

Radio Control Club of Detroit



The wind is our friend

Gravity wins!

Volume 52: Issue 1

Newsletter Date March 2005

Featured Shop

Officers:

- President: Ernie Varilone
- Vice Pres: Scott Shultz
- Secretary: Keith Jones
- Treasurer: Don Veres
- Culinary: Rainel Veres
- Web Master: Scott Pavlock
- Field: Larry Chaltron
- Safety: Dave Novelty
- Editor: Lou Tisch
- Membership: Willy McMath
Doug Norris

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Don's Model Den

Seems like most of us build models in the basement...kind of a "Denning Thing"...."back to the cave fellas, it's time to build". Don Veres' basement den runs the gamut from SSC (Slow Survivable Combat) to Giant Scale, with his greatest love being Scale. It is both a modeling retreat for Don as well as a gathering and building place for friends. There is constant activity at Don's place from hot wire cutting of foam wings for combat, through ARF assembly to full build of scale models. Even with all that building, Don's primary love is flying and scale flying is his favorite.



Don had a distinct advantage upon entering the modeling hobby...his Dad, Don Sr., owned Boulard's Hobby Shop at Chalmers & E. Warren (moving to Chalmers & Cadieux in '66). Don's first flying was at about the age of 15 or 16 and the plane was a wooden C/L profile Mustang, with a warped wing. Not the best way to start but a start it was...and once started, there's no going back. Then, in '66, Don Sr. helped start the West Wings Model Club and Don entered the world of Radio Control...though, according to Don, with less than desirable



results on his first flight. It wasn't until about '96 when "the Dons" were involved with the Romeo Club and RCCD that Don really got into Radio Control in a big way. Don got involved in RCCD and began his RC training in '95. A three year stint as Vice President and Chief Instructor with RCCD helped Don gain real confidence with his flying. In '97, Don also became active with the newly forming Radio Control Combat Association and thus began "...the need for speed".



Competition Combat lit a fire under Don and he learned to fly and land in any weather....a necessity when you live in Michigan. This confidence allowed him to fly well in 40 mph winds at a Chicago Combat Competition. Don recalls flying in the '03 Nats. Don was flying his A17A and had snagged everybody's streamers with 5.5 minutes to go in the competition. This would be great if everybody hadn't ganged up on him. Don dropped it right down on the deck at full throttle with everybody in pursuit. He pulled up just as he got to a rise in the field. This rise was not seen by the other fliers. Don made it over the rise but 3 pilots bit the dirt on that run. Now that's a visual that leaves a lasting impression.

Scale is Don's first love (ok, second love since Rainel is his first) and he is a true Warbird Enthusiast. He's figuring on cutting down his Combat Events to RCCD, Hamilton and the Nats and concentrating on the Warbirds. Don's first full build on a plane was a P-51. He went through 16 cans of primer alone getting the finish of this bird the way he wanted it and he spent a lot of hours detailing it. Don flew it for some time and still has it (see picture), though it's currently stored at his daughters house. Hmmm, I thought the Dad was supposed to store the daughters stuff at his house. Must be he's doing something right.



A tour of the Model Den shows the diversity of Don's hobby. One entire bench is set up for maintaining the combat models in flight readiness. Each plane and radio is on a trickle charger to keep the batteries at peak. This allows Don to pick up and head for the flying field at a moments notice...whenever the bug bites. There are several scale planes in states of readiness & charge and they can be flight ready quickly. The end of the "ready room" is a veritable hobby supply house of balsa and everything needed for scratch building or repair.



A quick trip into another room and you'll find a scattering of large scale along with Rainel's trainer and several more combat planes. Leaning against one wall of Don's Den are new combat wings that await completion while leaning against another wall is the repair pile. I'd say that one set feeds the other set. Don's trophy wall displays some of the rewards of his flying with several plaques and awards. Whenever fellas drop over for building, tables are set up in the main den and building commences. There's always something going on at Don's.





