

# SMAC Happ'nins

Newsletter of the Sanilac Model Aviation Club

1st Quarter 2003

## 1st Quarter Wrap-Up

We'll the first quarter of 2003 is now complete for SMAC and the rest of the world. Typically it is one of the slowest times of the year for club activities. That certainly doesn't mean that the club members aren't busy. Quite a few of us have winter projects or have many other things to occupy our time. The past couple of years I've been calling around at this time of year to see what everyone has been up to. I'm always interested in what new airplanes we might see on the flight line in the spring. This year I'm taking the wait and see approach. I'll most likely find out at one of the club's meetings or on a club flying night. As I type this article some of you are at the show in Toledo and might run across a deal that's too good to pass up. I'll certainly be looking forward to the next club meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> to see what everyone picked up.

Naturally the first event of the year is the New Year's Day Fun Fly and it was a cold New Year's Day for everyone that attended this year's event. When we arrived at the field around 12:00 Tim Hazzard was flying his Wild Thing. One thing that I didn't notice at the time since Tim was facing away from me was his Radio Jacket. It's a clever coat that goes overtop the radio to keep the operators hands warm. It also has plexi-

glass window in the middle so the pilot can see the trim settings. This was the first time that I've seen this type of gear. Very clever, I'll bet it was invented in Florida for some of those cold 50° mornings they get down there occasionally.

Normally Dennis Bigger has the first flight of the year but this year Brian Glombowski was quick to the field and got his Gremlin in the air. It was a short flight, apparently the Elavon trim was a little off and shortly after Brian launched it the plane took a bit of a nose dive. The result was an engine separation. This didn't seem to phase Brian very much at all since he was eager to display the Gremlin to me afterwards.

The frozen tundra caused a few problems throughout the day. Kyle Schoenrock turned his Hornet into a low rider. When coming in for a nice landing Kyle ended up hitting a piece of turf on the runway that was frozen to the hardness of a rock! His landing gear promptly was left behind the plane about 10 yards or so. The Hornet slid in without any further damage. The same thing happened to Dennis Bigger but Dennis made a point to inform us that on the Enduro 40 the landing gear is designed to flip around when necessary. It wasn't just the landings that were effected by the frozen ground. Just to taxi a

plane without it bouncing was a problem. Norm Hurren found that out with his Super Cub. The Cub was bouncing just enough to make the prop hit the ground. Norm found a solution. He headed to the South end of the field where the grass is smoother. That was a good move by Norm because he was able to get the Cub up in the air and get in a good flight. The highlight of the flight was the great landing Norm had while he was battling the windy conditions.

Kyle Schoenrock was putting his new engine to the test. I would say that a .56 Saito is a great Christmas present. Anyway that engine seemed to be just right for the Hornet. Todd Litke put the first flight on his new Sig Somthin' Extra. I was quite curious to watch this bird fly since I have a Somthin' Extra on my building bench. Todd did a real nice job flying as expected. I was thinking that on a cold windy day like the 1<sup>st</sup> it took a lot of bravery to fly an aerobatics airplane like that for a first flight.

I was able to get in a short flight with the Mini-"V". About 5 minutes into the flight the engine started to run a little funny for a couple of seconds. Then it got loud and ran much better. I knew then that I had lost part of the muffler. I was

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**SMAC Happenings**

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having so much fun I decided to take a couple extra laps around the field. Kyle told me that maybe I didn't loose the muffler, maybe it just came loose and if I landed it I wouldn't loose it. You know what, he was right! I just lost the muffler nut and the end of the muffler was still hanging on. Thanks Kyle!

Not everyone got in a flight that day but it was sure great having everyone together. The Pilothouse was a popular spot for obvious reasons. Hopefully in a short period of time we won't need to gravitate to such places for shelter from the weather!

