

March 27, 2017

WNYFFS March 2017 Update

### Brooks Goodnow

Once again we must report the passing of another WNYFFS member. Brooks Goodnow passed away on September 29, 2016. Brooks was already a long time member when your editor joined the club. Brooks mostly flew AMA and SAM events. He served as contest director for many of our events until health issues forced him to slow down and eventually drop out from active flying. Brooks was always generous with advice. The photo shows (l to r) Joe Mollendorf, Brooks and Brad Bane at the 2005 planning meeting discussing O20 replica power patterns.



Brooks and his constant flying companion Carol were generous with their time and home. When Vet Thomas's son Dean had an opportunity for an internship in Syracuse, Brooks and Carol opened up their home and treated them as their son. They taught him life lessons that he still values today. Both Dean and Vet are grateful for the generosity of the Goodnow's. Brooks is survived by Carol and several stepchildren and grandchildren. Our condolences go out to Carol.

### Club Picnic Reminder

A quick reminder that our club picnic is scheduled for April 29 with a rain date of May 13. Let Brad or Ruth know you are coming so they can let you know if the event is cancelled or postponed. It also helps them to have a head count; they are providing the food after all. Our location remains the same, Gaines Valley Aviation, 2501 Gaines Waterport Road, Albion, NY 14411. Phone them at 585-765-9363 or send an email to [windwhip47@aol.com](mailto:windwhip47@aol.com) This will be our second annual picnic. Last year's was a great starter and the weather was *almost* good enough for some test flights down the runway! Don't say you weren't invited.

### Indoor Flying Wraps Up

Last Saturday, March 25, was our last indoor flying session for the 2016/2017 flying season. It was an unusual season in that three sessions were cancelled. On the up side, our last session experienced probably the best attendance in the last several years. We had a number of "regular" flyers we hadn't see for a while and two Science Olympiad teams took advantage of the session to prepare for the State level competition. A special welcome to Ed Currier and Marybeth Beshures, the coaches who took time to bring their SO teams in for the one more practice session.

### Wings we don't want to Pop Off

In the last two updates we discussed how to dethermalize a model by popping a wing off the model or making it pop up. This time around, we present for your consideration a means of temporarily attaching a wing so that it is easily removable for transportation. This idea is very specific to the Phantom Flash although it may be adaptable to other models with similar wing saddle attachment design.



The Phantom Flash is very popular with FAC flyers. It has the appeal of having been around since at least the thirties. Its low cost and simple looking construction would certainly have appealed to youngsters back in the day. Unfortunately, certain construction details must frustrated many young modelers. One such detail is the use of wing saddles. These are made of 1/16" balsa and are glued to the wing at the dihedral break. They have a slot which slips over the fuselage stick to align the wing and fuselage. Then, a rubber band is supposed to be wrapped over one wing, under the fuselage and over the other wing to hold the two components together.

Making the saddles from a single piece of balsa makes them prone to fracture. Wrapping a rubber band over the fragile wing and around the fuselage requires a delicate and patient hand. It is an invitation to damage the wing unless one is extremely careful.

As an alternative means of retaining the wing, consider gluing a 1/16" square stick to the saddle as shown in the photo. With the stick perpendicular to the saddle's grain, the saddle is MUCH more robust. Now, attaching the wing is a trivial matter of slipping a dental band from one end of the stick to the other for each of the Flash's two saddles. No more fractured saddles and no frustration attaching the wing to fuselage!

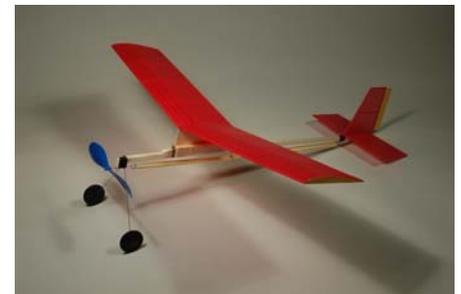
### Family Flying Update

Imagine my very pleasant surprise when I heard from my daughter Amanda that my grandson JP (short for John Patrick) had spoken his first words. JP, who has not yet turned two, has for some time been attracted to the sound of trucks passing by his house. Lately he has been attracted to airplanes as well; looking up and searching the sky whenever one is heard. On a recent visit to Amanda's, all my daughters were enjoying a nice day at the park. My oldest daughter Elaine asked JP what he was looking at as a plane passed overhead. Much to everybody's surprise he replied "it's a plane".

With that kind of awareness and enthusiasm, we can't miss the opportunity to recruit another modeler! A Sig Cub was quickly assembled for my trip to North Carolina earlier this month. Opening the travel box at their home, JP called out once again "it's a plane" as the wing was revealed.



We trooped out to a local park and put in a thousand turns or so and set the Cub off her maiden voyage. JP was most excited and ran after the model but gave up as it climbed higher and higher. Unfortunately, as it circled downwind, it drifted towards the edge of the field where it found a hangout in the tall pines. Fortunately, the Sig Cub his mother built as a seventh grader was close at hand as a backup. Years in storage had warped many of the surfaces and it flew a bit wonky. It didn't fly as well but at least Mom's model didn't join JP's Cub in the pines. Before we packed up, the wing from JP's Cub blew down from the tree so now a simple fuselage is all that is required to be back in business.



We'll be ready for our next outing for sure. The photos show JP and Grandpa launching and JP retrieving his mother's Cub. Our parting shot is of JP's Cub. It is now on semi-permanent display in a Loblolly Pine

in NC.

### Science Exploration Days at Saint John Fisher College

Bob Clemens has just provided the dates for this event: May 18th (public show, 7-9 pm) and 19th (school kids, 9-2, followed by lunch). This is a great chance to get out and meet the public and demonstrate our indoor flying models. A number of the regulars at this event will be unavailable this year. Do give thought to participating. Bob Clemens has been the contact for this event for many years. If you are interested in joining in, contact Bob at [rclemens2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rclemens2@rochester.rr.com)

#### Outdoor Free Flight Dates at NWM Flying for 2017:

Spring Opener:	May 6 & 7
Spring Opener Rain Date:	May 20 & 21
FAC Outdoor 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

*Note: There will be no update for April. Get building. Ed.*

That's all for now. Build light, build straight and fly often,  
Mark C. Rzdca, Editor, Western New York Free Flight Society Thermal Journal