



January 2004

The Fox Valley Aero Flypaper



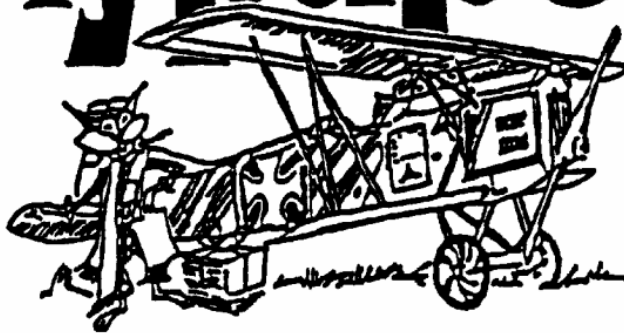
January 2004

Club President
Mel Ziska

Club Secretary
Kevin Hersey
(630) 513-7987

Club Vice President
Greg Bohler

Club Treasurer
Bill Simmons



Newsletter Editor **Bob Mosinski**



AMA Charter 252



AMA Charter 252

Message from the President

Happy New Year to all Fox Valley Aero Club Members. 2004! Wow! When I first built a Guillows Cessna, a long time ago by the way, I never dreamed of the state of aero-modeling as it is today. Rubber bands worked just fine for power and tissue paper kept the ribs and stringers together. Ambroid glue held the balsa and just about anything it touched together.

Today we have true "shake'n'bake" ARF planes. They have reliable radios, good motors and many innovative features. I admit to using ARF designs for the last several years. The market has responded to the desires of the flying public with giant scale to park flyers being available in just about any style you could think of. We may even see a Pober Pixie or Topsy Nipper as an ARF some day. By using the latest computers and cutting methods a 36.725% Extra could be laser cut overnight. A little plug for Dave Patrick here; if the final run of his two new Cubs is as good as the prototype at the RCHTA Show, he has two more winners.

This year will be a difficult one for FVAC. As you know several issues are on the front burner. The Board and New Field Committee have done a great job last year. I expect they will continue to put forth over a 100% plus effort for the Club in 2004. Keeping our current flying site active and negotiating the last foot for the new field is the top priority. Most important on the agenda is having a flying site for FVAC. Don't expect running water and hot showers overlooking a 1,000 foot paved runway. A place to fly with smooth grass will do just fine for the time being.

Mark your calendars for the February Swap Shop. Dig out any old "stuff" you may want to get rid of for the Club table. Gary and Norm have sold broken wings, crashed servos, old motors and bent landing gear as well as the kits you will never build. Call Steve Baker with your reservation for your own table to swap out some of the good old stuff you have laying around.

MelZ

December '03 Club Meeting Minutes

by Kevin Hersey

Fox Valley Aero Club General Business Meeting Minutes December 12, 2003

President Mel Ziska called the meeting to order at precisely 7:52 P.M. during the FVAC Christmas Party.

During the annual Christmas party a brief business meeting is held to conduct elections and recognize FVAC member contributions through out the year.

TOP GUN – A tradition was started in 2002 with the presentation of a Top Gun award. The Top Gun award is to recognize an outstanding member of the FVAC. Last year Dan Compton was the first to receive the award. For 2003 the award was to Robert Walker for his contributions to the organization. Congratulations to Bob for his efforts.

ELECTION – FVAC officers for 2004 are:

President	Mel Ziska
Vice President	Greg Bohler
Treasure	Bill Simmons
Secretary	Kevin Hersey
Safety Officer	Dan Compton
Board Member	Bob Walker
Board Member	Ken Kaiser
Board Member	Mike Kostecki
Board Member	Paul Douds
Board Member	Don Bennish
Board Member	Doc Yocke

FIRST TO FLY – President Ziska reminds of an annual tradition. On January 1, 2004, at precisely 10:00, a mass launch will be held to determine who will be first in flight in the New Year. Regardless of weather conditions or your physical status, this event will occur. Historically this event has been very popular. There has been an occasional mishap or two due to the cold weather. Come on out and fly a couple circuits!

NEW FIELD – Paul Douds provided an update on the efforts to secure a new field location. Paul along with other members of the new field committee have attended numerous meetings with local governmental groups. Although there have been setbacks along the way, efforts at this time appear very positive. The current scenario is that the new field location would be slightly north of the original proposed location. This configuration would have the field located on property under control of St. Charles.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – This year's Christmas party was a big success. The event was held at the Fisherman's Inn, Route 47 Elburn. A buffet style dinner was provided along with a cheesecake desert. This was followed by a raffle of craft items and R/C hardware.

Julie Rhodes has gone the extra mile in collecting craft items over the year to be raffled off during the Christmas Party. For five dollars members get the opportunity to win a raffle prize. Everyone that enters

(Continued from page 2)

receives a prize! This will be Julie's last year conducting the craft raffle. In recognition of her efforts, Julie was presented a gift certificate by President Ziska. A big thanks to Julie for her efforts.

The meeting adjourned shortly after it started.

