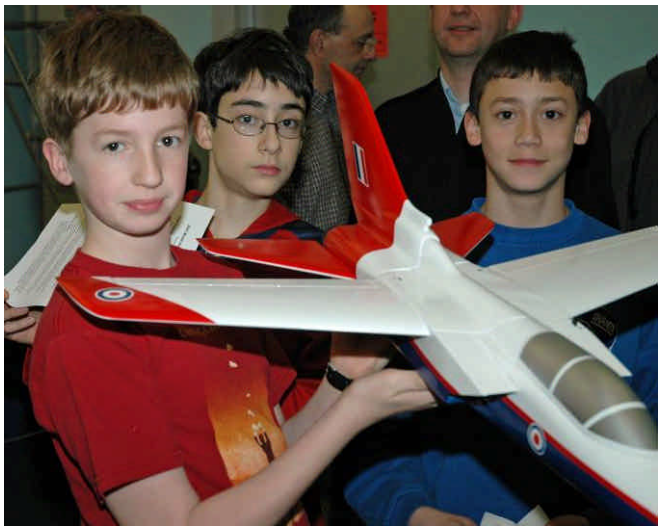
Instructor Seth Hunter uses visual aides to teach concepts of aerodynamics.

Instructors Keith Zimmerly and Augie Lucidi team up to capture the audience's attention.

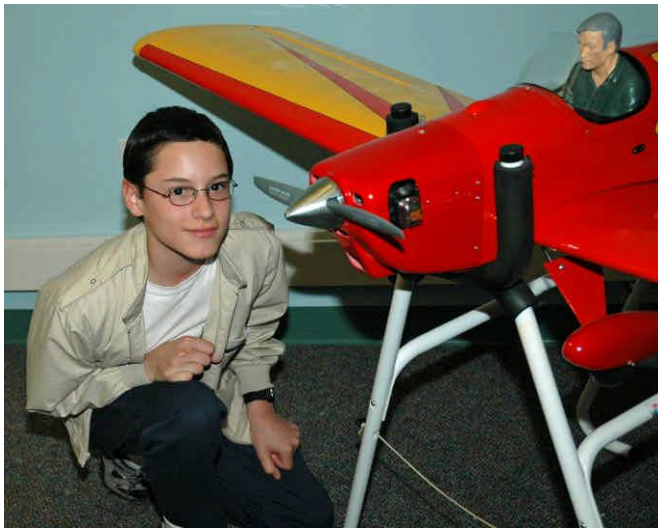
David Vale listed three goals of conducting the classes when he first proposed them:

- To raise awareness of radio control modeling in our community and promote it as a worthy sport.
- To identify and attract enthusiastic new participants to join our club.
- To increase attendance at our revenue-producing events through free media coverage of the ground school.

Regarding the first, there have been six articles or announcements regarding the ground school in local newspapers, numerous posters displayed in local schools, and countless cards distributed by the Mercer County Library System advertising the classes. As a related result of the ground school publicity efforts, a reporter from Time Off magazine is scheduled to visit the field on May 4th and do an article on our club. We'll have to wait to see the success of the effort in achieving the latter two goals.



Students Gilbert Appleby, C.J. Estabrook, and Daniel Hayduchok examine a model of the Panavia F9F Tornado.



Student Mitchell Nicklaus inspects the engine of a Spacewalker model.

Classes are scheduled to run through May 19th, when the last class will be held at the Washington Branch. With luck, we'll have a good group of new membership applicants eager to assist at the Jumbo Jamboree.

2007 MCRCS Building Contest

By Joe Raimondo

On April 18th the Mercer County Radio Control Society held the static judging for its 2007 Building Contest at the Lawrence Library. Member participation was good, if somewhat lighter than in years past. There were eight entries in three classes: Three airplanes in scale, two in non-scale, and three in the ARF class.

I thought the workmanship on Mike Luciano's Sopwith Pup was outstanding. Mike did a fantastic job in building, covering and painting this airplane. My favorite airplane was Tom Dyl's P-51 Mustang. I do not think I can build as well as this airplane was constructed and this was an "all most ready to cover" type of airplane. Tom did an excellent job in finishing this model. Mr. Electronics (Jim Meighan) had some personnel touches that made his "Rascal 110" (ARF) stand out. Brian Bunda's Stuka had an interesting wing flap linkage set-up that I am sure challenged his building skills.