Building has been a big part of the hobby for Don though he's not really crazy about building....he'd rather be flying. He's been through the gamut of full build, scratch build, hot wire cutting of wings & bodies but...he'd still rather be flying. The ARF market has opened up a new horizon for Don. It's now possible to have all those great warbirds without having to go through the entire building process. You can get a warbird already built and either covered (ARF) or uncovered (ARC), giving you full flexibility to customize the bird to your taste. There's already a new ARF P-38 Lightning on Don's building bench. It'll be in the air soon.



Don is expecting to be retiring in about 7 years and has set several goals for himself. He's got the bug to fly jets. He'd prefer military turbines and is leaning toward American fighter jets. There are also a few unfinished projects on the back burner, aching to be completed. These include a Top Flite P-47 and a T-28, to name a couple. The future also holds some twins along with the jets as well as large scale planes....over 80" wingspan.

Looks to me like this airplane thing is truly in his blood and it's here to stay.

Thanks Don, you are truly an inspiration. Lou Tisch

The Presidential Podium

Greetings to all,

BAM, BOOM, POW, CRASH, KABLOOEY -- Stand back -- Spring is about to explode on the scene and we don't want any injuries. We will be flying soon and there are a lot of great events in which to participate. If you don't want to fly you can always come out and help. See the web site event calendar for opportunities.

We will have our first (annual) control-line contest this year. This is a new event and we dropped one combat contest to make room.

The Big Bird fly-in will be open to all sizes of aircraft this year and you do not have to be an IMAA member to participate. We hope to have a much larger turn-out than previously. The Mini-Toledo is upon us and may be over before you get this. Any previously unflown aircraft is eligible for participation even if it is not completed; however kits still in the box do not qualify.

If you have any suggestions concerning club events, field improvements, club rules, etc., please bring them to the attention of the executive board, or better, bring them to a meeting.

O.K., I have to close now -- that pesky news letter editor says I am holding up the works,

'till next time,
Ernie



The Editor's "Edge of Reality"

All pictures in the "pdf" formatted Newsletter are at a resolution high enough that they can be enlarged for viewing. In the "pdf" toolbar, merely click on sizing and enlarge to whatever size you'd like for viewing. Pictures in the newsletter can be emailed to you upon request.

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.....

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



May Meeting Announcement

Hi Guys,

As discussed at the meeting, the hall will not be available for us on May 3 due to elections that are being held there on that night. Other options that were discussed also are not possible. Therefore, the May 3 meeting is cancelled. We will still have ground school on May 10 and the regular meeting on May 17.

Sorry about the inconvenience but this is unavoidable. See you at the meetings and the field.

Thanks, Ernie V.

ROUND & ROUND

It sure has been a long winter! Lately with all the snow it's been difficult to feel rushed about putting our '05 fleet together. I have a new stunt ship ready for final assembly and paint, and another plane ready for paint. Since I don't have a controlled atmosphere paint room, I'm patiently awaiting warmer weather. I hope you are at least as far along on your projects as I am.



I went to Flint for their Swap Meet a few weeks ago and John Paris, Jay Williams and I went to Broome Park afterward and got in some flights. The snow was everywhere and we hand launched our planes. The landings were not graceful. As soon as the landing gear touched down the snow grabbed them and the planes flipped over onto their backs. Jay managed to cartwheel his Ringmaster three times on a landing and so took first place for the ugliest landing. Surprisingly none of our planes were damaged. I flew a Brodak Oriental ARF. It's a very good flyer, capable of putting in a contest quality stunt pattern. If you would rather fly than build I recommend any of the Brodak ARF's. I'm coordinating with the guys in Flint to do some intra-mural flying.



They'll come to our club field off and on during the summer and we'll visit them occasionally. We're working on a schedule now and those of you interested in participating can contact me or John Paris for more info.

Our first annual control line stunt contest is scheduled for Saturday June 4th, 2005 at the RCCD club field and Norm Zabik and I have been putting together the different elements required for a successful event. We have a premier panel of highly respected judges lined up. Big Art Adimisin, John Paris and Curt Nixon will be our lead judges. If you follow C/L Stunt at all these names will be familiar to you. Lou Tisch and Jan Haluszko will be the pit bosses. Dick Babish will be the Master of Ceremonies. Mike Pavlock is our Contest Director (Norm says I can't put him to work). And of course you'll see all the regulars who work at all of the events. Our club ladies will be cooking and of course our very own club president Ernie Verilone will be there. I've already submitted my application and many prayers to heaven for fair weather so this is a day to put on your things to do list.

