



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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ron Gage, President

Welcome to 2014. Here's hoping you all had a great holiday filled with family and friends. I hope you all got what you wanted from Santa. I know my family did. This Jolly Old Santa spent a ton of time at the Dollar Store and got everything they could have possible wanted. Then on my side trip, I spent my holiday wad of money at the hobby store for that Jolly Old Santa.

So much for the fairytales. The end-of-the-year meeting was another success — plenty of great food and ice cream and other treats for dessert. Thanks to the members who always do a great job making this happen!

A special thanks for the great program given by Charles Eide and Mike Danielson for their time and knowledge about aerial photography and government intervention. Thanks, Phil, for sharing this idea and making it happen. This is what our club is all about, everyone sharing ideas with each other. This was a great topic, which I really was interested in, as were many of the members I talked with.

Al Schwartz again provided a great treasury report.

The January 10th meeting will be the yearly Swap Meet. So bring everything you are interested in selling or swapping.

Here is a good opportunity that might interest some of you. John Lacey from Minnesota Valley RC has asked me to see if any one or group of our members is willing to present an aircraft program to the Aerospace Children's Engineering and Science School on March 7th. These are young kids that are eager to learn all about flight and are potentially new Grassfield members. The school is located at University Avenue and 99th Street, just north of Highway 610. If interested, please call John Lacey at 952-935-2769.

Please let me know what you would like to see or discuss at the meetings! You can reach me at 612-716-2599.

Ron

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P.J.'S POOR HABITS

by Paul Johnson, Safety Officer

Murphy and I go way back. I've known Murphy since we were children, and we have grown to know each other very well. Like a good friend, Murphy still visits with me often. It's rare that a week goes by that we don't share a bonding moment or two. I have so many stories that I could easily write a book of our adventures together. Like the spring day when the snow was melting, and we attempted to paddle my parents' canoe down the ravine that was flowing through our neighborhood. We had such a blast paddling through the icy cold water. That was until we ended up in the middle of a very large flooded farm field (that more resembled a lake), and Murphy broke the canoe in half. Oh the memories!

Murphy is the absolute king of surprises, although most of his surprises I could do without. If there is one thing I can appreciate of Murphy and his surprises, it is the lessons learned. Boy has he given me some dandies! I learned many good lessons the day of my canoe adventure. Like rubber boots are a better choice than tennis shoes when around icy water. I now know that plastic canoes can become brittle over time. And perhaps the best lesson learned that day (which unfortunately I still often forget) is that, if it seems like it's a dumb idea, then expect good old Murphy to surprise you.

I believe you all have met Murphy and his awful Law at some point. (Murphy's Law: Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.) There is no question that Murphy is a frequent visitor to the Grassfield flying club. I believe he really enjoys our hobby. Although we never see or hear him, you can bet that he is behind the fence laughing hysterically every time the words "DEAD STICK!!!" are shouted out from the flight line.

(continued on page 4)

**SWAP MEET
AND A MEETING**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH - 7:00 PM

**THE OSSEO COMMUNITY CENTER
415 CENTRAL AVENUE
OSSEO, MN**

buy • sell • trade • or • give away

**ALSO, A PRESENTATION BY RON GAGE: BALANCING A PLANE
(BRING SOMETHING FOR SHOW-AND-TELL TOO.)**

GRASSFIELD'S CHRISTMAS BUFFET & MEETING

The December 13th Grassfield meeting, held at the Osseo Community Center, included our 4th annual Christmas buffet. Many members brought food to share at the buffet, including an assortment of appetizers, entrée dishes, and desserts. Even though we were all big eaters, there was so much food that we still had some left at the end of the evening!



SPECIAL UAV PRESENTATION



Charles Eide (at right), and his business partner, **Mike Danielson** (at left), joined us at our December meeting for a special presentation on Unmanned Aerial Systems.

Charles Eide was a guest presenter at Grassfield's December meeting. Eide, the owner of a company called EideCom Media, is an expert on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). An RC flyer for 17 years, he has used UAVs to create some amazing commercial photography at EideCom for prestigious companies, including Mercedes Benz.

Although UAVs can be flown for personal use, Eide was quickly stopped by the FAA from using UAVs for business purposes, claiming a concern for safety. Concerned about the future of radio control, he has gone to Bill Hudson of WCCO and Rich Hansen from government affairs at the AMA. Eide, who understands that the FAA is there to keep the skies safe, encourages us to rally around AMA and stand behind what they are doing to keep radio control from being eradicated in the future.

Eide has developed a training program called FLYSAFE, a three-day workshop that provides radio control aerial photography training for UAV camera operators and pilots seeking professional certification. FLYSAFE is a rigorous hands-on course including ground training and flight training. For more information, go to <http://flysafetraining.org/>.



RAID ON THE CHINA COAST

by Del Berryman



As some of you know, Rita and I have started a new pastime (when I'm not working on RC, that is.) We both like working on jigsaw puzzles. Our most recent puzzle is "Raid on the China Coast", (shown at right). The artwork by Roy Grinnell, world-famous

aviation artist, depicts "Lady Lil" of the Air Apaches 345th Bomb Group, 498th Bomb Squadron. The B-25, piloted by Lt. Albert J. Beiga, is attacking Japanese shipping off the coast of China in April of 1945. The raid was between Amoy and Swatow, west of Formosa.

