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THE DEAD STICK FLYER

Havre de Grace,
MD

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The Newsletter of SWAN HARBOR RC

March 2006

www.SwanHarborRC.com



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**Club Meeting, Churchville Rec Center, Thursday, Mar 9, 2006, 7:00PM.
How about bringing in something for Show and Tell.**

GENERAL CLUB NEWS...

Steve Snyder, President, opened the meeting of Feb 9 at 7:00 at the Churchville Rec Center:

1. It was agreed to set aside \$300 for pre-emergence treatment of the field.
2. Tom Obringer is going to the Toledo air show. He's willing to take fellow travelers and share the costs.
3. Dan Bowman stated that 41 new members have already signed up for 2006.
4. It looks like the Club will not be able to get a table at Lebanon.



...at the Newark flea market with
Joe Nixon and Dan Bowman

If you have any questions regarding the minutes or contents of this Newsletter please direct them to Achille Silvestri, Ph 410-838-6261 or e-mail axsilvestri@verizon.net



...from Model Aviation, January 2006

A FAREWELL TO JOHN KOCON...

John Kocon, an icon of RC modeling, passed away of a massive heart attack on February 12. It was so unexpected that we are still trying to adjust to it. John was vital and hardy, in fact, he looked much like we hope to look when we reach that age. I'm reminded of Ecclesiastes 9.12: "Man no more knows his own time than fish taken in the fatal net, or birds trapped in the snare. "

Those of us who saw John at last month's meeting never imagined that we were seeing him for the last time. As I'm aware Ed Freedomburg,

who saw John the next day, was the last Club member to see him. He helped John increase the speed of his Aerofly Simulator, his last act in aeromodeling. John e-mailed me to let me know how well it was working.

Following my recollections of John I have appended some testimonials by Club members...some material may be repetitious, but it's worth retelling. I've also added some of my favorite pictures of John.

John was the consummate RC modeler. His enthusiasm for the hobby was infectious. He was active in all parts of it...building, flying, training new flyers, test flying new planes and just plain socializing. He was unmatched as a gadgeteer...he just loved to play with all types of gadgets. If they came out with a GPS, a new frequency scanner, a new tool, an engine or whatever, you could be assured that John would soon have it.

John was a mechanical wizard...a great source of knowledge of model engines. He loved to work on them and took every problem as a personal challenge. He was very generous of his time and would often spend days at the field, not flying, but tuning up or repairing someone else's engine. He was truly our "Mr. Good Wrench". Joe Nixon said to me, "Who's going to keep my engines running now"? I replied, "He was supposed to test fly my new airplane in the Spring".

John had a passion for precision and neatness. Now-a-days he flew mainly ARFs or planes that he bought at a flea market. But when he was building, in the early days, his models were as exacting and expertly done as any of the best ARFs on the market. I remember the time he had to get the coloring of the windows in his Cub just right. He worked for weeks with food coloring until he got just the right tinting.

His red van always looked like it just came out of a showroom. When he came up the drive to the airfield dust dared not cling to his van...it knew better. If, by chance, some mud got on his van, you can be assured that it would be gone before you saw it again.



...with the Ryan

Another of John's passion was the flea markets. He was ready to do them all and was always gathering others to go with him. We went to Westminster, Kennett Square, Lebanon and Newark, from Dover, PA to Dover, DE. And each day was an adventure. We would start with breakfast, usually one of John's recommendations: The Spready Oak, Baughers, Willow Valley, Dieners... and then go on to the flea market with such high expectations of what prized treasure we would discover that day. And, John loved to go up against a vendor. He knew just how to squeeze every last nickle's worth out of him. It was the challenge, the final act of the hunt.

John would some times talk about his service in Korea. He said he never went out without his 45 and a couple of extra clips. He said they would never take him alive... I believed him and they were wise to stay clear of him. That's the man he was...John Wayne with a transmitter.