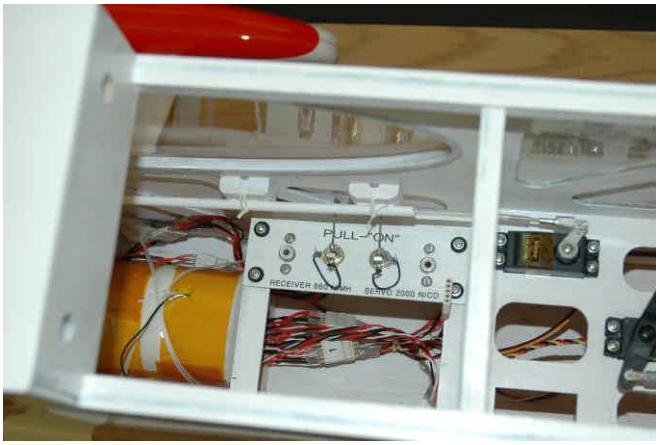
Mike Luciano's Sopwith Pup was outstanding in many respects.

Its pilot looked ready for trouble and his gun was loaded with real bullets.

The paint and detail work on Tom Dyl's P-51 attracted attention throughout the evening.

Jim Meighan demonstrated that Rascals come in all sizes.

Paul Abati's non-scale Sportmaster stood out in its bright red, white, and blue colors.



The radio installation in Jim Meighan's Rascal was a bit like the inside of a communications satellite.

Frank Figurelli's ARF Reactor looked like it could fly rings around most of the other entries.

The unusual control surfaces of a Stuka presented Brian Bunda with some unique challenges.

Bob Levanduski, a fan of WWI German aircraft, displayed the latest addition to his collection.

Judges Bing Gearhart and Jim Feszchak evaluate Bill Malinowski's non-scale AT-6.

Judges Sal Lucania and Keith Zimmerly consider the details of Jim Meighan's Rascal.

I personally want to thank the judges Keith Zimmerly, Sal Lucania, Jim Feszchak and Bing Gearhart for their efforts in judging the airplanes. Some of the scores between the judges were within one point of each other and in some cases they were identical.

This contest is not over yet. The flying portion will take place on opening day, April 29th. If you want to see action and have some fun, be there.

Maintenance Team Continues to Improve Facilities

Dan Geerders and Rich Green spend a lot of time at the field. Sometimes they're flying, but as often as not, they're building or fixing something. Recently, the club voted to add a significant portion of new fencing to create a larger pit area and to allow parking closer to the impound shed. While the club bought the lumber, the responsibility of building the fence fell to Dan and Rich.

The project began by deciding what to save and what to discard.

Some of the old posts just needed straightening.

Much of the old fence was salvaged, but portions that were broken or rotten had to be removed, discarded, and replaced. Then the new fence, running from the middle of what had been the pit area to the engine-test stand, had to be built.

The overall plan called for a significant amount of new fencing.

A few left-over boards made a new shelf to help organize the kitchen staff (at least that's the plan).

As of this writing, it is all in place, along with some new tables for working on models and a new shelf in the kitchen to get some of the bottles off of the floor. (Having spent significant time in the kitchen, Rich and Dan know first-hand that the kitchen staff can use all the help it can get in organizing the operation.)

So, thanks to Rich and Dan for their efforts is making our field a better place for all of us.

Club May Match Sunshine Foundation Contributions

One of our club's most significant charitable acts is its annual donation to the Mercer County Chapter of the Sunshine Foundation to help fund its annual Dreamlift, in which seriously ill and disabled children are treated to a day at Disney World. Historically, we have funded the donation through food sales at our annual Jumbo Jamboree. Of course, in years when the weather fails to cooperate, food sales are minimal and we end up enhancing the amount raised with other club funds.

Our club typically presents a check for $2,000 or more; club donations to date exceed $30,000.

The Board of Directors has discussed and will present to the general membership at the May 2nd meeting the idea of collecting donations for the Sunshine Foundation and offering to match the funds collected up to some amount. Thus, in good years, the check we present would be the sum of the profits on food sales, the donations received, and our matching contribution. In years when we are rained out, the money available would amount to the donations received and our matching funds. The intent is that in good years, we will be able to present even larger checks than we have in the past and in bad years we would still be able to present a respectable check without dipping too deeply into our other funds. Our hope is that we'll be able to collect donations, even if the event is a total washout.

