



May 1997

The News Letter of the *Manned Spacecraft Center Radio Control Club*

## President's Corner

Mike Laible

So many things are going on that I really do not know were to start this month. Between the club youth programs, new projects, and training, I wonder how I am still married.

I have been doing computer work for Bob Holman in trade of some RC equipment. What I have been collecting towards is a 1/5.5 scale F8F Bearcat from Bates plans. At this moment I have the plans, cowl, canopy, and retracts. My next work will be for the laser cut parts for this plan. I plan to be gluing wood sometime this summer. The model will be powered by a ST 3000 and I am thinking about getting a Airtronics Radiant for guidance. Should be nice. Watch out, could be dangerous, Laible at the big bird events!!!!

My father is just about completed with my latest design the "Sorta Fun". This plane has the outline of a homebuilt called Europa and the same airfoil design as my pattern design. I used the same airfoil because why change it if it works. The cowl attachment will also be using a design of one of our club members. Be looking for it in May or June. Anyway, the wing planform and structure is a prototype of the same structure I will use for the 1/4 scale Sukhoi I have on the drawing board. So as you can see, the old computer has been busy ( oh

yah, forgot about the newsletter).

Well onto the business stuff. At the last meeting several items were kicked off. One is the investigation of some field improvements. I hope this will proceed and move forward. I would like to spend more time on this but as one can note the old plate is full. I hope the club as a whole would like to see some sort of shade accommodations and would get actively involved to improve the field.

The other item is the presentation I am going to give to AIAA for co-sponsorship with MSC RC/AMA/and AIAA on a High School design contest. Well the pitch was given and accepted. AIAA voted to fund \$1000.00 to kick-off the design contest. Well needless to say I was speechless. I said to myself "Self, now what do I do". Since that presentation I have talked to Bob Underwood (AMA), Charles Kelley (curriculum in CA), Charles Mathis (CCISD Technical Director) and my wife (Ava) on other fund raising. She has already received some verbal commitments from companies on funding. This could be big for the area and model aviation. I believe this area is waiting for something like this. Anyway, Charles Kelly is sending the course outline and cost, I then go back to AIAA on May 5th and finally end up at CCISD shortly after. At this time Charles Kelley will fly to Texas to help me present the idea to CCISD. Whew, I'm done!!!!!! This is moving faster than I thought. Another note on youth is that it was voted by our club to fund Delta Darts for Seabrook

*(continued on page 2)*

Intermediate. When more details are available I will let everyone know. It seems that some efforts are paying off, I see a lot of new faces at the field.

A couple of last notes. Kellan, the young man I have been training actually completed his first flight, take-off, a couple patterns and then a controlled landing. Lets all give him a big Hoorah!!! Also, the funfly turned out to be perfect. The events were fun and suspenseful (How could it not be with Don flying). Kellan even competed in the pylon race. He has all intentions to compete in the next fun-fly. Get more information about the fun fly in the note from Brian Morris.

Till next month. Safe flying.



## This and That

### THE 3 SECOND BARRIER

Our subject today is lighting charcoal grills. One of our favorite charcoal grill lighters is a guy named George Goble, a computer person in the Purdue University engineering department.

Each year, Goble and a bunch of other engineers hold a picnic in West Lafayette, Indiana, at which they cook hamburgers on a big grill. Being engineers, they began looking for practical ways to speed up the charcoal-lighting process.

"We started by blowing the charcoal with a hair dryer," Goble told me in a telephone interview. "Then we figured out that it would light faster if we used a vacuum cleaner."

If you know anything about (1) engineers and (2) guys in general, you know what happened: The purpose of the charcoal-lighting shifted from cooking hamburgers to seeing how fast they could light the charcoal.

>From the vacuum cleaner, they escalated to using a propane torch, then an acetylene torch. Then

Goble started using compressed pure oxygen, which caused the charcoal to burn much faster, because as you recall from chemistry class, fire is essentially the rapid combination of oxygen with a reducing agent (the charcoal). We discovered that a long time ago, somewhere in the valley between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers (or something along those lines).