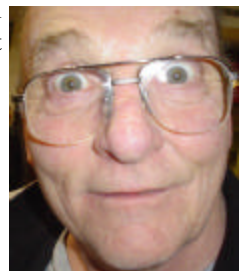


On June 18th, Dave Keats will be hosting our club's 6th Annual Control Line Fly-In. It gets bigger every year with more and more flyers participating. I have a squadron of 1/2A models that I'm bringing out that day and anyone interested in trying to fly them can do so. This event is always a lot of fun and if you don't do anything else this summer, be sure to get to this one. Along with the scheduled events there will be a lot of impromptu control line flying going on out there this summer.

Did you know that only about ten percent of our total club membership participates in all of the decisions made regarding our club rules and activities? All of these decisions are discussed and voted upon by members at our club meetings. The meetings are held every other Tuesday at the Clinton Township Town Hall. If you have anything you'd like to see happen or get changed you have the power to do it. All

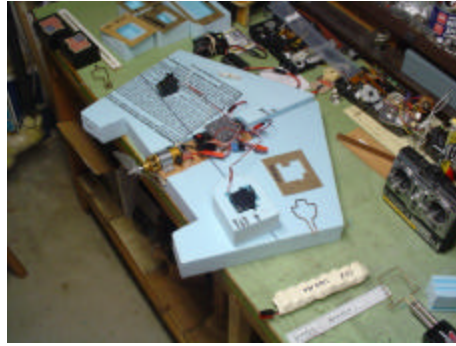
you have to do is attend the meetings and voice your opinion. I rarely miss a meeting, and I have a lot of fun at them. We have raffles, coffee, donuts and a 50/50 drawing. It's a great way to stay in touch with friends and make your concerns and wishes heard. The meetings are one other way that we can enjoy our sport. If you aren't currently attending these meetings I strongly recommend that you do.

I'm all talked out now and it's time to do a little sanding on my new stunter. See you at the circle. FRANK CARLISLE

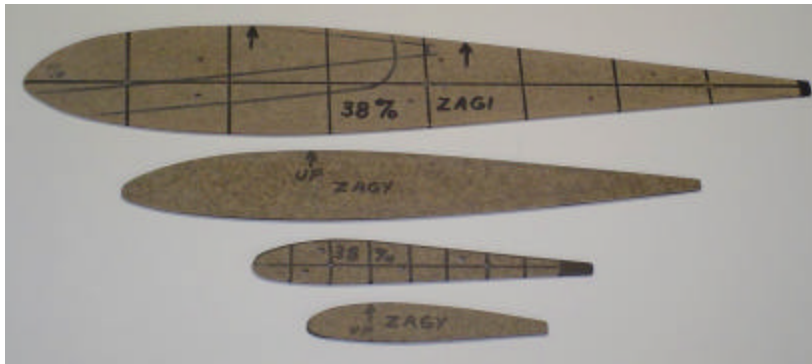


Building with Foam

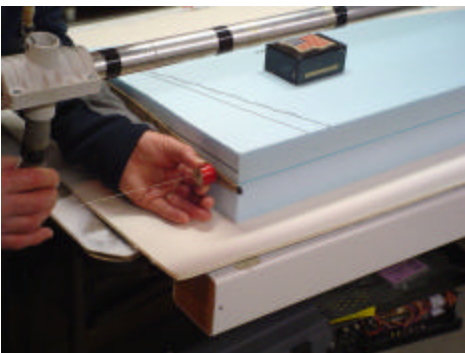
Jim McCoul is a veritable inventor and can not sit still when there's something that needs to be designed or redesigned. I spent an evening with Jim and Bob (I'll think of his name later) working on building a bigger, and of course, better, Zagi. The versatility secret is foam and a hot wire. Jim has a DC converter (yup, he built that too) and a hot wire cutter. The cutter is hung from the ceiling with bungee cords to take the strain and tension out of the project. There are spools at either end of the cutter to make it possible to easily hold and direct the hot wire for precise cutting. Initially, Jim did a mock up of the Zagi to configure the components, both power and control. He has a neat little hot tool to cut the pockets for servos and battery/motor fittings. It consists of a soldering gun and reshaped soldering tips to give him the cutting advantage he needs.