Kevin Hersey
Secretary



From the Editor...

Hello and Happy New Year! Please let me know if there is anything you would like to see in future issues. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 24th of each month. Web page submissions can be sent at anytime. Those of you that are serving on committees please send me important dates, times, and flyers a.s.a.p. so they can be posted on the web. I need current activity pictures i.e. meetings, fun-fly's and even normal "day at the field shots."

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The best way to contact me is by e-mail: bmosinski@rjkconsulting.com

Wingtip Sanding Block by David Drowns

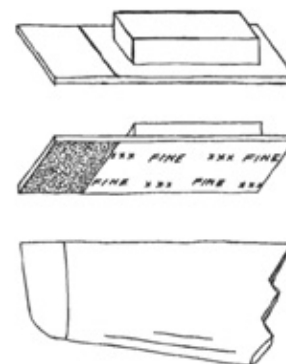
While building my first FomeCor® wing, I got to the part where the instructions told me to "epoxy the tip blocks to the wings and shape to wing contour." Leaving it up to me to do this without sanding into the thin balsa sheeting over the foam core. So to do this I came up with this wingtip sanding block.

Using a long sanding block with a handle offset toward one end, I put the rough side down on the extended end as not to apply direct pressure over it, and the smooth side down under the handle so I get an even thickness under the sanding block. I was able to get a perfectly flush fit without sanding into the sheeting at all. I used a reference line on top so I could see the usable sanding area.

If you prefer, instead of attaching the smooth side down piece to the block, you can lay it on the wing, rough side down exposing the wing tip to be sanded. It will stay in place gripping the surface of the wing rather than the sanding block; keeping you from rubbing back and forth on the wing section but giving the thickness of the sandpaper being used at the tip. As with anything there is a trade off. This way does require you to pay attention to keeping the handle over the stationary paper and moving it along as you progress, where as attached to the block it is always there.

Having the right tools can make us better builders. I hope that this one helps you.

from *Transmitter*
Palomar RC Flyers
Bob Lang, editor
San Marcos CA



Hints and Tips

from various sources

Lead Shot by Fred Harvey

Lead shot is a useful modeling tool. Most aircraft need some weight added to them, usually in the nose, to move the center of gravity (CG) to its proper location. If your aircraft tend to come out as tail-heavy as mine do, it often takes more than just putting on a heavy prop hub to fix the problem.

I use a plastic sandwich bag and slowly pour a bit of shot into it. The bag is usually located in the fuel tank compartment and I can get just the right amount of weight, in just the right spot.

from *Vapor Tales*

Derby Radio Control Club

Fred Harvey, editor

Derby KS

Re-warp a Wing

Use a hot air popcorn popper! I came across this idea while perusing an old publication. It was timely in that I was tuning up two ships, both of which were heat-shrink covered, and both needed more washout in one wing panel. Being an Orville Redenbacher connoisseur, I happened to have a hot air popper, so away we went.

Unlike working with a heat gun, you can just set the base of the popper down, freeing both hands to twist the wing panel. At first it didn't seem as if the popper would get hot enough, but you just work closer to the opening than with a heat gun. And the broader area of coverage lets the whole wing panel heat more uniformly. I'd do it again!

from the Society of Antique Modelers

SAM 26

Robert Angel, editor

Santa Maria CA

Screw Holes and Strong Joints

A good way to line up where the screw holes should go when fastening your cowl to your fuselage is to put a rubber band around the cowl and use it as a guide to keep all of the holes lined up. If you want to beef up the stress points or where two halves of a cowl or wheel pants are glued together, try this. Apply a piece of fiberglass tape over the desired area on the inside of the cowl. Next glue it down using PVC pipe glue. The PVC glue will soften the plastic and allow the fiberglass to permanently bond to the cowl. This process makes a very strong joint and is easy to do. PVC adhesive is cheap, fiberglass parts are not.

Servo Wires

Did you do the best job of covering your new wing you have ever done only to find out you forgot to run the servo wires through the wing? Try tying a piece of string to the connector end of the servo and put the string near the servo hole. Next put the nozzle of your trusty Shop Vac near the exit hole and turn the vacuum on. The vacuum will suck the string right through the wing and out the hole. Now all you have to do is pull the connector end of the wire through the wing and plug it in.

West Jersey Radio Control Club

Tom Voorhis, editor

Gibbsboro NJ

Edge Gluing Sheet by Bob Furr

Watching the new video that Ed Prohaska has done on covering foam wings with balsa sheet, I noticed that he had to spend quite a bit of time removing a bead of Sig-Ment glue that had formed when he glued two sheets together along the edge. One trick to minimize this is to first tape the sheet together with wide Scotch® tape then slice it back apart leaving the tape on the two pieces of wood. Once you have done that, tape the wood together from the other side like usual. When you put the glue into the joint, now any bead that forms will be on the Scotch® tape and not the wood. Once it dries fully, you just pull the Scotch® tape off and the bead of excess glue comes with it, leaving the sheet of wood glue-free on the surface. At most, you will have a little sanding to do to smooth the joint.

