



Winter 2007

Thermal Journal

Dedicated to the never-ending battle against the law of gravity

President

Brad Bane
60 Lake Ave.
Lyndonville, NY 14098

Vice President

Joe Mollendorf
274 Ruskin Road
Amherst, NY 14226

Secretary

Mark C. Rzacca
17 High Point Trail
Fairport, NY 14450

Treasurer

Ruth Bane
60 Lake Ave.
Lyndonville, NY 14098

Thermal Journal Editor

Mark C. Rzacca
17 High Point Trail
Fairport, NY 14450
wnyffs@frontiernet.net

Submissions the Thermal Journal in the form of letters to the editor or articles are always welcome. Use the editor's address provided above.

The Editor's Ramble

We certainly have a lot of news to get out with this newsletter. First up will be a note from our CD for the Outdoor Championships, Lyle Whitford. Running a contest takes a lot of hands to make everything run smoothly. For the record, here is Lyle's mea culpa:

This message is an apology to Mrs. Rotena Nippert! Hi Tena; As I read The latest issue of the Thermal Journal I realized that I had omitted a very important Thank - You in my list of people that assisted WNYFFS and myself to conduct the Empire State Free Flight Champs in August. That Thank-you goes to you, without whom the Americas Cup events would not have occurred! Please accept my humble apology and be aware that I have also asked Mark to make a public notice in the next TJ. Thank-you again for your efforts on our behalf until you are properly recognized for your effortsLyle Whitford

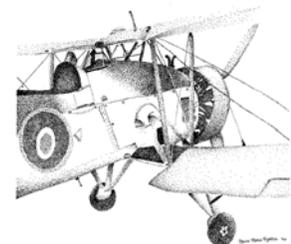
Thanks to Tena and Lyle from your editor.

Next up, we have a bad news/ good news item. Elsewhere in this issue you can read Bob Clemens' "End of an Erd" note covering the situation with the Indoor Meet traditionally held at the Bill's Field house. Although it appears that relationship has come to an untimely end, quick thinking and equally quick action by Bob Clemens and Don Steeb has allowed the tradition of the Indoor Championships to continue at a new venue. There is a flyer in this issue announcing the meet at the new location. Check it out. We are once again partnering with the FAC for the sponsorship of this meet. Bob, Don and Vet have put together a good lineup of events so everyone should be able to find something to suit their indoor taste. I understand the fee for this site is much more reasonable than the Field House so if we get enough of a turnout we might just break even for a change!

The Editor's Ramble continues on the next page.

Dates to keep in mind:

Indoor Meet at Main Street Armory in Rochester – Sunday, April 22
WNYFFS Hobo Meet – May 26, 2007, rain date May 27
1941 HAG Museum Air show – July 14, 15
FAC Non-Nats in Geneseo – July 20, 21 Details in Jan/Feb FAC newsletter.
WNYFFS Outdoor Championships – August 17, 18 & 19
Great Grape Gathering – September 21-23
1941 Historical Aircraft Group Flying Aces Contest – September 22-23
FAC Outdoor Champs in Muncie – September 8, 9



The Editor's Ramble, continued

Staying on the topic of indoor flying for just a bit more, it has been quite some time since we have had a regular indoor flying site. Since we lost access to the New Covenant Fellowship gym, casual indoor flying has definitely been hit or miss. (Mostly miss.) Obviously this is not at all good for the club. In the long run, a lack of winter activity can be devastating to a club as members find other interests or just lose interest. Perhaps this year's indoor contest will rekindle sufficient interest to get everyone to consider making a few calls to connect with an indoor site for more casual flying. I have made a few inquiries and admit it may be tough to broker as good a deal as we have had in the past. When it comes to trying to convince a potential host, here are some points to consider.