**2003 SMAC CALENDAR**

**SMAC Meetings:** 2nd Sunday of the month.  
Arnold Airport 7 PM

**Training Night:** Thursday evenings, SMAC Field  
(while Daylight Saving Time is in effect)

**Club Flying Night:** Tuesday evenings, SMAC Field  
(while Daylight Saving Time is in effect)

**April:**

13 Club meeting - Arnold Airport 7pm

**May:**

10 Swap meet - Arnold Airport 10am

11 Club meeting - Arnold Airport 7pm

**June:**

8 Club meeting - Arnold Airport 7pm

21 Prop Busters Rally / Combat 9:30am

**July:**

12 Gathering of Eagles 9:00am

13 Club meeting - Arnold Airport 7pm

**August:**

9 East Wing Rally 9:30am

10 Club meeting - Arnold Airport 7pm

23 SMAC Toy's for Tot's 10:00am

**September:**

6 Prop Busters Charity Fun Fly (Time TBA)

14 Club meeting - Arnold Airport 7pm

**Newsletter in Adobe Acrobat Format?**

Beginning with the next newsletter the newsletter will be available in Adobe Acrobat format. Please let me know if you would prefer to have this version of the newsletter e-mailed to you.

# The PRESIDENT'S Agenda

By Dennis Bigger

It's starting to look a little more like flying weather around here now. And we've had our first meeting, which means the new flying season has officially started. And I know everyone is eager to get out to the field at the fly. Please keep in mind that it may take a little while for the frost to come out this year and until it does the field will be a little soft. So use your judgment as to weather or not you can drive on the field. I'll try and get a sign made that say "Field Closed" if it's too wet.

As I said we have had our first meeting and those at the meeting got to see me get up on my soapbox and make some comments on the rising cost of the AMA. I don't usually complain about such things, but I feel that the AMA is getting a little out of hand with things such as dues and field insurance costs. As everyone knows that paid their dues this year they went up, not a little, a lot. From \$48 to \$58 which is over 20%. I don't know about the rest of you but I didn't get a 20% raise this year. Also our field insurance went from \$20 per site to \$60 per site, which is 200%, and I know none of you got that big of raise this year.

I know I am partially to blame, since I don't really read Model Aviation Magazine every month. The dues increase took me by surprise, I didn't realize they went up until I renewed in December. Even through I'm sure my one letter of complaint wouldn't have meant much to the leadership of the AMA. The in-

crease in field insurance for a small club such as ours that is lucky enough to fly at several fields is substantial. We have decided to discontinue insurance at Kettlewells, and just purchase insurance for one day, the day of the Swinging Bridge Day Festival.

I know the AMA likes to blame 9/11 for these increases but that doesn't fly with me. I have car insurance and house insurance, both have liability components in them and they went up. But not even a fraction of the amount that our club cost have increased.

This is just my opinion, but maybe the AMA should be more concerned with the local clubs and less concerned about making Muncie a show place with an increasing number of fulltime employees.

If anyone else feels the same way I do write the AMA, my one letter might not mean much but they will take notice if a majority of the membership complains. Write a letter, E-mail or phone them and let them know how you feel, unless I'm the only that thinks these increases are too high. Tell them they should have to keep within the same kind of budget restraints the rest of us have to, especially in these tough economic times. Maybe the need to shop around a little more for insurance. When it's time to vote for AMA president maybe we need to think about what the AMA should be doing with the money we send them.

Well I'm starting to get a nose bleed so maybe I should get off this soapbox and talk about the fun things, which is the reason we are all in this hobby in the first

place.

First event of the season will be our annual Tailgate swap at Arnold Airport on May 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 AM. Even if you're not looking to buy or sell something you can bring a plane to fly. Or just enjoy the hanger talk with other club members you haven't seen for awhile.

We will still be getting insurance for the year for our SMAC airfield and Arnold Airport so you can fly there anytime. I say this every year but I feel I can't stress it enough, "You have to have a spotter at Arnold Field and keep a close eye out for full scale aircraft".

Kyle Schoenrock is our funfly director this year and is coming up with some dates for the funflays this year so sometime after our next meeting we'll have our calendar set for the coming year. I do have some important dates I'd like you to take note of.

