

THE CLIPPINGS

MARCH, 2011



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

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Phil Zuidema

There is a lot going on this month. We have postponed the FYAO, because there is no way to get the road plowed out. It hasn't been plowed all winter and in some spots, it's three to four feet deep, with a drift going halfway up the side of the building. I remember some years when we were concerned whether or not we'd have enough snow to use skis. I'm afraid we may have to turn this into a float fly in another month. We'll see.

As you are probably aware, there is a lot of stir with the FAA wanting to govern unmanned aircraft. Model aviation gets lumped into this category and it's high on the AMA's priority to defend our ability to continue our hobby unfettered. Please check out the AMA updates on this topic, as very soon they will be asking us to contact our congressman or congresswoman. For the most current information, please check this site:

<http://www.modelaircraft.org/insider/index.html>

Don't forget to bring your treasures to the meeting on Friday, March 11th. We are doing the Swap and Shop again and bring something you'd like to sell or get rid of. Bring a pocketful of dollars, too, so you can buy some of that treasure.

I'd like to thank all of the people in the club who sponsor events. When we make up the schedule, we just assign events based usually on who did it previously. The Grassfield must have the most gracious members, because no one I can recall has ever refused. We truly appreciate all the effort that everyone puts forth to make our events so successful. I realize it's a lot of work, but please know that the club would be much less if we didn't have such great members who do all this for us. Please know you are appreciated, and when you attend one of these events, please remember to thank the contest director.

Oh, did you know that March 1st is the beginning of meteorological spring? I can't wait for green grass!

— Phil Zuidema

Think Spring!!



**GRASSFIELD'S ANNUAL FYAO
(FREEZE YOUR AILERONS OFF)
& Chili Cook-off**

FYAO POSTPONED!

NEW DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED!



**The next Grassfield RC meeting is a
SWAP & SHOP
buy • sell • trade • or • give away**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH
7:00 pm (doors open at 6:00)**

**The Brooklyn Center Civic Center
6301 Shingle Creek Pkwy.
Brooklyn Center, MN**

**Bring your
hobby stuff ~
Bring home
new stuff!**

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SCOTT RUSSELL'S SKYMASTERS F-86

Scott Russell, a member of Scale Flyers of Minnesota, was at the February meeting, showing us his 1/5-scale Skymasters F-86. Scott, one of the best pilots around, has placed in the US Scale Master Championships. Scott has also qualified for Top Gun, an invitation-only competition. Only the top builders and flyers world-wide are invited to participate in the Top Gun.

Scott's Skymasters F-86 is truly an amazing plane. Technically it's an ARF that comes painted just like you see it here, but it still requires a tremendous amount of assembly work — it comes in a lot of pieces! The plane has a 91" wingspan and is 90" long. It weighs 42 lb. dry, and with fuel, weighs 54 lb. It has a JetCat P160 turbine engine with 36 lb. of thrust. Scott has installed 14 servos, most of them digital. There are four separate air systems, one for the landing gear, one for the wheel brakes, one for the air brakes in the back, and one for the sliding canopy.

The plane has a Smart-Fly redundant battery system. There are two lithium-ion batteries to run the servos; if one battery has a fault in it, the system recognizes it and switches just to the good battery. There is also a separate battery just for the turbine.

Scott had a lot of problems last year in his early attempts to fly it. On the first flight, he had to belly it in, causing a little damage, but not too bad. Another time, he took the F-86 to Fon du Lac, only to have a huge circus tent collapse on it. And on the following attempt, the gear door on his plane broke! Since then, Scott has had a very successful flight. At a top speed of 140 to 150 miles per hour, it is a nice-flying plane that doesn't seem to be going that fast. Scott says, "It grooves better than anything I've flown."



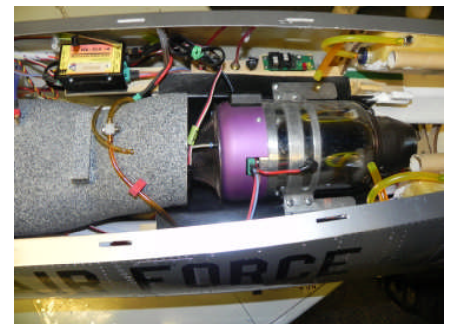
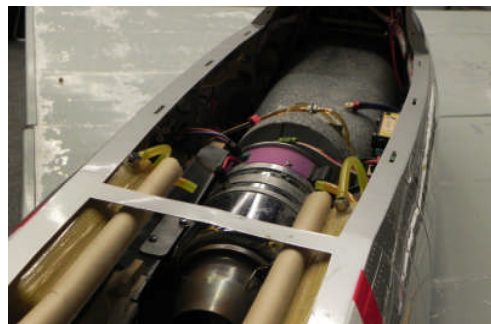
Scott Russell and his 1/5-scale Skymasters F-86 jet

Scott prefers Jet-A fuel for his F-86, the same fuel used by commercial airlines. Kerosene or even diesel fuel can be used. The plane draws about 17 ounces of fuel per minute. His flight time is about 10 minutes, and the plane consumes about two gallons of fuel in that time.