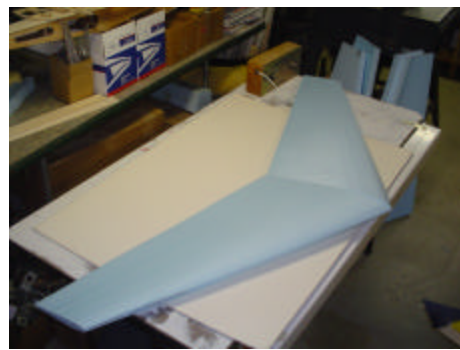
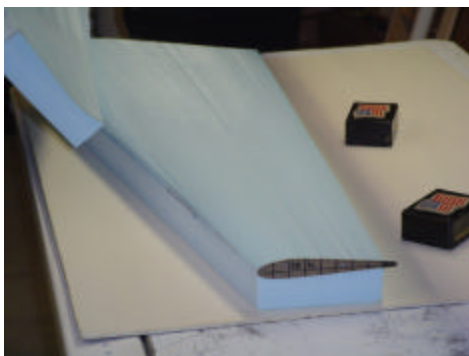
Jim enlarged the Zagi about 38% and made his patterns, one for the root and one for the tip. These patterns are marked off in proportional increments to give a metered movement to the cutting. Two pieces of blue foam board (2" thick) are temporarily joined with carpet tape to give the thickness desired for cutting. The joint also gives a centerline for alignment. The patterns are attached to each side of the foam with sharpened nails that are inserted in predrilled holes. The nails must be inserted toward the inside of the wing so they will not contact the hot wire while cutting. The foam unit is then weighted down to keep it straight and level for accurate cutting.



Cutting begins at the trailing edge of the wing, leading in from the extension (darkened in the photo) and moving forward at a counted pace, based upon the proportional markings on the patterns. The second side is cut in the same manner, making sure the foam unit is weighted to maintain alignment.



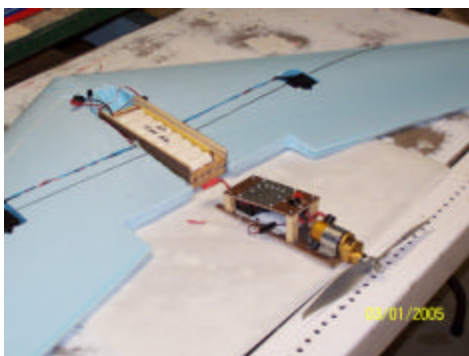
The wing sections are then cut to the premeasured lines to set the proper angle for the wing sweep. Once alignment is established, each wing half can be laminated with adhesive (contact cement) and both sections can then be epoxied at the center.



Once assembly is complete, pockets are cut with a hot wire soldering tip to hold the wiring, servos and battery/motor assembly along with the receiver. Jim designed the power assembly as a removable unit so batteries could be removed easily for charging.



This should be a great little flier and we're looking forward to seeing it in the air this Summer. Outstanding job Jim. Thanks much. Lou Tisch



