



# Somerset RC

A Chartered Club of the Academy of Model Aeronautics  
est. 1972, AMA 1002

*A "Member Helping Member" Club for ALL AGES!*

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CLUB NEWSLETTER      [www.somersetrc.org](http://www.somersetrc.org)      Nov—Dec 2021



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Happy Holidays to you and  
your loved ones!

From the Somerset RC Executive Board

Domecq Smith

Jim Vigani

Tony Rossi

Dave Szabo

John Samtak

Dave Rollino

Jim Barnes



photo: Tony Rossi

## From the President

Hello there. As I write this, we are in the final days of 2021. At this time last year, we were anticipating a new normal, yet we learned that things were not going to return to normal as quickly as we had anticipated. Despite this, our club went forward. We completed the

majority of our events, increased our membership, and have brought new pilots into the fold. Great planes were built—kits, ARFs, and for the first time 3D printed planes began to make appearances at our flying field.

For a period of a few years, jet fever swept through the club. With that fever subsiding, a renewed enthusiasm for WW I aircraft is now beginning to take hold with several members working simultaneously on WW I warbird builds—not ARFs, but kit builds of the likes of Balsa USA. Our April Expo is full of promise of the work of club members who, always having been accomplished kit builders in their pasts, are renewing this activity in their winter workshops.

In 2022, we anticipate our 50th year as a chartered club of the AMA, our charter having been established in 1972, a time in the history of our hobby when the economy was relatively good, radio equipment becoming evermore reliable, and more people entering the hobby. The model magazines of the period brim with optimism as they herald ever new improvements in radio equipment, engines, and dozens and dozens of kit manufacturers. Balsa dust was exploding from workshops across the country. ARFs did exist but they



represented the underwhelming minority. Everyone built. Everyone covered, whether in silk and dope or the newfangled Monokote that had been only six years on the market in '72. In future articles, we intend to look back at what the hobby was like in those days. It was an exciting time to be in RC.

We will observe our 50th year in a special **Opening Day Program** at North Branch on May 21st. The event is open to all planes excepting turbines, but more importantly, it's open to you whether you are currently flying or not. We look forward to this special day in the life of our club.

In the meantime, come out and join the club at our **Holiday Dinner at Spain In** in Piscataway on Friday January 7. Details can be found on page 11 of this newsletter. As for our first event in 2022, our Annual **Freeze Fly** will be at North Branch on January 1st.

This issue features an ARF article contributed by new member **Ray Garcia**, and our Member Profile by longtime member **Chris DeBlass**. Both pieces are well done. We thank them and our other members who contributed articles this year: **Paul Audino, Tim Cullen, Ernie Evon, Jeff Randolph, Tony Rossi, Dave Szabo, and Felipe Trucco**.

On behalf of the executive board, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. Happy Holidays and Happy Building. We wish you ever renewed bonds with family and friends in the New Year. Let's stick together, support one another, and continue to fly with one another.

We are family. We are Somerset RC.

—**Domecq Smith**,  
President, Somerset RC



from 1949

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There's NOTHING LIKE A

# COMET Gas Model for Christmas!



**ROOKIE TRAINER KIT No. T-6 \$295**  
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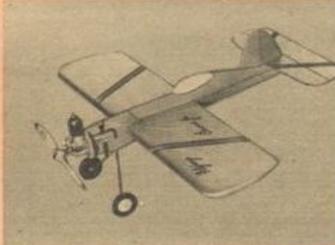


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You've got a thrill coming if you're on the receiving end of a COMET Gas Model this Christmas—but the fellow on the giving end will have just as big a thrill! Each of these famous gas models is outstanding for design, ease of construction, flyability and value—and there's a price to fit every budget! If you're going to give 'em, get down to your Comet dealer's early—and if you'd like to get one, how about dropping a hint where it will do you the most good.



