

June 29, 2017

WNYFFS June 2017 Update

Confusing TJ Updates

As predicted in the last update, your TJ staff (yours truly) was out of town or otherwise occupied with various family matters for much of May and early June. Thanks to Bob Clemens and Jim DeTar here are updates on the activities of that have occurred since the last update.

Science Exploration Days at Saint John Fisher College - Bob Clemens

The dwindling away of the Science Exploration Days appears to be continuing. The Thursday night session had fewer than ever attendees which I attribute to the continuing lack of a proper and aggressive promotional and advertising effort. There were fewer exhibitors as well both sessions. However there was a noticeable increase in the number of students at the Friday session. As we've seen in past shows, there appeared to be a fair amount of interest and enthusiasm in our models during the public session (and among the students) and I handed out a bunch of Mark's cards that listed my e-mail address and the club's name. In the days following the SED I've received no e-mail or other inquiries whatsoever. Carl VanVoorhis, despite his health problems, helped out on Thursday night and flew his Science Olympiad biplane several times. I was on my own Friday but things went smoothly.

The cynic in me has finally overtaken my optimism as far as this event is concerned and I've concluded that there is no point to continuing our participation in it. The kids, adults, and students enjoy seeing our models fly but show absolutely zero interest in getting involved themselves.

Spring Opener - Jim DeTar

Spring Opener didn't happen due to rain and wind. Weather was a bit better for our Spring Opener rain date. A number of flier showed up on Saturday; the Smiths, Banes, Mollendorfs, Bob Goffe from Ithaca, and a neighbor of Joe Mollendorf's. Sunday was too windy; no one else showed up. Mark Whalen, had been considering coming on Sunday, but waved him off due to the conditions. Some Spring!

On a brighter note, the field was in great shape. The grass had all been cut and hay removed. Just right! Last year's "on field" soybean patch is now wheat; much better for retrievals. The line of trees separating the northeast part of the field from the crops to the east has been removed; that should make it easier to keep an eye on planes that drift off the field in that direction.



Editor's Comments

Following on Jim's comments, the wet weather has continued so we are likely to have lush soft grass for some time; certainly it will be so for the FAC Non Nationals in July. Although the grass has probably grown quite tall since the Spring Opener, it will have been trimmed in time for the Air Show which precedes the FAC meet.

Regarding the Science Exploration Days, it is hard to give up on any chance at gaining access to such a great indoor venue but Bob is almost certainly right. We have put in so many years with no connections being made. Our interest gaining access for a contest at Saint John Fisher College has never met with any encouragement from the hosts. Perhaps it is time to pull the plug.

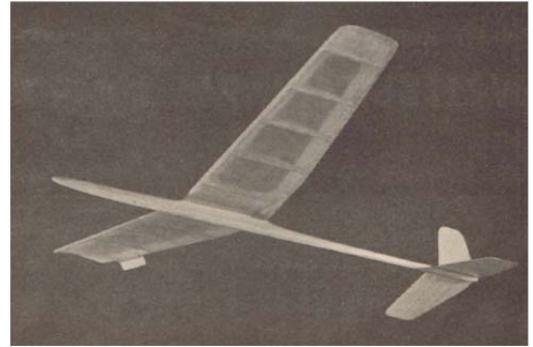
Regarding the Club Picnic, rain and winds once again prevailed on both the intended and the rain date. As Jim says, it really has been some spring.

Building Board

With the end to your editor's travel for a few weeks one might think there would be a building frenzy in June. Instead of building new models my modeling time was pleasantly taken up with visiting grandchildren. Modeling was mostly limited to flying simple models in the backyard and repairing and flying again. That is not a bad way to spend one's modeling time but it does not add to

the stable for the next season. Flying with my grandson did remind me once more of the great deal of fun to be had with simple gliders. Reading a construction article in a back issue of MAN helped to get the creative juices going once more.

The model from MAN was a hand launch glider called *Real Gone* and includes built up wings. That was a feature intended for my next version of the Bell P-59 for the FAC Jet Catapult event. Rough drawings for that purpose have been pulled together. The built up wing should enable a much thicker wing without so much added weight or using up the very best in contest wood. It is now a matter of choosing between completing a new model versus cobbling the new wing into an existing model.



Real Gone is shown to good advantage in the B&W image included here. Two other interesting features can be clearly seen as well. First off, there is a floating aileron on the right wing. Apparently these were common at the time of publication (1954) on gas powered models. The idea is pretty straight forward; the aileron is light enough and hinged freely enough that during launch it will swing back and not affect the model's climb. During the glide, the aileron's mass will cause it to drop and induce a turn.

Real Gone also includes significant anhedral (or negative dihedral) in the stabilizer. To quote from the article, "...negative dihedral in the stabilizer is more or less a steal from the Wakefield jobs, some of which employ it to keep the nose up on downwind turns." Rest assured, you editor is not trying to gin up a rehash of all the downwind turn discussions of the last millennium. Rather, I would be pleased to hear from anyone with information on what value, if any, there is to such a configuration on a free flight model. Negative dihedral on an F-4 Phantom II must have some value (that is, besides looking cool) but it probably does not translate to the model domain.



Color photo shows the new wing under construction. Leading edge is made from relatively hard balsa. Remaining components are all of light weight 1/16" stock. Sheeting on top leading edge and trailing edge made of two pieces of sheet balsa (on top and bottom of rib) should make for a very stiff wing. Bottom and top cap strips help as well. All up weight should be low even though it is a bit thicker than a quarter inch before sanding.

Wrap Up

Can't resist one picture from our visit to the Pima Air Museum in Arizona last May. Here is my wife Mary Jo with a twist on the eternal question: "does this airplane make me look fat?" If you need help with the correct answer you may wish to consider the single life.



Our next local Free Flight event is the FAC Non Nationals which immediately follow the National Warplane Museum's airshow in July. Airshow arrival day is July 14 with the airshow on the 15th and 16th. Dates for the FAC meet provided in the box below.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the airshow and the Non Nationals.

Build light, build straight and fly often,
Mark C. Rzadca, Editor, Western New York Free Flight Society Thermal Journal

Outdoor Free Flight Dates at NWM Flying for 2017:	
FAC Non Nationals:	July 19 ~ 22
Empire State Free Flight Championships:	August 11, 12 & 13
Pirate Challenge:	August 25, 26 & 27
Great Grape Gathering:	September 8, 9 & 10