If you are wondering about the cost for this plane, Scott said the jet itself without landing gears is about \$4200; the landing gears, including the brakes, are another \$1500, and the turbine engine runs \$3600. Add to that, a bunch of miscellaneous parts, and Scott says he has close to \$10,000 in the plane.

THANK YOU, SCOTT!

Grassfield RC Club thanks Scott Russell for bringing his jet to the meeting. That's one amazing plane!



DARRYL ZEMPEL'S WOOD SKIS



Darryl Zempel showed how he makes his wood skis at the February meeting. Darryl says they're quick and easy to make—and he can make four skis for about \$20.00, compared to \$50.00 for a pair of purchased aluminum skis. Skis work well, except in deep and powder snow; Darryl said floats work better in those conditions.

Darryl starts by making a form from a 2x4 wood block, tracing the shape of the ski on the narrow side of the block. He cuts the block into two pieces, using a band saw (photo #1). Then he cuts a slot near the back of the bottom piece, inserting a strip of wood in the slot to make a "back stop" (#2).

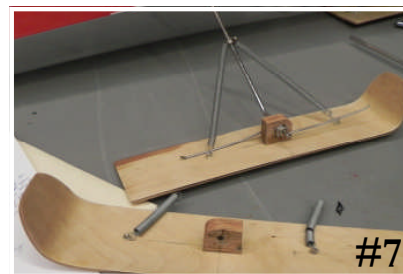
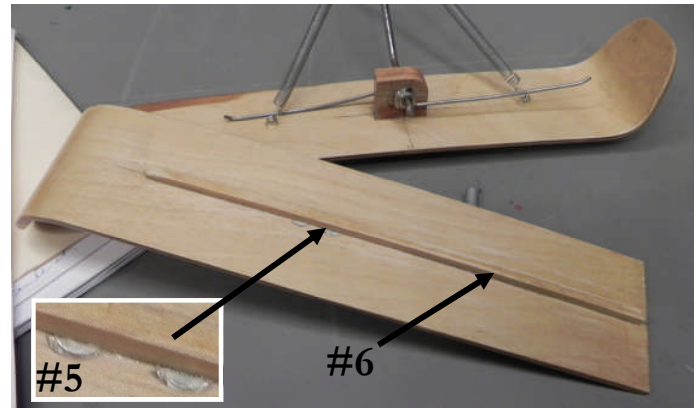
He cuts the wood for the skis from a 12" x 24" x 1/16" sheet of plywood, cutting the sheet into eight 12" x 3" pieces, four across and two down. He soaks a piece in water for 10 to 15 minutes; then he places it in the form and clamps it tight (#3). The clamps can be removed after a few hours, when the wood is dry. This is repeated for the remaining plywood pieces. Then he uses epoxy to glue two of the shaped pieces together, making a stronger two-layer ski; he clamps the ski in the form and allows the glue to dry.

Next, Darryl cuts a small block of wood, to make an upright or stand-off for each ski and drills a hole through the side (#4); He also prepares a narrow runner for the bottom of each ski.

He marks the center on each stand-off and ski in both directions. He drills holes through the ski and attaches the stand-off with two countersunk screws on the bottom (#5) and glues the runner in place (#6). He cuts and sands the front shape, then applies either a shellac or polyurethane coating and waxes the skis.

Darryl warned that you never want to fly the plane with the skis pointing downward, saying "That's death, and your plane won't survive!" So, to make sure the skis always point upward when he flies, Darryl attaches wheel collars with wires and springs to them (#7). Finally he mounts the skis to the plane (#8) — and takes it to the flying field.

If you want to make your own wood skis and have any questions, Darryl said you can call him at 763-493-4004.



MEET GRASSFIELD'S FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS

If you or someone you know is new to RC flying, Grassfield has several flight instructors available, all very active members of the club. So when you're ready to bring your plane out to the field, give one of these instructors a call to arrange a flight time.

PAUL JOHNSON 612-655-1808



Paul Johnson used to be into racing motocross, but he said, "You have to be in shape for that, and there's too much of a chance of getting hurt." Now Paul spends a lot of time on remote-control flying and building, as he practically "eats, sleeps, and drinks" RC.

