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THE DEAD STICK FLYER

Havre de Grace, MD

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THE NEWSLETTER OF SWAN HARBOR RC

www.SwanHarborRC.com

March 2003



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Club Meeting March 13, 7:00 pm, Churchville Rec Center. Bring something for Show and Tell.

GENERAL CLUB NEWS ...

President Jim Snyder is on the road again; hopefully, picking up some good RC material. Vice-President Steve Snyder opened the meeting of February 13 at 7:00 pm at the Churchville Rec Center. Treasurer Dan Bowman was absent because of illness, see below. The minutes are as follows:

1. We picked up two more members, so that gives us a total of 39 who have signed up for the new season.
2. Last meeting we requested submissions for a logo that could be used for Club hats. Surprisingly, there were actually a half-dozen submissions. They were passed around the room and a selection was made. The winner was one prepared by Steve Snyder. It shows a very exuberant, fun loving goose flying a really cool plane. It is enclosed in an ellipse with "Swan Harbor RC" at the top and "Harford County Maryland" at the bottom. Steve will follow through on whatever else must be done to initiate the preparation of hats.
3. Stanley Dill is Chairman of the Club Fun-Fly scheduled for April 27th. He will try to put together a package of challenging RC flying games. He is authorized to spend up to \$60 for prizes.
4. Steve got a message that the "upper level" Rec Council meeting hinted repair to the road seems reasonable. Could there be a thaw in the offing? Not sure yet.
5. You may have heard that Dan Bowman had some very serious surgery. He's recovering at home. While they are not looking for visitors, you can give him a call at 410-272-4251 or e-mail FLYERDCB@aol.com. Our very best wishes to Dan and hurry back so you can keep an eye on the treasury.



Swan Harbor RC Logo

These are the minutes of record. Any questions or changes should be directed to Achille Silvestri, ph 410-838-6261 or e-mail axsilvestri@earthlink.net.

SHOW AND TELL ...



Steve Snyder and the Monster Project

Steve Snyder brought in a partially built "in the bones" North American B-25 bomber that he and his father, Jim, are building as a joint venture. It's a 101-inch wingspan monster being "scratch built" to Zirolli plans. Jim is emphasizing the woodworking, while Steve is working on all the mechanical gadgetry. It will be an absolutely handsome twin-engine, twin-rudder, tricycle landing gear marvel. It will weigh in at 35-38 lbs. Steve says he has two Fuji 32's for it.

May I digress. I want to share this story with you. The North American B-25 is quite a famous plane that played a very significant role in the early days of WWII. After the horrendous disaster at Pearl Harbor, the country was, understandably, deeply shaken and in the throes of deep mental depression. President Franklin D. Roosevelt determined we had to do something to pick up the people's spirit and bring the battle to the Japanese. Unfortunately, we had no long-range bombers at that time that could strike at their mainland.

But they came up with this plan. If we could carry some lightweight bombers by carrier close to their shore we could attack some major installation. Thus came to pass "The Doolittle Tokyo Raid." They chose for the attack the B-25, a small, lightweight bomber of sufficient range, capable of carrying a 2,000 lb. payload. Of course, the pilots would have to learn how to take off from a carrier. No one had ever tried to take off a fully loaded B-25 within 500 feet. But they practiced, and by the end of their training one pilot actually lifted off in only 287 feet.



The North American B-25

Lt. Col. Jimmie Doolittle led the attack on April 18, 1942. The crews were all volunteers. They made the raid with sixteen B-25s loaded on the carrier USS Hornet. Of course, there was no way the pilots could return to the carrier, the landing strip was too short. They would make their runs and then hope to land in China. All the planes successfully made their runs and dumped their payloads on Tokyo as planned. Of the sixteen planes, one got as far as Vladivostok and the others landed or crashed in China. Out of 80 crew members, 64 returned to fight another day; the rest were killed or captured. The Chinese paid a terrible price for any assistance given to the pilots. Hundreds of them were killed and several villages were burned.

The actual damage inflicted on the Japanese that day was not so great. But now they knew they were vulnerable. The raid on Tokyo took place only four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was a tremendous morale booster for the country and easily one of the most inspiring events of WWII.

The story is so dramatic that Hollywood made a movie of it which was released in 1944. You can still catch it on cable ... *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, one of the great war movies.

THE "FLYING DUTCHMAN" ...

I've known Dave Yeakel for some time, but I never knew what an interesting background he had until I sat down and talked with him one of those lazy afternoons last summer. Because he comes from the Allentown-Lancaster-Reading area, Dave calls himself a "Pennsylvania Dutchman". He considers Reading his home town. He went through Jr. High, High School and Penn State with Lenny Moore, the famous Baltimore Colts running back.

He went to Penn State in 1950 and played football and boxed as the heavyweight on their boxing team.



Dave Yeakel

Intercollegiate boxing was discontinued in the mid-fifties after two boxers died after meets. During that period Joe Paterno came to Penn State and Dave got to know and play for him for a short while. At Penn, Dave majored in industrial engineering.

He went in the Army after graduation and did his tour in the occupation of Germany. Leaning on his college skills, Dave ended up in Special Services where he boxed and played football again, both at Division level.

After the Army, Dave went to work for K&S (Keuffel & Esser) as a plant manager. He was in charge of manufacturing surveying instruments and drafting equipment. In 1986 working with K&E in Trenton, NJ he joined an RC club. But the field was soon lost, and he dropped out of the hobby. He picked up RC modeling again when he relocated to Maryland in 1996.

Dave likes to build and fly and repair. You can usually identify his planes because he only uses two colors, red and yellow; no Monokote building up in his garage. Dave made major improvements in his flying when he had cataracts removed this past year. It's all much clearer now. Dave Yeakel's a good guy to have on your team.

FROM THE PITS ...

We checked out the field behind the Churchville Rec Center the other day. Not bad; this place could really serve as an excellent alternative runway. Make sure, of course, that there aren't any other activities going on.

SWAN HARBOR RC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ...

Your application for 2003 is due. After March 31, unsigned members will be taken off the rolls. To join again, you must then sign in as a new member and pay a \$25 initiation fee. You don't want to do that. Let's take care of business. Send in your check or come to the next meeting and sign in.

ABOUT SWAN HARBOR RC ...

Swan Harbor RC meets the second Thursday of the month. During the off season, we meet at the Churchville Rec Center on Glenville Road. The public is welcome to the meetings and to fly with us. To fly with us at Swan Harbor, take Oakington Road off of US 40 (between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace) and follow the signs. Membership information can be obtained from Dan Bowman, 410-272-4251, FLYERDCB@aol.com. To learn more about Swan Harbor RC (formerly MAOA), go to <http://www.harfordvista.com/rcnews.asp> and click onto January 2001.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 8, 2003	Central Penn Aeromodelers Assoc. 23rd Annual Radio Control Flea Market. Lebanon, PA. Rain or shine.
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Mar 13, 2003	Swan Harbor RC Club meeting, Churchville Rec Center, 7:00 pm.
Apr 4-6, 2003	The 49th Toledo Airshow. www.toledoshow.com .
Apr 27, 2003	Swan Harbor RC Club Fun fly. Swan Harbor Flying Field. Starts when you get there.
Jun 7, 2003	Swan Harbor RC Skyfest Open House, Swan Harbor Flying Field, Havre de Grace, MD.
Sep 13, 2003	Swan Harbor RC Giant Scale IMAA Fly-In, Swan Harbor Flying Field, Havre de Grace, MD.

Archives:

Past Newsletters

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