



Bull Sheet

February 2024 Issue



Build Up a Storm! That Ground Hog Says its Going to Be An Early Spring!

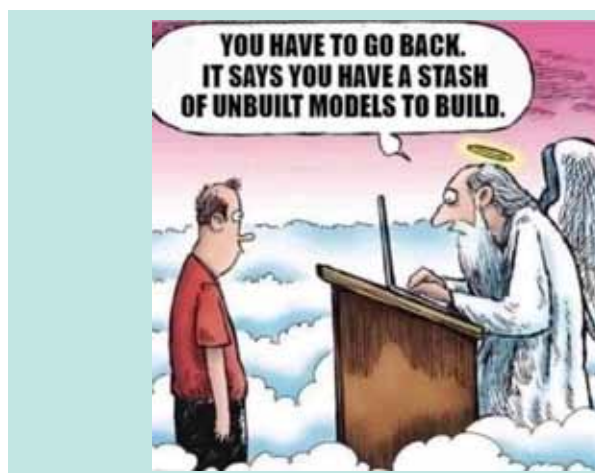
Meeting Schedule

SNHRCC Meetings are held on the second MONDAY of each month.

Summer meetings (June, July, August, September) are held at our flying field. They being at 7 pm during the summer to allow a time of flying while the members are all together.

Winter meetings (October - May) are being held at 7 pm in the Community Room of the Litchfield Fire Department, 10 Liberty Way, Litchfield, NH. Last page of this issue has a map of the parking.

The Bull Sheet is published by the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club (SNHRCC), Inc., a non-profit Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) Chartered Club #408, for the promotion of building and flying of Radio Controlled (RC) model aircraft.



**Next Meeting is February 12, 2024 at the
Litchfield Fire Station Community Room
7:00 PM Sharp!**

Basic Flying Rules

1. Try to Stay in the Middle of the Air
2. Do not go near the edges of it
3. The edges of the air can be recognized by the appearance of ground, buildings, water and inter-stellar space.

It is much more difficult to fly there

A Message From The President

Greetings Folks!

I hope you are enjoying your winter builds and making good progress. Or maybe still sneaking out for a flight here or there.

I want to thank everybody who came out to support the club at the Hudson deliberative session on Saturday. We have a lot of work ahead of us to save Wagner field but I think it's within reach. Stand by for some more updates on future actions.

Also, I hear our new Train Air kits are just about ready...thanks Taylor for cutting them! The power systems are also here for those who wanted them.

See you Monday!



Cody

Club Officers

- | | |
|---|--|
| • President
Cody Wojcik
Fremont, NH
603.479.4514 | • Safety Officer
Brian Nadeau
603.566.6797 |
| • Vice President
Mark Auclair
Windham, NH
781.910.1241 | • Newsletter
Taylor Collins
505.301.2904 |
| • Secretary
John Hayes
Litchfield, NH
603.345.5604 | • Flight Instructors
John Hayes
603.345.5604 |
| • Treasurer
Ed van der Veen
Hudson, NH
603.247.3181 | |



John

**“I fly because it releases
my mind from the
tyranny of petty things.”**

— Antoine de Saint-Exupery

**Southern NH Radio Control
Club Meeting Minutes
Jan 8, 2024**

Litchfield Fire Community Room

Officers in attendance: Cody Wojick, Mark Auclair, Ed Vanderveen and John Hayes

Secretary's and Treasurers reports were read and accepted.

Ed talked about the petition warrant, thanking those who went out and got signatures. Ed will be attending the Selectmen's meeting to tell them about the petition warrant. The budget committee will be meeting about the town's warrant and hopefully there will be a recommendation not to recommend it.

Cody said we need somebody to gently influence the budget committee meeting.

Cody said there was no outcome yet and at this point the lease is the only money.

Brian stated the amount paid for the lease of the site is basically an offset for taxation on the solar installation.

Ken Ux asked if Kearsarge is sanctioned in the state. Much discussion followed.

February 3rd will be the deliberative session, modifying the town warrant is an option.

John Marien has requested August 10th and 11th to be set aside for a F5J sailplane contest like last year. A motion was made to set the dates aside for the contest. The motion passed.

Balsa Wood...