**FLYING CIRCUS KIT No. UC-7 \$275**    **FLYING CIRCUS JR. KIT No. UC-8 \$150**  
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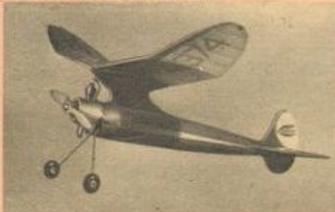


**The LITTLE SCHMOE**  
KIT No. T-17 . . . \$150

It's the greatest! Yep, the greatest little control model ever—a pre-fabricated die-cut job with completely finished parts that fit together with amazing ease. New wide landing gear and nose gear—mean safer landings. Simple enough for the beginner, yet plenty interesting to the experienced model builder. Uses the very small Glo-Plug engines.



**THE ZIPPER KIT No. T-10 \$595**    **THE ZIPPER "A" KIT No. T-12 \$250**  
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Ready-to-run G. H. Q. Motor complete with propeller (also included) entirely assembled on stand. Tuned and can achieve 10000 R.P.M.—Performance guaranteed—1-2 horsepower at 3000 to 7000 R.P.M.—No oil, gas or batteries included. Postpaid for only \$12.50. Send 2c for illustrated catalog including information on gas accessories.

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Kits offered up to Xmas only!



# Feature Construction Article

## Motion RC FlightLine P-38L ARF Bash

by Ray Garcia



An airplane that I'd like to share a few words with you is the Motion RC FlightLine P-38L Lightning receiver-ready electric airplane. I chose this plane because I wanted a foam electric warbird that I can just throw in the car, fly, and throw right back in the garage. At the time, the P-38 appealed to me and is one of my favorite warbirds.

As for its quality, it was excellent right out of the box. Motion RC's receiver ready electrics are unbeatable when it comes to price and quality.



As for flight habits, the airplane has a very wide flight envelope. It's a heavy plane for foam but this most likely adds to its excellent flight characteristics. It flies surprisingly



like a heavier wood construction airplane. Power is more than adequate. Although you won't get unlimited vertical, it has plenty of power for steep climb outs. The roll rate is crisp and excellent. Rudder authority is good. The turn radius is less than average for a foam warbird. Slow flight is good, but one should still respect the fact that it is a twin engine warbird. Takeoffs and landings are easy. Ground handling is exceptional.



Here are some Pros:

Flight ready in less than a day

Flies great

Very nice looking

It's a P-38!



And Cons:

The plane had a weak elevator control horn connection so I had to strengthen it. Some research showed that this is a common issue with this ARF.

Another issue was the five miles of wiring that had to be organized in the central boom/flight deck. It still looks like spaghetti.

As for paint, I chose the photo reconnaissance paint scheme because I like my planes being unique; everyone has an allied green or pacific silver P-38. This paint scheme definitely stands out. To contrast the light blue, I added invasion stripes and painted the tail section red like some of the photo reconnaissance planes from the war. Not only is it historically accurate but also it is practical for the RC pilot. Visibility is definitely not an issue with this airplane.

Additionally, I installed scale landing gear as well as two payload release servos so the drop tanks can actually drop. The whole project took about two weeks between work and my responsibilities.

**—Ray Garcia**



**You are invited to the most anticipated RC  
event of the New Year!**

**It's the Somerset RC Holiday Party!  
at  
Spain In in Piscataway**

**Friday, December 7 at 7PM.**

**A delicious menu, cash bar, at least five  
premium ARF raffle drawings with other  
surprises, and Tony's video from the vault on  
the silver screen looking back on 2021 await  
you.**