We are certainly open to having anyone participate (although AMA membership for insurance purposes is essential, WNYFFS membership is not required) and we are always willing to mentor beginners. This has worked well before in gaining exposure, once again through Bob and Don's good work with the Science Olympiad/Wright Stuff competitions. Perhaps contacts made through a Cub Scout troop can gain access to a church gym or other civic facility. At this time we are not set up to work with an entire troop but perhaps it is time to consider the possibility of an organized effort to explore working with Scouts on a regular basis. I believe Dave Rosenberg has had experience in this area, perhaps he can provide guidance to anyone else interested in pursuing this line. On the other end of the age spectrum, perhaps someone can figure out how to cash in on the fact that our membership mean age is something north of senior citizen status. This may provide access to some facility at a reduced fee or even open up a location that is otherwise closed. Of course available hours may be limited but all opportunities should be considered. And that really is the bottom line: all opportunities should be investigated by everybody with any interest. If everybody waits for somebody else to come up with the next indoor site we will not be flying indoor very much. Make some calls; the flying site you gain may be your own. Here are few places to consider calling: Churches and Synagogues, especially with affiliated schools, public schools, community recreation centers, commercial athletic facilities and corporations with athletic facilities. Be sure to shamelessly exploit any connection.

Sharp eyed readers of this newsletter will no doubt have noticed that the time frame for the *Great Grape Gathering* has shifted once again. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Jim Anderson for keeping this great meet going and working hard to find an optimal time to hold the event. In keeping with the Grape Gathering theme, the meet is now scheduled for the fall. It is somewhat of a mixed blessing that it will share the weekend with Lin and Juanita Reichel's Third Annual 1941 Historical Aircraft Group Flying Aces Contest in September. The down side is that we have one less meet in Geneseo while the obvious up side is that we may gain more contestants over all for the combined contest weekend. As this issue of the TJ goes to press the event lists for these contests are not available. If the event list availability coincides with the publication of an upcoming issue of the TJ we will include the particulars, otherwise you should refer to the FAC newsletter or get on Jim Anderson's distribution list: janderson@ripnet.com Put that email address to good use. Send Jim a note and let him know that you will be attending the GGG and what you may be able to do to help out. Jim says they could use some help at (before, during and after) the meet. Any support you can offer will no doubt be appreciated. SAM 86 has been around for 40 plus years and Jim isn't going to let a premier meet like the GGG fade away on his watch. Don't let your complacency contribute to its demise.

Shifting the GGG from the spring left a bit of hole in the early season's flying opportunities. Luckily Bob Rambo stepped up to the plate and volunteered to CD a hobo meet in May. Major league kudos to Bob for filling this void. Details for this meet are included in this issue of the TJ.

It is a real blessing to have access to the 1941 Historic Aviation Group Museum field for all the outdoor events mentioned in this article. Everyone who enjoys flying at that site should JOIN the HAG museum as a way of saying thanks. When you do so, take the time to write a note expressing your appreciation for the opportunity to fly at the museum. Make sure you tell them you are from the WNYFFS. Consider kicking in a couple extra bucks so they know you are sincere. (BTW, anything over the basic membership fee is tax deductible.) While you are writing checks, if you haven't already done so, send your dues (\$10) to Club Treasurer Ruth Bane. Her address is included on the front page and on the coupon page.

Last but not worth considering, check out this great website as suggested in the Thumb Print, the newsletter of the Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta, www.pensacolafreeflight.org This web site has lots of good tips. Double money back guarantee if you don't find at least 5 interesting tips.

Mark C. Rzacca



Western New York Free Flight Society

and

Flying Aces

Presents the 2007
Empire State



Indoor Championships

At the Main Street Armory, 900 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY,
Sunday, April 22, 2007

Sponsors: The Western New York Free Flight Society and the Flying Aces Club

Seven AMA events:

Mini Stick, Standard Class Catapult Glider, Intermediate Stick, 7-gram Bostonian, Limited Penny Plane, AMA Easy B, F1D.

Seven FAC events:

FAC Scale, FAC Peanut, Hi Wing Peanut, No-Cal Scale (6.2g minimum), WWII No-Cal Combat (6.2g minimum), Dime Scale, Golden Age Civil Scale.

Two special events:

- Phantom Horde for stock Phantom Flash models built and decorated per plan, 3.5 gram minimum weight.
- Science Olympiad Wright Stuff event for senior high students. 2007 WS rules apply except there will be no time limit to make three official flights.

The Armory is an AMA Category II site. Highest point of gently arched girder base is 45 ft. 1 inch above the floor. Interior photos are available on request from Bob Clemens. All areas of the building other than the main arena are strictly off limits. The Armory is located approximately 1/3 mile east of the Main St. exit of Rochester's Inner Loop. The Inner Loop is accessible via either I-490 East and I-490 West, both of which have exits/entrances on the New York State Thruway.