It's a Jungle Out There!

My recent foray into the RC kit manufacturing business provided a whole new insight into the balsa wood market. Back in the day, balsa wood came from the hobby shop. As we builders become the dinosaurs of the hobby, it's difficult to find a single stick of balsa in the local hobby shop. So we have to go shopping "online", or get it "mail order" as we used to say.

The marketplace has changed a lot in the past ten years. Sig Manufacturing used to be a huge supplier of balsa. Now, they list different sizes on their website, but are "Out of Stock" on all of them. Specialty suppliers like Lone Star Balsa (owned by control-line legend Riley Wooten), and Superior Balsa (owned by Mike Taibi, son of free flight legend Sal Taibi) are long gone.

There are a couple of long established companies, like National Balsa, and Balsa USA that still sell wood (as well as laser cut kits). And there are at least three new companies that can provide a wide range of balsa sheets and sticks, spruce, plywood, etc.

One company that I have high hopes for is Balsa Depot (www.balsadepot.com in Vonore, Tennessee). They offer free shipping on orders over \$125. Unfortunately, they were out of several of the sizes that I needed for the TrainAir 05 project. Balsa Inc (www.balsawoodinc.com in Iowa City, Iowa) has a good website, where it is fairly easy to find the sizes that you are looking for. Specialized Balsa (www.specializedbalsa.com, in LovelandColorado) also offers a wide range of sizes.

All of that said, it still can be very challenging to get what you need in a timely manner. For example, a sheet of 3/32" thick by 3" wide x 36" long is what I consider to be a pretty ordinary piece of wood. Balsa Depot has on it their website for \$1.95 per sheet (but they were out of stock). Balsa Inc. only offer it in a 2" width. Specialized Balsa wants \$2.98 for the same 3" sheet. Balsa USA also only has it in 2" width, and National Balsa has it for \$2.23 per sheet.

So... plan on spending some time poking around on the web to gather the material for your next building project



If you want to solve your balsa wood sourcing problems, just chop one of these things down. One of those blades will yield a lifetime supply of balsa wood...

And this is why we love balsa wood.... it's nice and light and incredibly strong for its weight

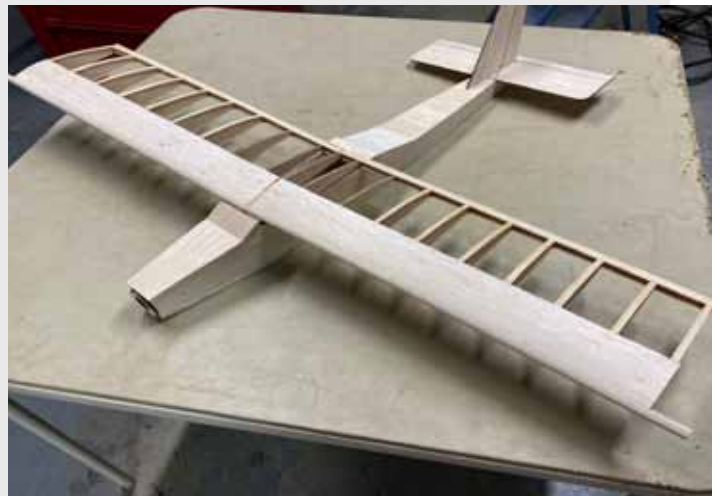
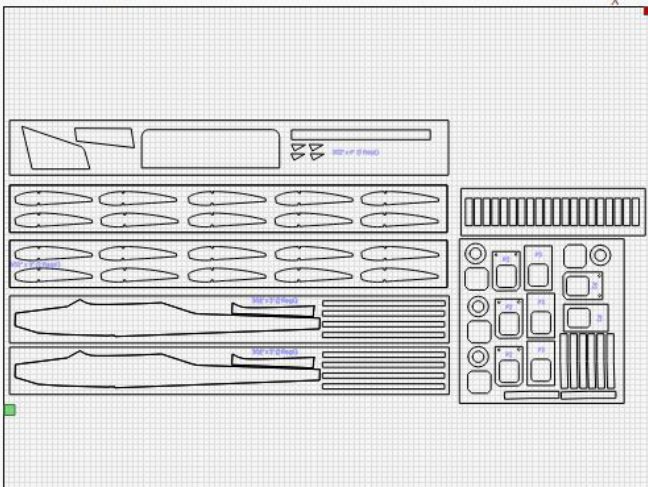


