



FLIGHTLINES

MINOT AIRCRAFT MODELERS MINOT, ND



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AUGUST MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6TH

WHERE: MAM FLYING
FILED

TIME: 6:00 EXECUTIVE
BOARD

7:00 GENERAL
MEETING

FLIGHT LOG

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2011 INTERNATIONAL CANCELED

Due to the unfortunate amount of rain and Spring runoff that we have experienced here in North Dakota, this has forced our club to cancel the 2011 International. Making problems even worse, is the flood that is currently affecting the city of Minot. This flood has caused an increased demand on an already shrinking supply of available lodging, not to mention the problems associated with recovering from a flood.



Minot Aircraft Modelers
We Are Now On
facebook!

The Internet: Friend or Foe?

Frank Geisler, Chairman Leader Member Program Development Committee

Many new people have joined the information revolution by purchasing personal computers for a variety of reasons. Whatever the reason, they soon realized there is a great big world out there called the World Wide Web (WWW). To them I say welcome to the WWW and I'm glad to see you here.

Of course there is another group of folks that have been "surfing" the Internet for many years now and are professionals at finding things that even Google has a tough time tracking down. From the brand new guy to the "old hat," we all know one thing about the Internet: there is a ton of information available to us just by clicking the mouse or by typing a few letters in a search block. There is more information out there than any of us will ever have time to read or see in our lifetime.

As most of us know, not all that you see or read on the internet is true or accurate. Some will laugh at that, but the fact is that many believe what they read on the internet is true. One look at some of the sites that debunk urban legends will tell us that there is a plethora of misinformation floating out there in the WWW.

Which brings me to the point of this article; is the

Internet our friend or foe when it comes to model aviation and the Academy?

I would like to submit to you that it can be both at times, but overall, the Internet can definitely be our friend when we come to realize what we can do with it to help promote model aviation and the Academy on a daily basis. Never before have we been able to touch so many people in such a short amount of time. All it takes is a little effort on our part to submit ideas and/or concerns to your club webmaster, your district webmaster, or even send an e-mail to the other LMs in your district or DVP. You have the ability to let many people know what you think very quickly. Communication is very important and the Internet is a quick and easy way to share with others.

An excellent way to share your thoughts and ideas as well as to help others in our sport is through the use of RC forums. RC forums have become very popular these days since they allow users to share thoughts, photos, videos, tips, and advice with thousands of people across the US and the world in a matter of seconds. Some of the popular RC forums have many thousands of members with millions of posts in them. Just think of all the

positive influence you could have when using those forums to help promote the Academy and the sport of model aviation. I mentioned the AMA forum in my first Leader to Leader article which is another forum that is growing more and more each day. As of last count they have topped more than 1,800 members and the number keeps growing. I encourage you to have a look and sign up when you can. We certainly welcome you to share your knowledge and experience, and who knows, you might even learn a thing or two also.

Unfortunately this deluge of information and the ability to buy product online is reducing the positive impact of the local hobby shop (LHS) that we have all enjoyed over the years. At one time, your source for information and modeling equipment, tools, and aircraft parts all came from your LHS where you would meet up with friends and talk aeromodeling and learn all about the latest gadgets and kits on the market today. There you would find the store's owner or employees guiding modelers in the right direction on what to buy, how to fly, and anything else in between.

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A REQUEST FROM LINDA WADE

Linda sent me an email with a interesting request. She writes,

“A theater group in town is putting on a production in September at the Vegas Hotel. For one of the scenes in the play they need a wrecked airplane, bi-wing if possible. Now I don't want to wish anyone bad luck this summer, but if it happens that someone wrecks a bi-wing beyond repair, the MATS theater group would love to give it one more flight in their play. They can contact me at gmalinda@srt.com.”

If anyone can help out, please let her know.



The Internet: Friend or Foe?

Continued from page 2

They would let you know where to fly, which usually meant your local AMA chartered club where newcomers would learn about the AMA and how to safely fly their new airplane without the crashes involved with teaching yourself how to fly. Many times, hooking up with a club and meeting new people turned into lifelong friendships. These opportunities are slowly fading as stores are closing or switching their emphasis to something other than model aviation. What a loss to modelers of all experience levels and interests! You could encourage new modelers to balance their input between the Internet and the LHS so that they get the best of both worlds by broadening the input to the new modeler and perhaps saving the LHS from extinction.

Beyond encouraging your club members to shop at your LHS, I also suggest that you as LMs get involved with your favorite modeling forum and help with new folks coming into this sport. Provide them with guidance to get them off on the right foot and, when questions about the AMA come up, you will be there to give them accurate information rather than them trying to sort through the tons of posts that have inaccurate or distorted views of the AMA. Those newcomers need help and who better to help than LMs with their experience and background?

