



Martin Wisniewski <m.news45@gmail.com>

WNYFFS May Update

1 message

Mark Rzdca <wnyffs@rochester.rr.com>
To: m.news45@gmail.com

Sun, May 15, 2016 at 5:50 PM

May 15, 2016

Greetings All,

As usual, it has been an extremely busy spring at the Rzdca household. Besides the family and house maintenance stuff, WNYFFS activities seem to have been a bit more intense this year. Without further delay, here is a recap of what has been going on.

Club Picnic

Our club picnic was held as scheduled. We had excellent picnic weather even if it was just a bit breezy for model flying. Brad & Ruth set a very fine table and as usual there were deserts a-plenty. Vet Thomas provided some halftime entertainment by flying in to the event in his Cub. Nothing exciting mind you; Vet greased it in as smooth as can be with nary a bounce. We also toured the hangars. Of particular interest was the home built full size Nieuport 17. Unfortunately I don't recall the builder's name but he was justifiable proud of his project. As one would expect, such a craft requires continuous pilot input. Thanks to the Banes for hosting this event. Hopefully this activity will be repeated next year.

Spring Opener

We were blessed with splendid weather for the first day of our Spring Opener. Temperatures were very mild and the wind was quite light most of the time. About a dozen flyers took advantage of our first official outdoor flying opportunity. Your editor was able to work on trimming his repaired E-36 along with a brand new 020 Replica model of Carl Goldberg's Zipper.



In the first photo, we have a rogue's gallery of the early arrival crowd. From the left, Bob Clemens, Dave Pishnery, Bob Gosse, Lyle Whitford and Simon Blake. Several more flyers showed up through the morning and into the afternoon. Everyone had a good time. No models were lost although a few were damaged.

Perhaps the big news was the enthusiasm generated by the new E-20 models. Most were flown for the first time under power. Ruth Bane worked on her model based (mostly) on Bob Stalick's EAP II while Joe Mollendorf squared away his BMJR Kiwi model. Both models flew well with a decent climb. Jim DeTar's Mini E (design by Bruce Hannah) was the winner in terms of performance and consistency. That is Jim with his E-20 in the second photo. It is safe to say we were all pleased and a bit surprised by the climb performance. All models were better than the original E-36 level but not nearly so hot as the current E-36 can be. This could well shape up to be a terrific beginner's event and especially a good opportunity for visitors to try out a competitive event. It is a great thing when a plan comes together.



Predictions for Sunday's weather were not so good so most people did not plan on returning, yours truly included. However, Simon Blake did stop in for a couple of hours on Sunday to work on his Top Banana with an OK Cub for motivation, photo below. He was kind enough to drop me a note in which he reported that the weather was not much windier than Saturday. Thanks for the update Simon.



Predictions for the weather on our Spring Opener rain date were pretty dismal. Most everyone agreed they would not take advantage of that flying opportunity. As this note is written, the weather in Rochester confirms the forecast. It is windy cold and precipitating; the precipitation has alternated between rain, sleet and snow. Funny how you never hear anyone complain about central heating.

Science Exploration Days

Once again the WNYFFS was ably represented at Saint John Fisher's Science Exploration Days. Science Exploration Days (SED) showcases science and tech companies for families and school groups. At the WNYFFS display we show off free flight models and explain how they work. Some light weight indoor models are flown; these flights typically amaze the spectators who cannot believe models can fly so long using just a "rubber band". Our participation has always been well received. This year Bob Clemens and I enjoyed meeting the young students along with several enthusiastic parents and teachers.



We were set up right next to the Radio Control Club of Rochester. It was a nice time to catch up with Don Steeb and a number of other friends from the RC side of the hobby. Photo shows Ed Ortmann, Don Steeb, Bob Clemens and Mike looking at a historical Comet video which includes actually building a 20" Stinson kit from Comet.

NWM Airshow Volunteers

For many years now the National Warplane Museum (NWM) has been our only venue for outdoor contests. We support the museum in several ways. Most active members of the WNYFFS are members of the NWM as well. This is critical to the Museum's accreditation as a museum. In addition our club makes a cash donation each year to the Museum. Individually, many WNYFFS members also volunteer at the NWM, especially for the annual airshow (The Greatest Show on Turf!) in July. This can be a physically demanding activity. Hours are long and if the weather is hot it can be very taxing for more seasoned members.

For my part, I worked at a couple of airshows over the years but frequently could not help out due to family commitments on airshow weekend. A few years back (after being laid off that is) it struck me that I could volunteer to help with clean up after the airshow. Clean up is not exactly easy; it is hard work, sometimes done in unpleasant weather. However, it is done at the individual's pace. Bill Lepard and I have done the bulk of the work with help from a few (sometimes one) high school age volunteers for one day. (All the high schoolers have been great to work with.

Since I don't remember all their names I won't mention any.) Some years it has taken us two and a half days to wrap up. The point is, if anyone is looking for a chance to volunteer the help out with the airshow but cannot make it to the event, this could be just the ticket.

This volunteer work is very well received by the regulars at the museum. Most of the rest of the volunteer base is pretty worn out after the show thus clean up devolved the regulars most years. A most sincere "thank you" came as a result of this work. While eating lunch in the office building the first year I helped in this way, I wondered out loud "who would do this if Bill and I weren't here?" The guy across the table looked up and said "I would, thank you." Once again I don't recall his name but he was already very busy working on other business related to running the museum. He definitely meant it.

If you are interested, send a note to the editor. As Ma Ingalls always said, "many hands make light work."

Brooks Goodenow Update

As this note was in the very act of creation, a note came in from Jim McCarty. It seems that Brooks Goodenow's health has taken a turn for the worse. Brooks and Carol have decided to sell his collection of free flight airplanes and equipment. Apparently this includes a number of items from the late Bob Rambo as well. Items include about 30 airplanes, large amount of balsa wood, covering materials, 8 kits, field boxes and equipment, large field airplane box, large amount of miscellaneous field support equipment.

Jim McCarty is handling the disposal. Proceeds will help with the costs (those not covered by insurance) of multiple weekly visits to the hospital for dialysis along with acute conditions such as pneumonia. Jim is planning a "garage sale" on May 21 and 22 from 9AM to 4PM. Jim lives in Pittsford at 8 Grey Fawn. If you have questions or cannot make that date you can arrange a to meet with Jim at your convenience. His number is [\(585\) 313-0202](tel:585-313-0202).

Thanks to Jim for the heads up and helping Brooks and Carol. Lets all keep Brooks and Carol in our thoughts and prayers.

The End

That is a wrap for now. Next up on the local free flight calendar is the Flying Aces Nationals. They will be held in July with July 13 set aside for check in and judging while flying events are on July 14 through 16.

Of course everyone should try to attend the NWM airshow on July 9 & 10. As always, The Greatest Show on Turf!

For now, build light, build straight and fly often,

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