The contest will run from 9 AM to 4 PM. on Sunday, April 22, 2007. Building opens at 8 AM. Ample parking is available on north and east sides of the Armory.

Entry fee: \$20.00 flies all events for open contestants. Juniors and Science Olympiad contestants fly for \$1.00, which and includes one-day AMA license if needed. Open fliers must have a valid AMA or MAAC license. Plaques will be awarded through third place in all events.

CD: Vet Thomas
vthomas1@rochester.rr.com
(585) 392-5164

Contact: Bob Clemens
robert.clemens@att.net
(585) 392-3346



Clemens Photo

SPRING HOBO MEET

May 26, 2007

Rain Date 27, 2007

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Geneseo Field

Now that Spring is just around the corner it's time to get your models and yourself tuned up for the coming contest season. What better way than at our Hobo Meet. You can fly, socialize, have a good time, win some merchandise, and make a Contribution to the Club treasury and have a good ol' time. Maybe if someone wants to make arrangements for dinner at one of the local restaurants that would be fine

EVENTS

020 Replica	10 sec - 2 min max
AMA Classic Power-.15 and under	7 sec - 2 min max
AMA Classic Power- over .15	7 sec - 2 min max
Nostalgia – Glow	9sec - 2 min max
Nostalgia – Diesel	16 Sec - 2 min max
HL/Cat Glider – best of three	1 min max
Open Rubber	2 min max
P-30	2 min max
Rubber Scale	Unlimited

Initial entry fee is \$2/event, \$1 for Jr. and Sr. Each re-entry is \$1/event with previous flights scratched. Winner of each event gets a raffle ticket, each entry and re-entry gets you a raffle ticket for the raffle, at the end of the day. You pick what you want from a table of goodies. Goodies are contributions from members, so if you have an old kit or a bundle of balsa or a small tool that you would like to contribute, bring it along. Good items on the table are welcome too; an old ignition engine or a Mogle timer instill a strong urge in the contestant to own, that creates a more determined competitor, who flies more flights, and buys more raffle tickets, and wins more events, and takes home more merchandise, and has a better time. So be that contributor and strong competitor and attend the first meet of the year.

Come on down to Geneseo, get the winter creaks out of your body and get the in the first flights of a new flying season.

We'll see you all there, should it be necessary, the rain date is the next day.

Bob Rambo

Next issue of the TJ

This is the First issue of the TJ in 2007. Mailing of the next issue is dependent on timely availability of sufficient content to justify printing and mailing costs. Although it costs less to print fewer than 4 pages (8 sides), the cost to mail is the same from 1 to 4 pages. Therefore it is preferred to publish the TJ only when material is sufficient for 3 or more pages.

If sufficient information is available regarding the GGG and the Third Annual 1941 Historical Aircraft Group Flying Aces Contest when results are available from the indoor contest and/or the Hobo Meet, then we will publish in the spring. Otherwise, results from those contests will likely be sent out via email. The next set of time sensitive material will be results from the ESFFC (Outdoor meet) which will be available in the fall.

Those of you working on projects this winter can send in photo and simple write-ups. If enough material is provided we can go to press with a "Winter Projects Issue". Many members and other readers of the TJ have commented on several of the construction notes provided in this publication. This is your chance for fame. Don't be shy.



The Western New York

Free Flight Society

Presents the 38th Annual

Empire State Free Flight Championships



Schedule of Flying Events

Friday 8AM to 5PM

- A-B Classic Gas
- B-C Nostalgia Gas
- .020 Replica
- Moffett
- Old Time Rubber
- Classic Towing
- Diesel Qualify

Saturday 8AM to 5PM

- ¼ A Nostalgia Gas
- ½ A Classic Gas (J)(S/O)
- ½ A – D Gas (S/O)
- A Nostalgia Gas
- ½ A AMA Power (J)
- Mulvihill
- Nostalgia Rubber/Wakefield
- FAC Rubber Scale
- FAC Golden Age Scale
- FAC 2 Bit Rubber
- FAC Embryo Endurance
- F1A, F1B, F1C (Open)
- F1P (J/S)
- Diesel Qualify

Sunday 8AM to 4PM

- ½ A Nostalgia Gas
- C-D Classic Gas
- Old Time Gas
- P-30 (J)(S/O)
- Catapult Glider (J)(S/O)
- FAC Dime Scale
- FAC No Cal Scale
- FAC WW II Mass Launch
- FAC Old Time Gas Replica
- F1G, F1H, F1J (Open)
- Diesel Fly Off

Date: August 17, 18 & 19, 2007

Location: Geneseo, NY at the *1941 Historic Aviation Group Museum*

Entry Fees: \$25 for all events and field use fee. Juniors, \$5 covers all events. Casual flyers *must* register with CD.

