

THE CLIPPINGS

APRIL, 2013



GRASSFIELD RC CLUB, INC. • BROOKLYN PARK, MN • www.grassfieldrc.org • AMA CHARTER #1405

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Phil Zuidema

I usually prefer to write about more inspiring things than club business in this column, but in this case, I think you would like an update on the dirt hill near our flying field, a.k.a. Mount Baldy. MNDOT held an open house recently and invited interested parties to view the proposed construction of the new overpass interchange at County Road 30 (93rd Avenue) and SH 169. A heartfelt "thank you" for all of our members who represented our interests there!! MNDOT and McCrossan are highly aware of our concerns. Representatives from MNDOT and the successful bidder, C.S. McCrossan, were present and available for questions. The short story is: the proposed construction is not anticipated to affect the disposition of our dirt hill.

The hill is somewhere between 55,000 and 150,000 cubic yards of dirt, depending on whose guesstimate you choose to use. This clean fill is valued at somewhere between \$3 to \$8 per cubic yard. It is owned by the City of Maple Grove. It resides in Brooklyn Park on MNDOT-owned land. C.S. McCrossan, the builder of the interchange, will not need this dirt for that construction. Firstly, they don't need that much. If they were to use some of it, they'd have to strike a price with the City of Maple Grove, buy it, then find a way to extricate it from where it is.

Since the construction of Hwy 610 subsequent to the deposition of the dirt, blocked it in, the most logical way to remove it is to take it to 101st Ave. N., then to SH 169. That would require a road across our field or through the parking/pit area. Of course, they would need permission from the landowners, and they would most certainly pay them to do it, probably, a whole lot more than we pay them for the use of our field. So, guess who would be evicted?

The next step is for me to contact the City of Maple Grove and see what plans they may have for the dirt, if any. I will also contact State Representative Mark Uglen, former Champlin Mayor and an old friend of mine, to see if he can guide us with any of this political process. I am nervous about creating too big a stir, but perhaps we can have Maple Grove knock down the height of the dirt, which would help us some.

So, that is the short story. As it looks now, we are probably doomed when the dirt pile goes away. What a sad irony!

On a much brighter note, I look forward to seeing (and bringing), our winter's crafts to our Builders' Show on April 12th. This will be the first time we will have held it in a space other than the Brooklyn Center Civic Center in over 30 years. The year our monthly meetings were at the VFW in Crystal, I don't think we held the Builders' Show there. I'm sure there will be some kinks we will have to work out, table sizes, cleanup, etc., but I'm confident we will work through it.

THE BUILDERS' SHOW: APRIL 12TH

New Heli Class at the Builders' Show!

The Builders' Show is fast approaching, and with the popularity of helicopters, we have added a new heli class.

The Builders' Show will be held Friday evening, April 12th, at the **Osseo Community Center**. All Grassfield members are eligible to enter the models they have built. However a model that has already been entered in a previous Builders' Show may not be entered again this year.

Everyone who attends the show can vote for their favorite model in each class. Entrants in the Builders' Show are also eligible to vote for *The Pilots' Choice*. The winner of this award will have his winning model featured on the 2014 Grassfield RC Membership Card.

For more information on the classes for this year's Builders' Show, go to page 4.

THE BUILDERS' SHOW

FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH
7:00 pm (doors open at 6:00)



Show off your building project!

ARF • Scale • Sport • Heli • Racing

The Osseo Community Center
415 Central Avenue - Osseo, MN

THIS ISSUE'S CLIPPINGS

FROM OUR PRESIDENT	1
THE BUILDERS' SHOW: APRIL 12 TH	1
THE ANNUAL GRASSFIELD SWAP MEET	2
JERY ELERT & TIM BROCKMAN DISCUSS EF1 RACING	3
MAPLE GROVE PARADE: JULY 11 TH	3
THE BUILDERS' SHOW CLASSES	4
TIPS & TRICKS	4