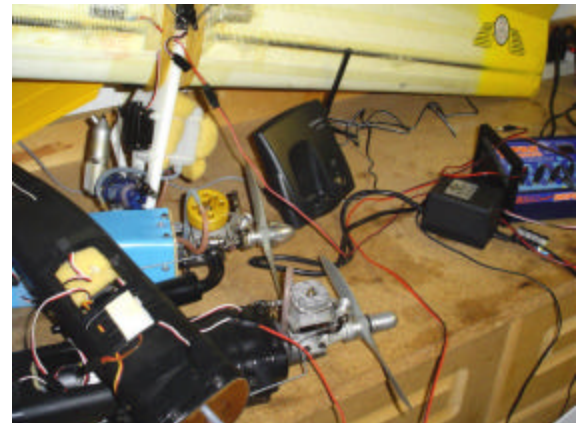
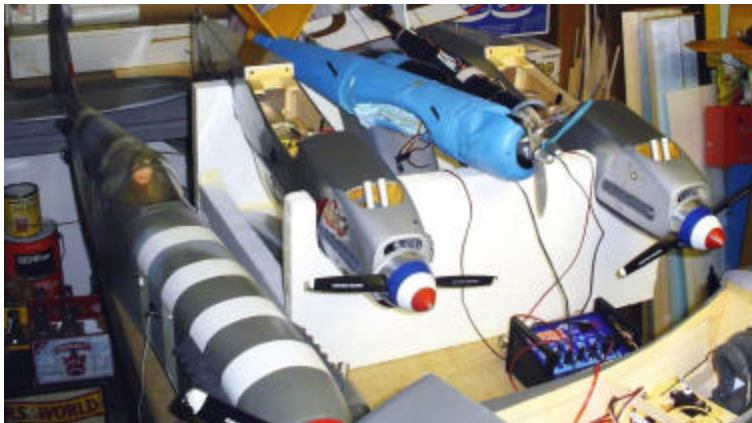
Shop Solution

I absolutely love having a furnace heated out building as my Model Barn. The convenience of the shop outside the house is one of the many joys of life. I can escape to the barn, build models or just sit and look. What could get in the way of that. MICE...that's what. They love the heat and set up housekeeping inside my airplanes, chewing as they go. I've gone the whole route of setting a trap line and catching a few. But, some always seem to drag the trap away and you don't find it until your nose tells you there's a problem.....doh. Well, a buddy of mine, Gary Hanson, gave me a solution....that doesn't require tending trap lines. Start with a 5 gallon pail and drill a couple of opposing holes through the top just below the rim. Run a threaded rod through the holes. You now want a rotating cylinder. I hot melt glued 2 large pill bottles together, center drilled them and hot melt glued them to a hollow sleeve that rotates freely around the threaded rod. Add a bit of peanut butter to the cylinder and antifreeze to the pail and you're ready to rock. Turns out the antifreeze prevents decomposition and lets you take care of the problem when you have time. Caught 3 the first night...problem solved. Lou

Note: keep antifreeze away from pets.

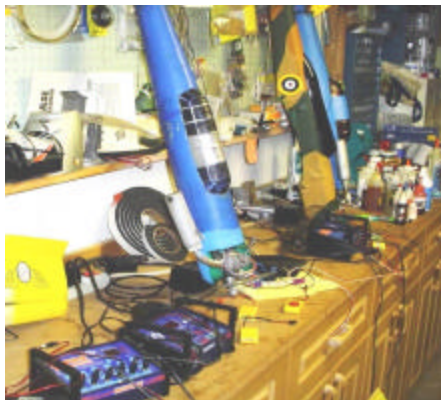


Shop Feature-Charging Station



Don Veres' has some well thought out ideas in his shop. One that impressed me was that his models are always ready to pick up and fly. He has a bench that is staged with several trickle chargers set up on his combat ships as well as some of his scale rigs. This maintains charge, prevents batteries from discharging too far and gives you the option of flying at any time. Guess this is another thing I'll have to add to my own model barn. Great set up Don.

Lou Tisch



Build Night

Modeling is about getting together with friends and sharing the hobby. Nothing does that better than regular evenings at the building bench getting ready for the season. "Build Night" is a regular feature with Don Veres, Keith Jones, Ed Peltz, Jay Lawless, Don Sr. & Luella, Rainel and a rotating ring of friends. It's a special time sharing info, building combat rigs for the season and downing way too much popcorn, pop & coffee.



One of the evenings I was over there, Ed Peltz was getting an SSC ready for the beginning of the season, hoping he had all the motors, receivers and servos that are required. Guess once you've bought the plane, you're not quite done with the buying spree.