Paul has a passion for helis and is currently the president of the Minnesota Radio Control Helicopter Association (MRCHA). He also enjoys aerobatic electric planes, even flying small electrics indoors in a gymnasium all winter. (See *The Clippings* December, 2010, issue.) He's flown glow-powered planes too and is currently building an Extra MX with an 89-inch wingspan, his first gas-powered plane.

Paul has helped people learn to fly fixed-wing planes, using a buddy box, and now uses a buddy box when he instructs people with helis.

DARRYL ZEMPEL 763-493-4004



Darryl Zempel has been flying RC since the late 1970s and likes flying sport planes. Among Darryl's favorite planes are his Sig Cadet and a Stinger biplane.

Darryl is an easy-going, easy-to-talk-to guy who wants to promote the hobby by helping people start out right and without going to a lot of expense. He recalls when he first learned to fly, taking just a couple of lessons. He didn't go far enough with an instructor before going on his own — and he ended up with his plane high in a tree!

Darryl likes to fly in the winter when it's not too cold outside and the snow's not too deep, and he makes his own wood skis for winter take-offs and landings. (See page 3.) If you are interested in learning to fly with skis, Darryl can help you learn and has a few warnings and tips to share.

Besides flying, Darryl is an avid do-it-yourselfer and is restoring an old automatic electrical Chickering baby grand piano.

BILL HEMPEL 763-424-2937

Bill Hempel has great memories of flying control-line planes in the neighborhood park when he was really young, which led him to remote-control flying. In his 25 years of RC, he has flown a lot of sport planes, but he also enjoys the excitement of pylon racing and combat flying — and he's the web site editor of Grassfield RC Club.

Being a member of Grassfield is more than just flying for Bill. The social part of the hobby is important to him as well. He really likes meeting new people at the field and has instructed new pilots for about five years. Having enjoyed RC flying so much himself, he wants to see new people get started in the hobby.

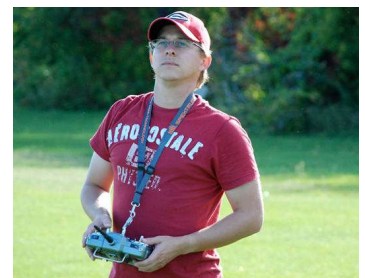
Realizing that inexperienced flyers are often inexperienced builders too, Bill always makes sure their planes are ready-to-fly before take-off.

ANDREW WACHHOLZ 651-503-4214

Andrew Wachholz was fascinated with flying when he was a young boy in the suburbs. He started out with model rocketry in the sixth grade. He has a great time flying everything from a balsa glider to an aerobatic plane, and he flies his Piper Cub with floats in the winter. Andrew's partial to glow-powered planes, plus he enjoys taking engines apart and aircraft maintenance.

Outgoing and excited about teaching the love of flight, Andrew has lots of patience and a knack for explaining how and why aircrafts work. He is good at preflight checks, so if you are not sure if your plane is flight-ready, he is happy to check it over for you.

Andrew's interests include other types of model building, not just airplanes, and he also designs web sites. He has created a web site just for aspiring radio-control pilots, www.controlchat.com. (See page 5.) He is engaged to be married this June to a pretty lady named Allison, who just happens to be a pilot and Andrew's own flight instructor!



RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

This is a reminder to renew your Grassfield membership if you haven't already done so. Membership dues need to be paid by April 15th in order to avoid the \$10.00 late fee. You can find the 2011 membership form online at the club web site, www.grassfieldrc.org.

Refer to the list below for the revised membership dues.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2011

Open (19 years or over)	\$65.00
Senior (65 years or over)	\$45.00
Student (19 to 23 years)	\$20.00
Junior (18 years or under)	\$20.00

(Determined by member's age on July 1, 2011)

*2011 membership forms are available online at www.grassfieldrc.org.
Or pick up a form at one of the Grassfield meetings.*

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WEB SITE FOR NEW RC PILOTS

You may be new to flying, or perhaps you've given someone an RC plane in hopes that he or she will enjoy the hobby as much as you do — and maybe even join you at the field. Well, there's a web site especially for aspiring pilots! Created by one of our Grassfield members, Andrew Wachholz, www.controlchat.com can answer a lot of basic and not-so-basic questions.

Topics on the web site include:

- Selecting your first RC airplane
- Safely starting an RC engine
- Electric RC: getting to know the basics
- The beginner's tool kit
- The basics of an RC propeller
- Learning skills to soldering for RC
- Castor versus synthetic fuel
- A glossary of terms in RC aviation
- The physics of flight

On this site, you can also find RC clubs or airfields anywhere in the United States by selecting a state to view registered Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) locations. With one click, you are sent directly to the RC club's web site. And you can click on the satellite button to get a close-up view of their field.

Andrew is one of Grassfield's flight instructors. For more information about our instructors, see page 4.

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