Contest Director: Lyle Whitford

For questions regarding the meet, contact Lyle at 716-795-3831 or at whitford@localnet.com

Dinner: At the Yard of Ale on Saturday, August 18. Details at the CD's table.

Rules for Empire State Free Flight Championships, a category

III meet except:

- Old Time Gas
16-second engine run for ignition (no glo)
12-second engine run for old time diesel
- .020 Replica, 12 second engine run
- Old Time Rubber
Mulvihill Rules for max flights
- America's Cup
Flown in 1 ½ hour, overlapping rounds starting at 8 AM both days, i.e., 8 – 9:30, 9-10:30, etc.
- National Cup
Qualifying events for this contest: ½ A, AB, +CD Classic, Moffett, Mulvihill, 1/4 A, 1/2 A & A Nostalgia, Nostalgia/Wakefield, Catapult Glider, P-30, Classic Towing.
- Junior National Cup events
½ A Classic Gas, ½ A AMA Power, P-30, Catapult Glider.
- Diesel Unofficial Fun Fly
Three flights Friday and /or Saturday, 12 second run, 120 second max. Total of 250 seconds or more qualifies for Sunday 8 – 10 AM fly off, 12 second run.
- FAC Rubber Scale
Judging 8 –12 noon on Saturday
- Max times are subject to CD's discretion based on field conditions

Valid AMA or MAAC Proof of membership required for all contestants and casual flyers.

Annual meeting minutes

The annual meeting was held at the Terry Hills Country Club in Batavia on November 18, 2006. Club president Brad Bane called the meeting to order at 1:50 PM. As the first order of business, club secretary Mark Rzdca read the minutes from last year's meeting. This was followed by the treasurer's report read by the club treasurer, Ruth Bane. Ruth reported that the club treasury held \$1,378.40. This amount reflected a continuation of the ongoing decrease in assets of approximately \$200 to 300 per year. Last year's minutes and the treasurer's report were unanimously approved by the members present.

Old business was next reviewed.

Brad filled in for Lyle Whitford by giving an over view of the Empire State Free Flight Championships held on August 18-20. Brad further commented that as usual we lost money on the Indoor Meet and made up for it on the Outdoor Meet.

There was little indoor activity throughout the year, per Bob Clemens and Vet Thomas. Vet reviewed the Indoor Meet.

New Business

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the desirability of continuing the Indoor Meet. The final outcome was a tentative go ahead for the 2007 Indoor Meet assuming that a reasonable date can be scheduled.

Brad and Ruth agreed to hold the contest planning meeting at their house on Saturday, January 6, 2007. Details for WNYFFS meets would be worked out at that meeting. All members are welcome to participate in the planning meeting.

The next order of new business was discussion of the Outdoor meet. Brad indicated that Lyle Whitford has once again agreed to be CD for Empire State Free Flight Championships. The 2006 Empire State Free Flight Championships will be held on August 17-19. Jack Barker, speaking as Porta-Potty Chairman, said definite dates would be required for all model aviation meets in order to gain a 10% discount on the necessary rentals. Joe Mollendorf agreed to look into having Graphics Design School create new art work for WNYFFS trophies.

The date of the Great Grape Gathering, sponsored by SAM 86, has been shifted to the Fall and will coincide with the FAC meet sponsored by the Erie Modelers Association. This event will be held Sept 21-23.

Brad raised the issue of the amount of the club's annual field contribution to the 1941 Historic Aviation Group Museum. The decision was made to repeat our standard \$600 dollars contribution.

Brad raised, as the last official topic, consideration of a revival of the WNYFFS Hobo Meet. Bob Rambo agreed to put together a proposal that can be reviewed at the planning meeting in January.

Finally, Brad opened the floor to any additional business. Dave Rosenberg raised the topic of reviving the idea of having meetings with guest speakers discussing various topics in model aviation. This suggestion was well received and Dave and Brad will both investigate potential speakers.

