

Radio Control Club of Detroit



The wind is our friend

Gravity wins!

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- Vice Pres: Scott Shultz
- Secretary: Keith Jones
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Featured Shop

Wiley Coyote's Model Den

Wiley Coyote's Aero-Den is truly a modeler's delight. The site of models hanging everywhere gives one the impression more of a Bat Cave or the "Skunk Works"....a modeler's haven, or heaven if you may. The keeper of the Den would be Ernie Varilone.....the RCCD President.

Mike Derbabian and I had the pleasure of spending several hours with Ernie and his son in law, Scott Shultz, on a tour of The Den and the 50+ years that Ernie has been in the hobby, both for pleasure and business.



Ernie began modeling around the age of 7 or 8 like many of us with money in hand, heading for the hobby shop. His eyes were on one of those ready to fly plastic control line planes that many of us readily recognize. Living near Livernois and Puritan, the parking lot of the neighborhood bowling alley became Ernie's first runway and airport. As he recalls, those planes never performed as they were advertised, but, a life of modeling had begun. Along about the age of 12, he moved up to .19 sized models with a mail order purchase from American Hobby Center in New York. His \$5 purchase brought an AT-6 Texan that was destroyed in shipping with no satisfaction from that mail order house. Thus.....the local shops got Ernie's business instead.

Control Line Combat, Stunt and some Speed kept Ernie "running in circles" until he was about 18 when he made the jump to Radio Control with the Min-X single channel radio systems (if you could call them a "system" then). He flew an Esquire by Midwest with about a 4' -5' wing-span with a Fox .19, throttled with an exhaust baffle. R/C & C/L worked side by side for several years and Ernie was a charter/founding member of the Livonia Rib Crackers around 1959.

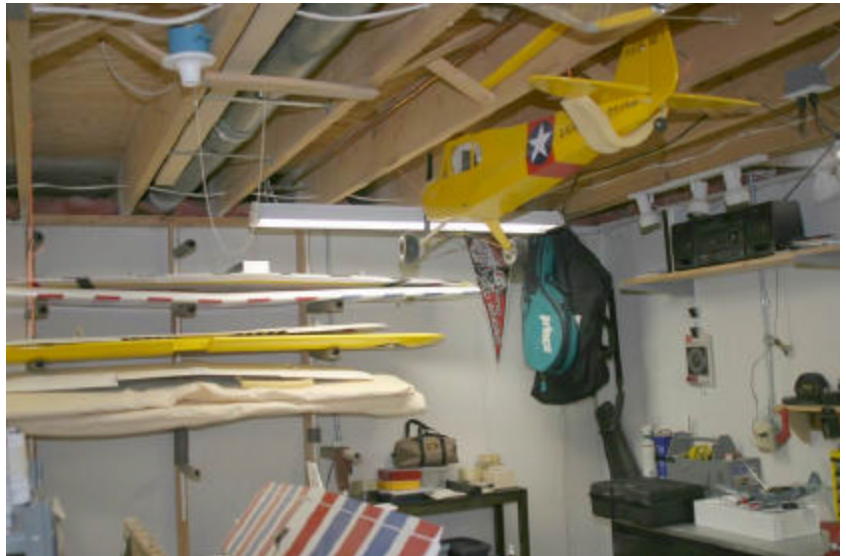
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Like many of us, Ernie stepped out of flying at times to concentrate on family and their love of boating with a 34' Sea Ray Cruiser. As the family grew and it was more trouble to put a 12' 6" wide boat into a 13' 6" slip than he wanted to do, it was back to RC.



At one point, Ernie and his buddy began to wonder just how much of a discount could be had if nuts, bolts and screws were bought in bulk. This led to the two of them forming Great Lakes RC Products and going commercial with the venture. Interestingly enough, Ernie & his partner developed one of the first Glo-Starters (see picture) and introduced it to the public at the '77 Toledo Show....at the same time that McDaniel's Products introduced one at Toledo as well. The Great Lakes RC Glo Starter was preferred over the "competition" due to its greater capacity (2 amp industrial cells) and charge retention, allowing for full performance throughout an entire flying session.

A quick look around Ernie's Shop shows the obvious organization and attention to detail that one would expect from an engineer, which is how he made his living for most of his life. There are several planes that have flown (i.e. Pitts), some that are ready to fly (i.e. Double Trouble) and some that are "nearly ready to fly" (i.e. TwinStar w/ Saito .56's).



