



The Flightline



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Newsletter of the Propstoppers RC Club

AMA 1042

August 2003



Mickey Callahan, right, instructs the "contestants" before the competitive events at the picnic.

Agenda for August 5th Meeting at Sleighton Field 7:00 pm

- Flying and Workshop, 5 – 7 pm
Meeting
- Approval of July meeting minutes
- Finance report
- Membership report
- Field report
- Electric Fun Fly Final Plans
- New business
- Show and Tell

- More Flying

Editorial: A Glorious Picnic

Every gathering has its unique nature and so it was with the 2003 club picnic. The foundation was glorious weather with low humidity, temperatures in the mid 80's and low to moderate winds. It was comfortable all day for organizers, railbirds and competitors.

Competitors? Well, yes, co organizers Mickey Callahan and Mark Berkemeyer had arranged an array of "goofy" flying events (although one included quite a bit of taxiing making it "difficult" for some of the park flyers with no landing gear). Spectating these events must have been quite a strain because despite the presence of a good number of airplanes many members just chose to watch from the comfort of their chairs under the many inviting canopies. Of course it could have been the consumption of adequate shares of the vast quantity of food too.

I must say that today's Sleighton field layout is superb. We had the sun at our backs all day so both flying and spectating was comfortable. Of course, Dick Seiwell had done his usual outstanding job of manicuring the flying surface and Bob Crowell tidied up the entranceway and added some more rock fill on the driveway surface.

Farmer

Schlossberg had mown the long grass and harvested the hay over the week preceding the picnic so the field vista took on a different look (and it was much easier to retrieve the occasional errant model that didn't make it "home").

It's also nice to see the member's family attend these events and many did. President John Zebuski's little guy is growing fast. The Marks's brought out a whole group to share the fun (although they contributed an offering to the "flight demon" before the day was out).

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President John Zebuski, his wife Diane and son Joseph have fun at the Picnic

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Calendar of Events

Club Meetings

Regular meeting 7:30 pm
Tuesday 2nd September
Marple Newtown Library

Note: we are back inside!

Flying Events

Saturday 16th August
Walt Bryan Memorial Electric Fun Fly
At Moore Field
9 till 4

Regular Club Flying

At Moore and Sleighton Fields

Daily	10 am til Dusk
Saturday	10 am til Dusk
Sunday	12 p.m. till Dusk

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Propstoppers Web Site; www.propstoppers.org
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

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The President's Message

Dear fellow Propstoppers:

I wish to thank club members Mickey Callahan and Mark Berkemeyer for all their work in organizing and making the club picnic great success. We had a fun filled day.

The day was full of fun fly events like, the bomb drop, taxing course, limbo and many more activities that lasted all day. Of course, the refreshments were outstanding as well.

Again hats off to Mickey Callahan and Mark Berkemeyer for their work in putting together a great club picnic.

I would also like to express the thanks of the club to Hobby Town of Springfield for their donation of the raffle Grand Prize.

Time to plan for the next event on the club calendar: The Annual Walt Bryan Memorial Electric Fun Fly, on Saturday the 16th August at Moore Field. See you there.

John Zebuski



Nice cut John, but wait, this was limbo, not combat. President John Zebuski at the Propstoppers picnic.

*Minutes of the Meeting,
June 5th, 2003 at Sleighton Field*

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Dick Seiwell.

The treasurer's report was presented by Al Gurewicz and accepted by the membership.

Minutes of the June meeting as published in the newsletter were accepted by the membership.

Old Business:

Mark Berkemeyer discussed the Club picnic scheduled for Saturday July 19th, with Sunday July 20th as the rain date. He asked that members bring a side dish or dessert. . He said that the club would cover the major food items and some small prizes.

New Business:

Dave Harding reminded us that Saturday August 16th [rain date Sunday August 17th] will be the Walt Bryan Memorial electric fun fly. We will have several fun events including Zagi combat; Old Time electric limited motor run and a Texaco event under SAM or NEAC rules.

Rusty Neithammer discussed the Pennsbury Land Trust Balloon Festival, scheduled for September 13 where we were asked to put on an R.C. demonstration. Del Glennon accepted the charge to coordinate our club activities.

