



The R/C Flyer

Volume 27, Issue 8

August 2003

Next Meeting – August 14, 2003 at 7:00pm - Clear Lake Park Bldg.

President's Corner

By: John Boyle, JSCRCC President

We've got it "MADE IN THE SHADE". If you haven't been out flying lately, then you haven't experienced our new awning. I went out just the other day to "poke a few holes in the sky". As I pulled up to the field THERE IT WAS, a beautiful shade for us to use while enjoying our flying field.

Here are a few points to think about:

- Gone are the days of jury rigging an umbrella to the back of the truck to create a little shade
- Gone are the days of wishing I had one of those huge hatches on the back of my vehicle that I could hide under while sitting on the tailgate
- We no longer have to schedule our flying so as to avoid heat exhaustion in the mid-day sun
- Short summer showers don't mean we all have to hide in our respective vehicles & stare at each other through the car windows while wondering if our airplane is getting a thorough soaking since we hid it under the tailgate
- Last but certainly not least.....gone are the days of pondering the possibility of a substantial shade at the flying field.

And if that isn't enough to get you excited.....we will also have a couple of picnic tables at the field. If you haven't been out lately, then you owe yourself a good day of fun at the flying field.....SEE YOU THERE!!

(Editor: Check out the new picnic tables obtained a few days ago by Herman Burton with some pickup help from Don Fisher and Charlie Teixeira)



New canopy and tables – July 31, 2003

July 2003 Meeting Minutes

By: Mike Goza, JSCRCC Secretary

The Meeting started at 7:07pm 7/10/2003

Old Business:

The canopy is being erected on the field. It is looking great and should be done soon.

New Business:

The club approved the purchase and setup of two picnic tables for the canopy area. Herman volunteered to pick them up. Others volunteered to assemble them. They will be purchased as soon as the canopy has been erected.

Model of the Month (MOM):

Mike Laible brought in a 1/3 scale Mauraine Saulnier A1 Parasol from Balsa USA. He acquired it as a partially built kit. Mike did an excellent job finishing the model with Polish insignias. It is covered with Solartex and painted with latex paint and then with Nelson System 3 Paint (clear) with cross linker. It has a 103" wingspan, has a Zenoah G-45 engine for power and Airtronics radio gear for control.



Entertainment:

Brett Walcott from the new Odyssey Hobbies in Nassau Bay came by to announce his opening. It will be open Monday – Friday 10:30am – 7:00pm, Thursday till 9:00pm, Saturday 10:00am – 6:00pm and Sunday 12-4. He is located at 18041 Upper Bay Road. He has a shop in the back that is open for building and learning.

Brett donated 2 gallons of fuel and a Futaba shirt for door prizes. Ken White and Rusty Jenkins won the fuel. Clay Bare won the shirt.

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm

Some thoughts about our new tables

By: Editor

In thinking about the new canopy and picnic tables with Herman Burton and Don Fisher, several thoughts came to mind that deserve discussion at the next meeting:

- The tables that Burton procured are great for taking a break, having a snack or drink, NOT for fueling or assembling airplanes. For this purpose we need

several waist high 4'x8' assembly tables to be either procured but most likely built to our specifications (volunteers?)

- The picnic tables need to be labeled some how to identify them as JSCRCC property
- The tables would last considerably longer if treated, suggest we do so
- The TX impound and storage box need to be moved under the canopy and minor repairs made.

The above ideas suggest another “work day” and the need for some volunteers. The club has obtained some much needed improvements over the last year or so, let’s not drop the ball now.

One other thought: why not have a “ribbon cutting ceremony” celebrating our new facilities with free hot dogs and drinks for all club members and their families?? Some of the donated Tru-Turn items could be given away as door (canopy?) prizes.

The above are just thoughts for consideration at the next meeting. What do you guys/gals think?

ALBATROS D-3

By: Herman Burton

In the newsletter last month, I described my efforts to make a vintage biplane kit into a semi-scale Albatros D-3 German WW1 scout airplane. (Note: All WW1 airplanes were considered “scouts”, rather than fighters, because of their original purpose of flying over enemy lines to determine where the enemy troops were located.) This month’s article will describe the continuing building of the plane.

The topics that were being considered a month ago were the color scheme, accessories and what scale components would be added. Reviewing the documentation books I had bought and borrowed, the early pilots apparently decided that camouflage was an essential component for survival. Although some planes were painted black or red, most seemed to have a green top wing to blend into the green fields below when viewed from above. And most pilots seemed to prefer sky blue bottom wings, so as to blend into the blue sky when viewed from below. So, I followed that thinking and painted the tops of each wing green and the bottoms sky blue.

