The Flightline

Volume 31, Issue 5

Newsletter of the Propstoppers RC Club

May 2001

Editorial - Field Matters

March and April were busy months for field activity and nobody was busier than Chris Catania. The illusive pursuit of the lease for Sleighton field has taken extraordinary efforts from Chris and Mike Black. At this writing we still do not have a signed lease. However with the potential of striking this agreement just around the corner we had first a survey effort on Sunday 1st April followed by a work day on Saturday 7th but first we had a work day at Moore field to remove the "Bird Tree" and another copse adjacent to the runway.



Dick Seiwell and Dick Bartkowski at Moore Field. About a dozen members turned out on a day that was ideal for such work. Dick Seiwell drove over in his 1943 Ford tractor with a mean looking bush cutter attached. Other members brought chain saws and hand tools. Dick made work easier by dragging all the small trees and brush into the surrounding woods. The Bird Tree succumbed to persistent efforts and we finally have cleared the major airplane magnet from the approach corridor. Al Gurewicz insisted on carrying the cut logs to the edge of the field. Where are the young members?

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Dick Bartkowski says his mattock used by the settlers is more suited to the job of brush and stump clearing than Mike Black's pickaxe. Moore field fix up day.

The Sleighton field survey was conducted by a few people supporting Chris Catania in the field planning.



Naturally, the survey included a flight evaluation. Chris Catania, Al Guerwicz, Ed Goretzka and Rusty Neithammer with "Flytar" at the Sleighton Field Survey.

The overall runway topography is a little wavy with a slight list towards the pits. Chris had planned to have the whole strip bulldozed to a more level contour lengthwise followed by mechanized rock clearing and seeding. But the farmer only has a year-to-year lease and these conditions flow down to us so following a conversation with the farmer, and based on his advice, we decided not to make these costly improvements at this time. In fact the contour is pretty good for the type of flying we do and the farmer said that the Timothy grass that he seeded last fall would grow into an adequate surface for our use.

Calendar of Events

Club Meeting Tuesday 1st May 2001 Marple Newtown Library 7:30 p.m.

Flying Events

Saturday 12th May Eagles Electric Fun Fly Hope NJ, near Delaware Water Gap Contact Dave Harding to join a group attending this meet.

Saturday 2nd June Warbirds Over South Jersey Wall Township, NJ Any size aircraft from WWI to present, must be in correct military markings.

Check Model Aviation for details.

Regular Club Flying

Come to the club meeting and see if we have executed the Sleighton Lease. If so we will begin flying there as soon as the surface is suitable.

At Moore Field

Daily10 am til DuskSaturday10 am til DuskSunday12 p.m. till Dusk

Propstoppers RC Club of Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Club Officers

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Check the web site for back issues of the newsletter, pictures of club events and the calendar of future events. Pictures courtesy of Bob Kuhn and Dave Harding

The President's Message

Mike Black

Dear Fellow Propstoppers,

Thanks to everyone who helped out with the fieldwork day at Sleighton School. I looked at the pictures Bob posted on our web site, heard from Chris and spoke to Dick Seiwell about the work. It seems that everyone is

pleased with the accomplishments that day. It was also noted that several new faces were out there helping out.

I know everyone is champing at the bit to get out and fly at the new field, but patience will have to prevail. I believe we are at least one step closer than we were on meeting night and I am anxiously waiting to hear from Chris.

Moore field is in very good shape. I flew there on Easter Saturday. Where was everyone? Only four others came out Al Gurewics, Dick Seiwell, Dick Bartkowski and new member Lee Russell.

Dick cut the grass this week and began to cut in the new runway area and pits. I think everyone will be pleased with the results. We still need to iron out a few rough spots out there, but it is much improved with the trees that were removed.

If you missed the April meeting, you missed about a half dozen show and tells. I hope we can anticipate an equal number in May.

We will hold the summer meetings (June, July and August) at one of the fields.

Please watch your newsletter for the details each month. Did it really snow this morning (April 18)? Keep them level.



Mike 🛩

May 2001

April 3rd, 2001

Meeting Minutes

Vice President Dick Seiwell called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at Marple Library. Membership Chairman **Ray Wopatek** read the roll call - there were 32 members and 3 guests present.

The minutes of the March 6, 2001 meeting were approved as published in the April 2001 newsletter, by the membership. Treasurer **AI Gurewicz** gave the treasurer's report with income of \$852.25, expenses of \$407.00 and a new balance of \$4341.76 reported.

