

AMA Charter No. 2940

# THE DEAD STICK FLYER

Havre de Grace, MD

Volume 24, No10

The Newsletter of SWAN HARBOR RC

October 2013

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



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**CLUB MEETING: Now pay attention.**  
 Our next meeting of October 8, 2013, 7 PM will be at Wendy's in Churchville.  
 See the text for explanation. Now don't be the only fool in Harford County wandering around looking for a Club meet.

**GENERAL CLUB NEWS...**

President Scott Jordan opened the meeting at 7PM at the flying field. There were about 19 members in attendance.

- This is one of our good news items. Our Lloyd Young, who is the district manager of several Wendy' franchises in the Baltimore area is making it possible for us to share in their goodwill community relationships. Our second Tuesday of the month winter meetings, starting with October 8, will be at Wendy's in Churchville (except for our Christmas luncheon which will be held in Havre de Grace). From 4-8PM on our meeting night, Wendy's will give us 10% of their take during that period. If we continue, the next percentages in subsequent meetings will be 15%, and then 25%. Is this a great franchise or what. It's enough to nominate Lloyd as hero of the month. This Club gets better and better.
- Gary Gunter will represent the Club at the next Havre de Grace Recreation Council meeting.
- Gary Hershberger will bring Ron Lazzeri's aerator to the field.
- Gary Gunter will pick up just enough seed for the flying field.
- Steve Snyder reports we have 75 members.
- Plans were made for the family picnic.

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

**OUR FAMILY PICNIC FLYIN...**

Our picnic was somewhat diminished by a cold and windy day. Attendance was down as was our flying. But those who showed up had a good time and enjoyed the afternoon and camaraderie. And Bob Walker was cooking up those huge hotdogs, about the size of a salami. We've attached some pictures for your amusement.



Joe Banning with a very unusual Hybrid UAV



The Bill Crawford family



Steve Snyder's incredible Mustang



Stanley Dill bringing her home



The Gary Hershberger flying club



Bob Walker cooks the big ones



Gary Gunter with the P-47 Thunderbolt



Mike Augenstein's clever way to protect the prop



Michael Berchini and the Sbach 342



Kit built Thermic 50 was electrified by John Walker

**THE OLD DAYS by Bob Walker... Bob Walker**

The good old days of kit building were not that long ago. ARF's (Almost Ready to Fly) planes have been around for a good number of years. I remember my father had some kind of light plastic semi ARF from a long gone company called Babcock back in the 50's. A right and left fuselage halves were glued together as were wing parts, but took a fraction of the time to build compared to a balsa kit. It may have been called a Breezy. With the tube radio, escapements etc, I never remember it flying. Probably would have cracked in half the first flight.

During the 60's a company called Lanier introduced a number of ARF's. Several people at the RCMB flying field had them, but again I don't ever remember anyone thrilled with them.

So, before ARF's became of a higher quality in the last 15-20 years, one would have to actually build the plane before flying. In the real early days you would literally buy a box of sticks and sheet balsa with a slick looking plane on the box. I doubt many ended up looking like on the box, but the best builders could do that. Next came the balsa sheets with the parts printed. One would have to take a really sharp knife or razor blade and cut out the parts before building. I had a few plane such as this but most ended up being butchered and tossed.

Die cutting revolutionized kit building. The better manufacturers such as Carl Goldberg and Top-Flite did a great job. My first real kit built plane was a Carl Goldberg Junior Falcon. It took a Cox .049 engine and had about a 40" wingspan. I flew it as a free flight on Bradley Pennington's farm off Thomas Run road. It flew great. The plane was easy to build and it was covered with tissue and then doped.

The point is, you can find enjoyment in kit building if you try it sometime. There are still kits out there and some with laser cut parts are real easy to build and everything fits perfectly. The Tower Hobbies catalog has fewer and fewer kits each year, but there are still many from Sig, Top-flite, Great Planes etc.

We still have some real kit builders in the club. Gary Hershberger is a master builder in my book. He has brought out many interesting planes over the years. The latest was an F6F Hellcat that he and Gary Gunter flew for the first time a few weeks ago. Have not seen the Ellis's at the field for a while, but Hugh Ellis has brought out some magnificent planes. The Snyder's have some wonderful looking Piper Cubs and the B-25 from a few years ago was nothing short of spectacular.

Last year, some unknown person stopped by the field with some kits to give away. The only takers were Achille Silvestri and myself. I gave two to my father who built one called the Thermic 50. It was from the 50's or 60's and was to be a hand launch glider...yawn. He electrified it with an E-Flite motor and Spektrum radio and receiver and it flies great. Lot of sticks and tissue covering but he really enjoyed the challenge.

In the early days of this club back in the 80's we had a yearly kit building contest. Scott Jordan was always in the running for a trophy as he is a great builder too. Maybe it would be fun if we had a kit building contest over the winter with the judging in the Spring.....what do you think?

**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](mailto:Steve@SwanharborRC.com).

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| Oct 8, 2013 | Swan Harbor RC Club Meet, 7 PM at Wendy's in Churchville   |
| Nov 2, 2013 | Flea market and Swap Meet. Shue Middle School, 1500 Capital Trail, Newark, DE. E-mail <a href="mailto:Balticply@aol.com">Balticply@aol.com</a> or ph: 302-368-5171 to reserve tables. Sponsor: Delaware RC Club. |

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