Editor's Chicken Scratchings

Taylor Collins, Editor

I'm the new kid on the block. As far as I know, I am still the newest member of the SNHRCC, so you can take my ramblings with a large sack of salt. Nonetheless, as we wait with great trepidation about how the vote will go in Hudson ... for or against the proposed solar generating farm, it appears that the club's desire to keep a low profile may have bitten us in the empennage. It seems that several of the Hudson Selectmen had no idea that we exist, or that we've been using the top of the landfill site for something like 24 years. So, perhaps it is time to take some actions to make the club more visible. The future of our hobby lies with the youth. So let me share a few ideas, that will hopefully spark some even better ideas with the members. How about a charity event? "Come fly a real radio controlled model (on a buddy box) for a \$10 donation to XYZ Charity". How about a 'Build and Fly' program. I helped with a program in Albuquerque, where kids at a private school bought R/C systems at a discount, balsa kits for a sailplane similar to a Gentle Lady were provided, and the kids built and learned to fly their own R/C models. And what sort of an event or activity could get us onto WMUR's "New Hampshire Chronicle" program? This is just food for thought, gentlemen... Please take the ball and run with it!

TrainAir 05 Winter Build Project



The laser cut kits for the TrainAir 05 have been completed and are ready for delivery to their owners. Thanks to a lot of help from John Hayes, these kits are pretty complete, with laser cut ribs, fuselage sides, tail surfaces, plywood bulkheads, wing shear webs, etc. Also included are machine cut beveled leading edges, beveled ailerons, formed wire landing gear, formed aileron bellcrank wires, and even a 3D printed gage for setting the dihedral angle for the center wing ribs. It looks like we could have a total of 12 of these little birds flying, including your Editor's prototype kit, ten production kits, and one that is being totally scratch-built by one of the members. If you would like to get in on this great club project, there is still one kit available for \$30. And for those of you building these great little birds, please send photos of your progress to share with the rest of the members

The Oldest Model Airplane



Egyptian Bird model - 200 BC

Archytas of Tarentum was an ancient Greek philosopher, statesman, strategist, mathematician, and astronomer. It was the last two skills he possessed -- mathematician and astronomer -- that most likely “propelled” his desire for flight.



Archytas of Tarentum



Steam powered model by Archytas

The first model aircraft found to date was unearthed during an Egyptian excavation in 1898. While excavating the Saqqara burial grounds, archaeologists found a model aircraft that is dated back to around 200 BCE. It's hard to imagine people back then thinking about air travel, but this model airplane measures 6 inches long and has wings and what is considered today to be the fuselage. The Egyptians are already believed to be one of the most advanced ancient civilizations in history, and this model airplane confirms they were engineers beyond the pyramids.

Archytas built “the pigeon,” as he dubbed it, which is recorded to have actually flown approximately 200 meters, or about 219 yards. Archytas’ model airplane was appropriately shaped like a bird and fueled by steam. Somewhere around the year 400 B.C., he mystified and amused the citizens of Tarentum by flying a pigeon made of wood.

Attention Master Craftsmen - There is Nothing for You Here... Please Read On Elsewhere

by Taylor Collins

The Master Craftsmen have been run off, because every part, piece and joint on their wooden models fits perfectly, so they have no need for “goof putty”. However, well meaning but frustrated modelers like myself find gaps, voids, and mis-alignments all the time, that need to be dealt with.

Using light weight spackling paste to fill these gaps is no secret, but the stuff is bright white (which points out everywhere that it has been used) and it's not very strong. There is an option though... add some Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty. This stuff is pretty common in the woodworking world, and despite its goofy name, it isn't really a “putty” until you mix it with water. And it is a lot stronger and harder than

the white spackling paste. By varying the amount of the Durham's putty in a mixture with the spackling paste, you can customize the density of the hardened gap filler, and as an added bonus, the color much more closely matches the balsa and birch ply that we commonly use on our models.

