



KNOX COUNTY RADIO CONTROL

Newsletter

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THIS'N THAT

► November, and we enter the holiday season. Also we enter that time of the year when we put on some heavier clothing to keep us warm.

Since we had such odd weather this year, I have an idea that we are going to have some odd weather this winter. Maybe more snow than we've had the last few years, maybe some really cold temperatures. It might cut down on the bug population if we freeze them out. At any rate, dress appropriately and drive carefully when there is ice around..

► Got a nice note from Emeritus member **Dennis Hunt** recently. Dennis now lives in Kingsport, Tennessee. He says that he isn't very active anymore, but he still loves the hobby. Hopes to visit KCR C in the near future and see some old friends.

► **Jeff Elliot** is the latest KCR C to make a donation to the club of the RC equipment that he no longer uses. Thank you, fellows, the club appreciates all of you.. The club mostly uses the donations to help beginners and otherwise promote the hobby.

► Got a note from **Joel Hebert** saying that we had lost another of our ex-members. **Fred Heddleson** was the oldest member of the club (close to 90) when he dropped out. Here is a picture from 2002 of Fred during happier times with several members of the Old Farts Flying Association..



Front row l to r. Roy Pritchard, CD Martin, and Fred
second row, Bob King, Sang Choies, Bob Stewart, Jim

Scarbrough and Walt Keane.

► Old friend **John Heard** sent me some info on the Derby Daze from October 6th. Said there was only four guys mixing it up. One midair and just a lot of flying and cutting tails. John said the Derby after the September meeting was kinda hurtful for him. He had a midair contact that knocked him out of commission. He's building a new model now.. John took this picture of **Don Eiler** cutting some streamers.



► Got a note from **Bill Leonard** that he has almost finished his Contender. Not completely happy with it (although it looked great to me), he thinks it will be a good flyer. (**See gallery on page 4**).

The building program that he and **Phil Cope** initiated a little while ago stirred up a bit of enthusiasm in me, so the following article is my thoughts for those who might be tempted to try building a model airplane for the first time....

GETTING STARTED

There's an old saying that a long journey starts with a single step That's true, and an air modeler's journey starts with that first spark of love for the flying machine. In my case, the journey started about 1935 when a barnstormer in a rickety old biplane made several

low slow flights over my home town and landed in a pasture a little way from my house. My grandfather took seven year old me down and we watched the pilot haul passengers aloft for a small fee. Money was scarce at that time and he stuck around for several days to make enough money to move along to another town. My love for airplanes started then, watching, hearing and smelling that old biplane and I suppose that's one reason why the old planes from WW1 are so much a favorite of mine. Everything from 1914 to 1940 really turns me on..I like the heavy metal jobs but I love the old timers.

If you decide you love it enough to try building models then that gets us to the first step in building a model.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Building models is time consuming, so first you'll want a place where you can leave your work safely while not building. A corner in a basement or garage, maybe. I have a utility room off my garage that is dedicated to piddling. Folks in apartments can do it by using small portable building boards and using a closet or cabinet (or slide it under the bed) to store things when not building.

Plenty of light and a good flat building board are the first items you'll need. If you are building a big model, a laminated door on saw horses is a good work base. They come in several widths and they're pretty cheap. I bought a 16"x48" board from Tower that works well for most building, but my favorite board is one I built by gluing together 1/2"x4"x36" balsa sheets. It works very well on a work bench or a table..Some folks use ceiling tile or foam board. These are great for sticking pins in but need to be supported on a good flat base.

You'll need a few tools for the woodworking

- An Exacta knife with sharp blades. I started with single edge razor blades.
- Plenty of straight pins; tee pins preferably. I like the 1" size.
- Glue: I like aliphatic (like Elmers Carpenter glue) because it's odorless and water soluble, but it's slow.. You'll also need epoxy, both fast cure and slow. Some folks like CA for its speed but watch out for the fumes.. Most old timers started out using cellulose glue like Testors or Duco. Watch the fumes from these also..
- A small razor saw is good to have. You'll find a lot of use for this.
- A straight edge and a small square, metal preferably, will come in handy.
- A small plane is really good for shaping. There are several on the market. I like the Master AirScrew.
- Sand paper, both coarse and fine. You can make or buy sanding blocks in various shapes.

