

Weatherford Aero Modeling Society (WAMS) Newsletter

April, 2011

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WAMS Monthly Meeting: April 5th, 6:30 pm at R&K Restaurant in Hudson Oaks

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Bert Spencer

Somehow it's April already, and the gusty winds of March are (hopefully) behind us. We're coming into our prime flying weather here in Texas, so come on out to Zaugg Field for some fun & camaraderie. Don't forget that our Spring Float Fly is coming up on May 15th, so get busy putting floats on your favorite flyer and join in the fun for some great photo ops.

Our annual Swap Meet came off very well, thanks to the efforts of so many of you. Again, the Swap Meet could not exist without the involvement of our WAMS members, and I want to thank each and every one who made the effort to come out and make it a success.

Although we did not have the vendor turnout we'd hoped for (had a few empty tables), we did have a very good attendance despite the slumping economy and sky-high gasoline prices. Gary James and Jim Pope gave two excellent seminars on the building of foam-cored wings, including foam cutting, balsa skin covering, carbon fiber reinforcement, and vacuum bagging. The final product was strong enough to support a 400 lb. gorilla, and might even survive high speed transit through a barbed-wire fence. (Jim's last effort resulted in 75% survival -- getting better!!)

We'd love to see more members at our monthly meetings at the R&K Café. Good food and good friends make for an enjoyable evening. And remember Grandpa's words of wisdom:

"The biggest troublemaker you're ever likely to encounter looks at you every morning from the mirror."

Cheers, Bert

VICE PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

by Mark Perkins

I find stories like this interesting. It's like being in a powered kite with no parachute and a big can of gasoline and on top of that everyone is shooting at ya. I think the Martinsyde is named the Buzzard.

In the Middle East Theater of WWI we have the story of Lieutenant McNamara flying a Martinsyde returning from a raid when he saw a BE2c, flown by Captain Rutherford, making a forced landing-dead engine.

McNamara followed him down landed and taxied alongside.

Turkish soldiers began firing at them and as Rutherford leapt onto McNamara's plane a bullet went thru the leg of Rutherford and hit the rudder bar of the Martinsyde. In the attempt to take off the Martinsyde crashed both men survived and ran for the BE2c . With Rutherford at the controls McNama swung the prop and the aircraft started . Although badly damaged by the gunfire of the Turkish soldiers the BE2c flew the two officers 70 miles back to their aerodrome. (What a story for the grandkids!)

By the way McNarama was awarded the Victoria Cross.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

by Sarge Bell

We had a couple of refunds from the Swap Meet.

I deposited about \$600 less than I did after last years WAMS Swap Meet.

Come to the WAMS Membership Meeting this coming Tuesday and get the final numbers for our Swap Meet.

SAFETY FIRST

by Cliff Hummer

Remember, when ever you start up a nitro powered engine, watch out for the propeller arc. It is too easy to put your finger through the prop to dial in your motor. And for electricists, always buy BECs that have an automatic motor cut off, even if you do not take the throttle lever to idle. Most electric systems now, you must take the throttle to low, then high, then back to low the set the throttle on switch. But watch it. Not all systems arm the same way!

RUNWAY REFLECTIONS

by Jim Pope

In 1705, man named Robin was a protagonist in a duel with another man by the name of Patrick Conner and yes, this is another duel story. Both were Scottish and were dueling (with epees) over a very beautiful woman named Mary. It was well known that Patrick and Robin were best friends, so why were they fighting, especially over a very beautiful woman who possessed the utmost in social status? Well sir, it seems that both of their families were fairly prosperous and both men had bright futures ahead of them. And it was always assumed that Robin and Mary would one day wed and continue their somewhat privileged life of comfort until death. But Patrick also had eyes for Mary and I suspect that he held his ardor at bay because of the family status of all involved. And of course, Patrick was well aware of Mary's feeling and approval of Robin. Unfortunately, substantial financial problems plagued Robin's family while Patrick's family continued their successful and profitable dealings.

