



The Insiders Edge

PRESIDENT'S COCKPIT

If you missed the Christmas party, you missed a really good time! We had issues on the table that had to be resolved before the festivities could commence, but those present made the process go extremely smooth. The annual dues are now \$50.00 dollars due by the January 5th, 2005. In addition, there is a one time assessment of \$30.00 dollars that is going to be collected by the March 2005 meeting, this money will be used to put down concrete and have a 12ft wide by 40ft long galvanized steel and aluminum sheeted shelter installed and also a transmitter impound inside the shelter vice outside in the elements. I have a few people that have responded to the last newsletter stating that they wish to continue receiving the newsletter hard copy, this is just a friendly reminder that the February newsletter will only go out to those that requested to get the newsletter hard copy. Those who have a computer and like to view things in color verses black and white the newsletter will be posted on our website at www.charlescountyrcc.org The gift exchange was something to see, the bottle of Jim Beam was a big hit. Thanks to everyone who brought food, supplies, and helped out. I understand the December 26th flying session for folks who received new R/C aircraft as Christmas presents went off without a hitch. Thank you to everyone that assisted in making this event happen. Last notice of this years WRAM show scheduled for February 26, 2005. The cost of the tickets are \$48.00 each and the price includes your ride there and back and also the entrance fee to the show. If your are interested see my wife Annie or Jim Moran at Doug's for tickets. In closing, let's not forget our annual "Bag a Zagi" event that will be held at noon on January 1st, 2005.

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Executive Staff:

- Club President: Dave Fromme
- Club Vice President: Dave Heil
- Club Treasurer: Gale Perry
- Club Secretary: Rick Foch
- Newsletter Editor / Field Marshall: Roger Vaughn

Next Club Meeting!

January 05, 2005 at 7:30 pm
Mattawoman Middle School

VICE PRESIDENT'S RUNWAY

Building Season is Upon Us!

As I threatened last month, I am going to begin a series of articles on selecting and building that first special project. It may be an Almost Ready to Fly (ARF) plane or perhaps a kit built plane. Maybe like me the scale bug has bitten you and you want to build (or assemble) a plane that is a working model of a real aircraft. How do you go about deciding what to do?

For some reason I have always been drawn to scale aircraft. Perhaps it was all of those years I spent in the Air Force and living on Air Force bases I was exposed to aircraft every day. Over the years I have built many different scale planes, all of them considered "sport scale" models. A sport scale model is one that looks like the real aircraft but has been modified a bit for either ease of building or flying characteristics. My first "sport scale" model was like a lot of folks the P-51 Mustang. A WW II fighter of fantastic flying ability, the P-51 is one of the most popular WW II fighters modeled today. I currently fly a .40 size P-51 that I assembled from an ARF, my first ARF plane. Mine is the Kyosho P-51 and is now in its fourth season. It is a fantastic flying plane and I have been very pleased with it. I have flown it so much (and so fast) that the covering has begun to come off and it will soon need repairing. The issue here is that there are many fine flying scale planes on the market and if the scale bug has got a hold of you, and you are not a "builder," look into one of these fine ARF's and do it!

Two years ago I attended the Top Gun competition in Florida as a spectator and I really got hooked at that point. My wife Debbie was with me on the trip and as we walked around and looked at the beautiful planes there, I discovered that these folks were normal modelers like myself that just decided to go to the next level. On the trip home, I told Debbie I wanted to begin to work towards scale competition. Of course her first question was "what will it cost"? My standard answer of "forty dollars" was unacceptable to her but I told her I would stay within my airplane budget. (On one occasion she came out into the shop and I had many of the planes hanging from the ceiling. She asked how many I had, there were 14 at that point, and I told her. She then asked how many I thought I needed and for some reason my response of "the rest of them" did not go over very well) So for my next step, I had to choose a plane. Well I have always been a WW II fighter kind of a guy so I selected the Grumman F6F Hellcat as my model of choice.

VICE PRESIDENT'S RUNWAY (cont.)