Old Business

New field selection chairman **Chris Catania** had the following news to report:

The farmer (Rick Schlossberg) from whom the field is being sublet is meeting with his lawyer tonight to go over final details of our lease.

Unless it is necessary to postpone because of rain, a workday is planned for next Saturday, April 7, at 10:00 AM, to remove rocks from the field. We will hold off on bulldozing and using a rock hound for the time being.

Thanks to all who participated in the Moore Field workday on March 24, especially to **Dick Seiwell** for bringing his tractor and other equipment.

The \$20.00 dues assessment, to cover increased field costs, is due at the June meeting.

Send classified ads for sale items or items wanted, to newsletter editor **Dave Harding**, for free publication in the newsletter.

New Business

Fieldwork day at Sleighton Field, Saturday, April 7, 10:00 AM.

The cost for our use of the Marple Library meeting room will increase from the present \$25.00 per night to \$40.00 per night. Discussion included eliminating some winter meetings and use of a building at Sleighton School if available. We are booked for the remainder of 2001 at the present rate. There is a conflict on Tuesday, November 6, 2001, which will require rescheduling that meeting to Thursday, November 8

Club activities for the 2001 flying season were planned.

- Picnic June 23 location TBD **Monica Shellhase** has volunteered to be the chairperson.
- Electric Fun Fly **Dave Harding** will chair this event, and he desires again to coordinate our plans with those of the Burlington County, NJ club so the two events fall on Saturday and Sunday of the same weekend. The Burlington club will finalize their plans later this week, and it is expected that the events occur sometime during the end of August.

Sig is providing coupons worth \$0.50 per gallon of fuel purchased, which are redeemable by the club for use in helping with field expenses.

Saturday, May 12, 2001 is the date of the Eagles Electric Meet, in Hope, NJ. This location is about 5 miles into NJ after passing through the Delaware Water Gap. Dave Harding invited members to join him on a trip to this meet.

Show and Tell awards were given to members who brought planes to show during the past year.

Jesse Davis noted that Del Glennon's picture appeared in the latest issue of Model Aviation.

Break

The 50-50 winner was Monica Shellhase.

Show and Tell

Marty Bakalorz showed his computer controlled foam wing cutter. It is not yet complete but the drive system for the stepper motors is functional. Marty is writing the software that controls the machine, which connects to the computer via a parallel port. So far, constant chord wings can be cut, and Marty is working on tapered wings.

Sam Nevins showed his Tutor, speed 280 with 4/1 gears, 7 or 8 550 mah NiMH cells. This is a \$29.00 Tower Hobbies kit, and the kit includes the motor/gearbox, but no batteries. Sam comments that the balsa in the kit was extremely light and soft, and resulted in warping

after covering. Sam had to remove the covering and replace some of the wood, which added several ounces but did correct the warping problem.



Marty Bakalorz with his CNC foam wing cutter.



Sam Nevins and his Tudor Electric.

Rusty Neithammer showed his "Flytar" flying guitar. This original design was created by "winging" it with a \$10.00 flea market guitar, coroplast wings and tail feathers from the Marty Bakalorz designed "Weasel" combat plane, an OS 46FX from the club auction, and other leftovers from Rusty's parts bin.

The plane was flown this past Sunday, and proved to be very tail heavy, due to the steel reinforced guitar neck. Rusty plans to add some nose weight, and it should be ready to "rock and roll" after that.

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Rusty Neithammer and his original Flytar, it does too! Mark Berkmeyer, a new member, showed his Tower Hobbies 60 Trainer, OS 65LA. Mark has been working on this plane for about 3 months, and ended up replacing most of the kit-supplied hardware with DuBro hardware. Mark is looking forward to the first flight this weekend.



Mike Black showed his Super Sportster Bipe, which he got for \$100.00 at the Lebanon flea market. Mike is powering this great looking plane with a Thunder Tiger Pro46, and Gonzo the Great is the pilot.

Ed Glatfelter showed his video camera/transmitter and receiver, which he got for \$50.00 at Staples. It is reported to have 1000 ft range, and the camera is very light. Ed plans to use this rig for aerial video photography.



Adam Kraut showed the electric powered ARF FunTec Sky Scooter that he is using to teach his younger brother to fly. Vice President Dick Seiwell adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Rusty

Editorial - Field Matters continued from page 1.

After surveying the field we decided to hold a work party to pick the loose rocks that were present on the surface then let the grass grow until Dick Seiwell can mow it for us.



Monica Shellhase, Dave Harding and Dave's grandson Matthew Everett rock picking at Sleighton Work Day.



