



Somerset RC

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

**Dedicated to the Enjoyment and Promotion of
Radio Control Model Airplane Flying**

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CLUB NEWSLETTER www.somersetrc.org March-Oct 2022

A "Member Helping Member" Club for ALL AGES!

****IN THIS ISSUE****

From the President.....2-3

Somerset RC in the News.....4-5

Using a Phone App to Check Incidence *by* Tim Cullen.....6-10

Water—Looking Back at Last Year.....11-12

Mystery Plane Challenge.....13

Remembering Larry Gray.....14-17

Club Schedule.....18

Article Index.....19-20

Club Application and Information.....21

Do you have something for the next issue?

Send it along to the editor's email above!



From the President

We hope this finds you well as we say farewell to the summer season and say hello to fall. Our club has had the good fortune of cooperative-enough weather for us to observe our first three events this 50th anniversary season: Opening Day, Big Birds, and our E-Fly, all successful events.

This summer has been one of unrelenting heat and drought, and these conditions challenged us in keeping our last two events, but Somerset RC spirit prevailed and we're grateful to our membership for going forward. With some cooler weather, we will honor the legacy of deceased club member Larry Gray at our next event named in his honor. We are reprinting his member profile, written by Larry, which first appeared in the newsletter in January 2021 as we approach our warbirds event. We were unable to inaugurate it last year due to weather, so this will mark our first year to hold the event.

Whether you knew Larry or not, you will enjoy reading perhaps for the first time or re-reading his lively account of his passion for RC warbirds.



Larry loved warbirds and his moniker in the club was Warbird Larry. This moniker is no doubt officially retired from future use in our club, because quite simply, Larry owned the title.

I had the honor of addressing Larry's family at his funeral, and had the satisfaction of sharing with his family and friends the esteem and affection that we had and still have for him, and what he meant to the club.

We will be honoring Larry along with members of his family who will be present with us at our warbirds event at North Branch on Saturday, September 3rd. Our opening ceremony will begin at 9:30, so please join us as we celebrate the life of our friend Larry Gray.

District II VP Eric Williams honored Somerset RC at our 50th Anniversary Opening Day on May 21st at North Branch. Eric presented our club with a commemorative plaque. District II news for the month of July 2022 in Model Aviation Magazine featured our event. We thank Eric for joining us and recognizing us on our special day.

Wishing you well in your days ahead.

We are family. We are Somerset RC.

Domecq Smith

President, Somerset RC

DISTRICT NEWS



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Tony and Trish Jensen, 25 Clarendon Dr., Binghamton NY 13901-(807) 644-8873; tjensenlat1@gmail.com
- CLIFF EVENT SANCTION COORDINATOR**
AMA Headquarters, Competitions Department, (800) 435-1987, ext. 252; cplene@modelaircraft.org

District II

New Jersey, New York, Europe

On May 21, 2022, I attended the Somerset RC Club's 50th Anniversary Fly In at North Branch Park in Bridgewater, New Jersey. Maintained by the Somerset County Park Commission, the flying site and the club are featured prominently on the park commission's website. Thanks to a good relationship with the club, the county does a great job of supporting the hobby!

The Somerset event was marled by several special remembrances, a banner tow, and a flag-raising ceremony. Cadet Command Sgt. Kenneth Hiraiko and Cadet Maj. Tristen Zehr of the Franklin Township JROTC presented the colors and performed a moving ceremony that opened the festivities.



Although the day's temperature was high, numerous small and large models powered by gas, glow, and electric flew at North Branch. It was a wonderful mix of acrobatic and Scale aircraft. The club provided free food and refreshments, which was greatly appreciated. Not to be outdone was the "ladies tent" that featured specialty foods.



Tom Murray (L) with Wes De Cou.



Mike Chen (L) and son, Aaron Chen, with Somerset President Democq Smith.

During the day, I had the privilege of catching up with District II Associate Vice President emeritus Tom Murray, as well as District II Vice President emeritus Wes De Cou, who also served as AMA's Western Region flying site coordinator. I also met Aaron Chen, one of Somerset's young pilots who has passed his pilot's test. Both Aaron and his father, Mike, are club members.



Presentation of the AMA Award of Recognition to the Somerset club officers.

The highlight of my day was the presentation of an AMA Award of Recognition to the club for its celebration and "in recognition of a half century of outstanding club involvement and supporting model aviation as a family oriented community activity." Congratulations to the Somerset RC Club and here's to another successful 50 years.