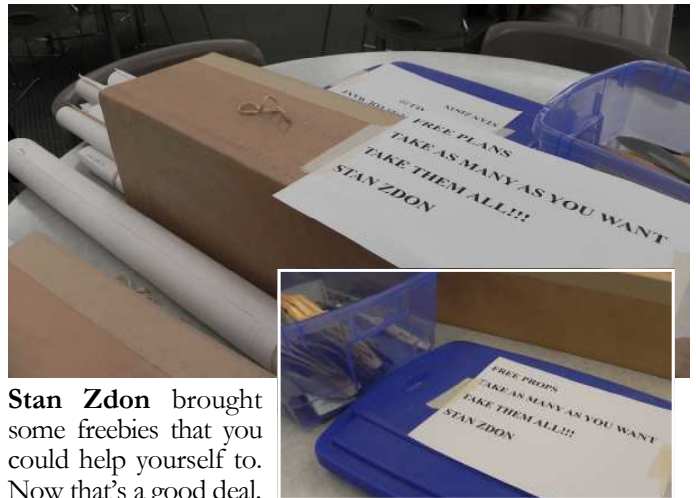
THE ANNUAL GRASSFIELD SWAP MEET

The annual Swap Meet was held at the Grassfield meeting on March 8th. We had a nice turnout, with about 40 members in attendance. The monthly Grassfield meeting followed the Swap Meet.



Chris Launer had the most “laid-back” table at the Swap Meet. Chris relaxed as he casually waited for us to stop by.

James Frisch (in the photo at right) brought his little foamy to the meeting. The plane goes 120 mph, so it could be the “pace plane” to start off the Electric Formula One races! Next to James is Kyle Fjerkenstad (center) visiting with Gregg Hemken (at left).



Stan Zdon brought some freebies that you could help yourself to. Now that's a good deal.



JERRY ELERT & TIM BROCKMAN DISCUSS EF1 RACING PLANES



Jerry Elert brought his EF1 racing plane, Miss Dara, by Nitroplanes, to the March 8th meeting. Jerry said the Miss Dara and the Shoestring by E-flite are the easiest EF1 planes to build. He has also built the Great Planes EF1, Proudbird, but has yet to get the wrinkles out of the MonoKote®.



Tim Brockman showed his LR-1A Pogo by E-flite, another approved EF1 racing plane. Tim chose the Pogo because it has one servo in the fuselage for controlling the ailerons, rather than servos in the wings. Tim has a lot of experience flying electric planes and has raced with nitro-powered racing planes for many years.

Tim said, if you don't want to invest a lot of money in order to try EF1 racing, cheaper products are available. But, in electric, as in everything else, cheaper parts may not last very long. The way Tim set up his Pogo, it cost about \$350.

In the EF1 racing class, only certain motors are approved, to keep a level playing field. Of course, the skill of flying is a factor as well as the quality of the equipment.

Tim also talked about the types of LiPo battery packs available. While the new LiPo chargers have a balancer that detects the cells, the older chargers do not. Without a balancer, one cell could charge faster than the other cells and cause the LiPo to blow up. Tim uses an older LiPo charger which does not have a balancing plug, so he uses an Astro Blinky balancer to ensure that the cells in the battery pack are charged equally.



Miss Dara, one of the easiest EF1 planes to build, is designed so the whole top of the fuselage comes off, (as shown above) for easy access to all the equipment.

If you are interested in EF1 racing, go to the NMPRA website (www.nmpa.org); click the "Start Here" tab, and go to Class Rules; then click on Electric Formula One Provisional Rules.

MAPLE GROVE PARADE: JULY 11TH

Sean Haugen said that Grassfield RC in invited back to the Maple Grove Days Parade, which will be held on July 11th. Last year was our first year in the parade, and we had great success. We will, once again, be looking for volunteers to help build the float and hand out treats and flyers along the parade route. We hope that you will be able to help with this year's event.



The Astro Blinky balancer (shown above) detects the cells in a LiPo battery pack and ensures that they are charged equally.

The Astro Blinky is designed for use with one- to six-cell LiPo batteries. With a Blinky, you can see if all cells are above 3.2 V before charging, and you can discharge individual over-charged cells.