There's a great looking Cub, in Military colors, hanging from the ceiling, ready to fly and bunches of kits and arf's just aching to be played with. I don't know truly how much cleaning Ernie had to do before I got there (I didn't give him much warning) but it's a clean well organized hobby lounge. (continued on Pg. 3)

Ernie and Scott assembled the Double Trouble for us and it's a truly amazing ship (see pics). The surface travels should give great 3-D performance and it will be a beauty in the air as well as on the ground. Now where do you store all of this, besides the basement, well we move on to the other model storage areas,

i.e. the living room, Jacuzzi & closets. When you really have the bug to build, there is a tendency to run out of storage. I do like the model stored in the Jacuzzi. Why the Jacuzzi we asked. Well, "it wasn't being used" was Ernie's response. When you ask Marilyn (Ernie's wife & RCCD's First Lady), she responds that "we don't use the Jacuzzi because there's a model in it". Now...which came first, the chicken or the egg!



We haven't even had a chance to address the dog population in the house. Turns out Marilyn is involved in Bassett Rescue and they have several Bassett's around the home...along with a Yellow Lab & Parrot...yup, a Parrot. Anybody for "Polly wanna come to dinner?" We will be looking further at some of the great modeling ideas that we picked up from Ernie. Thanks to Ernie, Scott &

Marilyn for their hospitality and the tour of the Den...and house, and Jacuzzi and closets. Thanks also to Mike for his photography skills and time.
*Lou



The Presidential Podium

Greetings to all,

We have several activities planned for this Fall and there's still plenty of flying to be done. There is something for everyone while still leaving the field open for general flying. Please visit the club website (RCCD.ORG) for a complete listing of coming events. Even if you choose not to compete, we can still use your help to manage the events and help out at the field.

Elections are coming up soon and there are several positions that need to be filled. I've been President for a good 5 years and am looking for somebody new to take over the helm.....or cockpit as the case may be. This club belongs to all the members and it requires the contributions, direction and help from all to keep it moving forward and working successfully.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone to be especially conscientious about safety. You all know what to do – just do it. The rules and protocols are there to protect you and your fellow fliers, and in extreme cases, maybe even the use of the field.

Fly safe – fly often – have fun.'

'Til next time

Ernie

The Editor's "Edge of Reality"

The response to the newsletter has been very positive and several fellas have stepped up to help. Frank Carlisle has offered to take over the Control Line Column and we have several club members who have written articles for this issue.

"The pen is mightier than the swordbut it won't fly an airplane"

My apology for the delay in publishing. More articles are in the works and will be in forthcoming issues.

If you have something to contribute, please give me a holler: duckguylsb@juno.com or (586) 790-2678. Thanks much, Lou Tisch

Newsletter via Email

The RCCD Newsletter will be available via email and will be emailed (as a "pdf" file attachment) to all those with active email addresses. If you would like to receive the Newsletter via Postal Service only, please give me a "heads up" & I will put you on the "USPS only" list. Emailing will save the club some funds throughout the year and allow us to better serve the club's needs.....

Thanks, Lou Tisch



ROUND & ROUND

This is my first time out writing the Control Line Column for our newsletter and I'd like to start out with a little introduction.

I've been flying C/L since I was seven. There was a baseball diamond across the street from our house back then. Nearly every evening throughout the summer, a bunch of guys would show up there and fly their models. I became a regular spectator and after a few weeks the guys had accepted me. Occasionally, someone would let me hold the handle while they flew and every now and then, I'd collect and save all the balsa from a crash. Soon after, my parents started buying me kits for Christmas and the winter building season began in earnest.



By the time Spring came, I'd built a plane and was ready to fly. Unfortunately, my lack of experience guaranteed that the life span of the model was equal to that of a fire cracker. After I'd busted it up and repaired it a dozen times, it was rendered "not airworthy" (according to all FAA rules) and I had to wait until Christmas for another model kit. It wasn't long before I realized that financial freedom was possible and I got my first paper route. I could buy my own kits, whenever I needed them! Wow! Great! Now I could manage to ruin several models each season. It only took a few seasons before I was flying with the best of them....which to me was not crashing on a weekly basis.



By the 1980's I was fully immersed in Control Line Stunt, building some great planes and competing locally & regionally. I even competed in the NATS a few times. Along about 1986, I got drawn away from model planes and became fascinated with motor cycles and "bought into" another hobby. I've got a lot of cycle stories but.....since this is an airplane column, we'll hold off on that for now.