By this point, Goble was getting pretty good times. But in the world of competitive charcoal-lighting, "pretty good" does not cut the mustard.

Thus, Goble hit upon the idea of using --- get ready --- liquid oxygen. This is oxygen. In terms of releasing energy, pouring liquid oxygen on charcoal is the equivalent of throwing a live squirrel into a room containing 50 million Labrador retrievers.

On Goble's World Wide Web page (the address is <http://ghg.ecn.purdue.edu/> ) (Editor: I verified the page, you need to see it to believe it), you can see actual photographs and a video of Goble using a bucket attached to a 10-foot-long wooden handle to dump 3 gallons of liquid oxygen (not sold in stores) onto a grill containing 60 pounds of charcoal and a lit cigarette for ignition.

What follows is the most impressive charcoal-lighting I have ever seen, featuring a large fireball that according to Goble, reached 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The charcoal was ready for cooking in --- this has to be a world record --- 3 seconds.

There's also a photo of what happened when Goble used the same technique on a flimsy \$2.88 discount-store grill. All that's left is a circle of charcoal with a few shreds of metal in it. "Basically, the grill vaporized," said Goble. "We were thinking of returning it to the store for a refund."

Looking at Goble's video and photos, I became, as an American, all choked up with gratitude at the fact that I do not live anywhere near the engineers' picnic site. But also, I was proud of my country for producing guys who can be ready to barbecue in

less time than it take for guys in less-advanced nations, such as France, to spit.

Will the 3-second barrier ever be broken? Will engineers come up with a new, more powerful charcoal-lighting technology? It's something or all of us to ponder this summer as we sit outside, chewing our hamburgers, every now and then glancing in the direction of West Lafayette, Indiana, looking for a mushroom cloud.

**MSC April Fun Fly**

Brian Morris

The first fun fly of 1997 was held on April 19. The sky was threatening to rain, but only a small shower occurred and all three scheduled events were conducted.

Just to remind everyone, we will have a fun fly on the Saturday following the club meeting every month through September. The rainout day will be the following Saturday. First place in each event will be awarded a gallon of club fuel to be picked up at the next club meeting. Also, points will be awarded for the first three places in each event on a 3, 2, 1 basis, and the flyer with the highest accumulated points for the year will be awarded a special prize (TBD) at the end of the season.

The first event required four heats to reach a conclusion. It was the randomly timed pylon and was won by George Nixon. Second place went to Charles Copeland and third to Ray Randolph.

The second event was a timed event requiring three loops and three rolls. Some great performances were turned in with Mike Laible winning in a time of only 38 seconds. Charles Copeland was close behind with 39 seconds and Ray Randolph was third with 50 seconds.

The last event was the climb and glide with spot

landing. We were shooting for 30 seconds of powered time but Mike Laible's plane was out of sight before then so we dropped it to 25 seconds. George Nixon won this with a fine time of 2:05. Mike picked up the 10 second bonus for being closest to the landing target, finishing in second place at 2:01. Scott Anderson was third with a time of 1:42.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the competition and there were many memorable moments and very little plane damage. It may be the first time we have had a student compete on a "buddy box". Kellen Goertemiller teamed with Mike Laible and competed in the pylon event. Remember, the fun flies will be once a month on the Saturday following the club meeting. So mark the calendars for May 11th.

