

AMA Charter No. 2940

**THE DEAD STICK FLYER**

Havre de Grace, MD

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THE NEWSLETTER OF SWAN HARBOR RC

[www.SwanHarborRC.com](http://www.SwanHarborRC.com)

September 2003



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**Club meeting, Sept. 11th, 7:00 pm, Swan Harbor Flying Field. Sept. 13th, our Giant Scale Fly-In.**

### HAVE WE BECOME TOO COMPLACENT? ... the Editor

Two issues occurred recently at the field, each of which can affect our standing as a club. The first concerns safety. In the several years that I have belonged to this club, I never saw an instance of a serious injury. Now, within a month and a half, we had two accidents. One was particularly disturbing due to the severity of the injury. It cast a pall over the whole club. Maybe we have become too relaxed. Maybe we have just been lucky that no one has been injured up till now. Maybe we have just been doing the same thing too many times, for too long ... familiarity breeds contempt. I know we have all had our "goofs" ... ever accidentally bump your throttle? ... ever turn your radio on someone else's frequency? ... ever reach for your starter through the prop? Some accidents are the result of carelessness, and some are due to taking shortcuts. It's hard to be fresh about actions that we perform hundreds and hundreds of times ... but we have to. We must look at every flight as a fresh experience. Force yourself to think about each step you're taking; don't just run through each like an automaton. The "hold downs" really work ... use them. And let's be more aggressive. If you see someone wrestling with a plane or his transmitter, step in, offer your help. And how about a little courtesy in the pits and on the field ... give that guy a sporting chance to get out of the way. Common sense, let's use it, be alert, be smart!



**Achille Silvestri, Jim Snyder and John Kocon present at Edgewood Youth Science Program**

The other issue is the occurrence of fliers who are not club members wishing to try out our field. One free fly day is OK, maybe two even. But that's enough. After that they must join or not fly. And regardless, anyone, a potential member or a guest flyer, must have AMA membership and be ready to put his card in the frequency control board when he flies, none of this "it's in the mail" baloney. A person flying without AMA membership puts the club at risk because of the insurance issue. Let's not chance it.

In the final analysis, all of us are safety officers and membership chairmen. We must all be confrontational and more aggressive in applying our own rules and regulations inhouse and with visitors. It's the position of the club that we must be concerned about. We don't have a lot of friends in high places. Let's not do any more to draw unwarranted attention.



**John Kocon's Fabulous Ryan**

### GENERAL CLUB NEWS ...

We gathered at the field for our typical goodies. Good stuff. Jim Snyder, the President, opened the meeting of Aug. 14th at 6:30 pm. The minutes are as follows:

1. We'll try to get more fill dirt for some low spots when the weather gets cooler.
2. Our Giant Scale is Sept. 13th. Jim will get the food. Dave Wykle will get a tent, and Steve Snyder will get a table for set-up. (See write-up.)
3. We had another accident. (See editorial.)
4. Presentation to Edgewood Youth Group worked out well. (See write-up.)
5. Walki-talkis were successful in plane recovery. (See write-up.)
6. Steve will make up new membership cards.
7. We picked up a new member, Fred Schiminger. This puts us at 57.

These are the minutes of record. Any questions or changes should be directed to Achille Silvestri, ph 410-838-6261 or e-mail [axsilvestri@earthlink.net](mailto:axsilvestri@earthlink.net).

### THE ANNUAL GIANT SCALE FLY-IN ...

Our Giant Scale Fly-In is scheduled for September 13. Maybe Mother Nature will be forgiving and allow us to have it, to make up for our rained out Open House. Last year's fly-in was a great success. We had pilots from all over Maryland and Pennsylvania come and participate. We saw some great planes and great flying. But you don't have a giant scale plane? ... not to worry. After 3:00 pm we're going to open the field to all flying. This is a major event. Be sure to invite all your friends and family.



**Joe Nixon and Jim Snyder Tune Up Jim's PT19**

### SWAN HARBOR RC PARTICIPATES IN EDGEWOOD SCIENCE PROGRAM ...

Last month Swan Harbor RC participated in the science program which is held at the Edgewood Youth Center. The Youth Center is located at the Edgewood area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Our presentation, "The Theory of Flight and RC Aeromodeling", was coordinated with Dan McCoy, our webmaster, who happens to be part of their staff. We brought some RC planes and handouts. Achille Silvestri gave some background on flight dynamics, John Kocon described RC model engines, and Jim Snyder told them about radio control systems. The presentation was made before about 40 youths; all seemed attentive and interested. The Youth Center is a very rewarding organization. The members are well-behaved and the staff is very competent and cooperative. It is very satisfying to see our tax dollars so well spent.



