WINDY FLYER

From the Editor

By Ed Miller



Many of us have had that first flight of the Spring flying season. As mentioned at our meeting, before you set out to the field do a thorough preflight check. Make sure every control surface functions as it should, all screws are tight, propeller on tight, batteries charged etc. You know the drill. Our goal is no surprise landings (crashes) and no injuries!

We were contacted by a researcher from the University of Colorado who wants to launch a RAAVEN drone from our field to do some weather related research. The RAAVEN was used in the current film "Twisters". They need Forest Preserve authorization, but if they get

(see from the editor on the next page)



Woodland Aero Modeler's Flying Field at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, Lemont, Illinois

Did You Know

This is a Wonderful Story

It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail. Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself.

Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts...and his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winding their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier.

Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile,

(See Did You Know on page 2)

(From the Editor continued)

it, this will be quite an exiting thing to see. The Raven weighs 15 pounds and is launched from the roof of a car. It would land on the soft grass of our field. An email will be sent out if this is going to happen. We will be filming it and try to get it published in the AMA magazine. (See the entry in our meeting notes).

Summer can't get here soon enough for me.

Hope to see you all at the field soon.

Happy flying!!

Ed Miller

Club Secretary

Windy Flyer Editor-in-Chief



(Did You Know continued)

"Thank you, thank you."

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place.

When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs and then they too fly away. And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home. If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem a little odd. Just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant...maybe even a lot of nonsense. Old folks often do strange things.

Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida...that's too bad. They'd do well to know him better.

His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero in World War I, and then he was in WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft.

Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun, sharks, and most of all they fought hunger and thirst. On the eighth day their rations ran out. No food, no water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were or even if they were alive.

The men adrift needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle. They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his cap over his eyes. Time dragged on. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft. Suddenly Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

He would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from

(See "Did You Know", continued on the next page)

(Did You Know, continued)

the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal of it - a very slight meal for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait..and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea.

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull... And he never stopped saying, "Thank you." That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude.

Woodland Aero Modelers

Radio Controlled Flying Club

Club Officers

President/membership Tim Mercier

Vice-President Brad TerMatt

Executive Director CraigMcKenzie

Secretary Ed Miller s

Treasurer John Baderman

Safety Officer John Horwath

Chief Instructor CraigMcKenzie

Instructors John Baderman

Ed Miller

Brad TerMatt

ControlLine Mark Romowitz

Helicopter Steve Zielinski

Calendar

March 2025

4th Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7pm. This is KEY NIGHT. To obtain a gate key you must have an active AMA membership and paid Club dues. Bring in your old key and exchange it for a new one. Mail service will be available

29th Saturday Prop Masters Auction

April 2025

1st Monthly Club meeting at the VFW: starting at 7pm.

4th and 5th Toledo R/C Swap Meet and Expo

May 2025

6th Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7pm.

Minutes from the April 1st Meeting

MeetingCalledtoOrder:

- 7:00 pm by President, Tim Mercier

Secretary's Report:

-Report read, and approved

Treasurer's Report:

-Wehave \$10,992 combined with our checking, savings and CD. Many members paid their Club dues and this will be updated at next month's meeting. Report approved.

-Executive Director's Report:

-Application for Our Open House permit has been submitted, with our insurance certificate. We have requested a new picnic table.

Chief Instructor:

- We have a new student (new member, Bob Baker) Craig suggested you do a pre-flight inspection, check control surfaces, radio and batteries especially if they have been sitting all winter. Got the new season jitters? Contact an instructor who will either buddy box you or stand by you until you feel comfortable flying.

Safety Director: Nothing has changed.

Old Business:

- AMA renewals no longer start on January 1, but on the actual date you last renewed. Club Secretary has access to that information and will notify you if your membership has expired. The AMA will also send you a renewal notice. You can actually update your membership at any time

by visiting the AMA website.