Remember, please, that this was the eighteenth century. At that time in our world's history, many marriages occurred because of family convenience and to advance the family's social status, especially in the Gaelic community. Even though Robin and Mary really loved each other, the Gaelic-speaking people of their culture allowed the stronger influences to prevail and the more financially sound family insisted that Mary push aside Robin in the favour of Patrick (please note the Old English spelling of the word "favor", after all, this is a Gaelic story and such spelling seemed to be a good idea). Of course, Robin was not very happy with this arrangement, and I suspect Mary wasn't real pleased either.

Naturally, a duel would solve the matter. As a side note to this story, perhaps we should settle most of the world's problems with duels, but alas, regardless of the outcome some lawyer would protest it and not much would ever change except the law fees would get bigger and bigger. Now, back to the story; the duel was a fairly even match and it seems that Patrick was more irritated with the situation than was Robin. It's been reported that Robin didn't really want to hurt his friend and offered to end the dispute amicably, but Patrick was really pissed and continued to fight, ignoring Robin's offer of appeasement.

OK, I can read your mind; you want to know who won the duel, huh? Well, Robin killed his friend and the community wanted Robin's head, literally. Remember, social status ruled the day and Robin had to flee his dear Mary and leave his beloved Scotland. What should he do? Recall please that his family's financial status had faltered somewhat, but they were far from poor. Robin had some money, was a military veteran and very well educated, so he did what any of us would do; he went to sea where he lived in much, much better conditions than the ship's crew. I believe they call his status "gentry".

Robin and the crew sailed for months hauling such cargo as jade, mahogany and even precious stones (they didn't take up much cargo space). After months of sailing, the boat founded on a reef just off the coast of Guinea in West Africa during a severe storm. With the exception of the captain's dog Skipper and a couple of cats, poor Robin was the only survivor. Fortunately, the boat didn't sink right away and he was able to use its stores, supplies and equipment to build a fairly handsome manor. He was substantially disheartened when his explorations revealed that he was shipwrecked on a deserted island. During the next two years, he saw only one ship on the horizon but was unable to signal his plight and the ship sailed past. I guess there's not a lot to do on a deserted island so Robin spent a great deal of time writing an extremely detailed account of his plight. And yes, after some four years he was rescued but I'm getting ahead of the story. Two years earlier, he alarmingly discovered foot prints on the beach. Other people? Friendly? Hostile? Well sir, hostile is the key. These natives from another land sailed to Robin's island to sacrifice (or punish) one of their own, to some God totally unfamiliar to Robin. He intervened and saved the life of one of these pagans by the name of "Hamish" but that's not what Robin called him. So, can

you guess the name? You're correct if you said Friday and get a gold star if you know that Robin's full name was Robinson Crusoe.

In 1718 Crusoe's detailed diary was somehow delivered to a writer by the name of Daniel Defoe. Defoe wrote the inspired story so admired by all of us. How was Crusoe rescued? What became of Friday (nee Hamish)? Want a hint? Another duel of sorts was involved! To answer these questions, read the story. Is it true to life or realistic fiction? Or merely my imagination of how such could occur? You be the judge.

Don't we just love duel stories?

One more thing; it's rumored that Robinson invented model airplanes while marooned on that island. Seems it was full of balsa trees and he developed a CA glue from iguana saliva. He formulated rubber bands from the sap of latex trees and hand-launched his free flight rubber powered models. Since Monocote hadn't been yet invented, the wings were sheeted with balsa. One guess as to who did the retrieving of any ill-performing models.

Now, aren't we lucky that we don't have to cut down a balsa tree or milk the saliva glands of an iguana to enjoy our hobby? And I really wouldn't want to make rubber bands from sap. We have hobby shops like Rick's, Roy's, J.T.'s and Airport Pawn that provide dimensioned balsa, pre-milked glue and more. We've got it easy, so thank the owners of these shops for what they do and buy from them often!

I'll see you at the field (or until I can invent another story).

FROM THE EDITOR

by Michael Leggett

Swap Meet was fun!

See you at the field.....

Don't forget about the attendance drawing - the prize will be grand!

Michael Leggett

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