

The Flying Times

The Official Newsletter of the Valley RC Flying Club

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PRESIDENTS KORNER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – November 2008 by Chester Williams



Lawrence Williams, 1924-2008

Well...

I'm not really sure how to begin this month's report. My life has changed dramatically in the last month. On October 3rd my father, Lawrence Williams, died at home. He was 84 years old. We're not sure exactly how it happened, but I suppose it doesn't really matter. I'm going to be a bit selfish and devote this report to him.

Dad loved airplanes.

As a young man he served as a B-25 mechanic near the end of WWII. I believe he was stationed in Oklahoma (and maybe Texas) at Army Air Corp bases where flight crews were trained. He went to school on North American B-25 Mitchells and Martin B-26 Marauders. When I was a lot younger I remember him telling me stories of things they (the mechanics) did to entertain themselves, such as running up the engines when the officers were in the nearby mess hall eating breakfast. They'd take a peek in the windows to watch the coffee cups slowly vibrate their way toward the edge of the tables. He also told me about how they were trained to work on the planes in primitive conditions with basic tools. In one exercise they were required to swap the engines without the aid of lifts or hoists. They'd do it by stacking blocks of wood up to the engines, unbolting them, and removing the wood one piece at a time to slowly lower the engines to the ground. They would then drag the engines to the other side of the plane and

reverse the process to raise them back into place.

I remember a time when he could identify various vintage prop-driven planes simply by listening to the sound they made when flying overhead. He could, for example, tell you if it was an AT-6, a C-47, a B-25, or a B-17.

Dad joined the Valley R.C. Flying Club a year or two after I did in the late 1980's. That means he was in his mid-60's when he joined the club. He really, really wanted to fly R.C. model airplanes, but his age was already working against him. His depth perception, eyesight, and reaction time simply weren't as good as they used to be. At least he was able to fly well enough to get a solo certificate. Most of the time, however, I would do the take offs and landings for him so he could simply enjoy the flying part. I never strayed far away, though, because he had a habit of letting his plane get too far away!

He's gone now, and I feel like a big part of me is gone too. He was my father and my best friend. I really miss him.

Before I finish this up there are a few people I'd like to publicly thank:

- Jason Shenk of Linville Hobbies - He spent a lot of time and effort tracking down the tiny B-25 model that was displayed at the funeral home and placed in Dad's casket. I'm very grateful.

- J.R. Varela - He drove to Charlottesville to get the model, brought it to Harrisonburg, and gave it to me without being asked to do so. He also wouldn't accept a cent for his time, the gas he burned, or the model itself. I'm astounded at this act of kindness and generosity.
- Dan Myers – He served as one of Dad's pallbearers. Dad thought very highly of him and so do I. I'm honored to count him as one of my friends.

PRESIDENT'S OCTOBER REPORT

by Chester Williams

Fall is officially upon us now, which means we need to start preparing for "end of the year" activities. They are:

1. Board of Directors & Officer Elections – These elections will be coming up at the December meeting. I will ask three people to form a nominating committee to assemble a slate of candidates who will agree to run for office and serve if elected. We follow this procedure each year to insure that we have at least one person willing to run for each position. At the November meeting this committee will report back to the club. At the December meeting we will accept additional nominations from the floor, if any, and then hold the elections.

2. Update the Dues Structure & Membership Classifications – There’s been a lot of discussion for months about the need to increase dues to cover rising expenses, as well as to add a new spouse/auxiliary membership classification to encourage more family participation in club activities. The Board of Directors is working on a proposal that I plan to talk about at the November meeting. I hope that any change(s) we make will be voted upon at the December meeting so we can get them in place in time for membership renewals.
3. Christmas Dinner/Party – We have reserved a room at Pano’s Restaurant again this year. The party will be on Saturday, December 13th, at 7:00PM. We don’t know what the menu will be yet nor do we know how much it’s going to cost. These details will be passed along as soon as they become available.
4. Jumbo Fly-In Contest Director – I covered this in September, but it needs to be repeated. We need someone to agree to be the CD (a.k.a. “Point Man”, “Head Honcho”, “Big Chief”) of the fly-in next year. Preferably this is someone who flies giant-scale airplanes and has been to other such events so that he’ll know how things are done and what to expect. No one has stepped up to take the job since last month’s newsletter was published, which is why I’m bringing it up again this month.