Gloves for CyA by Bob Furr

Ed talked on the foam wing video about needing gloves to work with CyA and he not being able to use latex gloves because of an allergy. One thing that works really well and is really inexpensive is to use cheap plastic sandwich bags to cover your hands. They work well and are thin enough that you can feel the heat of the glue as it sets. This works really well when you are applying glass cloth with CyA, as you can hold the cloth to the balsa and feel when the glue sets. It lets you use very little CyA to put down the cloth and saves quite a bit of weight.

Rub-Jointing by Bob Furr

A close-fitting butt joint will often bond satisfactorily under atmospheric pressure without clamping. You can achieve this by wetting both surfaces with glue, then rubbing them together to squeeze glue and air out of the joint while aligning the components. This method is known as a rubbed joint. Don't use this if there is any reasonable way to get the parts clamped together to ensure a good fit.

previous three from the *Orbiting Eagles Newsletter*

Orbiting Eagles

N. F. Sheltraw, editor

Omaha NE

Upside-down Shelves by Bob Furr

Here is a neat and fast storage idea to put some of that high up space (if you have a high-ceiling work area) to better use. Bolt together a set of inexpensive metal shelves (about \$12 at most home centers) and attach them upside down to the ceiling joists with lag bolts. The spacing between the shelves is completely adjustable on most models. Trim the shelf posts to just the right height with tin snips. This keeps your floor space open and allows you to slip a work bench or rolling toolbox under the shelves.

Jam Nuts by Bob Furr

If you have ever had the problem of a prop nut coming loose inside a spinner, you will want to listen up. One thing you can do that works well is use a jam nut. This is nothing more than another prop nut tightened up against the first one you put on. It locks the first nut in place and keeps your prop from working loose. One thing to keep in mind is that if you are using a wood prop, the wood will compress over time and both nuts will need to be tightened. Do this one at a time getting the nut closest to the prop tight first and then tighten the other nut while holding the first in place.

Tricky Sanding by Bob Furr

Intricate cuts and small, hard-to-reach places can be easy to sand if you use emery boards. These small file-like sanders are easy to handle and provide two sanding grits. For more range of grits, glue different grades of sandpaper onto wooden ice cream or craft sticks. Another way to sand hard-to-reach areas is to attach self-adhesive sandpaper to your fingertip. This will allow you to have a good feel for the surface you're sanding and greater control over the work. To sand into a corner, apply the sandpaper to the blade of a stiff putty knife.

previous three from the *Orbiting Eagles Newsletter*
Orbiting Eagles
N. F. Sheltraw, editor
Omaha NE

CyA Glue Bottles

Next time you empty a CyA glue bottle, pop it in a jam jar with some acetone to clean out the remains of the CyA glue. After a couple of days, remove it and dry it out. Then refill it with PVA's glue. You may have to open up the end to make a bigger hole due to the thicker glue. Keep the top in case you ruin the top of your next bottle.

Cutting Heat Shrink Covering

When cutting heat shrink covering, try using glass for a surface to cut on. It doesn't appear to dull the knife or drag the blade back while cutting. If the backing of the cover is removed first (not the trim tape as this can reduce the adhesion of the tape), the covering material will cling to the glass, making for easier cutting. You can also use low heat to make it stick even better for critical cutting. You can use solvent to put together large panels of covering without it sticking to the work surface.

Drilling Balsa

Removing broken off nylon wing bolts after a bad landing can be a pain. Use a Stanley knife to carefully cut a slit across the end of the bolt. Then, using a very small flat screwdriver no wider than the bolt, gently remove the screw. If the bolt is tight and the screwdriver slips out, repeat the operation. Also try putting a 1/16-ply washer/rubber wing or landing gear on the airplane. This will take up some of the shock and if the bolt does, it tends to leave little bit sticking out from the hole.

Epoxy Too Cold?

If your epoxy gets too cold, it will become too thick and you can't get it out of the plastic bottle, unless you are Hercules. Try placing the bottles in a bowl of hot water for a few seconds. This will not harm the epoxy and it will run like water if left long enough. Watch out, though, as it does appear to shorten the hardening time slightly.

previous four from *Contact*
First State RC Club
Tim Mihalski, editor
Hockessin DE

Keep a candle near your workbench

Use it to rub on screws before screwing them in and they will go in more easily. Candles can be used on nylon wing bolts (though if they are not screwed up tight they may vibrate out in flight), threaded rods, and the ends of Snakes (Gold-N-Rods, etc.). You could also use soap. Can't find your modeling knife? Wrap some brightly colored trim tape around the handle. It will make it easier to find and you are less likely to pick it up by the sharp end.

above two from *Contact*
First State RC Club
Tim Mihalski, editor
Hockessin DE

Re-printed from AMA National Newsletter February 2002

In This Issue... The Latest Club News, and More!

The Fox Valley Aero Club Flypaper

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