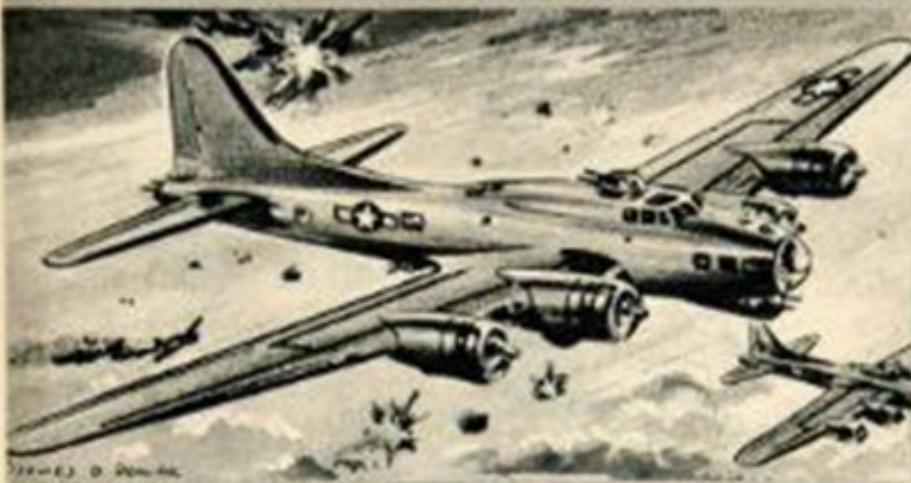
**Only \$40.00 per person!**

**Reservations can be made by sending payment  
to our club PayPal account at  
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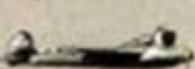
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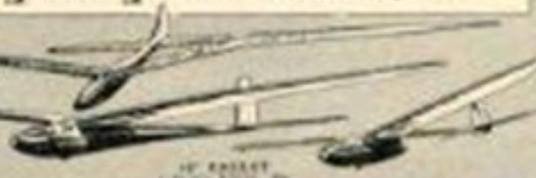
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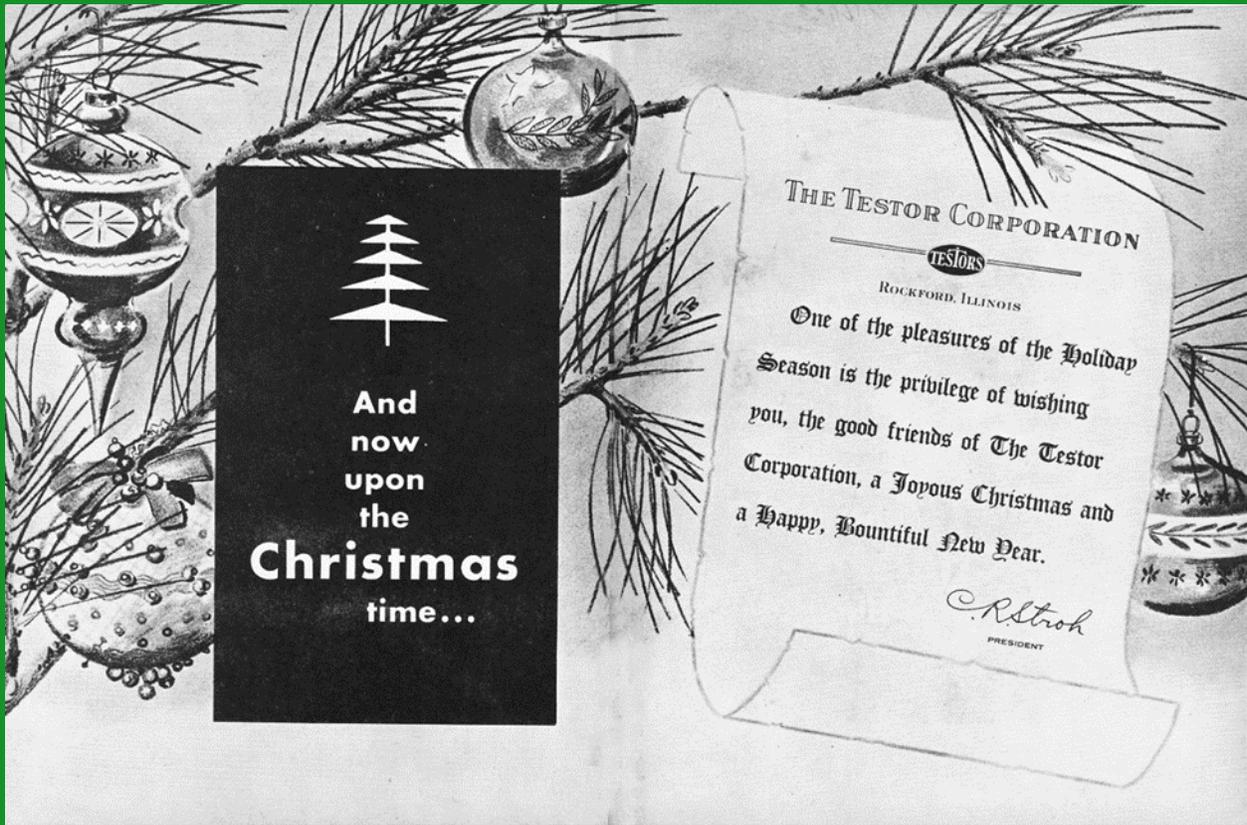
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Your Choice  
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**Gas-Powered Planes To Pilot**  
P-51 Mustang or PT-19 Trainer model choice  
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Christmas  
in DECEMBER



