

January 2009



Hello and Happy New Year, Sky Pirates -

With the start of a new year and the beginning of my term as club president, I want to take this opportunity to communicate with all Sky Pirate members. And, realizing that not everyone has access to or, like myself, checks their email regularly, I thought a good old-fashioned newsletter would fit the bill.

To begin, I hope you will join me in thanking Ron Feindt for his years of guidance and leadership as president of the Sky Pirates club. Since joining the club in 2003, Ron is the only club president I've known and is one of many who helped me learn to fly. Ron, I wish you the best and look forward to your continued advice for the success of the Sky Pirates.

In the fall of 2008 we completed another good flying season out at the field and I'm already looking forward to this coming season. Conditions were probably the best I have seen in the last few years. Our weed control efforts paid off handsomely and they should be continued as we go forward. Thankfully we didn't lose too many days to inclement weather and Terry did an excellent job of keeping the grass cut and also not cutting when appropriate.

Money Talk

In order to continue having successful flying seasons, paying dues and assessments are a necessary evil. Our annual expenses for the last three years have been just under \$3000.00. Unfortunately, with dues at \$100.00, and approximately 20 members, an assessment is unavoidable. For those of you who pay their dues and assessments on time, thank you. If you have not yet paid your 2008 assessment, it would be very much appreciated if you did so as soon as possible. We all rely on each other to make these payments in a timely fashion so that our expenses can be met. Also, as a reminder, annual dues are to be paid before the March meeting.

What You Missed

If you were not able to attend the January meeting, you missed a demonstration of Permagrit tools. Permagrit is a line of tungsten-carbide abrasive and cutting tools made in England. I, personally, have been using Permagrit tools for the last two years and can tell you that, in almost all cases, I reach for my Permagrit sanding bars before I use my sandpaper tools. A significant feature of note is their ability to cut through CA – and we all know how hard it can be to sand cured CA. These tools cut through it like butter. The tool line includes sanding bars, spar slotters, hand files, different shapes of Dremel bits and cutters. They stay sharp, are easy to clean and can be used anywhere you would use sandpaper. Part of the demonstration included how easily the tools cut through both fiberglass laminate (a homemade G-10) and carbon fiber landing gear like butter. The coarse grit is equal to 60 grit and the fine grit is about 120 grit. The sanding bars have both coarse and fine grit

on opposite sides of the tool. For a \$20 donation to the club, Jack Leber walked away with an 11 inch sanding bar that typically sells for \$37.00. For more information, you can visit <http://www.permagrit.com/> (the manufacturer's website in England) or Bob Violet Models at <http://www.bvmjets.com/> - click on the Permagrit logo on the left hand side of the page. I also recommend the Bob Violet site for other tools and useful items. A little time exploring these websites could net you some real gems that you didn't even know existed.

Flying Forward

Since we are a club, I think it's important to get input from the entire membership on thoughts or ideas regarding what you would like to see from the club.

- ➔ What do you think our goals should be for the year?
- ➔ What changes do you think would be beneficial to you or the club?
- ➔ For those of you who fly electrics, is there some way we can help you have a more enjoyable flying experience?
- ➔ For those members flying helis, if there is some way we can better accommodate you, please let us know.

If you have any ideas that you would like to present at the February meeting, please call me with them (215-340-1455), mail them to me (4157 Miladies Lane, Doylestown, PA 18902), or email them to me (daveweldin@comcast.net). Remember this is your club. I am happy to discuss any ideas that you want to submit.

New Horizons

Jack Leber, Jon MacGahan and myself will be AMA Intro-Pilots again this year. As instructors, we are not just looking to help new pilots, we are willing and happy to help those who already fly to improve their skills. I highly recommend you challenge yourself and learn a few new tricks this year. It certainly helps keep flying 'fresh' when trying to perfect a new skill. With that in mind, I ask:

- ➔ Would you be interested in having classes during the year to help improve your flying skills or to learn some new moves?
- ➔ Should we schedule days to teach how to fly inverted, do loops and rolls, fly the reverse pattern, or land on the cross-wind runway?

Please do not hesitate to ask us if you would like to work on any of these skills.

Also, if anyone would like to be an Intro-Pilot or an instructor for the club, please let me know ASAP.

Continued



Taking it on the Road

Do you have an interest in going to any hobby shows or events? The WRAM show, the northeast's largest R/C expo, will be held this year from February 20th through the 22nd in West Chester, New York. There you will have the opportunity to see many vendors, awesome hand crafted models in a static display competition, and there are how-to seminars during the day from some of the 'Pros'. Although seminar topics vary yearly, they can range anywhere from radio programming, to Monokote tips and tricks, to how to fly competitions. During last year's show I attended a seminar given by Roy Vaillancourt (Vailly Aviation) on painting with latex and learned more in 45 minutes than I could have in a month of research and experimenting. If anyone is interested in attending, we can discuss car-pooling at the February meeting. More info can be obtained at <http://www.wram.org>.

Would you be interested in a bus trip to the Udvar-Hazy center at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington? On display are such items as a Wright Model B reproduction, *the* Enola Gay (B-29), an SR-71, and the Space Shuttle Enterprise, to name a few. I've done some initial checking and it looks like these trips run about \$55.00 per person. This might be something we could do with other clubs in the area for a winter break. You can visit their website at <http://www.nasm.si.edu/UdvarHazy/>.

Community

We will be working to improve our name recognition in the community and hopefully create some exposure and interest to draw new members into our hobby. To this end I will be contacting Plumstead Township to inquire about our club sponsoring a local roadway. This is something we had discussed previously and I hope to have details at the next meeting.

We are also looking for ways to make this hobby more enjoyable for all who participate in it, and everyone is welcome to put forth suggestions.

Let me stress that there are no requirements for anyone to do anything more as a club member than to pay their dues and assessments, other than to obey all rules set by the club and the AMA. However, if you are so inclined, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you.

In Closing

I can't tell you how often I will be sending out letters such as this, but I felt it was important to reach out to everyone at the beginning of the year. I hope you will join me in looking for new ways to move our club forward.

I look forward to speaking, working and flying with each one of you in the coming season. Please feel free to contact myself or any of the other officers with any questions, thoughts or concerns.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Dave Weldin