The Grumman Hellcat had the largest wing area of any WW II single engine allied fighter. It also boasted a 19 to 1 kill ratio. Having lived on the island of Guam for three years, Hellcats liberated that island in 1944 and all of this went in to my selection. I then began the process of gathering information about the plane and started buying every book I could find about it. We now have the Internet available to us and research is a lot easier than in those dark pre-internet days. Do you remember actually going to libraries looking for information? A good source of aviation related books can be found at <http://www.aviationbook.com> and <http://www.aeroplanebooks.com>. I must also thank fellow club member Jonathan Wright for his contribution to my collection. Once you have selected your aircraft you want to model, begin your research. Collect as much data as you can and study your selected plane closely. If you plan to compete in scale competition, the detail that is required is quite high so the more you know the better! Once you have your research completed, decide how much detail you will put into the plane and whether you will build it from a kit or scratch or you will buy an ARF. Either way, have fun with it!

I chose to scratch build a 1/6 scale F6F Hellcat from plans. Since most of the scale competition groups have a minimum wingspan requirement of 80 inches, I knew I needed to stay about that size. I selected the Jerry Bates Plans (<http://www.scaleaero.com/jerrybates.htm>) and ordered two plan sets from Jerry. One plan set is posted on the wall in the shop for reference and the other set is being used to build on. I have also had success in having plans copied at Kinko's in Waldorf. I recently acquired a 89 inch span PT-19 kit from another club member and I copied the plans so I could build the PT-19 in the same manner as the Hellcat. Kinko's charges 50 cents a square foot for copies, and they can copy plans on paper up to three feet wide.

I have decided to build a scratch built plane, selected the design and acquired the plans. I have begun my research and next month I will continue with this saga by discussing obtaining the materials, planning the construction, and actually beginning the construction phase. As I write this it is the week before Christmas and I wish the best for all of you over this holiday season. Remember that club dues are due at the January 5th meeting and our recently approved assessment is due by the March 2005 meeting. I apologize for missing the December meeting but family commitments saw me in Florida that week. Don't forget the annual "Bag a Zagi" event planned for New Years Day. Hope to see you all at the field!

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER AND FIELD MAINTENANCE

Time to Renew your Membership - In order to not incur a late fee (\$50), the dues will be due at the January 5, 2005 meeting. You **MUST** have your 2005 AMA card or proof of payment to AMA. The NEW dues rate is \$50.00. In addition, the club voted at the December meeting to impose a one-time assessment of \$30.00 on all members. This will go into the building fund for a new sunshade at the field. The assessment is due by the March 2005 meeting.

I know this probably sounds redundant from the previous entries but we will once again be holding the New Year's Day "Bag a Zagi" Come join your fellow club members in defending the field from the great Zagi attack. Luckily we know this attack will begin around noon, bring your Zagis and don't forget the paint ball guns to shoot them with. This is an event that you definitely have to experience to believe.

January meeting - as usual, we will be having something for dinner at this meeting. Plan on enjoying supper for a nominal donation. It was brought up at the December meeting that there is no longer a menu of the items to be served at the meetings. That is true and will continue to be so since we don't know until the day of or a couple of days before the meeting what we will be serving. Just rest assured that there will always be something available at the meetings unless someone brings up a motion that we no longer serve food at the meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7th and 8th 2005: Our first AMA sanctioned IMAC competition, the Charles County Aerobatic Havoc, will be held at our field. Gale Perry is the CD for this event. Additional information will be posted on the website when it becomes available.

May 21st and 22nd 2005: The Andrews Air Force Base Air Show. Additional information will be made as it becomes available.

May 2005 (exact date undetermined as yet) The Club Spring Picnic will be held to get the new flying season off to a strong start.

Sometime in March/April we will be holding a series of field maintenance days to prepare the field for the new building. We will get you the dates and details as they are available.



CCRCC

**3478 SOUR CHERRY COURT
WALDORF, MD 20601**

www.charlescountyrc.org

**Meeting Wednesday January 5th,
7:30 pm Mattawoman Middle**



Mon-Thur 10am-6pm Fri 10am-8pm Sat 10am-6pm Sun 12pm-4pm

301-843-7774 metro or 301-932-9495 local