- Clear plastic film or wax paper. I prefer the plastic film. Use this between your work and the plans to keep glue off your plans.
- A small electric drill and selection of sharp bits will also come in handy.
- You will add items to this list as you gain experience.

And for covering

You will probably use the iron on plastic covering material since it is easiest and maybe best. We used to use linen or silk and dope to cover with and it really stunk the place up. Sure was pretty though.

For covering, the tools you will need are sharp scissors, sharp blades, the straight edge and a covering iron. A heat gun will help in shrinking the covering.

Instructions for covering are included with the covering material and the more you do, the better you will do it. Experience is the best teacher..

Deciding what model to build

This is the most important step in the process, and if it is a flying model, it becomes even more important. Putting a plastic display model together is fun, and can be most satisfying, but a flying model is much more demanding and a completely different skill set is required, so spend some time on the decision of what you want to build. Take these things into consideration; A P-38 is a beautiful machine but should not be your first build, **Don't pick something complicated** because you can become disheartened and lose interest.

There are any number of simple flying kits to begin on, and the likelihood of finishing it and enjoying some flying time with it goes up with these kinds of kits. Most scale models are beautiful and can be good flying models but they always require some building and flying experience. A Piper Cub comes close to being a beginner model, but can be a challenging build for a first effort. Sig has a few good beginner kits as do Great Planes and others. Stevens Aero has some excellent beginner types that are laser cut and key together so well that they require little more than a flat board, glue and covering to build. I started out building Midwest Esquires and Tri-Squires because they were such good flyers but I don't think they're available now. so study carefully before making your decision. You can probably ask around and find someone in the club who has built your choice or can give you information about the kit..The kit will come with basic instructions to get you started. Study these instructions carefully before starting and follow them when building.

When I started, we had one channel, so we built free flight models and hooked up the rudder to bring them back. This worked well and we added more channels to the radio. Now we can control

everything about the model, but the more controls you hook up, the more challenging it becomes. **Starting out, keep it simple.** Rudder, motor and elevator are all you need to completely control a good flying model and they are easily installed. My first four channel model was a Phil Kraft Ugly Stik. It did not survive the first flight. However, I had plenty of practice by this time in rebuilding and the second flight was more successful.

I've been enjoying this wonderful hobby since about 1940 and I think I get almost as much pleasure out of it now as I did when I started because it is always new, always changing..

If you love airplanes, give it a try. I think you'll like it.....Jim. . ■

(Editors Note:: If I have to fill up some empty space in the next issue, We might continue with another facet of the hobby. Unless one of you want to contribute something..)

October Fun Fly

Since we had the Fun Fly and no meeting in October, we won't have any meeting minutes. However, Bill Leonard sent me the results of the competitions and some pictures from the Fun Fly.;

Here are the results from the **Hurry to Land** event:

Nitro class

- 1) Phil Cope 13 sec. (Tiger Moth, .52 OS 4 cycle),
- 2) Joel Hebert 22 sec. (Super Kaos 40, OS 46 SF),
- 3) 3) Raymond Curd 28 sec. (Big Stick 60, Evo 61)

Electric class

- 1) Joel Hebert 13 sec. (Slow Stick),
- 2) Larry Hayes 14 sec. (Handyman),
- 3) Craig Dieter 16 sec. (scratch-built Piper Pacer, 50" span)

Helicopter class

- 1) John Partridge 14 sec.
- We saw some excellent flying as the pilots were told to "loop and land."
Great fun....Bill

► We've been having a picnic and fun fly combo as long as I can remember in October because it's such a good month for outdoor activities; usually dry and sunny.. The 14th was a good choice since there was no Volunteer football game to interfere. As a result, there was a good turnout for the event. I didn't hear a count of attendees but almost all the food and fun events we hold draw a pretty good sized crowd of folks who love to eat and fly.. We also had several visitors from clubs in surrounding areas.

