

SMAC Article

Article from the Sanilac Model Aviation Club, Croswell, Mi.

January 24th 2009

SMAC Celebrates the New Year

As maybe you can recall, last year this event was cancelled due to the very stormy weather. This year, sure it was a little cold even for this time of year but it was definitely doable. There was some snow on the ground and a slight wind out of the south that made the high teen temperatures feel like they were low teens. When we got to Arnold field, the warmth of the airport office and all of the great food and friends won out for the time being.

We spent some time having some great bean soup and talking with some of the fun SMAC members that made it out.

Some of our members are in much warmer climates like Dick Shogren who called from Arizona to wish everybody a happy New Year. Anyway, the holiday's are great in that we do get a little time to see family and friends. In this particular case since my sister Beth was up visiting in good old Harbor Beach, I brought my nephew Jayce along so he could have some fun.

After some lunch I finally got up the nerve to go out and fly. I didn't feel comfortable flying with gloves on so I flew without gloves. This decision made my flight a little on the short side. My



Clockwise from front

Jayce Masters
Dave Lapham
Bob Samuelson
Kim VanDerMaas
Gerrit VanDerMaas
Nancy Samuelson
Pavanne Lapham



hands seemingly turned to ice in just a couple of minutes. That's o.k. It was a good short flight. However, that flight really doesn't count as the first flight of the year for us. Since the Hornet is electric, it really is cheating. There was no effort in preparing the plane for flight.

Shortly after my flight, Dennis and Gerrit started preparing their airplanes for flight. Dennis with the Sig Kadet and Gerrit with his Great Planes Stick. Both planes are powered with very reliable O.S. engines. Dennis had skis on the Kadet which worked well and Gerrit's plane had good size wheels that worked since the snow wasn't too deep in some area's. After the wings were mounted and the radios checked it was time to start the engines. Well it seemed

like the engines could feel the cold weather also. They did start but required some adjustment of the needle valve to richen up the fuel mixture. Bob was helping Dennis with the Kadet and you can ask Bob about how the prop blast feels when the temps are so low. I was just glad that I was just snapping pictures. The camera doesn't have a prop blast. Anyway, at 1:18 in the afternoon both engines were running and the pilots were anxious to get them in the air. Dennis did takeoff first and therefor gets the official first flight of the year. Gerrit also did get a good flight in.

So I guess everyone was a winner, we all had fun.