TIPS & TRICKS

The First State R/C Club, New Castle, DE
AMA Insider, March, 2013

PREVENTING COVERING FROM PEELING UP

If you are having problems with your model's covering peeling up at the edges, and it will not iron down, CA glue can fix it. I use a regular super-glue dispenser to wick CA like a pen along the overlapping MonoKote® joint to seal it permanently. After the glue has dried, I wipe off the CA haze with a damp cloth, and I am finished.



Done carefully, this works great, and even glow fuel will not peel it up. This can also be used to spot the corners of the lettering and any pin-striping. If you make a mistake, you can clean it up with acetone on most non-fabric coverings.

(original source: www.rcdon.com/html/hints_and_tips1.html)

IRONING MONOKOTE® IN TIGHT SPACES

I used to have trouble ironing MonoKote® into cockpits and other small places where a standard iron will not fit.



You can buy a tiny iron called a trim sealing tool. I had one of these tools for a short time, but the temperature control was inaccurate, and the shape was not very helpful, so I got rid of it.

A better solution to this problem is a butter knife.

Heat it on your iron for about 30 seconds and use it like an iron. It could also be heated with a heat gun, but take a bit longer. Heat is transferred a lot better by contact with the metal iron.

The knife will fit into tiny spaces where an iron won't, and it will reach a lot farther than the trim irons that you find in the hobby store. I used a butter knife to iron the entire cockpit of this Small Wonder, built from RCM plans.

You can try the same trick with a spoon for ironing fillets and other concave surfaces. Spoons have to be heated with a heat gun rather than an iron.

(original source: www.balsaworkbench.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/knifeheat1.jpg)

THE BUILDERS' SHOW CLASSES

This year's Builders' Show will be held on Friday, April 12th, at 7:00 pm, at the Osseo Community Center. Grassfield members can enter their models in the show, provided they have not already been entered in a previous Builders' Show. This year, models may be entered in the following classes:

HELI – New class this year! Open to all helicopters of any size.

ARF – Open to ARF planes of any size, whether built per plans or modified. (ARF planes are not allowed in the sport or scale classes.)

SCALE – Open to scale military or civilian planes.

SPORT – Open to sport-type planes that are not scale planes.

RACING – Open to Quickie 500, Quarter 40, or Electric Formula One (EF1) racing planes.

GRASSFIELD CONTACTS

PRESIDENT Phil Zuidema	612.269.3285 phzuidema@comcast.net
VICE PRESIDENT Jerry Elert	651.484.5187 jerry@conmechservices.com
SECRETARY Del Berryman	612.799.6247 del31@charter.net
TREASURER Jerry Cornish	651.275.0480 cornishjerry@gmail.com
CONTEST COORDINATOR Richard Steine	612.860.5714 rsteine02@comcast.net
FIELD MARSHAL Gregg Hemken	763.772.4103 gpcah@aol.com
SAFETY OFFICER Lee LaValley	715.977.1956 lvalley@gmail.com
WEBSITE EDITOR Bill Hempel	763.424.2937 grassfldrc@aol.com
NEWSLETTER EDITORS Del Berryman Rita Berryman	612.799.6247 del31@charter.net or rita.berryman@charter.net
FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS Bill Hempel Paul Johnson Darryl Zempel	763.424.2937 grassfldrc@aol.com 612.655.1808 superpaul98@yahoo.com 763.493.4004 darrzemp@embarqmail.com

ABOUT THE CLIPPINGS

THE CLIPPINGS is published by The Grassfield Radio Control Club, Inc., and distributed to club members and other interested parties. Any material from this publication may be copied for personal use or republished for any non-profit purpose by any AMA member, if it is accompanied by the proper attribution which includes The Grassfield Radio Control Club, Inc., as well as the author's name and title, if given; if the original author is from a club other than The Grassfield Radio Control Club, also list the name of the originating club or organization. Any other reproduction, publication, or redistribution, in any form, is prohibited.

The Grassfield Radio Control Club, Inc. reserves the right, in sole discretion, to edit or reject any material submitted for publication. All other rights reserved. For editorial submissions, advertising, and membership information, contact Del Berryman by email at del31@charter.net or by telephone, 612-799-6247.