

AIRPLANE, TICS & THINGS

By Pete Rattlesnake Mlinarcik

The morning of June 3rd started as a typical uneventful day at the RCCD flying field for Joe (Jester) Svatora. Joe brought his old Ugly Stick, that he named "Blue Boy". This was to be "blue Boy's" first test flight since it was repaired due to a previous misadventure. Joe enlisted George (Snapshot) Dudek to be his flight crew assisting with the trim adjustments for the newly repaired airplane.

The plane was ground checked and readied for the test flight. The engine was started, then the plane was carried to the flight line and placed in an Easterly direction, positioning it for take off. Jester was at the controls with Snapshot by his side. Jester advanced the throttle and "Blue Boy" responded in a gentle straight line take off directly into the wind. As the plane gained altitude, Jester put in a little right aileron and a little up elevator and "Blue Boy" again responded by gracefully banking and turning to the right in a Northerly direction. Jester again turned "Blue Boy" to the right and "blue Boy" faithfully responded. Now flying down wind over the far North end of the field, Snapshot dialed in some minor trim adjustments. The flight continued around the field for a few laps and "Blue Boy" without hesitation reacted to every control that Jester made.

Suddenly and unexpectedly, "Blue Boy" went into a breath taking downward left roll until it impacted the ground. Jester desperately tried to save "Blue Boy" but, there wasn't any response to any of Jester's futile control inputs. It appeared that "Blue Boy's" receiver lost contact with the radio transmitter.



Hoping for the best, Jester and Snapshot started their quest to find and recover "Blue Boy". Walking through water and fighting their way into the brush in front of the Northern tree line of the field, they found "Blue Boy".

"Blue Boy" was resting nose first in the soft mud and at a 45 degree angle to the ground, with the engine completely submerged in the water and mud.

Snapshot hollered, "No time for tears Jester, you have work to do."

*Hey Snapshot, where's the engine??
I think its right there stuck in the mud.*



Now the real task begins. The plane and the engine were stuck solidly in the soft mud up to the leading edge of the main wing. The only way

to remove the engine and plane from the mud was to literally hand dig them out.

I found the fuel tank....I know the engine is in there....somewhere.....but how deep ???



Finally, having dislodged "Blue Boy", the engine and all the debris from their watery and muddy grave, Jester and Snapshot returned to the pit area. "Blue Boy" was laid on a start-up table for further evaluation. Jester and Snapshot started to examine the broken airplane.....but, the examination and attention quickly

changed from examining "Blue Boy" to examining Snapshot. It was discovered that Snapshot

became infested with Tics while he was in the brush looking for the crash site. Jester and Snapshot went under the shelter and started to strip off their clothing looking for more tics. Jester didn't find any tics on himself, But Snapshot wasn't so lucky. Snapshot was finding more and more tics as he stripped off more and more of his clothing. Standing just in his under shorts (sorry no pictures) , Snapshot stopped counting tics after the total exceeded nineteen tics.

Jester's and Snapshot's day at the RCCD field turned out to be quite an exciting adventure, they will not soon forget! You just never know what your day will bring, even though it may start out as an uneventful day.
