

October 16, 2017

WNYFFS October 2017 Update

### Indoor Flying

Jim DeTar has once again set up a great schedule for Indoor flying at Pieter's Life Family Center. Arrangements should be similar to last year but check with Jim to make sure. Likewise, if you are interested in trying out indoor flying for the first time contact Jim for more details. Here are the dates followed by Jim's email:

Nov 18, 2017

Dec 2, 16, 2017

Jan 13, 27, 2018

Feb 10, 24, 2018

Mar 10, 24, 2018

All flying sessions are from 2 to 5 pm. Jim's email: jrdetar@yahoo.com

### Display at Greatest Show on Turf

During one of the meetings with Donna from the National Warplane Museum it was suggested that the Western New York Free Flight Society host a display at the 2018 Airshow. This will be a great opportunity to gain exposure for our hobby to a large number of aviation minded people. Give some consideration to what you think would go over well to invite some new faces into the Free Flight fraternity. This is sure to be a topic of discussion at the Annual Meeting in November.

### Sheet Balsa models – Dave Pishnery



Here are a couple of pictures of another sheet model built by Dave Pishnery. Refer to the August update for a bit of information on how Dave is able to build these models even more quickly than those with more traditional structures. Dave did say that this construction leads to a model a bit heavier than we are used to but they are also stronger. Perhaps having a few of these on hand would be just the ticket for demonstrations (such as at next year's airshow) where less than delicate handling is expected from the visitors. Seems like these slab sided beauties may be an easy way to get simple power scale models in the air as well.

### Built up wings for Cat Glider

Way back in June, the TJ update included pictures of a hand launch glider from an old issue of Model Airplane News which included built up wings. This served as an inspiration to replace the heavy solid wings on my Bell P-59 Airacomet. Those replacement wings have turned out pretty well. About 10 grams have been removed from the model and the section is now a tad thicker. (As an unintended side benefit, the yellow tissue looks better than the original's sprayed on floral paint.) There have been only a few test glides but the results are already promising. In dead air just at sunset one flight of 27 seconds was had. That flight performance was a result of a nearly perfect transition. With the new configuration, the model seems more sensitive to variations in the launch. Although no other flights came so close to the one outstanding flight, it seems like it will be worth investing a bit more time in the P-59. Several repairs to the model have resulted in some undesirable curvature to the rear end so a new fuselage is the next order of business.



## Annual Meeting Plans

Arrangements for the Annual Meeting have been put in place. They are pretty much identical to last year's setup.

For the record, here are the details:

As in years past, we will have room to display your recent models or related works of interest. Ruth Anne should be on hand so you can pay annual dues easily. Bring Friends and spouses. Finally, do let Brad or Ruth to let know you are coming by November 11 so they can provide a head count. The phone number is 585-765-9363; or send an email to [windwhip47@aol.com](mailto:windwhip47@aol.com).

### Norman Becker

Many years ago on one of my earlier visits to the Clodbusters Outdoor Champs in Muncie, someone asked if I would help his dad fly in a mass launch event. Wasn't sure just what I was getting into but I'm glad I agreed. Dean Becker's dad Norm needed help because Norm's knees were not up to the task of chasing his model for the mass launch. Someone had to be the mechanic on the line while Dean chased the model. That was in about 2004. Since then I have enjoyed meeting up and flying with Norm, Dean and Harrison Knapp (another stooge lined up by Dean for that mass launch effort) at the Outdoor Champs.



Norman Becker was a veteran of WWII and served as an armorer on B-24's. Perhaps that is where his interest in model aviation began. However his interest began, he was one of the most enthusiastic modelers you could imagine.

Norm would show up at the Champs year after year with a car full of models. They would be stashed in the trunk, back seat and rear window ledge. Never did think to ask where Norm and Dean put their suitcases for the trip from Saint Louis to Muncie. (Norm actually lived in Swansea Illinois, very near St. Louis MO.) Many, if not most, of Norm's models were new each year. He really loved building and flying, trimming was another matter. Models are *supposed to fly*, after all. He would pull out a model, and give it a go for official flights. There was only so much time available for adjusting and trimming. If model failed to deliver, he would set it aside and move on to another. Between models, Norm loved hangar flying as much as the next guy. He would talk about all things aviation and especially what models were good and what should be built next. Sometimes a trimming suggestion would even get a second chance for a given model. But Norm was always ready to pull another model out and put it into the air. When one of his models put up a good flight, as many did, the

satisfaction and pride were there for everyone to see and enjoy. It doesn't get any better than that.

Norman Becker passed away on August 27 of this year. Norm remained engaged in modeling into his 90s. He was enjoying the hobby we share with an enthusiasm and energy many of us can only remember. When he could no longer travel to Muncie, he continued to build and fly closer to home with his friends. I expect the next time I run into Norm he will still be excited to fly and discuss what he is going to build next. His enthusiasm will be just as pleasantly infectious as always.

We send our sincere condolences to Norm's sons, Dean and Roger and their children.

Build light, build straight and fly often,

Mark C. Rzadca, Editor, Western New York Free Flight Society  
Thermal Journal

**TERRY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**  
**5122 CLINTON STREET RD. (ROUTE 33)**  
**BATAVIA, NEW YORK 14020**

Annual Meeting: November 18, 2017

The cost is \$17 per person.

The doors will be open at 11:00 AM; lunch will be served at 12:00 with the planning meeting beginning at about 1:30.

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