In 2001, the siren's song of the hobby shops drew on me again. I took my sweetheart, Linda, along with me and we both enjoyed the browse-around-the-shop trips. We took a long hard look at Radio Control stuff but it was always the Sig Super Chipmonk that spoke to me the loudest. So, I did the reasonable thing and bought the Super Chipmonk, along with a Fox .35, some Hot Stuff and I was "back in business". This is now my third flying season of being back into the hobby. There are a few planes "in the hanger" again and the house is at that.

I've been a member of RCCD for two years and I totally enjoy the club, flying site and the camaraderie of the members. I've made some great friends and it's always a treat to fly with such super fellas. Frank Carlisle

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Control Line Fly In

Our annual RCCD Control Line Fly In was held June 27th and was a resounding success. The flight circle, doing regular duty as the back parking lot, was well laid out for the Fly In, providing safe viewing and flying. There was a good turnout with 22 fliers and over 30 airplanes and only 1 crash ... graciously provided by Lou Tisch. Due to the activity of fellas on various control line forums, we drew several new fliers to our event and one guy even made it from Sarnia with a great looking plane and excellent flying.



Dave Keats CD'd the event and kept the whole day running smoothly. His effort is making this event bigger every year. Russ Hope joined us and helped set up a U/C Introductory Flight Pilots Program to allow non AMA fliers to participate at the Fly In as well as to set things up for teaching new fliers the joy of Control Line Flying. Our hat is off to Russ for his help & you'll hear more about this program in future newsletters.



Oh yes...Marilyn (the Club's First Lady) got her hand on a control handle for the first time and did a great job flying. She has a nice little red Buster profile ship with an LA.40 and it was set up by hubby, Ernie (Ernie agreed to set it up for her in exchange for Marilyn making wing socks for him-workable arrangement if you ask me). A new flier just about always gets dizzy on their first flight and Marilyn was no exception...though I believe she did stay on her feet after the flight but I wouldn't swear to it. It's the kind of stuff you'd see on America's Funniest Home Videos. Dick Babisch was her flight instructor and had his hand on the controls with a "slave handle" for Marilyn. This way, if Big Red got into trouble, Dick could save the day.

At the end of the day, the plane was in one piece and ready for more flights. Marilyn reported that she had a fine time and wanted to fly that that Little Red Plane more.... looks like she's been bitten by The Bug. Attagirl Marilyn!

*Frank Carlisle

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BIG BIRD FLY IN



The gods smiled on us again on June 19th and 20th for the annual Big Bird Fly In. Saturday was a good day, just a little windy and there was an excellent turn out of members with

around 30 planes. Attendance by spectators was also excellent and the outstanding flying kept everybody's interest.



"Honest, it followed me"

Sunday brought with it calmer weather with winds out

of the West at about 5-12 mph and this brought almost everybody into the air though out the day.

A great time was had by all and the food was excellent, as always.

The end of the day brought a drawing for the raffle plane.

The Radio Control Club of Detroit would like to thank all those who volunteered their time to make this a great event.Vuky -7-



Shop Features

Model Cradle-This is a simple & easily made cradle for your model. Ernie built these from 2" thick sheets of rigid pink insulation foam. If I recall, you can make 4 of these from a single sheet of 4' x 8' foam. Layout your basic pattern and cut it with a table saw, band saw or elec-

tric knife. Glue them together with contact cement and you're ready to go. This works well for field assembly of your plane as well as general shop storage. Give it a try. Lou



A Quick Look at ARFs

There has been a real growth spurt in the ARF (Almost Ready to Fly) market lately. This allows us to get into the air with only a few hours assembly time as opposed to the weeks of assembly time previously required. I assembled one of the TopFlite ARF Noblers and found it a pleasure to fly. Norm Zabik and Dick Babisch are also in the process of assembling their Noblers. The Nobler comes with all primary components pre-assembled with controls installed and even includes a tank. Flights have been predictable and

I've flown this in demo flights at sev-

eral of our contests and it performs well. Currently, TopFlite offers the Nobler and Flite Streak as ARF C/L ships. In the near future, Brodak will be marketing 3 new ARF's, providing more reliable aircraft for the modeler who is short on time or merely wants to get into the air quickly. I have several of the Brodak ARF's on order and will have them available soon in case you are interested.

Frank Carlisle

Frank Flying Nobler ARF



BRODAK FLY-IN 2004

The Brodak Fly- In is both a UControl reunion and a sanctioned AMA contest. Several people have told me you should definitely see the event at least once. They were right. I made my plans and room reservations at the Comfort Inn for June 16 thru June 20. The Inn is located in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, a city the size of Sterling Heights and twelve miles from the flying site.