**June 21<sup>st</sup> - Propbuster Fly-In 9:30 AM**

**July 12<sup>th</sup> -River District Eagles, Gathering of Eagles 9 AM.**

**August 9<sup>th</sup> - Eastwings Fly-In 9:30 AM**

All of these events have open flying and combat events you can participate in. We need to support our surrounding clubs event since they have always been so good about supporting our Toys for Tots.

There are a lot of things I'd like to say, but I've already run a little long.

I'd just like to wish everyone a safe and happy flying season, and until next time.

"I'D RATHER BE FLYING"



Brian shows the quick way to dismount an engine. After the first flight of the year.



Ryan Miller and Jay Smith give Dennis a hand bringing in the Endura 40.



Tim looks like he's flying in comfort!



Is Kyle warming up the engine or just trying to stay warm himself?

**For Sale:**

Anyone interested in the below items, please contact  
Bob Samuelson 810-679-3962

Orline kit-1/4scale Fairchild 22 \$145.00

Lockhead Sirius-65"WS fiberglass fuselage by Bob Palmer-partially built \$80.00

Byron Cap 21 NIB \$175.00

Big Hots-partially built \$65.00

Hitec-Focus 6ch-chan. 38 \$70.00

Airtronics 6ch-chan.30 \$65.00

Tower Hobbies 6ch-used once \$100.00

other misc. items

## SMAC Meeting Minutes - March 9, 2003

Submitted By Brian Glombowski

Meeting called to order at 7:00p.m.

10 members present. 1 guest present. His name is Dale Fisher.

There were no previous meeting minutes reported.

Treasury report: Balance \$1164.71

Ed Mann made a motion to accept the Treasury Report as read.

The motion was seconded and accepted

### **Correspondence:**

We received newsletters from the River District Eagles and the Propbusters.

We received Club Charter information.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Building Committee:**

We need to acquire corner moldings, trim moldings and some treated 2" x 6" for the bottom of the walls. Dennis will research the cost of these items. We'll plan a workday when the material is available and the weather permits.

#### **Apparel Committee:**

General opinion from the club leans towards embroidered apparel instead of silk-screened. Hats will be similar to the River District Hat that was shown last fall at the banquet. The cost of the hat is about \$12. There should be three or four colors to choose from. Shirts and jackets will have the same design of the same size embroidered over the left chest pocket area. The cost of the shirts and jackets are not yet known. The artwork for the embroidery has not been decided yet. Club members should submit their suggestions. In the meantime, Brian will propose a few designs via e-mail.

#### **Fun-fly Committee:**

Kyle Schoenrock is the Contest Director Mark S.Sr. proposed some event ideas that would make the events fair for pilots of all skill levels.

#### **Toys for Tots Committee:**

We are starting to ask vendors for raffle prizes. The club discussed sanctioning the event. Mark S. Sr. said he would look into reasons for/against sanctioning.

#### **Old Business:**

Updated roster will be e-mailed to the members.

#### **New Business:**

Mark S. Sr. announced he has .40 size float plans for anyone interested. AMA Charter information was received. Basic Club insurance is \$30. Field insurance went from \$20 to \$60 per field. After some discussion, Ed Mann made a motion to annually insure the SMAC field and the Arnold field for a cost of \$60 each, but to insure the Kettlewell field for only one day for a cost of \$20. Mark S. Sr. seconded to motion. Motion passed. Dennis strongly suggested that the club members write to the AMA to express our concerns for the rising costs of memberships and insurance.

Mark S. Sr. said many clubs from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana get together annually to discuss AMA issues. He will find out more.

Dennis said we could be a tax-exempt club according to IRS codes. Jay Smith will check into tax exempt issues.

Swinging Bridge Days/Cardboard Boat Regatta is June 7.

Fuel order goes in at the end of March. Get your money and order to Dennis ASAP.

SC Tailgate Swap Meet May 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Bob Samuelson will make a flyer to send to area clubs and he will also bring the donuts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

**inside...**

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# SMAC Happ'nins

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