Mark C. Rzdca

End of an Era

Based on the unavoidable and excessive rental fee increases now required by the Buffalo Bills organization for the use of their fieldhouse, the annual indoor meet we planned to hold there this spring is, with regret, cancelled for this year and for succeeding years as well. In mid January I was informed by the Bills that a rental charge of \$1,500 would be required for this year. This is a \$500 increase over what we paid each year since our first contest there in 1998.

The final blow came with the news that, starting in 2008, our rental would go to the full amount for non-profit use of the building: \$3,500. Even if we decided to take advantage of this, the last year of our "discount," it would require 30 contestants paying an entry fee of \$50 each just to come close to breaking even. Based on the failing attendance at our past two or three Bills contests, even the most optimistic of us who enjoy flying and competing indoors cannot conceive of this happening. Certainly the charge of \$3,500 starting in 2008 makes any use of the fieldhouse by us in future years utterly impossible.

I had a phone chat with Chris Voigt, my former contact at the Bills who has since moved on to other responsibilities in that organization. His explanation of the price increases made sense, sadly. From what he told me, we can thank- at least in part- a recent collective bargaining agreement between the NFL owners and the players union that results in a portion of any NFL site rental monies being skimmed off by said union (hey- they need the money) leaving the owners little if any profit from specific events held on their grounds. Indeed, they could suffer losses from many of these events. Utility prices have risen, as we all know, which is another factor.

So the rental price has gone up to compensate. Chris said that certain outside organizations that have in the past rented club facilities for events at the Bills stadium have been forced to cancel. So we are not alone as dropouts. I suspect there will be many others. I predict a lot of weekends in coming months when the fieldhouse will be left standing in the dark.

(A clarification: Erie County owns the Bills fieldhouse, but their lease agreement permits the Bills to set prices and make other decisions regarding non-Bills activities held there.)

We have not totally folded our tents where a WNYFFS indoor contest is concerned. Some alternative sites are being considered. Stay tuned.

- *Bob Clemens*

One on One

If you want to talk to a free flighter directly, the names listed here are people in the area who can offer advice on getting started or have a suggestion for a first kit or tips about what to ask for at the hobby store.

Auburn
Brooks Goodnow
22 Lakehurst Drive
Auburn, NY 13201
315-252-9170
tiqger33@thumpernet.com

Canandaigua
Jack Barker
2067 Route 65
Bloomfield, NY 14469
585-624-2844

Buffalo
Brad Bane
60 Lake Ave.
Lyndonville, NY 14098
585-765-9363
windwhip47@aol.com

Rochester
Bob Clemens
95 Shoreway Drive
Rochester, NY 14612
585-392-3346
robert.clemens@att.net

Brockport
Vet Thomas
970 Clarkson-Parma Road
Hilton, NY 13021
585-392-5164
vthomas1@rochester.rr.com

To Join the WNYFFS complete this form (or a facsimile) and send it along with a check for \$10 (annual dues) payable to:



Ruth Bane, Treasurer, WNYFFS
60 Lake Avenue
Lyndonville, NY 14098

Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____
Email _____
AMA/ MAAC # _____

Please consider membership in AMA/MAAC. While not required for membership in WNYFFS, AMA/MAAC provides supplemental liability insurance covering model flying activities and is required at most WNYFFS flying activities.

Contest CD's

Brooks Goodnow
22 Lakehurst Drive.
Auburn, NY 13021
315-252-9170

Vet Thomas
970 Clarkson-Parma Road
Hilton, NY 13021
585-392-5164
vthomas1@rochester.rr.com

John Carls
43 Murphy Road
Bradford, PA 16701
814-362-7789

Lyle Whitford
9003 Lake Rd, PO Box 72
Barker, NY 14012
716-795-3831

Application for Membership

Name _____ Phone _____
(For Family membership, please list all names.)
Address _____ e-Mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occupation _____
Hobbies _____

Membership entitles you to free admission to our air show and to the museum, a 10% discount in the HAG store, *Hangar Tales* for a year, a window sticker for your car, and membership card (which must be presented to obtain the perks). See Founders' Forum for club details.

Membership Type: _____ Top Gun Club \$500
_____ C-47 Club \$250
_____ Family (parents & children under 18) \$75
_____ Regular (18-59) \$35
_____ Senior Citizen (60 & up) \$30
_____ Junior (17 and under) \$15

NEW FEES & CLASSES EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2005

All payments must be in US funds.