Remember, it's not about what you fly, it's about the friends you make! 🙌



***Congratulations, Somerset RC
50 Years of Service***

Feature Construction Article

Using a Phone App to Check Incidence

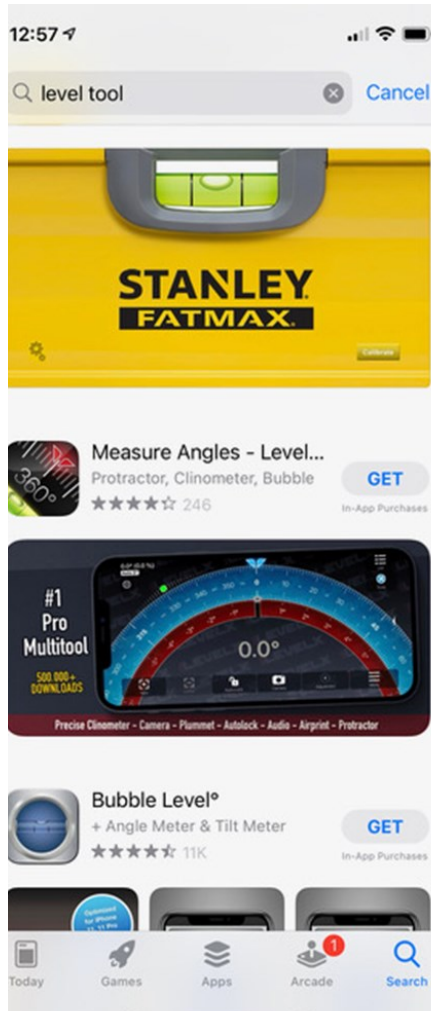
by Tim Cullen



If your shop has balsa dust, several spinners, a bunch of retract sets, with 4 or more rolls of Monokote covering laying around then you probably have one of these contraptions.



Yes! It's a wing incidence meter from Robart. Mine is probably 30 years old, and unfortunately the meter met an untimely demise years ago. Of course, I needed an incidence meter during a build, so it got me looking on the internet. Rather than purchasing a new meter, I came across a great app using my cell phone as a level. The app accuracy was much better than the mechanical swinging pendulum style of the original meter. Now I just had to adapt it to the existing rail. After a few measurements and some solder, the new holding fixture was ready to be tested. Just rest my cell phone on the holding fixture (The buttons of the phone case might throw off the reading just a bit. Nothing a small piece of tape can't fix.).





While working on a new plane, I wanted to check the incidence of the wing and tail. According to the plans, they are supposed to be identical at 0.0. The model came to me already glassed and ready for finishing. After setting the fuselage on my worktable, it was showing .9 degrees pitch down. I installed the incident meter. Here are the results:





The wing and stab were exactly where they should be at 0.0, and equal on both sides. My meter worked great, but more notable was the quality built GP Sportster 90/120.

A few months back, club member Mike Slein was helping clear out his parent's home, and came across this model his Dad built. I never met Mike's dad, Shelly, but I've heard his name often. Unfortunately, our paths never crossed. Obviously, I could have learned a few things from him about building. He knew how to build beautiful planes. The Sportster needed to be finished and have the electronics and engine installed, but basically it was done. We'll maiden it this week at North Branch and get it dialed in.

It's good to know the incidence is perfect—a real testimony to a quality builder. I'll have to find a way to get it back to Mike.



Shelly Slein built Sportster upon arrival at Tim's shop



Rebirth

—Tim Cullen

Water—Looking Back at Last Year

It was a summer of water. This is what cancelled our first Larry Gray Warbirds Over North Branch event.



It was August 23. Our inaugural Larry Gray Memorial Warbirds event was only five days away (anybody got a wet vac?) The water drained. The event cancelled. But 11 days later...



Morning of September 2nd, 2021. More water.

Some 17 days later with dry land reclaimed, Bill Brouillard and Dave Szabo cleaned and raised our bulletin board and frequency box, built by Bill. Since then our posted rules have been renewed by the efforts of Bill Heizing and Jeremy Keys.



MYSTERY PLANE CHALLENGE

Identify the plane and the striped-shirted pilot. In the picture, this U-control profile ship on Dacron lines powered by a Cox .049 on 30% nitro glow fuel is ready for a flight. It is a word in the last sentence that is the big hint as to who the pilot is (No, he does not still fly u-control). Send answers to domecqsmith@msn.com



*An epic plane even by today's standards, the Carl Goldberg **Valkyrie** was originally a free flight design easily converted to RC today. Congratulations once again to **Ernie Evon** for correctly identifying the plane.*