Merlin  
SUPER  
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IN U.S.A.



This Christmas deal is on FAME! — Merlin Super "B" fame as the premier engine of 1946. Great noise performance means tremendous sales, mass production, economical production from which you benefit by this unprecedented price reduction.

Merlin Super "B" is perfect for Control line flying. The solid bar steel piston (not stamped) is the Merlin motor makes for steady, smooth power production that keeps your plane up while there's gas in the tank.

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DECEMBER, 1946: AIR TRAILS PICTORIAL

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## AMA 2021 Summary

by Tony Rossi, AMA District II AVP



**H**i everyone. I was asked by Domecq to give a summary of what 2021 brought to our hobby concerning the AMA and related topics.

Well, first off, I will say that the AMA is working in conjunction with the FAA to make the hobby safer and establish a mutual understanding. The latest FAA requirement is the “The Recreational UAS Safety Test” or “TRUST” as we know it. TRUST, has the goal of increasing awareness of safety and best practices in our complex national airspace. As of 2023 everyone is required to take and pass this test.

Another subject that came to the attention of the AMA is the constant excuse from club members that the hobby is not appealing to the younger generation and is responsible for their club’s membership decline. I recently read an article on page 30 in the December 2021 “Model Aviation” by David Scott, a champion full-scale aerobatic competitor, airshow pilot, aviation author and operates the 1st RC Flight School, that will give you a true picture of why this type of thinking is dead wrong. He takes a completely new approach to model aviation, explains from experience, what needs to be done, to attract new members into our clubs. Worth a read.

Once again, we are faced with a growing concern over the resurgence of the Covid-19 Virus and what effect it may have on the hobby. Only time will tell what is in store for 2022.

I know there is a large Flea Market sponsored by Atom’s RC in February and I hope they can still have it. Only time will tell.

**Tony Rossi**  
**District II AVP, Club VP**



When Santa has to travel far,  
An Aeroplane's a useful thing  
I hope he'll find out where you are,  
And something\*extra special bring.

Merry Christmas



# Somerset RC Salutes our New Members for 2021

Joe Ahn

Aaron Chen

David Feingold

Raymon Garcia

Les Hoffman

Bill Huizing

Jaenes Mandaglio

Duone Smith

# MYSTERY PLANE CHALLENGE

Here's one for the end of the year. For those who are familiar with the magazines from the 70s and 80s, this picture should not be an unfamiliar one. A special shoutout goes to **Ernie Evon** who participated faithfully with each issue in always identifying the planes. [domecqsmith@msn.com](mailto:domecqsmith@msn.com)

**Semi-Scale Beauty In A Great Flying Model!**  
Tough, roomy cabin and front end, takes single to 12 channels or proportional.  
Dismountable nose gear. For engines from .29 to .35.