There’s one more thing I’d like to mention before I finish, and that’s the low attendance at the monthly club meetings. In order for you to stay informed and to exercise your right to have a say in what happens, it’s important for you to attend the meetings. I strongly encourage you to attend and participate in the important business that’s coming up in the next several months.

Please don’t forget to observe the September-January field usage rules that went into effect on September 1st.

FROM SEPTEMBER’S MINUTES

September Meeting Minutes Notes

In that the October membership meeting was cancelled due to the death of Lawrence Williams, the following was extracted from September meeting minutes:

Treasurer’s Report--All is well, healthy balance will carry the club into the New Year.

Creek Crossing—With the placement of a beam in the creek below the crossing to hold the rock and gravel in place, no further improvements will be made to the crossing at this time.

Christmas Party—Dates of Friday December 12 or Saturday December 13 or Friday and Saturday December 19 and 20 have been

suggested. Aaron Swindle to call Pano's to reserve a room.

Membership Dues—The Board of Directors a recommended fee structure and present it at the next (November) meeting.

MA Findings

Some highlights of the November 2009 issue of *Model Aviation* are presented just in case you haven't found time to look through the magazine.

“President’s Perspective” (page 5)—A must-read for those interested in the direction control of “our” air space is going. FAA is insisting that it controls all airspace include model aviation activities. The FAA has commissioned an Aviation Rulemaking Committee to address their concerns. Dave Mathewson, AMA President.

“Closeout Sale at the AMA Store” (page 9)—Many AMA patches are only \$1 and all will be on sale until they are gone.

INtheAIR, Wings Across America, 2008 Update (page 12)—The Wings Across America 2008 tour has been ongoing since Memorial Day weekend. At the time of the writing, more than 27 pilots have flown their legs with the Stevens AeroModel, SQuiRT. Valley RC Flying Club is among the clubs and organizations thanked for their efforts.

There are also a couple (or three) of “How to Do It” articles which may strike a builder’s fancy: (1) “How to

Mold a Leading Edge in 10 Steps”(page 33), (2) a sport-scale A-20 Havoc model’s simplified structure for twin flying fun (page 37) and (3) “Cowl Making 101” (page 51).

WANTED

Mike Reno of the Verona Club has asked the VRCFC to see if any of our members had an sf OS46 engine to sell. He only needs the carburetor for a diesel he is working on. Call Mike at 540-448-0564 or Joe Hash at 540-249-4950 if you can help.

SEEN ON THE INTERNET

(1) This RC model can do things that the real B-29 could not do. The first time that an A/C of any size did the Z-gravity defying act was at the worlds fair in Seattle in 1959. Johnson was the test pilot.

You can just imagine how much time, effort, skill and money these guys have put into this thing.

Click on the site below.

(2) Just Another Routine Take-Off

Takes a lot of power to get 500 tons plus the plane's weight moving fast enough to get in the air.

A fully loaded Russian IL-76 cargo plane with a payload of 1 million pounds?!?

You won't believe it, but this plane has to use just about every inch of the runway to get off the ground.

Just listen to the Australian controllers in the tower while you watch this video. It's truly amazing that this plane made it off the ground.

<http://www.alexisparkinn.com/photogallery/Videos/2008-2-9-1176-in-Australia.wmv>

(3) This Is The NEW F-35B STOL (Jump Jet)

Replacement Aircraft For The British Harrier & F-18 Super Hornet - Pretty slick! The USAF is ordering a limited number of these but most will go to the Marine Corps.

<http://www.truveo.com/F35BBF1-First-Flight/id/3742946739>