If you have an opinion on the matter, be sure to attend the May 2nd meeting. Also, this year's Mercer County Dreamlift is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th. If you would like to participate in the presentation of the club's check, we'll meet at 7:00 AM at the National Guard hanger located at 152 Scotch Road on the property of Trenton-Mercer Airport (I-95 Exit 3A). Wear your club jacket and hat.

Time Off Magazine Planning a Story on Our Club.

Mark May 4th and 11th on your calendars. At **3:30** on the 4th **(note that this is a time change)**, Anthony Stoeckert, Assistant Editor of *Time Off* magazine, is scheduled to bring a photographer to our field. *Time Off* magazine is an entertainment weekly that is distributed with all Packet Publications newspapers. An article in the month of May will provide very timely notice of our Jumbo Jamboree.

Anthony plans to get pictures, interview club members, and watch us fly some of our more exciting models. If you have a giant scale model and would like to see it (and maybe yourself) in the magazine, come out to the field that afternoon. Please let David Vale know that you're coming and what you're bringing so he can add you to the list he's making for Anthony. In case of bad weather that day, May 11th has been established as the rain date.

On the Bench and In the Air

As the weather warms, models are making it off the bench and into the air faster than they can be debuted in this column. Two recent releases, which were not entered in the Building Contest, were Bill Collier's Fokker DR1 and Bill Zentmayer's Fokker D.VIII. The DR1 was finished in what was considered a camouflage scheme in WWI: brown paint strokes over grey on two of the wings and bright red on the third wing and tail section. Apparently the WWI aces liked to be hard to see, but not hard to find. Bill's first flight of the DR1 served to enhance the camouflage scheme when he made an emergency landing in the shallow lake by the runway that sometimes doubles for a corn field. The emergency resulted from clunk failure in the fuel tank. Fortunately, except for minor damage to the rudder and the need for a serious bath to remove the mud, the plane was unscathed.

The maiden flight of Bill Zentmayer's D.VIII was slightly less eventful. An approach that may have been steeper than optimal, coupled with grass that may have been longer than desirable, resulted in a landing in which both the top and the bottom of the airframe touched the ground. The plane seemed pretty much intact, however, and much cleaner than the DR1.

Bill Collier recently unveiled a new Fokker DR1. Note the unusual camouflage scheme.

Bill Zentmayer brought his Fokker D.VIII to the field on April 21st …

… And enjoyed a relatively uneventful test flight.

For Sale

Spektrum DX6 radio system with **3D foamy SuperXtra 1.14**, complete with Spektrum receiver, 4 servos (GWS), Castle 25 ESC, and Hacker 20-20L. Also four NIB Spektrum servos, one OS Max BGX-1 NIB, two OS Max .61 FSR (one ringed, one ABC, both used). All offers considered. Terry Watros. (609) 585-1038 or mcrcs@mcrcs.com.

Electric Soarstar w/3ch. FM receiver (Ch. 20), ESC, 2 mini servos, brushed motor, & 9.6v 600ma NiCad. $75.00 or BO. Also **Electric Twinstar II**. Two brushed 400 motors, ESC, Futaba 4 ch Skysport radio (Ch 35), 4 mini servos, two 9.6 v 2000 ma NiMH batteries. RTF, Like new, flown once. . $150 or BO. Also, **Electric Model Tech Fledgling** with Futaba 6 Ch. FM radio (Ch 55). RTF. Never flown. Wingspan 55.5". Includes 4 mini servos, ESC and 7.4 v 1300 Ma LiPo battery. $150 or BO. Stan Blyskal . (609) 586-3239.

Upcoming Events

May

2nd Meeting at WWL
4th Newspaper interview at Warren Kruse Field
16th Meeting at WWL
25th Setup day for Jumbo Jamboree
26th & 27th Jumbo Jamboree

June

6th Meeting at WWL
10th Family Picnic at Warren Kruse Field
20tht Meeting at WWL

July

4th **No Meeting**
18th Meeting at WWL
22nd Dawn Patrol & Oldtimer's Day

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. 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

C. David Vale
Phone/Fax: 609-430-9635
Email: cdavidvale@gmail.com

Propwash Newsletter
Mercer County Radio Control Society
P.O. Box 84
Hightstown, NJ 08520