

AMA Charter No. 2940

THE DEAD STICK FLYER

Havre de Grace, MD

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The Newsletter of SWAN HARBOR RC

September 2013



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**CLUB MEETING: Sept 10, 2013, 7PM, at the Flying Field.
 All the regular good eats. Come early and get some flying in.**

GENERAL CLUB NEWS...

President Scott Jordan opened the Club meeting at 7PM at the flying field.

We welcomed new members Martin Robinette and his two sons, Alan and Marty as new members.

There were kudos for Dale Davis and associates for the wonderful condition of the field.

Dale said the crabgrass is getting so thick that it's getting difficult to get a good cut. It was agreed to over seed the field in September. A motion was passed to spend \$200 for grass seed. It is planned to apply a pre-emergence treatment in the spring.

Any questions about the Newsletter can be directed to Achille Silvestri, Ph 1-410-838-6261 or axsilvestri@verizon.net

FROM THE PITS...

Steve Snyder brought out a P-51 Mustang by FMS. The model was incredibly detailed. It was complete with flaps, retractable wheels including tail wheel, sequentially closing doors, a steerable tail wheel and fuel tanks that could be used for show and for flying.

There were many others flying. I've included some great pictures that Bob Walker and I took. Achille Silvestri had a new Corvallis that Jim Rowe set up ...boy did it fly good.

That funny plane that Gene Clark was flying is theI didn't think there were anymore of them around.

Gene attended the New Garden Air Show in PA. He found a great admirer of his Cub, whew wouldn't you like to fly with that..

And also, we have a picture of Rick Brown from the old days. See Bob Walker's write up.



Lloyd Young and the upside down helicopter



Scott Jordan and the Piper Cub



Steve Snyder's incredible Mustang



Gary Gunter in profile



Achille Silvestri and Jim Rowe and Achille's Corvallis



Bob Walker's old reliable



Gene Clark with the Lazy Bee



Gene Clark's fan club



Rick Brown from the Old Days



Tom Insley standing tall

THE OLD DAYS by Bob Walker... Bob Walker

Sometimes a few of us debate what year we moved to our Swan Harbor field. About in 1987, I joined the club that eventually became Swan Harbor RC. Back then, we flew out of the Tollgate landfill. I lived literally minutes away and Scott Jordan was even closer, living close to where Outback now is. We were eventually booted out when the county capped the landfill. We moved to a field a little north of Hickory on 543 but it was a really bad location. After a brief stay there, we found a field that a farmer rented us, near where US1 and Business US 1 come together above Hickory. Our newsletter was the Dead Stick flyer. No internet back then, so the secretary had to get the newsletter printed, address, stamp and mail. One of the club members back then was Rick Brown. He stopped by the field on June 8 when our picnic was originally scheduled. We talked about the "old days" and here is what he emailed me: Looking through the old Deadstick Flyers, here is what I found regarding the field: In March 1995, Richard Hodges (who was vice president at the time) had discussions with Parks and Rec, and was basically promised a new field off of Oakington Road. It was 550 feet by 1200 feet. Greg Stoltz (another ex club President) also had a contact for another possible field

As I recall the farmer who rented the land behind the salt dome, was not happy with the flying field being there probably because it cut into his profitable acreage, and he thought we were messing up the surrounding fields, mostly by driving through them to avoid the nearly knee deep muddy road.

In April 1995 the farmer complained to the owner, and we were kicked out. The club became incorporated, and formally under the auspices of Parks and Rec.

My recollection on this is that, even though we had just installed a pipe under the road and spread a lot of stone to fix the muddy road, we were still not welcome. Someone dumped huge piles of sand on the field to keep us from flying there. I believe that the club was up to this point "sponsored" by Parks and Rec. At this time it started being "part of" Parks and Rec. Some people were not happy about the loss of control, but everyone agreed that without a field the club was dead, so we submitted to them.

In May 1995 an agreement with Parks and Rec had been drawn and was waiting to be signed. HCRC extended an invitation to fly at Creswell until the new field was ready.

I believe the holdup with the agreement was just the usual slow turning wheels of government, something to do with the county's lawyer and getting it to the executive's desk. I remember Rich Hodges telling everyone to set aside any animosity toward the other club, which we did, and they did as well. The two clubs flew together well and as a result a number of their members joined our club. June and July 1995. There was only one issue of the Deadstick Flyer, and I don't have it.

As I recall we had the Swan Creek farmer till the land, and the soil looked very nice except for the wild garlic, which was so heavy I thought it would outgrow the grass. Someone, maybe Bob Richardson or a friend of his, hydro seeded the entire 15 acres. The name Swan Harbor came later.)

In August 1995 the county finally signed the agreement. We had the field cut and rolled and ready to fly. My flight log for August 13 shows that I flew my glider until the receiver battery was dead. I don't remember who had the first flight at the new field. I don't think it was me.

My recollection is that the grass was still pretty rough and we were told to not fly until the county signed the agreement, less we anger them and lose the field. As soon as the agreement was signed, we started flying gliders with high starts. The field hadn't been cut and rolled and the high starts kept getting snagged on the tall stuff. Rising off ground was totally impossible. Once the field was cut and rolled, it was like a dream come true. We started getting a lot of new members and had to raise the membership limit. At that time it became the best flying field around.

ABOUT SWAN HARBOR RC....

Swan Harbor RC meets 7 PM the second Tuesday of the month. In the Fall and Winter we meet at the Churchville Rec Center located on Glenville Road in Churchville. Otherwise we meet at our flying field at Swan Harbor Farm. The public is welcome to the meetings. To fly with us at Swan Harbor flying field take Oakington Road off US 40 (between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace) and follow the signs for Swan Harbor Farm. Be sure to have a current AMA membership card because you need it to fly. A [SWAN HARBOR RC 2013 Membership Applications](#) is available on line or additional information can be obtained from Steve Snyder, 410-638-2895, Steve@SwanharborRC.com.

Sept 10, 2013 Swan Harbor RC Club Meet, 7 PM, Swan Harbor Flying Field

	PGRC BIG WARBIRD FLYIN. Sept 14-15,2013 Richard Moreland CD 301-261- 7366. E-mail: moreland1@verizon.net Sponsor: Prince Georges RC Club.
Sept 21, 2013	WARBIRD FLY-IN. www.charlescountyrcc.org Sponsor: Charles County RC.
Sept 27, 2013	CHARM CITY MEMORIAL FLY-IN. Visit www.swaprc.org . Sponsor: Southwest Area Park Modelers
Nov 2, 2013	Flea market and Swap Meet. Shue Middle School,1500 Capital Trail, Newark, DE. E-mail Balticply@aol.com or ph: 302-368-5171 to reserve tables. Sponsor: Delaware RC Club.

Archives:

[Past Newsletters](#)

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