Dick Seiwell and AI Gurewicz move them out.

About twenty club members assembled for the rock picking party with Dick Seiwell again providing the motive power and Al Gurewicz the muscle.



Few rocks were large but this one went to China and they weren't going to let go of this one either.



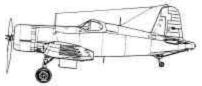
Al Tamburro supervises the placement of the rocks in the approach road gully

All in all the members have pulled together to do the hard part of the field preparations for the 2001 season. Now Mother Nature and the Philadelphia lawyers determine just what kind of a season we will have.

Moore field is in great shape and Sleighton will be awesome if we get it. So think positive and keep building.

Dave Harding

On The Web -The List Serve By Dave Harding



It is the middle of the night, you are preparing the ultimate electric F4U for the Warbirds over Delaware meet the next day and you are stuck. You have left the plans at the hobby shop when you bought the covering material and now you don't know the recommended CG location. What to do?

No, you don't call your buddy in the middle of the night, his wife will cause him to lose flying privileges for a month. You could calculate it but you don't remember how to do it on a tapered wing. There is a lot of money and time at stake and the railbirds will all be there tomorrow so guessing is not an option. What to do?

Well, this day and age you ask the Internet. There are a number of ways to do so but I particularly want to discuss my favorite the "**list serve**".

What is a list serve you ask? A list serve is an Internet interest group where "subscribed members" share ideas, information and opinions via e-mail.

This is how it works; Say you are interested in electric powered RC airplanes (and I am). What you do is "subscribe" to the eflight group on Topica.com. This is a free service (which contains some text advertisements) where a group of people have subscribed to the specific "list". This is done by simply sending an e-mail to a specific address, don't worry about it now, I will show you exactly how to do it at the end of this article.

The way the group functions is that the members "post" messages. The messages are e-mailed to all the members. Members then e-mail a reply to the messages and these messages in turn are sent to all the members.

So let's just examine our midnight question. You post the question to eflight@topica.com and one or several of the list members answer your question. Since this is the World Wide Web it is a 24/7 operation and you probably received an answer from Dirk in Australia who just logged on after work or Clive in England who logged on before breakfast. Now it turns out that Dirk is the local hot dog aerobatic pilot and his CG recommendation is 1/2 inch further aft than Clive's. So a flurry of answering messages question Dirk's sanity while others explain that the F-4U has a particularly good longitudinal stability due to the large tail so maybe Dirk's recommendation is OK. The next day, you leave bright and early with 4oz lead in the nose and the aft most CG. You proceed to wow the railbirds at the meet although the landings were white knuckle affairs. You are so pleased with the performance that you log on immediately upon getting home and report your results to the "group". OK.

Immediately others ask you about the details of your successful model. These messages are sorted under the original question "subject" or "thread" so they may be grouped.

This is the essence of "list serves" ; rapid, efficient information transfer.

There is always some common affinity interest in a list serve group. It may be an area of interest such as electric flight or slow flight or soaring etc. or it might be a club or other form of association. There are thousands of these lists. There is even one dedicated to the Zagi with over a thousand members. Do you think you could get good information on building and flying a Zagi! You bet you could.

One of the reasons I have written this piece is to suggest that we institute a list serve group for our club.

Why would we do that? Well it allows us, that is the 50% of the club wth e-mail, to efficiently share information on club matters.

We can meet "virtually" over the net and discuss club business or other matters of common interest. For example, with one email to group Chris Catania can keep us informed about his progress and pitfalls in obtaining the new field lease. He types just one e-mail and addresses it to the list. We all receive it and, if appropriate, members can respond, even if it is just to offer a somewhat public attaboy.

Today Chris has to decide who he will send it to and hope that he has their addresses in his book. He will problably miss someone because the list keeps changing. Then not all the people who reply will "reply to all" so some will miss out on the replies.

The list serve group is an excellent way of learning a new subject. All you need to do is subscribe then "lurk" and read. Lurking is the process of just reading but not actively posting or replying to the group. It is OK to lurk.

Since list-serves are organized by interest group and are so easy and efficient to use it is common to find the World's experts as members. So you not only get advice but you get good advice. You also get bad advice but in this case a debate breaks out and there is a flurry of messages on the topic.

Sometimes someone asks a "religious" question or opinion. These can cause debates that rage in volume and content, sometimes to the point that the list monitor has to deny list privileges to a specific member. The list is set up by an "owner" and he can appoint a number of monitors. The owner and monitors can block a members reply or route them to a pending file for review before posting. It's easy to do and a good idea because sometimes some pretty severe name calling can arise from a heated argument although in fact this is rare.