Price: \$21.95

Span: 67"  
Length: 55"  
Area: 244 sq. in.  
Weight: 4 1/2 - 8 lbs.

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*From the last newsletter, this example of the plastic control line airplanes once made in the thousands had .049 engines that screamed on 30% glow fuel. A few of them flew more than once. If you ended up with just the engine, you learned about two-stroke engine theory. The one pictured here is the Cox P-40 Warhawk that Domecq flew in the 70s more than once thankfully. Congrats to **Ernie Evon** for again identifying our mystery plane and for joining in the fun.*

## Member Profile

# *Chris DeBlass*



Like many of you guys, I have been into aviation my whole life, starting with small balsa gliders, rubber band powered models, and foam chuck gliders. My family would also make the trip up to Sussex Airport for the yearly air show. I also had the pleasure of making a few airshows at McGuire Airforce Base. Then, in the early days of personal computers, I was introduced to Microsoft Flight Simulator version 1.0. That's when I knew I really wanted to fly.

As for the radio control, being a geek, it checks all the boxes—electronics, mechanics, and the magic of controlling something from a distance. I was always asking for RC cars and stuff for Christmas and my birthday. When I was in high school, I started racing at the local hobby shop (Jerry's Hobby Shop on Rt22). I was never really good at it, but I loved driving around and wrenching on the cars.

I didn't get into radio control aviation until I was an adult. I was actually talking online in a chat room (remember those?) when the topic changed to RC helicopters. I realized that I could actually afford to give it a go and made the trip to Jerry's to see what





they had. I ended up with a Kyosho Nexus .30 glow helicopter.

At first, I did it alone. I would practice in the back parking lot of my job, and at the Somerset County Vo-Tech. I met a few people, but didn't really click with them. I was getting better and better at flying and wanted to do more, so one of the RC car guys sold me a cheap fixed-wing trainer and I went looking for a place to fly.

On the recommendation from the guys at the hobby shop, I drove out to the field we all know and love and found a guy named Joel. Joel helped get me going and I quickly grew to love fixed-wing RC flying. Working second shift, I would go to the field for a few hours, get as much flying in that I could, then pack up and head to work. Many days, I would either be alone, or just me and Joel, braving some sketchy weather to get a few flights in during the week. The weekends were great. I have met so many great people, have had so many great experiences, that I can't even begin to recall them all.

This past year, I delved into a new aspect of the hobby with 3D printing. When I started flying, radios were FM (72 MHz) or Ham band (53 MHz). Electrics at that time were more of a curiosity. Now, 2.4 GHz spread spectrum technology is the norm for radios, and electric powered craft are equal and or superior to glow in





certain applications. Tech always marches forward and it has been fascinating for me to watch the evolution of the sport.

3D printing is proving to be another great leap in technology for this hobby that we love. From fast prototyping parts, to making custom mounts and accessories, to fully 3d printed planes (as I have been doing). Some of the things I have found is that they are not as durable as their balsa or foam counterparts, but they can be assembled in a very short time compared to a kit (printing time not considered) and are very inexpensive to make. The biggest downside I have found is that now I basically have a machine that makes model planes just appear—my hangar space is quickly reaching critical levels.

Finally, this past June I got to start on the lifelong dream of getting my pilot's license. For my first flight, the instructor let me take the controls for takeoff, and we headed out east over the Hudson to fly around the Statue of Liberty. For the past few months, I have been making the trip to Central Jersey Regional Airport twice a week for lessons. On September 17th I had the opportunity to do what less than 1% of the world has done, and I was the sole occupant and pilot of an aircraft in flight. There is nothing like the feeling of taking an airplane off the ground by yourself and being able to go where you want (within my boundaries set by my CFI). And yes, I





have flown over the field. My flight lessons progress and as of writing this, I am prepping for my first solo cross-country defined as a flight with a landing of over 50 nautical miles away, and I should be taking my test by early next year.