**Jerry Dickerson und dos Plane**

#### **FROM THE PITS ...**

Now that the weather has become more favorable, there has been a lot more action at the field. Weekends have been busy, and some weekday turnouts have been good too. Caught John Kocon flying his new Great Planes Ryan ARF. It has an 82-inch wing and is powered by an OS 120 4-stroke, a beautiful plane that flies very smoothly.

Jim Snyder is in the process of tuning up his giant PT-19, a very nice looking scale model with an 88-inch wing and powered with a G-38.

Jerry Dickerson changed his original high-wing "Predator" into a low-wing, which he now calls "dos Plane". I must say the change made it more attractive. It has an 88-inch wing and is powered by a US 41 engine with a velocity stack. The original plane and its transformation is all Jerry's design and scratching.

Tom Obringer was flying a giant WWI Taube. This is a beautiful vintage model made by Balsa USA. Tom has it powered with an OS 91 4-stroke.

Caught Gary Hershberger flying a beautiful Balsa USA 1/4-scale Nieuport 28 biplane. It has an 80 wing and is powered with a G-23 engine. Excellent scale flights. Gary was also flying his Midwest 1/4-scale Citabria. It has an 80-inch wing with an OS 91 4-stroke engine ... good candidates for the Giant Scale Fly-In.

#### **INTO THE VALLEY OF CORN WENT THE THREE OF THEM ...**

When Tom Smith lost his plane in the corn, we had the opportunity to try out our walki-talki plane recovery system. We had bought four walki-talkis for such instances. When Tom's plane went down, we drew a bead on its direction and three of them, each with a walki-talki -- Jerry Dickerson, Joe Nixon and Tom Smith spaced 20 feet apart -- headed for the corn. Joe in the center carried our standard (my towel attached to a long pole). Me, with the 4th walki-talki, sat under the overhang sipping ice water ... it was terribly hot. Every now and then I would see the towel bob up and down and I would tell Joe, go a little left, or you're too far to the right. And it wasn't long, they found the plane. They communicated with each other and came out of the corn proudly carrying Tom's plane. No plane was lost ... all pilots returned safely. The "corn recovery system" was an overwhelming success.



**Tom Obringer and the Nostalgic Taube**

#### **THURSDAY IS GRASS CUTTING DAY ...**

This has turned out to be one of our most successful programs. They're lining up to get on the mowers and the weed wacker. Kudos to all.

**LOOK AT THIS SALE ...**

Ron Miller says he's getting out of RC modeling. He's accumulated a lot of planes and equipment that he's ready to sell. On the market is a Midwest 1/4-scale Cap 232, G-62 engine with Futaba 6XAF radio. Also, a Hawker Hurricane (built to Vaille Aviation plans), 92-inch wing, new ZDZ60 engine, Robart retracts and flaps. He also has a variety of miscellaneous items. All prices are negotiable. Telephone 410-893-3940.

**ABOUT SWAN HARBOR RC ...**

Swan Harbor RC meets the second Thursday of the month. During the summer, we meet at our flying field at Swan Harbor at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome to the meetings and to fly with us. To meet and fly with us at Swan Harbor, take Oakington Road off of US 40 (between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace) and follow the signs. Membership information can be obtained from Dan Bowman, 410-272-4251, [FLYERDCB@aol.com](mailto:FLYERDCB@aol.com). To learn more about Swan Harbor RC (formerly MAOA), go to <http://www.harfordvista.com/rcnews.asp> and click onto January 2001.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sept. 11, 2003	Swan Harbor RC Club meeting, Swan Harbor Flying Field, 7:00 pm.
Sept. 13, 2003	Swan Harbor RC Giant Scale IMAA Fly-In, Swan Harbor Flying Field, Havre de Grace, MD. CD Steve Snyder Ph 410-638-2895.
Sept. 14, 2003	Monster Modelers of Maryland. Sunday Flyers field, Baltimore County, MD, CD Ernie Hancock, Ph 410-477-1448.
Sept. 20, 2003	Mid-Atlantic Radio Control Swap Meet, Radio Control Modelers of Baltimore (RCMB), Parkton, MD, Jerry Stevens, Ph 410-879-4806.
Oct. 4, 2003	12th Annual Open House. Sponsor: Prince Georges Radio Control Club (PGRC), CD Charles Gettier Ph 410-974-4785.

Archives:

Past Newsletters

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