Members were also reminded to lock the gate after leaving the field.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. and members were encouraged to fly.

Richard Bartkowski, Secretary



Sam Nevins twin electric conversion was a bit of a handful.



Keith Watson explains electrics to the President of the Chester County RC Club, John Zebuski looks on.



Dick Seiwell checks the controls before a successful first flight of Mick Harris's electric



Del Glennon gives Dick Bates a hand with his nice Taube.

Ed and Dave Gather Grapes

By Ed. Goretzka

Having just returned from a 1700-mile "pleasure" trip to South Carolina, which included several "adventures" related to my vehicle, I wasn't too excited about what was described as the Great Grape Gathering in Geneseo, NY. Fortunately, I agreed to accompany Dave Harding to this event sponsored by Chapter 86, the Society of Antique Modelers, SAM, from Ottawa, Canada. It was a blast and one of the most rewarding hobby-related activities in my experience.

The six-hour drive to the wine producing area of upstate New York was mostly turnpike cruising through gorgeous country with Dave having the fun of piloting his motor home.

On our arrival at the flying site, an immense level grass field, we parked next to a man who turned out to be the R/C event director, Mr. Roy Bourke. This too was fortuitous since Roy was what could be described as the "Compleat Modeler", and a great personality with much experience and knowledge in SAM and its competition events.

The second unexpected pleasure was the camaraderie of the Canadian competitors. Perhaps Dave will show a picture of the six wives who regularly appear and support the activities of SAM 86, attempting to set up the registration canopy. We never did determine who was in charge.



Ray Kiker managed a rare appearance with his reliable electric. Get well Ray we need you out here.

Ech, what's this slimy stuff Rusty? Keith Watson gets a lesson in wet power from Rusty Neithammer.



Volunteer ladies and event directors at the Great Grape Gathering

One very nice gesture is that the event "manager" is the widow of one of the club's former leaders. In this way she remains involved with the many friends she has worked with in the past. Most of the men were expatriated Brits, one of whom was a classmate and model club friend of Dave's going back 50 years in England. It was a great time for reminiscing and renewed friendship.

As for the flying events, there were both gas and rubber free flight and electric R/C. Dave was the big winner, claiming 3 1st place awards and I (flying Dave's spare plane, and utilizing his guidance and better eyesight) got a second and a third place awards. I should mention that I went with no planes to fly, courtesy of a tree at our field's border and lack of time to complete repairs. I must also state publicly that Dave provided coaching and timing and planes to allow me to participate in the competition. Flying conditions were fair with winds varying from 5-10 mph but landing on the field presented little problem.



Rusty flies Rusty. Check out that pilot.

The award presentation was unique, in that in addition to the plaques, with stick-on labels to specify the event and your placing, you were awarded a bottle of Canadian wine, your choice of red or white. Score – Harding 3, Goretzka 2 bottles.



Plaques and wine awards aplenty in grand style at the GGG.

Most of the competitors flew free flight events and although the field at Geneseo is ideal it still only took a couple of minutes to go outside the boundaries in the 10 mph wind. Of course, nowadays most of the competitors have motorcycles to aid in the chase. Geneseo is also the site for the biannual FAC (Flying Aces Club) Nats., a freeflight competition mostly for rubber powered scale models.



NJ resident and former C/L Team Race foe, Don Meyers and his wife fly free flight at the GGG

The Saturday night BBQ was held in a hanger that housed several historic aircraft. Several piper and Aeronca WW II liaison planes (fully restored), a USN AD-5 Skyraider and a Russian Antanov AN-02 biplane (both of which I had never seen before) were a great backdrop. In addition, two beautifully restored SNJ's appeared, they are regularly flown for sightseeing. The ultimate was the arrival of another restored antique, a Stearman PT-17 biplane, which just happened to land that evening. The owner was spending the summer flying around the US visiting friends and attending various aviation meets and fly-ins. Most nights he sleeps under a wing but does check into a motel if necessary! What a way to live!! He gratefully accepted our offer of a cold beer.

Sunday morning we departed and as an added bonus we took a short detour to visit the Glenn H Curtis museum at Hammondsport NY. You may know him as one of the earliest pioneers in the aircraft field, but he also was originally a motorcyclist and manufacturer of bicycles and motorcycles. Numerous examples were on display as well as his Curtis Jennie of WW I fame, a training plane for thousands of pilots in the early '20's.