We found the puzzle at King Kong Hobbies when I was buying RC supplies. And, as usual, I wanted to know more about the combat mission.

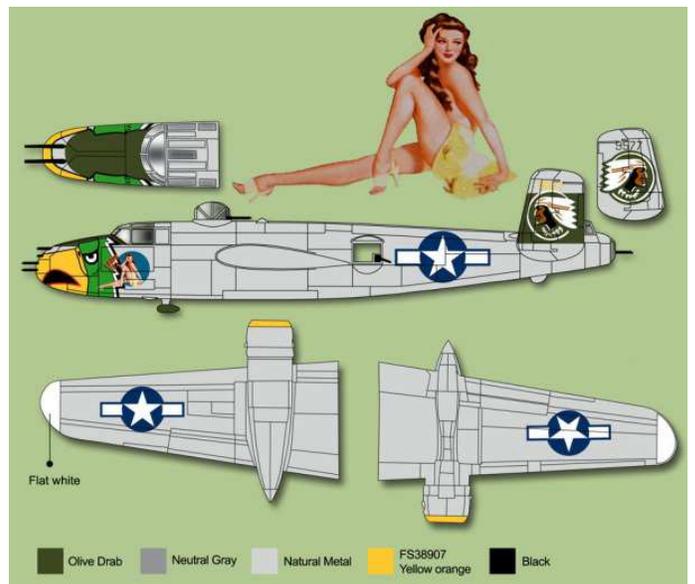
The 345th Bomb Group was first activated at Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina, in November 1942. The "Air Apaches" were the first full Air Force combat Group sent to the Pacific in World War II and flew the B-25 Mitchell. Shortly after arriving in theater, their B-25s were converted to strafers, making them the low-level ground and shipping attack planes that the 345th became famous for, having perfected the low-level destruction of Japanese naval and merchant fleets.

The Lady Lil contained the Vargas pin-up of the pilot's girlfriend, Lil, as well as the famous Falcon's head of the 498th Squadron and the Air Apaches logo on the rudder. The plane was overall natural metal and was equipped with a factory-fitted 8-gun nose, but lacked the side package guns.

The 345th was awarded four United States Distinguished Unit Citations and is one of the most decorated units of World War II.



Raid on the China Coast is one of many oil paintings by Roy Grinnell, documenting aerial combat events. This painting depicts the attack by the Air Apaches 345th Bomb Group, 498th Bomb Squadron nicknamed the Falcons".



The Air Apaches nickname was adopted by the 345th Bomb Group, symbolic of their fighting style of raiding and combat at close range. (logo at right)



The photo of Lady Lil (at left) was taken at their air base in Port Moresby, New Guinea.

P.J.'s POOR HABITS

(continued from page 1)

There is no way of knowing when Murphy will surprise you and not much you can do to stop him. A thorough pre-flight check and a planned emergency landing route will help your chances. On several occasions I've had Murphy surprise me with dysfunctional servos. I've had an aileron servo die, which was not so bad. Thank goodness for the other one! I've had a rudder servo horn pop off. Pfffft!... Who needs a rudder? I've had throttle servos die. Kinda scary, but not so bad if you just fly high and circle till it runs out of gas. I've also had an elevator servo mysteriously malfunction. May that model rest in pieces. Murphy had a big laugh that day.

So now that I've well described Murphy's Law, it's time to discuss another poor habit. Last month I mentioned that we all should know the club rules and, for the most part, we all do a pretty good job of following them. Well, there is one that I will admit I have done a poor job of following. That is Rule #16 in our club safety rules list which is written in bold and underlined. **"After your flight, you can only taxi back to the orange pilot's safety fences. At that point, you will shut down your engine and wheel or carry your airplane back to the pit area."** Ok, so I guess I forgot about that one.

I know I'm not alone here, because I've seen many members doing the same thing. At first thought, it seems like such a silly rule. What's the big deal? What's going to happen? Murphy: that's what! On at least three different occasions, I've had unforeseen issues with either the throttle servo or linkage during a flight. If it could happen during the flight, it could certainly happen while taxiing in the pits.

Can you imagine how horrible you would feel if your model were to get away from you and strike another club member's model or, even worse, another member? I'm counting myself very lucky that I never had an incident when I taxied inside the pit area. That was a really poor habit.

Rule #16 has Murphy's Law written all over it. Please try to remember that. Murphy's Law will continue to surprise us. We can't prepare for every situation Murphy throws at us, but no pilot should chance a mishap in the pits when it can so easily be avoided. It absolutely is not worth it. I would invite all members to pay attention this 2014 season. Should you see a pilot that taxis his model in the pit area, please politely remind him of Rule #16.

NCPL MEETING: JANUARY 18TH

Maybe it's too COLD outside to fly...
But it's time to get together and plan
for next year's racing season.

NCPL ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18th, 2014

FROM NOON TO 4 PM



AT THE ANOKA AIRPORT
EAA BUILDING

COME READY TO
DISCUSS PROPOSALS!

ANYONE INTERESTED IN RACING NEXT YEAR
WITH THE NCPL IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.

FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE EAA BUILDING,
CALL DEL BERRYMAN AT #612-799-6247.

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