Member Profile

Larry Gray



As far back as elementary school, I always had a vast love for flying. If there had been a way for me to pursue a career as an airline pilot, I would've definitely set sail on that course, but back in the 70's there wasn't any opportunities that I knew of

for a young African-American kid from the ghettos of Newark, New Jersey to become an airline pilot. I grew up and lived about three miles from Newark Airport. I remember days laying in the park on a blanket on my back and just watching the airplanes flying overhead on their final approach to Newark Airport. I fantasized about being one of those pilots. In my early high school days, I had this great idea on how to become a pilot. I'd join the Air Force. I was all set to put this plan into action. I went down to the local recruiting station and had a long talk with the recruiter. I set up a date to come back and take this test called the AVSAB—Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery—a multiple-choice test that helps identify which military occupational specialties would be best for you. So to my dissatisfaction, I was informed that I did not score high enough to enlist as a pilot. The recruiter told me I did score



high enough to enlist as an aircraft mechanic. The only problem there was, I didn't want to be an aircraft mechanic. I wanted to fly. So the whole Air Force plan went out the window, and of course I didn't enlist. If I had it to do all over again, I definitely would've enlisted as an aircraft mechanic.



So here I am, a teenager in love with flight and nothing to fly. There was a hobby shop in New Brunswick, NJ which I went into one day, and I saw some very nice remote control airplanes. I thought it would be great to own and fly one of these airplanes, so I saved my coins and eventually I purchased a high-wing red and white Cessna trainer. If I remember correctly, it had a Cox .049 engine in it. The plane came with the transmitter. I purchased some glow fuel and practiced getting the engine running. I had breezed through the instructions that came with the plane and it was time for the maiden flight. My girlfriend at the time back in 1970 or so was Edee Jackson...man she was one cool girlfriend. She'd be in the passenger seat of my car with her shoes and socks off and her feet on the dashboard gazing at me and hanging on my every word. She was as excited as I was about this airplane and the maiden flight. She lived in New Brunswick and that's where we decided to maiden the airplane.

We found a nice open area. I started the airplane and prepared for takeoff. The plane rolled down the runway straight as an arrow. She nosed up, left the ground, and began a beautiful climb into the sky. Wings level she was slightly climbing and flying out. All of a sudden, I realized I didn't know how to turn the airplane around,

and that was the last I seen of that airplane. Well you know that super cool girlfriend of mine...I've never seen Edee Jackson laugh so damn hard...in fact she laughed for three days. That was enough for me.

As a young man, my two favorite things to do were to go fishing and bowling, and for the next 45 years or so, that's what I did, although the love of flying never left my soul. I had no idea it



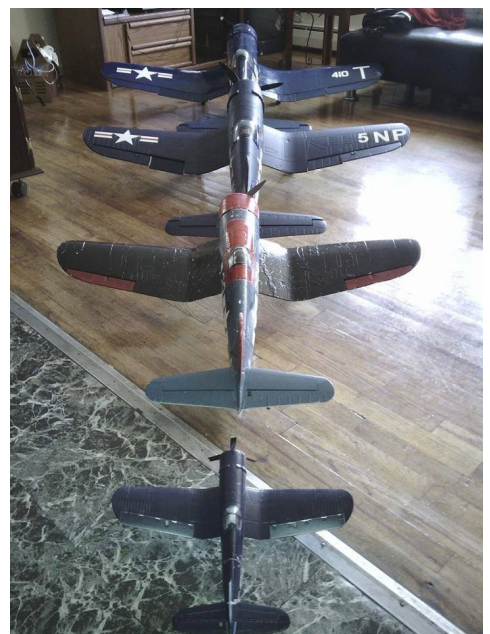
would be 40+ years before I ended up with another transmitter in my hands. There was a hobby shop in the next town over that I must have passed a thousand times and each time saying, one day I'm going in there. Champion Hobbies in Hillside, NJ on Route 22. One trip in the store was all it took to get the fire burning again. After about a year of dabbling with helis and really getting the

crap kicked out of me, a FB friend suggested I give fixed-wing a try. I started out really small, ultra micro small.

I've always had a love for military aircraft.

If it was fast, looked good and could blow you to kingdom come, I needed to be in the pilot's seat. The P-51 and the F4U Corsair were my first and only ultra-micros.