Normally you end up with the Hatfields and McCoys view of things. This is what happened when I innocently asked the eflight group if I should solder or crimp my Anderson Powerpole high amp connectors. Seems that the military and NASA insist on crimped wires because in solder joints the solder can wick up the wire to the point that it acts like a solid wire and can fatigue at the end of the soldered region. Others point out that crimped is indeed preferred but only if you have the correct crimper. The Anderson tool costs \$150! A poor crimped joint is hard to detect and can fail suddenly and completely.

Now for some list serve mechanics, and pros and cons.

On some lists the volume of message traffic is huge. Eflight has about 1000 members and there are 60 to 100 e-mail messages per day.

Many people, myself included, don't want to be swamped by 100 emails a day so we select the "digest" option. This way you receive one or two e-mail per day that contain all the messages.

There are pros and cons with this choice. If you get the individual e-mails you can set your e-mail program to group messages by thread. This means that all messages that come in with the subject "soldered or crimped" are grouped under that one heading. It appears as a message with that subject and a + sign alongside. If you click on the + all the replies to that message will appear. This way you can scan the messages by subject and skip or delete those that don't interest you.

If you elect to take the digest the messages are simply pasted in chronological order, one following another in the digest e-mail body. This means that messages are not grouped so you just have to scroll down through the ones you want to skip. Following a thread requires you to remember what was said in the initial message although list protocol requires you to include the original message in your reply. This can be set automatically in your e-mail program. If the original message was particularly long you may "snip" out the boring bits in your reply.

There is a third read option on many lists and that is to read the messages on the web page. This means that you must be online to read them as you will be constantly going back and forth from the message page to other messages as you read. This option of course eliminates any e-mails but you have to remember to check.

Another list protocol is that the messages must be in text format (e-mails usually aren't) and must not contain attachments.

Again, the **text-only** format can be set in your e-mail program but you must remember not to attach pictures etc. If you violate these rules you will embarrass your self as the message you send in the incorrect format will result in pages of junk ASCII text under your name. We all do it accidentally but you learn quickly to be aware.

All messages include the e-mail address of the postee and sometimes you will want to reply privately to that individual rather than to the list. This is the case if someone lists some articles for sale. This is also an area in which we make mistakes as the "reply to" function in a list serve will usually, but not always reply to "list" when we think we are sending a private reply. Makes for interesting reading sometimes.

Fundamentally these groups are there to share information and they all recognize that some people are "newbies" therefore, so long as you ask respectfully you will be extended the courtesy of an answer to your question. Even a stupid one!

So what are some of these lists and how do you get on them?

List Serve Groups

For **Soaring, Slow Flight and Free Flight** go to the following URL and follow the instructions; <u>http://www.rcmicroflight.com/lists/index.asp</u>

> For Electric Flight; You send an e-mail like this; Select new message Go to format, text and select text. To; eflight@topica.com Subject; Subscribe-digest Message; Subscribe Or go to www.topica.com and search for eflight. Vintage RC is also on Topica, search for that.

For Electric Jets send an e-mail to; ElectricJets-subscribe@egroups.com

Jets mailto:USRCJC-off@lists.kidsource.com

Flying wings http://www.topica.com/lists/rcwings/

Zagi http://www.topica.com/lists/Zagi/

Helicopters http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Schluter-list

Micro helicopters http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/microhelicopters

IMAC <u>www.mini-iac.com</u>

If you use Outlook Express as your e-mail browser you can "filter" the list messages into a separate folder, this way you don't clutter your inbox with these messages. First make the folder. Click on Local Folders and go to File, New, Folder. Name the folder appropriately; Eflight. Then go to Tools, Message Rules, Mail and select New. Then indicate; When the message subject contains "Eflight" move the message to specific folder "Eflight". Click apply now and OK. Now when a message comes from Eflight it goes directly to the Eflight folder. Neat and clean.

What if you don't like it? Well don't post a message to list requesting that you be unsubscribed. Rather follow the instructions at the bottom of the message and hit the unsubscribe message address and put unsubscribe in the message body.

So, shall we give a club list serve group a try?

Oh, one word of caution, list serves are habit forming and time consuming. You have to decide if you are a model builder flyer or just a reader / talker.

Dave Harding who sometimes wonders which he is!

| First Name | MI | Surname | Street | Town | State | Zip | Phone | e-mail |
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