From the various readings and internet site studying I did, it also became very apparent that the WW1 pilots were very much the individualistic people fighter pilots have been over the ages. Even with the green and blue wing colors, each pilot added his own unique markings. So, I continued to

follow the *Jasta 2* markings of Gerhard Bassenge in the summer of 1917. Accordingly, my plane has a white tail, green upper wings and blue bottom wings and a “natural” fuselage. Plus, a red narrow stripe on the top wing, and black/white bands on the underside of the bottom wings. (Excuse me? Is this camouflage??) The Albatros D-3 had plywood over the fuselage, and this was usually clear coated with varnish. The resulting color was a light tan or yellowish. Black “Iron Crosses” were always painted on German aircraft to assist in identification if the plane went down behind enemy lines.

The cockpit was re-built to resemble the half circle of the D-3. A small step, where the pilots would put one foot while ascending to enter the cockpit, was added to the port bottom side of the fuselage. This finished step measures ½” X 1”, and has 13 separate pieces of balsa and lite-ply to make it look like a recessed step. I found a nice looking pilot figure from Hobby Lobby on the internet. He has the prototypical features of a WWI pilot, such as goggles, leather helmet and a leather jacket. I will probably add a long, flowing white silk scarf for effect. (Watch out Snoopy! Here comes the Red Baron!)

The Williams Brothers machine guns were fun to assemble. Each had 19 separate pieces to glue together. After assembly, each was painted “gun blue” and then sprayed with Testor’s “Dullcote”. A short belt of ammo comes with each machine gun, and the 28 rounds of ammo were painted copper and brass. Very realistic to my way of thinking. Both will be permanently mounted in front of the windshield, where the pilot could reach the breechblock in the event of having to manually re-load while in flight.

These early planes did not have steerable tailwheels. So, I was faithful to the D-3 and installed a hardwood tailskid.

Painting a model is very time consuming. But the finished product is unmatched in appearance. I was lucky in that I was able to find all the colors I needed for this plane in the spray cans of “Painters Choice” at Home Depot. At two bucks a can, using the spray cans was the only way to go. When the project is completely finished, the last step will be to apply water-based polyurethane, cross-linked, to give a uniform flat finish that is gasoline and glow fuel-proof.

The wings and tail feathers are painted, ready to be installed to the plane after the fuselage is covered and painted. I intend to put flying wires on the plane to add a degree of authenticity missing on the kit. With more building time than I have had recently, maybe I can have it finished in time to bring to the next club meeting for “Show and Tell”.

I have enjoyed building this kit, and bashing it to resemble the Albatross D-3 has added an enjoyable dimension missing in my earlier building efforts. I hope you have

enjoyed my descriptions of building a stand off scale model of Gerhar Bassenge’s D-3 that he flew with *Jasta 2* in 1917.

Entertainment for August Meeting

With Electrics becoming more popular by the day and some items remaining on the expensive side, Jerry Beamguard decided to try to save some money. So Jerry took an old servo and used the PC board and pot then added an IRL510, 530.540 (MOSFET) as they are inexpensive, a heat sink, and, “WALLA!” the result is a working Electronic Speed Control (ESC) that works on channel 3 (throttle) of your transmitter.

Jerry will give a presentation on his ESC along with schematics etc.



Tom Altmeyer with his Tracer. It has an OS 46FX engine with retracts. It started as a \$20 kit bought at the Club Auction in November. Talk about bargains at the auction!

For sale

Great Plains Trainer 60, Futaba 6 Ch Skysport radio with servos and new TX battery, and K&B .61. The airplane is listed as a trainer but is really an advanced trainer with a symmetrical airfoil and with zero degrees dihedral will perform most maneuvers that a sport flyer would want to do. It’s a great flying airplane. All in good, ready to fly condition, \$100. Includes a partial kit with enough parts to build another fuselage and tail feathers and all

documentation and plans. Call Charlie Teixeira at 281-488-4412 or email.



Upcoming Events

By: *Editor*

8/22-24/2003 : Propnuts Helicopter Fly-In. Sponsored by Propnuts R/C Club, Crosby TX. Contact Lloyd Sullivan CD at 281-998-3377.

9/13-14/2003 : Jetero Big Bird Fly-In, Huffman TX. Contact Odis Everts, CD, at 281-949-9179 for more information.

9/19-21/2003 : 15th Annual B-17 & Big Bird Gathering at Monaville, TX. Contact Bob Buckbee at 979-764-9067 for more information

9/19-21/2003 : Houston Helicopter Fun Fly in Katy, TX. Contact Chad Williams at 281-300-3253 for further information.

10/4/2003 : BPAC Fall Big Birds sponsored by Bayport Aero Club, Deer Park, TX. Contact is Paul Curry, CD, at 281-487-3749.

10/10/2003 : Houston Combat Classic for 328, 330(JSO) at Scobee Field TX. Contact CD Richard Stubblefield at 281-358-3522 for more info.

10/18/2003 : Fall Fly-In sponsored by A.R.F. RC Club, Livingston TX. Contact Mike Muehr, CD, at 936-967-4404 for more info.

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The R/C Flyer

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