But for all his warmth and openness, John had a modest side. I asked several times to do a profile of him for the Newsletter. He always said no. He said that nobody wants to read that nonsense. But now I got you John, this bio's for you.

John, wherever you may be flying today, we wish this prayer for you:

May the sun be at your back and a gentle wind blow across your face
May your takeoffs be straight and smooth and your landings soft and gentle.

John, you made RC modeling fun. You leave such a void...we will always miss you.



...the sweet ride of the new mower

ED FREEDENBERG'S MEMORIES OF JOHN...

John Kocon, what can I say, a true gentleman and a man's man. John would help anyone that asked for his assistance at the field. His love and enjoyment of the RC hobby was infectious. His knowledge of the hobby was unsurpassed. When someone had a problem with their plane or any difficult question with the hobby, a common reply would be, "Let's ask John, he will know the answer". All I personally know is that John loved trips to Pennsylvania and the flying Club. John, of course, loved working on and flying his planes, but as much, or more, he loved the comradery of the members of the Club.

I can speak for the regulars at the field. John will be missed for as long as I have memories of him. In the future, when I see the dust from a car entering the road to the field I will think "I hope it's John, I have a question that I know he can answer" or "I hope it's John, let's see how he will entertain us today".

John, we truly love you and miss you. You will always be with us. We cherish the memories. You will be with us forever.

SOME NOTES BY BOB WALKER...

John really helped those of us with 4 stroke engines, always offering to tune and adjust them. And we will all miss the shiny red Caravan coming down the dusty road. He always seemed to have washed it just before coming to the field. I don't know how he kept it so clean, but it seemed to be one of his trademarks. John always seemed to bring an interesting plane to the field too...the ducted fan or an overweight biplane that seemed impossible to fly. A lot of time he did all the work to set up a plane and only flew it once since he liked to help people and shoot the breeze with others. I don't think I ever saw him go away angry



...give me that big one, Bob (Walker)

or upset with anyone.

John knew about every eatery in Southern Pennsylvania and enjoyed starting off the day with a breakfast at one of those places.

Some of us still miss Dick Wolf at the flying field too and, hopefully, John will now be looking down upon us too.

CHECKING UP ON DAN BOWMAN...

Dan is home following his surgery. He's recovering under Marion's careful care.



...presentation on aviation with Achille Silvestri and Jim Snyder at the APG Youth Center

SPRING FUEL RUN...

Tom Obringer or Jim Snyder will take orders and collect monies at the February and March meetings for fuel to be delivered at the end of March. Case prices are estimated at: 5% Nitro, \$40; 10% Nitro, \$44; 15% Nitro, \$48. All combinations of syn. and castor oils & percentages will be available. S&W's basic fuel, in all nitro amounts, is available with 18% syn. and 2% castor oil. Case lots only, if you can't use a whole case, buddy up with a friend. Any differences in prices will be made upon delivery. If you can't make the meeting, you can call Tom at 410-282-3862 to place an order.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL...

Your membership renewal is due. Don't be late. There is a grace period to March 31. You don't want to go past the grace period as then you would have to sign in as a new member and pay the initial costs all over again.

Also, don't forget your AMA renewal. You must have it January 1, 2006 in order to fly.

ABOUT SWAN HARBOR RC...

Swan Harbor RC meets 7PM the second Thursday of the month. Starting October we meet at the 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. Be sure to have your 2006 AMA membership because you need it to fly. [SWAN HARBOR RC 2006 Membership Application](#) is available on line or additional 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/ and click onto January 2001

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 9, 2006	Swan Harbor RC Club Meet, Churchville Rec Center, 7PM.
March 11, 2006	Central Penn. Aeromodelers Assoc. 26th Annual Radio Control Flea Market. Lebanon Fairgrounds, Lebanon, PA. Info: George Shomsky Ph 717-960-8170
April 8, 2006	RC flea market sponsored by Wright Flyers. American Legion Post #122. 4424 Painters Mill Rd., Owings Mill, MD. POC Bob Chase 410-788-0396

Archives:

Past Newsletters

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