► Here is another picture Bill sent me from the Fun Fly. This is Ryan Cook with his beautiful Pitts biplane from Great Planes. It is powered by a 28cc gas engine.
An impressive model and I'll bet it's a good flyer.



► Jeff Prosis tried to promote a Chili Cook-off for the picnic at the October Fun Fly. I asked him how it went and he said it went very well and that he had won the contest with his wife's recipe. Unfortunately, the win was contaminated by the fact that his was the only entry!

We have had this chili competition in the past but usually in a colder month for obvious reasons. Maybe we can try it again after a while.

I love chili myself, and while I don't want to be accused of bragging, my recipe at one time was classified as a fire hazard and could have been used to heat a small house. However, because of the toxic nature of some of the ingredients, I was forced to give up my chili cooking status at home. My wife makes all the chili at my house now and guards the pot to keep me from contributing since any addition I make only detracts from its perfection.....

► **Just a reminder, the November meeting will be at the Fellowship Church (room 601) on Middlebrook Pike. Hopefully, the club candidates for the December election will be introduced at the meeting. Let me also say again that if you are asked to be a candidate, please give it careful consideration, and if elected, do the best job you can..**

Hope to see you at the meeting.....Jim



Illustration 1: Looks like a good turnout for the event.

GALLERY



Illustration 2: Phil Cope's RV-4 . Build program

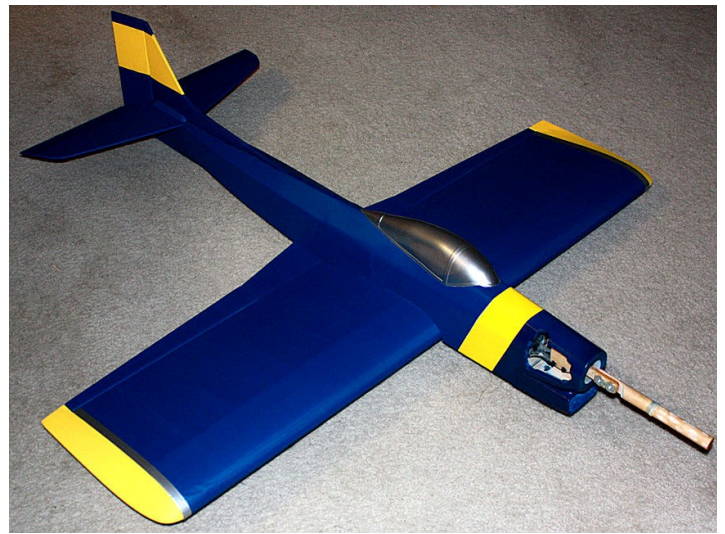


Illustration 5: Bill Leonard's Contender. Build program



Illustration 3: Alan Valeo's RV-4, Build program

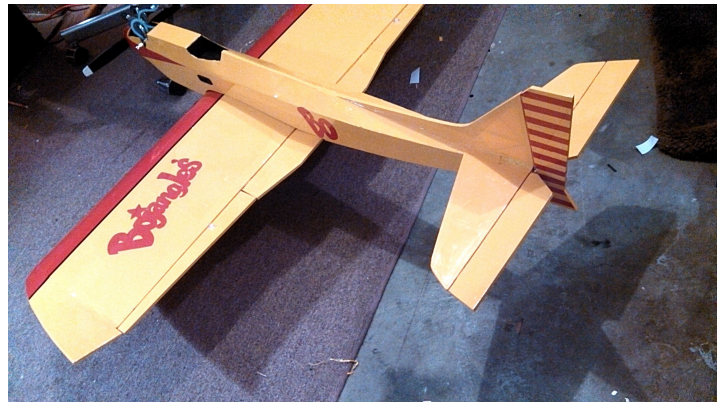


Illustration 6: Andy Keeley's Contender. Build program



Illustration 4: Eric Thompson's RV-4. Build program.



Illustration 7: Jim Scarbrough's Contender. Build program

As I get more photos of build program models, I'll post them here. Keep sending them to me.....Jim

P.S. HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!!!