Keith, Jay and Don were all helping with Ed's plane as well as working on their own ships. Everyone there was lending a hand to give him a leg up when it comes to getting ready for the competition. That will last until the motors are fired up and in the air...then it's every man for himself. Thanks fellas, Lou



RCCD 2005 Swap meet – Sunday Jan 23rd 2005



Of course, the swap meet had to fall on the day following the worst snow-storm of the season. Saturday morning my phone started ringing with cancellations. I was beginning to get very concerned that a majority of bookings were going to back out. But with a pre-paid hall and no refunds we had to go ahead anyway.

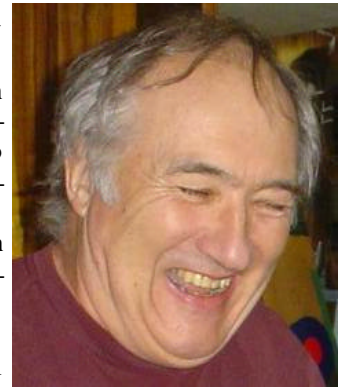
But, later that day, the phone started again with people wanting to book tables. Much to my surprise I got just as many late bookings as I got cancellations.

7:15 Sunday morning, the open doors to the hall were a beautiful sight (having sat around for 1 ½ hours in minus 9 weather in 2004 before the Hall was opened!)

We soon had the tables labeled and the doormen set up and ready to go. The coffee was on and the doughnuts were available.

The Hall had only set up 45 tables (I had asked for 50) so we had to do a little reshuffling to accommodate everyone. Two vendors showed at the door with no prior reservation and two vendors asked for a second table once they were set up. So at the end of the day only two tables were not used.

Attendance was surprisingly good, given the miserable road and weather conditions. We had 121 paid guests pass through. There was a lot of buying activity going on for the first three hours,



then things slowed a little.

Door prizes were awarded every half hour, the raffle (a Cessna Bird-dog airplane kit) and the 50/50 draw were called at noon. By 1:00pm activity had slowed to a crawl and vendors were starting to pack up.

By 2:00pm the Hall was virtually empty.

It turns out the event was more successful than 2004. By the time the entry fees, table fees, raffle, 50/50 and culinary proceeds were all totaled, \$644 was added to the club coffers.

Thanks to all who helped out, especially the "Culinary Cuties" in their spiffy new red aprons (courtesy of Ray Wahl) who kept the coffee, doughnuts, hot dogs, chili and chips going.

Keith Jones



Mall Show

Wow! What a showing. There were dozens of airplanes, bunches of modelers and plenty of people looking and eager to get involved in modeling. The eye candy alone had kids mesmerized at the tables. On top of that, they could try their hand at the flight simulator, getting the actual “feel” of flying radio control. They could have their questions answered, touch a plane and even get some free magazines. How does it get any better for a quick day at the mall? The models ran the gamut from an Old Time Cox Control Line Biplane to full out Military Scale. You could let your eyes feast on built up Control Line models, Flying Wings, True Jets, Full Out Military Scale, Sport Biplanes, Tail Draggers, Trike Trainers & sport everything. Ken Roberts even brought a C/L P-51 Mustang that he built back in the 50's. Willie McMath brought a nice looking Red P-51 “Candy Man”. Frank Carlisle has a new P-40 Brodak Control Line ARF. Don Veres has a new combat P-40 and his new electric twin and Don Veres Sr. brought his new Jet. Sam Blaga brought a great looking Monocoupe. Jerry Gaulin showed his F-86 Sabre. And to top it all off, there was a raffle for a G2 Flight Simulator which was won by Dave Asman. What a great show. Thanks to Mike & Scott Pavlock for the great organization job and to all the club members for their hard work and cooperation. Thanks all, Lou.



RADIO CONTROL CLUB OF DETROIT

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Gravity Wins !

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

Coming Events

April 5, '05Mini-Toledo
April 30, '05Wetzel Work Party (r-d 5/1)
May 15, '05Official Field Opening
May 21/22, '05.....Combat Meet
June 4, '05.....Control Line Contest (r-d 5th)
June 18, '05.....Control Line Fly In
June 25/26, '05.....Big Bird, Open Fly In
July 10, '05.....Scale Fly In

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