Mail this application (or a photocopy) with your check to:
1941 Historical Aircraft Group Museum, PO Box 185, Geneseo, NY 14454-0185



Background on the WNYFFS

The Western NY Free Flight Society began in the late 1960's with a few modelers. Today the Society now numbers nearly 100 members in 9 states and Canada. For over 30 years the club has hosted the Empire State Free Flight Championships in late summer, as well as a "fun fly", each spring, both are held in Geneseo, NY. Powered by rubber, gas, diesel, electric, CO₂, compressed air or that old standby- muscle, these events exact the best from the planes and presents the fascinating challenge of outdoor free flight to the folks attending. There is no "off season" in free flight. Once a year, a major contest is hosted in conjunction with the Flying Aces Club. The Empire State Indoor Championships are held at the Buffalo Bills field house in Orchard Park, NY.

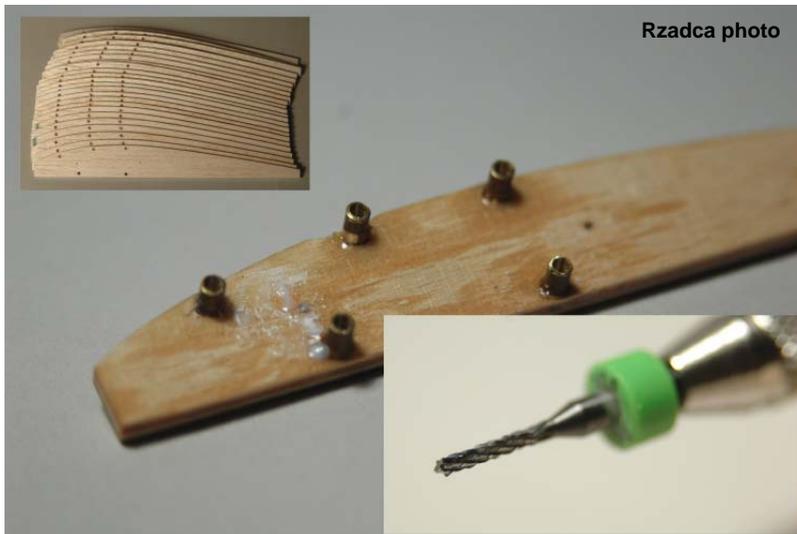
Making Identical Ribs

Here is one more way to make large numbers of identical ribs that improves on using a template for producing identical outlines. (See the picture with insets below.) By drilling a 3/32 hole just inside the perimeter of the template, a brass tube can be cemented in place to act as a drill guide/bearing. Holes drilled (using a pin vise) at each guide location provide identically located slots for wing spars. Small pins in the template stick into the rib's balsa to maintain the relative position of the template to the piece being prepared. Once the holes are drilled, all that is needed to create slots is to connect the edges of the holes to the perimeter of the rib using a single edge razor or modeling knife. One advantage of the round bottom of the slots is that the spar extension of the top of the rib can be adjusted since the radius provides a little "give".

With this method spars cannot be made square. The width is established by the inner diameter of the guide bushing and the depth of the spar must be at least a little greater than that to account for the thickness of the tube wall thickness that must be inside the outline of the rib. So far I have used 3/32" tubes to produce slots for 1/16" by 3/32" spars for two models and it has worked great.

The only part that may be a little difficult to obtain is the 3/32" drill that will cut cleanly and produce a flat bottom. A flat bottom is not essential but a normal high speed twist drill bit will not cut cleanly through soft balsa. The tungsten carbide bit shown in the picture was purchased as part of a set from Harbor Freight some time ago at a cost of about \$10 for 30 bits. These bits were industrial discards. Perhaps an end mill will work but too few cutting surfaces may not cut as cleanly as desired.

Mark C. Rzdca



Rzdca photo

Pen Pal Corner

Don Yokel was a long time member of the WNYFFS and a big proponent of diesel powered models. Some time ago he "disappeared" from the upstate scene. Turns out he has materialized in Florida. According to a note received from Jack Barker, Don is interested in re-establishing contact with anyone interested from the WNYFFS. Here is Don's address and phone number in case you are so inclined:

Donald D. Yokel
7991 SW. 186th Circle
Dunnellon, FL 34432
(315) 465-6993

Thanks for the inside track Jack.



Mark C. Rzdca
17 High Point Trail
Fairport, NY 14450