I flew the wings off those planes day after day before I moved on to what I thought was a huge airplane. The Tower Hobbies Brushless 39" Corsair. Man, she



was a beauty. At this stage of the hobby, I was learning as I went along. I had no one to instruct and inform me on things like a simple check list before you fly. I knew to check my control surfaces. Everything worked just fine, but what I didn't pay attention to was that the ailerons were reversed. She took off and rolled right, I gave what would've been the proper stick input but, well, you know what happened. The great thing about being a



videographer/photographer is I just about to have every flight I've flown on video. For your enjoyment, you can see the flight I just described to you at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kInWW4iHPN4>



—Warbird Larry

(written November-December 2020)

Somerset RC

Events Schedule 2022

*All events here at North Branch Park Flying Field
beginning at 9:30am*

Opening Day, Saturday May 21

Big Bird Fly-In, Saturday July 23

E-Fly, Saturday August 6

**Larry Gray Warbirds Over North Branch,
Saturday September 3**

End-of-Season Picnic, Saturday September 24

Turkey Fly, Saturday November 12

please refer to www.somersetc.org for updates of event dates and information

Article Index

Construction Articles

Big Hots	Tim Cullen	January 2020
Big Hots Update	Tim Cullen	May 2020
Comments on Covering the Robin Hood 25	Jeff Randolph	March 2020
Extra 330 LX, Krill—Part 1	Bob Both	July 2019
Extra 330 LX, Krill—Part 2	Bob Both	September 2019
F-86 Sabre 15 DF ARF, E-flight—Part 1	Tony Rossi	March 2019
F-86 Sabre 15 DF ARF, E-flight—Part 2	Tony Rossi	May 2019
Motion RC FlightLine P-38L	Ray Garcia	December 202
My Adventures in Scratch Building and Flying	Gene Graber	November 2020
P-47D Razerback Giant Scale, Top Flite	Larry Gray	January 2019
P-47 (1976) 1/6 Standof Scale, Top Flite	Domecq Smith	November 2019
Pica Waco 1/6 Scale YMF-3 Project	Jeff Randolph	September 2020
Waco Wing Attachment	Jeff Randolph	March 2021

General

AMA Expo East 2019 (photos)	Tony Rossi	March 2019
AMA Report	Jon Gerber	January 2019
AMA Report	Tony Rossi	May 2020
AMA Report	Tony Rossi	November 2020
AMA Report	Tony Rossi	May 2021
AMA Report	Tony Rossi	December 2021
A European Summit	Domecq Smith	November 2019
Developing Rudder Skills	Don Ramsey	March 2020
Field Accessibility Update	Domecq Smith	July 2019
Freeze Fly 2019	Domecq Smith	January 2019
So <i>This</i> is Pattern	Domecq Smith	September 2020
How to Renew Your Permit Online	Felipe Trucco	May 2019
Metropolitan Sports Squadron	Jon Gerber	May 2019
My Other Vice (MS Access and club records)	Dave Szabo	March 2019
Pattern Plane Evolution—The Early Years	Duane Wilson	July 2020
Somerset RC—Club Logo Clothing Program	Jim Viganì	November 2020
Somerset RC Pattern Challenge	Ernie Evon	January 2021
The Survey Says (club statistics)	Dave Szabo	September 2019

Literature

Eulogy for Larry Gray	Domecq Smith	March 2021
STS-51-L	Jon Gerber	March 2019
The Killing Fields	Jeff Randolph	November 2020
From Lady Peach	Peach Smith	May 2021

~continued~

Member Profiles

Michael Ahlff	May 2019
Paul Audino	May 2021
Bill Brouillard	May 2020
Rich Blatt	March 2020
Tim Cullen	September 2020
Chris DeBlass	December 2021
Robbie DeVergillo	November 2019
Ernie Evon	March 2021
Ray Garcia	July 2021
Stu Goodman	January 2022
Larry Gray	November 2020
Jerry Lustig	September 2019
George Mariasz	July 2019
Jeff Randolph (contributed by Paul Audino)	January 2021
Tony Rossi	March 2019
Domecq Smith	January 2019
Dave Szabo	January 2020
Felipe Trucco	September 2021
Jim Vigani	July 2020

Shop Articles

3D Printing the Simple Things	Dave Szabo	May 2021
A Glow Plug Caddy for the Flight Box	Dave Szabo	July 2020
Checkerboarding a Cowl	Domecq Smith	January 2021
DYI High-Torque Motor Starter	Dave Szabo	November 2020
Cowl Cutting for a Muffler	Domecq Smith	May 2020
Getting Connected	Dave Szabo	January 2022
How I Do It <i>or</i> How to Install Hinges	Ernie Evon	July 2021
How to Take Care of Your Glow Engine	Rich Blatt	January 2019
Installing a Speaker in Your Transmitter	Dave Szabo	July 2019
Model Airplane Assembly	Rich Blatt	March 2019
On Electrics	Jim Vigani	January 2019
Safely Handling and Charging Lithium Batteries	Jim Vigani	May 2019
Taps, Dies, and Thread Sizes	Rich Blatt	September 2019
Using a Phone App to Check Incidence	Tim Cullen	September 2021

All newsletters are available at www.somersetrc.org



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
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