Announcements:

- We were contacted by a researcher from the University of Colorado. They are current project is "Community Research on Climate and Urban Science", investigating flooding from thunderstorms. They are using a 15 pound drone called RAAVEN and would like to launch it from our field during the week of April 23-28. If they get permission from the Forest Preserve the membership will be notified. Sounds like great fun to watch.
- John Baderman has requested permission to use our usual hangar spot for the Clow Cavalcade.
- We will keep our current website. Gary Watson will help John Baderman with this. Consider adding other links to our website.
- Toledo Swap Meet is April 4th and 5th.
- In July Fox Valley Club is having their Windy City Classics and Warbirds show.
- Gary Watson has applied for an AMA grant to help fund our Open House expenses. Much thanks to Gary for doing this.
- The Prop Master's Club held their auction. It was successful and made their club a similar amount of money that our Club received from the Fox Valley Swap Meet.
- We are hoping to have our burger/beer fly night every 3rd Thursday. If we ather permits we may start this month, April 17th Thursday. An email will be sent out if we can do it.
- We do have business cards. A supply is kept in the First-Aid box at the field. You may also contact Ed Miller to get some cards. They are useful to hand out at the field or to any prospective flyer. He will bring a supply to the next meeting

-Model building hints and tips:

- None

-New Members:

- We welcomed Bob Baker to our Club. He is a new flyer and we're looking forward to see him at the field and watch him progress.

Planes for Points:

- John Horwath showed of fan array of drones, including an Osprey. Great indoor fun!
- -Dennis Miendersma brought in a 30 year old control line plane, "Little Jumping Bean" by Carl Goldberg. It weighs in at about 1 pound. Dennis originally built it for a friend's son hoping to inspire the young boy to get involved in our hobby. Unfortunately, it didn't happen.

See photos on our Photo Page.

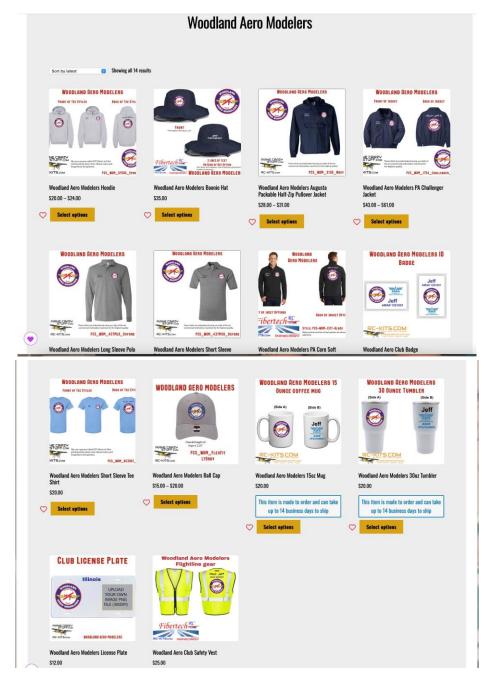
Meeting adjourned: 8:05 pm



Red Neck airplane!

How to Order Woodland Aero Modelers Clothing

- 1. Order via internet at **rc-kits.com**
- **2.** Go to "Clubs" Find Woodland Aero Modelers, alphabetical order, we're last.
- 3. Chose your merchandise
- 4. Check size chart!
- 5. Create an account
- **6.** Pay



Photos



Craig McKenzie, Gary Watson (middle) and Mark Ebertenjoying a warm day in March



Scott Emmerling with his fleet of planes



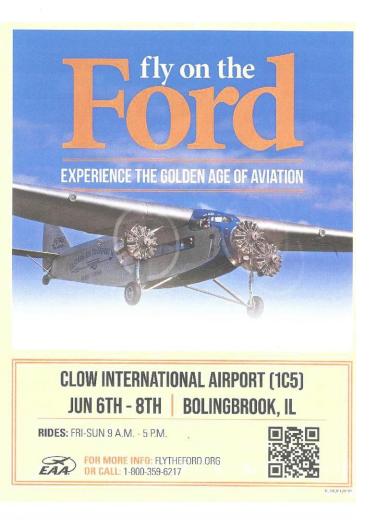
Mark Ebert with a Carl Goldberg. J3 Cub



Dennis Miendersma with his Little Jumping Bean

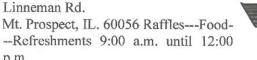


John Horwath with his Osprey drone



43rd Annual Swap-N-Shop Chicagoland Radio Control Modelers Saturday April. 12th 2025

St. John Lutheran School 1101 S. Linneman Rd.





Admission Adults \$5.00 - Children 12 years old & under FREE

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| Set up starts at 8:00 au payment must be pai | n To receive the pre d for in advance wit | first come first serve bas -registration price tabl h registration adio Control Modeler | es |
| | egel 1745 Verde Dr., | Mt Prospect, IL 60056 | (847) 732-0474 or for |