Step one of plan, I departed my driveway at 3:55 am on June 16th. Plan was to be past Detroit and Toledo highway construction before rush hour. Plan worked, and was entering Ohio turn pike at 5:55 am. Not wishing to incur any extra expenses all speed limits were observed. The trip was 357 miles and arrived at the Comfort Inn at 10:25 am. I checked in and received my pass key which would open my room after 2:00 pm.



Linda Carlisle
Brodak's House



Next, a short trip to the town of Carmichaels, located twelve miles away and home of John Brodak, President of PAMPA (Precision Aerobatics Model Pilots Association). Carmichaels is about the size of Romeo. The first stop in town is at the local hobby shop which John owns. The floor of his retail operation is about three times the floor space of our former Riders shop on M-59. I found a home. He has aisle after aisle of engine parts, screws, props, glues, paints, kits, etc. You name it he has it. (I must escape this temptation before up setting my budget.) John has both his retail model shop and video store under one roof. Next door is Brodak Manufacturing & Distributing Co, Inc.,

home of the largest manufacturer of control line model kits and accessories. He also owns a print shop and two grocery stores in Carmichaels. It was time to go next door to his manufacturing plant and sign up for a guided tour on Thursday. As lucky had it, I and one employee were in the plant. I received a very detailed tour that day.

I now was off to find the location of the contest site. The site is located on the edge of town in the back yard of John's home. I have found the field of dreams for control line flyers. John's back yard has six flying circles. Each circle is ninety feet in radius, one hundred eighty feet diameter. One circle has a black topped ribbon around the circumference for take offs and landings. Two circles have black topped pads which cover ninety degrees of the circumference. The remaining circles are all grass and are well maintained. His work shop is the size of a 1 ½ car garage and was available to all for model repairs. Five port-a-johns were on location, one with a handicap access ramp. Hot and cold drinks plus food were available at the concession trailer. John has a 250' x 250' area set-up for campers. The sites were well equipped with power.

Saturday John provided a buffet for all guests. Tents were set-up with tables and chairs. The awards presentation took place after the meal.

Mr. Brodak truly has the field of dreams. People did come. He had 169 contestants from numerous States. Our own, Frank Carlisle, competed this year in expert stunt and finished close to the top.

Dick Babisch



Windy Urtnowski's Bomber
Best Plane at Brodak

KIDS DAY-----2004



Twenty children took part in our club's fourth annual Kids Day event on Tuesday evening, July 13, at W e t z e l Field. Most of them came from



the Turning Point Safe House in Mt. Clemens and three foster homes that operate under the supervision of the Shelter-Care Section of the Macomb County Youth Home. Four of the children were handicapped.

Following an excellent hands-on ground school by Russell Hope, all were given an approximate ten minute



buddy-box flight under the guidance of ace pilot-instructors Russell, Howard Mottin, Richard Javery, Scott Schultz, Don Veres, and Willie McMath. The models used were the personal planes of Russell and Howard. Both planes survived the many flights but several death-dives



were averted due to the skill of the pilot-instructors. Special recognition is also due the pilots for toiling long under a very hot sun.

Helping in other ways were resident photographer Steve Surbaugh, Ernie Varilone, and Rainel Veres with her Veres family assistants (Luella and Don, Sr.) Thanks also to Jennifer Schultz for cooking the kids' hot dogs and slaving over a hot grill on a very hot evening. John Miklas started the flying portion of the event with a flying demonstration with one of his beautiful planes.



During the period when the children were not flying they were given a copy of our club's "How Airplanes Fly" article and its accompanying Final Examination. This helped emphasize the educational benefit of the event. At the conclusion of the evening they were all given a glider and later will be mailed a Certificate of Achievement prepared by Ken Sulkowski.

One of the last children to fly was a little handicapped girl who at the conclusion of her flight came running to her foster mother excitedly yelling "I did it! I did it! I did it!"

That served as a climax to the evening and was a measure of the total success of the event.

Paul Garceau -10-

COMBAT

Light 'em up!



Get 'em in the air!



Get it On!



Back to the Pits!



RADIO CONTROL CLUB OF DETROIT

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Gravity Wins !

*We're on the web
www.rccd.org*

Coming Events

Sept. 18th & 19thMelee over Lenox-Combat

October 16thClosing Day

October 23rdRain Day for Closing

December 7thClub Elections

December 14thAnnual Christmas Party

Please check the club website (www.rccd.org) for updates and changes to the schedule.