Although I don't get down to the field as much as I want to nowadays, the times I do, I always feel like I am home. Even though my full-scale flying and other hobbies are taking a good chunk of time, I still enjoy flying the “toys.” In fact, I am making plans to fly out to attend some RC related events, specifically Flight Fest sponsored by the crew from the Flite Test YouTube channel in Ohio.

I look forward to seeing all of you down at the field, and even sometimes looking down at you from 2,000 feet. I will make sure I wave my wings when I fly over.

—Chris DeBlass





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**12** Blue Arrow Trainer... \$12.99

**16** Purple Champion... \$16.99

**10** Yellow Mustang... \$10.99

**10** Blue Falcon... \$10.99

**16** New Plane... \$16.99

**2** Pinto Funny Car 14.88

**1** Acrocub Acrobatic Plane 9.77

**3** Honda A.T.C. 9.99

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**FLIGHT STARTER KIT.** 1½-V start battery, glow head clip with wires, ½-pt. glow fuel, filler cap, strainer, wrenches. 85 Y 8431E—Wt. 5 lb. Mail. .... 2.99

**2** PINTO Funny Car streaks down taut line, parachutes to a stop! Bill Schifsky's team red and blue racing stripes, simulated Hemi engine, super-charger, mag-type wheels, roll cage. With guide line, anchor pins. Styrene body. 85 Y 8444—Wt. 2 lb. 8 oz. .... 14.88

**STARTING KIT for Pinto.** Custom-blend fuel, filler cap, hose, 1½-V battery, glow head clip, wrench set. 85 Y 8430E—Wt. 5 lb. Mail. .... 3.99

**3** HONDA A.T.C. by Testors has adjustable pre-set steering—needs no line! Climbs obstacles, runs in dirt, sand, even shallow water—just like the real thing! Throttle speed control, spring starter. 85 Y 8445—Wt. 1 lb. 9 oz. .... 9.99

**STARTING KIT for Honda.** Testors fuel, filler cap, filler hose, 1½-V battery, glow head clip, wrench set. 85 Y 8442E—Wt. 3 lb. Mail. .... 3.75

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'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
while visions of sugar plums danced in their heads.

And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the roof there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
tore open the shutter, and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow  
gave the lustre of midday to objects below,  
when, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
but a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles, his coursers they came,  
and he whistled and shouted and called them by name:

“Now Dasher! Now Dancer!

Now, Prancer and Vixen!

On, Comet! On, Cupid!

On, Donner and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch!

To the top of the wall!

Now dash away! Dash away!

Dash away all!”

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky

so up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
with the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.  
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
the prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head and was turning around,  
down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
and his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
and he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.  
His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
and the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
and the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.  
He had a broad face and a little round belly,  
that shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
and I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head  
soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
and filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk.  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
and giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ‘ere he drove out of sight,  
“Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!”



## **Somerset RC Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

AMA Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To obtain an AMA Membership go to:  
<http://www.modelaircraft.org/>  
Membership is \$30.00 for adults \$4.00 for  
students up to the age of 21

Mail all applications with check to :  
Dave Szabo  
12 Shoshoni Way  
Branchburg NJ 08876  
Make check out to "Somerset RC Club"

Paying by PayPal send to:  
[Somersetradiocontrol@gmail.com](mailto:Somersetradiocontrol@gmail.com)  
Put your name in the notes and use the":  
"send to a friend option.

Meetings are 8:00pm every last Tuesday of the month at:  
American Legion Post 306  
707 Legion Place  
Middlesex, NJ 08846  
732-356-9699

For full club information, please visit [SomersetRC.org](http://SomersetRC.org)