To sum up, boy, am I glad I went!

Ed.

Picnic, continued from page 1.



Picnic Contest event organizer, Mickey Callahan, explains the complexities of the "bomb drop" mechanism to the contestants. Note the device strapped to the wing top of his Wingo. Creative flight profiles were required to shake this sucker loose, but it worked if you could figure it out! Some did!



The Marks clan at rest.



The Tredinniks, Klekotkas and Tuesday Breakfast "regular" Mike Everett (Dave's grandson) look relaxed.



Critical "Railbirds" give the events a relaxed scrutiny..... (I could do better than that.....zzzzzzzzzz)

The "competitive events were divided into three separate pieces, although points were awarded for each and the "grand champion" was the high score from the total.

The first event involved taxiing around some flags, then "dropping" a "bomb" on a target followed by six loops and six spins and a precision landing, all within a specific time. The gas powered aerobats ruled here, but it was more difficult than it seemed.

The second event was a balloon burst followed by three limbo passes under a line and a precision landing. In a rare calm moment Dave Harding elected to enter with his Lite Stick. Much to everyone's astonishment, most of all Dave's, the three balloons succumbed immediately and one limbo pass was followed by a "hovering" landing into the rapidly increasing wind, within two feet of the line.

Keith Watson tried with his Mini IFO, a brave gesture in the wind. A quick kill of the balloon was followed by a limbo into the line, which wrapped itself around his prop shaft until the motor stopped. The limbo line was replaced by a tape.

Mike Black was next up with his aerobat. Following unsuccessful passes on the Balloon Mike destroyed his model when his limbo pass strayed into the far post. The next victim was John Zebuski who flew his aerobat into the new tape, wrapping it around his prop until his motor stopped ending his attempt.

The smoothest of the gas entrants, all of whom were handicapped by the necessary high flying speeds, was Mark Berkemeyer flying his large trainer. Mark cleverly placed himself at the extreme end of the pilot area so he could fly his model straight towards himself and under the limbo tape. He had an excellent view of both posts and the tape enabling him to fly a smooth path through the gates followed by a steep turn back away from the pits. His three successive limbo passes were impressive.

The final two events were limited motor run duration contests for electric powered airplanes, the first for speed 400 power the second for larger motors. Keith Watson won the first and Keith and Bob Crowell tied for the win in the second.

The event organizer Mickey Callahan was not done yet as in addition to the organizing the contests he acquired a number of prizes for all the competitors and arranged a raffle for a GWS Spitfire ARF, donated by Hobby Town of Springfield. As luck would have it, Dave Harding won both the competition and the raffle! Thanks Mickey.

What were the rest of the members doing while all this was going on? Well, it seems that it was so entertaining that they were content to watch. Flying could wait until it was over.

What a grand event, well done Mark and Mickey, a lot of work, thanks for a most enjoyable day.

Dave Harding



Senior members Al Gurewicz and Sam Nevins can't decide to talk or fly. They do both!



Contestant Dick Seiwell takes the long walk back from a good landing in a bad place



Below, Event organizer, Mickey Callahan with Contestants and their prizes. Right, Dave Harding wins the raffle, Treasurer Al Gurewicz officiates.



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Propstoppers R.C. M.A.C



Barrels of fun at the 2003 picnic

Walt Bryan Electric Fun Fly Saturday 16th August, All day. At Moore Field

Mark your calendars and dust off your airplanes or your spectating chairs for the next great club event.

This event usually draws an excellent variety of flyers from all over the region from North Jersey to Maryland. Come out and see all kinds of interesting electric powered airplanes fly at our Moore Field.

Fun contests will include:

- Zagi Combat
- Lite Stick and (similar GWS models) pylon racing
- Limited Motor Run Duration including Elexaco, SAM Old Timers and any other model.

Call Dave Harding, Dick Bartkowski or Mick Harris for details.

Picnic Administration Notice

Treasurer Al Gurewicz wants everyone who made expenditures for the club picnic to identify the sum required so he can pay you and keep the books in his usual neat and complete style.

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