The procedure is very simple. Scoop some of the Durham's powder into a paper cup. Squirt in a little bit of water and start stirring with a popsicle stick. Keep adding water, a little bit at a time, until the consistency is about like yogurt. Then scoop in some of the spackling paste, and keep mixing. More of the Durham's powder makes a stronger, harder filler, and more of the spackling paste makes it lighter, but easier to sand.



The Durham's putty and the DAP brand spackle come from the home improvement store.



A cheap plastic artist's palette knife makes a good spreader



The Durham's putty is a dry powder, similar to plaster.



Mix the Durham's putty with water first, to a consistency about like yogurt. Then add the DAP lightweight spackle.



Here's our sample gaps, filled and the excess filler mix scraped off. The white area is just the spackle... the cream colored area is the mix.



And here's the final piece after a light sanding. The mix is just about invisible, and is harder and stronger than just the spackle alone.

Some SNHRCC History...



A giant TrainAir ... quite the contrast from the current club project



John and Jerry Leach during an aerotow event at Plum Island



Project 95 - All SportAir 25's



John with a Midwest Super Sniffer



Northeast Aerodynamics Train-Air 20, nicknamed "Hotair"

The Reader's Digest Version of Membership Requirements for the SNHRCC

To be a member of the SNHRCC, and fly “legally” at Wagner Field there are a few requirements.



First, you must belong to the Academy of Model Aeronautics. AMA membership provides you (and the club) with liability insurance in the event of an accident. No AMA? No Fly!



Second, you must be a current member of SNHRCC. The club dues are based on a calendar year, and there is a membership renewal form in this newsletter. You can print it out, fill out the required information and mail it in to the Treasurer with a check.



In recent years, the FAA has gotten involved in our modeling lives. We're now required to register our “drones”, either for sport and recreation purposes, or with a Part 107 license (for commercial purposes) which requires a written test. You can complete the registration at www.faa.dronezone. There is a one-time \$5.00 fee, and the registration is good for 3 years. The FAA will issue you a registration number, which you can use for all of your models. The number is supposed to be displayed on each of your aircraft.



The AMA is an FAA approved Test Administrator of the The Recreational UAS Safety Test. The “test” is a set of slides explaining the knowledge base required, followed by a few “Keep doing it until you get it right” questions. It is quite simple if you watch the slides, and it is all common sense stuff. You will need to keep a copy of the certificate with you when flying.

**Complete These Four Items and You are
“Good To Go” for another year’s Flying!**

SOUTHERN NH RADIO CONTROL CLUB

2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

AMA#

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Field key#

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Normal Renewal Period
October Meeting Thru February Meeting

Fees (check all that apply)

Current members:

___ Adult - Normal Renewal Period 80.00

___ Junior 5.00

New Members (sponsorship required):

___ Adult 90.00

___ Junior 5.00

Sponsors Signature

Membership Agreement

I recognize a model airplane is NOT a toy, and must be operated at all times in a safe manner.

I agree not to hold the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club, Inc. and my instructor, if I am receiving instruction, responsible or liable in any way for injury, loss, or property damage I may suffer due to any reason, including but not limited to pilot error or mechanical failure.

I agree I will not fly at any SNHRCC field or event without an active instructor until I have been approved for solo flight.

I certify I have read the Academy of Model Aeronautics "National Model Aircraft Safety Code" and agree to abide by its terms and conditions at all times. **New prospective members must attend the monthly meeting to introduce themselves prior to the membership vote of acceptance.**

I understand that there is no dumping of any kind at the facility.

Signature

Parents signature (if under 18)

Payment Information

Cash or check #

Payment amount:

Payment date:

Make check payable to SNHRCC

Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope

Mail to:

SNHRCC
c/o Ed van der Veen
9 Newton Street
Hudson NH 03051

Proof of AMA

**Attach photocopy
of AMA
membership card**

NO AMA CARD = NO MEMBERSHIP CARD
NO MEMBERSHIP CARD = NO FLYING!



SNHRCG Winter Meeting Spot!

Our meeting spot is in the Community Room of the Litchfield Fire Dept. Please pay attention to the parking restrictions that are made to accommodate the Volunteer Firefighters on call. **Violators will be mocked until they move their vehicles.**