

AMA Charter No.
2940

THE DEAD STICK FLYER

Havre de Grace,
MD

Volume 15, No.4

The Newsletter of SWAN HARBOR RC

April 2004

www.SwanHarborRC.com



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Club Meeting April 8th, 7:00PM , Churchville Rec Center
Bring something in for Show & Tell.

GENERAL CLUB NEWS..

Vice President, Jim Snyder, opened the meeting of Mar 11 at 7:00PM at the Churchville Rec Center. The minutes are as follows:

1. Jim Snyder offered to take members to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center (the new Smithsonian Air Museum near Dulles Airport). Jim was able to fill his van. The cost will be \$10 per passenger. The trip is scheduled for Mar 27th. Everyone will meet at Jim's house and leave by 8:00AM.
2. Next Thursday, Mar 18th, Jim and Tom Smith plan to modify the shed so as to accommodate our new mower. All available help will be greatly appreciated.
3. Jim wants to explore the possibility of laying in 6-10 inch drain pipe at the lower end of the field to minimize water retention.
4. Tom Obringer said he may call everyone who ordered fuel and arrange for delivery at the Mars parking lot in Aberdeen.
5. There was concern that the Family Fun Day planned for April 24 may be too early in the season. Accordingly, it was rescheduled for Sunday, May 23rd. The Club will provide hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks and everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish.
6. It was agreed to rent a Spot-a-Pot for the period May through September. This will cover our major events at the field.
7. Dan Bowman reports we now have 54 members for 2004. Good show.



Jim Snyder's New Plane

Any questions or changes to the minutes should be directed to Achille Silvestri, Ph 410-838-6261 or

e-mail axsilvestri@earthlink.net.

THE STEVEN F. UDVAR-HAZY CENTER The new Smithsonian Air Museum.....



Airport.

Six of us, Jim Snyder, Steve Snyder, Tom Smith, Bernie Gerber, John Kocon and Achille Silvestri took a day trip to the Steven F. Udvar-hazy Center. Jim very kindly offered to drive. We had breakfast on the way, fought all the DC traffic and still got there 15 minutes ahead of opening time, 10:00AM. The Center is an extension of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. They have simply acquired so much materiel they needed more space (space, get it). They are located near Dulles International

They have a very modern and handsome facility, excellently laid out, with a very large number of beautifully restored planes. They have all sorts of civilian and military aircraft. They include pre-WWI planes, a variety of experimental craft, a large number of WWII, many high performance jets of the post WWII era and a number of space craft. Some of their most famous items include the Space Shuttle Enterprise, B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay, Air France Concorde, the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird (the world's fastest airplane), the Boeing 307 Stratoliner and many, many other items associated with flight.

I've seen larger collections of aircraft, but none as well laid out as the Center's. The thing they do particularly well is that they have many multi-layered ramps so visitors can observe the planes from ground level, intermediate level and a higher level, whereby, you can actually look down on some of the planes. They even have an observation tower where you watch planes approaching and leaving Dulles Airport. Unfortunately, this day the weather was poor and there wasn't too much to see.

Additionally they have an IMAX Theatre and a nice gift shop. We had lunch at a Subway shop on site. They had box lunches and drinks which were served quickly and efficiently with plenty of seating area.

Our day trip to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center was a fine experience and, not to sound too cheesy, would be enjoyed by the whole family.

FIXIN' UP THE FIELD....

We had two major work parties this month to upgrade our flying site. The first was directed towards modification of the shed to accommodate our new mower and in general tidying up the place. Jim Snyder, Tom Smith, Earl Harris, John Kocon, Jerry Dickerson, Joe Nixon and Achille Silvestri were cutting wood, throwing dirt, slapping paint and spitting. Everybody got a close up look at the new mower and all had to have a chance to cut some grass. (We'll see how soon it takes before that gets old).

To honor the occasion of the clean up and new mown grass, Earl Harris and Joe Nixon were tasked to formally initiate the start of a new flying season. Earl flew his Cloud Dancer 60. It's an ARF powered by an OS 61 with a 70 inch wing. Joe flew his Uproar 40 powered with an OS50SX. No ARF for Joe, he's back in the building game, nice job too.



John Kocon checking out the New Mower

A second work party at the field entailed the use of some big

equipment. Tony Grigaliunas very generously offered the use of a front end loader and two one and a half ton rollers from his company. Jim Snyder, Tom Smith, Dave Yeakel, Steve Snyder, Gary Hershberger, Dan Bowman and Dave Wykle all helped out. They rolled the field and spread a lot of dirt to fill in many of the low spots. Tony did his best to smooth out parts of the road which have become so badly rutted from the rains. They put a lot of effort in opening up the ditch along

side of the road. It was amazing to see how much water drained from the under ground piping once the outlet into the ditch was discovered and opened. There are plans to bring in more dirt to fill some low spots in the drive and put in underground piping to keep the lower end of the parking area drained. When all this is done we'll have a much improved field that we can all be proud of. Thanks to all who pitched in.



Tom Smith, Jim Snyder and John Kocon Upgrading the Garden Shelter

A BUILDING TIP by Leo Behr....

Along with my annual order of wood from Balsa USA, I also ordered a roll of their Aerospan covering. What the heck, for \$8.99 a roll I'll try anything once.

Aerospan is a low heat film covering much like Mono and Ultracote. It can take more heat than you may think. I found it adheres without primer to balsa and even ply, extremely well, without leaving too many blisters or bubbles over solid areas. It also formed around compound curves without leaving wrinkles.

The finish is glossy somewhat like Ultracote. For \$8.99 a roll I feel it's worth a try.



Earl Harris with the Cloud Dancer and Joe Nixon with the Uproar

FUEL FOR 2004...

Tom Obringer will be taking orders for fuel at the April meeting and will arrange to have them delivered.

TIME TO RENEW....

If you didn't submit your 2004 membership application by March 31 you're late and are required to sign up as a new member.

Also, be sure to get your 2004 AMA membership. You absolutely need it to fly starting Jan 1.

ABOUT SWAN HARBOR RC...

Swan Harbor RC meets the second Thursday of the month. Off season we meet at Churchville Rec. Center, Glenville Road, Churchville. The public is welcome to the meetings. To fly with us at Swan Harbor take Oakington Road off US 40 (between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace) and follow the signs for Swan Harbor Farm. Membership information can be obtained from Dan Bowman, 410-272-4251, FLYERDCB@aol.com. To learn more about Swan Harbor RC (formerly MAOA); go to www.harfordvista.com/rcnews.asp and click onto January 2001

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 8, 2004	Swan Harbor RC Club Meeting, 7:00PM. Churchville Rec Center
May 22, 04	SFMAC Flea Market. Frederick Model Aircraft Club. 4-H Center, Brasford Road, Frederick, MD. POC Steve Biron, Ph 301-371-5922 or Bob Pitt, Ph 301-846-0738.
May 23, 04 (new date)	Swan Harbor RC Family Fun Day. Starts when you get there
Jun 5, 2004	Swan Harbor RC Skyfest Open House, Swan Harbor Flying Field, Havre de Grace, MD. Flying starts at 9:30AM. Rain date Jun 12.
Jun 4,5,6, 2004	"T.O.C. of Maryland"-04 IMAC Contest. Southwest Area Park, Balto. Co. Sponsored by SWAP Modelers. www.tocofmaryland.com
Sept 11, 2004	Swan Harbor Giant Scale Fly-In, Swan Harbor Flying Field, Havre de Grace, MD. Registration at 9:00AM, Flying at 9:30AM.

Archives:

Past Newsletters

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