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## ADJUSTING WALBRO & DLE CARBURETORS

by Del Berryman

A lot of flyers spend a lot of time adjusting carburetors. If you follow these instructions, in most cases, you will not even have to adjust the carburetor again, and, if you do, the adjustments will be very minor.

For the best adjustments, the engine should be running, which as you know can be challenging as some carburetors are positioned near the propeller, posing obvious safety risks. If you do not feel safe adjusting the carburetor while it is running, you will have to make the adjustments by trial and error, turning the engine on and off as many times as necessary until you find the sweet spots.

Carburetors usually come with the high-speed and low-speed needle valves open one and one-half turns. To check this, turn needle valves clockwise until they seat. DO NOT overtighten needle valves to prevent damaging the seat; stop turning as soon as you feel them hit the seat. Then back them off one and one-half turns. The adjustments below are Walbro's recommendations according to their Service Manual.

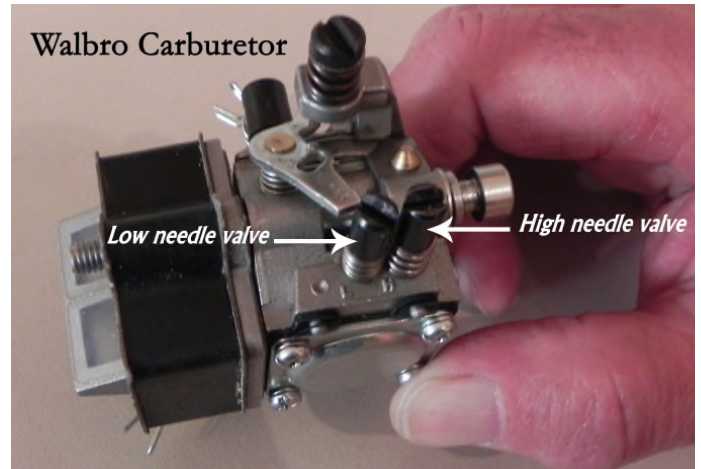
### IDLE MIXTURE:

The idle fuel mixture is usually adjusted first. Start the engine and let it reach its normal operating temperature. Begin slowly tuning the idle mixture screw (low needle valve) clockwise. As you turn it, the engine speed will increase and then start to decrease as the mixture gets leaner. Note the needle position as the point then the engine speed starts to decrease; this is called the lean drop-off point. Back the needle out, and the speed will again increase as the mixture passes through optimum toward rich. Note the position of the needle when the speed again start to decrease; this is the rich drop-off point. Your final needle setting is halfway between the rich and the lean drop-off points. Once the mixture is set, the idle speed needs to be adjusted. Set the idle speed at the recommended RPM, or just below clutch engagement.

### HIGH SPEED MIXTURE:

After you have adjusted the low needle valve correctly, adjust the high needle valve. The high speed mixture is adjusted much the same way. With the engine at wide-open throttle, find the rich and lean drop-off points, and set the mixture between them.

**WARNING:** Remember the effects of running an engine lean. Run the engine for only an instant at the lean drop-off point!



### OUR NEXT MEETING: NOV. 14<sup>TH</sup>

A Grassfield RC meeting has been scheduled for **November**. Enter the building from the back, using a different door than last year. Due to construction, the entrance is at the walk-up handicapped ramp.

**Date:** Friday, November 14, 2014  
**Time:** 7:00 pm (Doors open from 6:30 to 10:00 pm)  
**Location:** Osseo Community Center  
 415 Central Avenue, Osseo, MN 55369

Election of Officers will take place at this meeting if the quorum is met (see page 4 for more information).

**BRING YOUR PLANE FOR SHOW & TELL**

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## GRASSFIELD'S OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

At our October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, we were unable to have the Election of Officers, due to the lack of a quorum at the meeting. The current vice president, Jerry Elert, and the current secretary, Del Berryman, remain in their offices until an election of new officers takes place. President Ron Gage appointed Jerry Elert as the new contest coordinator.

The board will host club meetings for the December Christmas Party/Swap Meet and for the Builders' Show in April. Richard Steine is hosting the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting (see page 1 for details). Meetings will not be held in January, February, and March unless club members volunteer to host them. You may contact Ron Gage for more information.

**Randy Etken** spoke about their continuing efforts to retain a new flying field at Cleary Lake Park. They are currently trying to make arrangements with Three Rivers and the Scott County Board.

### STAN ZDON'S FOKKER DR-1 TRIPLANE

**Stan Zdon** brought his Fokker DR-1 triplane to the October meeting. He built the plane from a kit without having to make a lot of modifications and covered it with Solartex fabric.

The Fokker DR-1 was flown in World War I. Stan's triplane, which started out in solid black, shows off an elaborate color scheme of the plane in the movie, "Great Waldo Pepper" which came out in the late '20s. (The Great Waldo Pepper Dog Fight can be viewed on YouTube.) When Stan first saw the movie, he decided that he wanted the triplane. He watched the movie many, many times to duplicate the color scheme, creating the graphics on his computer. The black crosses are vinyl.

The guns are Williams Brothers quarter-scale machine guns. The plane has a gyro in it to stabilize the rudder. Because the wings are short, they are cantilevered without wire bracing.



### RICHARD STEINE'S JAPANESE ZERO



**Richard Steine** showed his Top Flite Japanese Zero, a wooden ARF kit that was built very nicely and fit together well. The wood is covered in Monokote. The "meatballs" were included in the kit and applied wet.

The color scheme, which Richard found in a book, is unique for a Zero. As a final finish, he sprayed it with Krylon satin paint.

The plane flies well, although it was a little nose-heavy on the first flight. He remedied that by setting the 6-ounce batteries back a little.

To get a custom-made pneumatic gear for the retracts, Richard mailed in one of the wings.

## ***THE HELICOPTER FLY-IN HELD ON OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>***

The Helicopter Fly-In held on October 18<sup>th</sup> was a nice success. The Indian summer weather made for a beautiful flying day, and there was a good turnout for the event as well, as you can see in the photos below.



## ***ELECTION OF OFFICERS***

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The positions of vice president and secretary remain up for election, as the required quorum was not met at the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The offices are for two-year terms.

The election will take place at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting if the quorum is met at that time; if not, we will hold the election at the next available meeting. The current vice president, Jerry Elert, and secretary, Del Berryman, remain in their positions until the election. Del Berryman has agreed to remain as secretary for another term if he is reelected.

A Grassfield club member who has had at least three years of continuous membership in the Club is eligible to serve on the Club board.

## ***ABOUT THE CLIPPINGS***

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