Let's use the WWW to our advantage to inspire and teach newcomers to our sport and promote the Academy and model aviation. I look forward to seeing you on the WWW whether on the forums or via e-mail; I appreciate any time you may give sharing your knowledge and wisdom.

Cheap Model Airplanes From Builders' Cast-offs

From Wings R/C Club, Les Mars, Iowa

Once you have mastered the basics of building a model airplane and have a few spare bits lying around your workshop it becomes very easy to produce your very own design of plastic model airplane. Simple Plastic Airplane Design (SPAD) is a really cheap and fun alternative to constructing expensive remote-controlled model airplanes kits.

The concept of SPAD started in the late 1990's and has evolved into a highly detailed and solid method for building RC model airplanes. While using traditional building materials and techniques can take weeks or months to put an airplane together, applying the SPAD concept can reduce the build time down to days, or even hours. SPAD materials are widely available and are less expensive than those used in standard model airplane kits. Plans and help for building a SPAD can be found online and are completely free. The best part about flying a SPAD is its survivability when it comes to the inevitable crashes as your enthusiasm gets away from you!

The basic RC model airplane SPAD concept revolves around using inexpensive building materials that can be found at local hardware stores and sign shops—or even picked up for nothing from builders' cast-offs. While the materials required for constructing a SPAD vary from one design

to another, the basic materials used include PCV downspout pipe for the fuselage, Coro-Plast (corrugated plastic) sign material for the wings and controls surfaces, HDPE cutting boards for firewalls and landing gear blocks, and CA (superglue) to hold everything together.

Because of the simplicity involved in putting a SPAD RC model airplane together, even an inexperienced modeler can complete the job in a single weekend. A basic fuselage made from PVC downspout can be made in a matter of minutes, CoroPlast wings and control surfaces in just a few hours, and all the miscellaneous parts to complete the project in just a few hours more. Acquiring the materials needed for a RC model airplane SPAD project may require no more than a trip to the local hardware store and a few phone calls to local sign shops.

Aside from these readily available materials, there are a few other items that you will need: self-tapping sheet metal screws, zip ties, a utility knife, and a few wood sticks (4mm x 27mm x 1m pine lathing/lattice). Other items needed to complete your RC model airplane, such as wheels, landing gear, and control arms, will need to be fabricated or purchased from your favorite hobby store.

Plans for building a SPAD RC model airplane are available online, free of charge,

from many different sources. SpadToTheBone.com, the original home for the RC model airplane SPAD concept, has plans to suit just about anyone. From the ever popular trainer called the Debonair, to the more sophisticated Coro Edge 540 sport/fun-fly model. A community has been built around the RC model airplane SPAD concept at www.SpadWorld.net where model builders from all over the globe help each other learn better and more exciting ways to make SPADs.

One of the greatest benefits to building with the RC model airplane SPAD materials is just how tough they are. Whether you're trying a new aerobatic maneuver and just can't seem to pull out of it, or just learning to take off for the first time and cartwheel your airplane down the runway, the chances that your airplane will survive are good. Compared to easily breakable balsa, plastic is a forgiving material that can survive higher impact speeds without damage—and is easily fixed when broken.

Ease of construction, low cost, and survivability all add up to a package that encourages modelers to experiment with design concepts and methods that extend the envelope of their experience and knowledge. Why not give it a go yourself?

MAM Meeting Minutes

August 2nd, 2011

- TREASURER REPORTS READ
- Roger H. reviews minutes from last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Some kind of open house in September. Russ isn't sure if there are enough members that would be able to support it. If so, need a lot of cleanup work.
- Weekend after next meeting, 10th 11th cleanup weekend. List, pressure wash, paint, tables, mowing. Generating a list need a lot of bodies.
- Roger Lee motions to forgo an Open House, Bev second. Decided best goal is to get all cleanup and maintenance done. Approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Large mower, diesel mower is failing. Water runs out the block. Head is warped. Sent to Minneapolis to be refurbished. Looks like \$1,500.00 to \$1,600.00 in the head, and assemblies to fix. Looks like about a 3k total repair bill. Russ has the idea to "*special access*" the members around \$25.00. Treasurer states that it maybe about 60 members.
- Phil motioned to move the \$25.00 to \$30.00 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, Jerry seconded motion. **Approved**
- Russ offered to use his shop to build new pit tables over the winter. More information to follow at a later time.
- MEETING AJORNED

SEPTEMBER 2011 Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 6th

Where: MAM FLYING FIELD

MAM FLIGHTLINES

Roger Harper
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**2011 INTERNATIONAL
HAS BEEN CANCELED**