**April Standings**

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| George Nixon     | 6 pts. |
| Mike Laible      | 5 pts. |
| Charles Copeland | 4 pts. |
| Ray Randolph     | 2 pts. |
| Scott Anderson   | 1 pt.  |

**Official Notice:**

One or more of the '97' Fun Flies will include a donut drop competition. The only rules are: to drop a doughnut of your choice from an altitude of at least 50 feet, measure the accuracy of the drop from where it finally comes to rest. Design your donut with ground personnel safety in mind. So get started on your gadgets and be ready for the event(s)

**Twenty Years Ago**

MSC RCC  
May 12th, 1977

There were four entries for model of the month.  
- Ed Dupaquier showed a VECO Cherokee Babe started 3-1/2 years ago and finished 6 weeks ago. Also he had a Pilot Cessna 150 ARF which took about 1 hour to assemble with engine but without

radio. Even pushrods were assembled

- Tom McPherson showed a Taurus, or rather the 3rd reincarnation of a Taurus. Parts of it came from a 1965 Taurus built for reed equipment. It crashed. J. Kiker combined some parts with others he had left over. Then later, McPherson rebuilt it again and painted it. Engine is a 1965 Merco .49.
- J. W. Smith brought a JETCO Eastwind glider which was designed for a small engine which retracted into the fuselage. He had put a hook on it for the upcoming contest and had no engine.

The judging team awarded the just returned trophy to McPherson for the Taurus.

Entertainment: Lars Giertz gave a run down on the recent speed trials at Ellington while O. Morris showed slides of the event. High wind conditions made it difficult to fly well, and the times were rather high.

**Minutes from the April 1997 Meeting**



**Minutes by Bill, the Secretary**

**General:**

The April 10, 1997 MSC R/C Club meeting was convened at 7:00 on the porch and then called to order at 7:13 by President Mike Laible. There were 19 members and visitors initially present (who remember the new start time) and eventually 24 in attendance. Our one visitor was Charles Boehl who has built his first plane and is interested in learning to fly

Minutes of the March meeting were approved as published.

There was no Treasurer's report (its tax time).

**Old Business:**

Mike expressed his thanks for the three articles that were offered for last months R/C Flyer. Keep them coming.

The Youth Fly with students from Creekside has been postponed from April 12 to April 26. At least four trainers with buddy boxes and instructor pilots will be needed.

Seabrook Intermediate School wants to build and fly Delta Darts again this year. A motion was made and passed that the club buy the kits. Anyone who can donate an hour or so to help should contact Mike Laible.

Mike outlined a concept for a proposal to the local section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronauts (AIAA) to sponsor, in conjunction with the Club, an aero design and flight competition that would involve the three Clear Creek ISD high school. Mike has been discussing ideas for such a project with the AMA. Mike will make a proposal to the AIAA on April 14 and report back at the next club meeting.

The desirability of a flying field shade structure and some tables was discussed. Bill Langdoc offered to meet with JSC antenna range and facility engineering folks to determine design constraints.

A discussion ensued on the club name, and the pros and cons of MSC R/C vs. JSC R/C.

The Club Fun Fly is scheduled for April 19 at 9:00. There will be two events, but they will not be announced until that morning.



**New Business:**

Up coming area R/C events of interest were announced:

- Prop Nuts Fly In and Swap Meet - April 12/13
- Bay Port Fly In and Swap Meet - May 3 & 4
- Fort Bend R/C Auction at the Sugarland Community Center - May 7
- Space City R/C Big Bird Fly In - May 24 & 25
- Texas City R/C Big Bird Fly In - May 31 & June 1
- Alvin R/C Big Bird Fly In - June 21

Space Center Houston will be having a teacher workshop which includes a model rocket launch on April 19. These are to be small rockets and are supposed to be launched from the Rocket Park area, but be alert when flying that day.

The Houston Rocket Club will be holding a regional meet on May 3 & 4. There may be a large number of participants. R/C Club flying on that weekend may have to be curtailed.

A question was raised about the large antenna for the new fire station and whether it will present a radio interference problem. Tas Crowson didn't think that it should, but will check with a scanner when it is operational. Mike Laible said that he would check with the Fire Department to determine what frequencies are being transmitted.



**Show and Tell:**

George Nixon showed his under construction Hero Pusher, This is a twin boom, pusher configuration from the Feb. 96 Model Aviation. A shaft extension had to be added to the OS 40FP engine for the prop to clear the reversed muffler.

Ray Randolph showed his scratch design and built fun fly plane. It is still under construction and when finished will be nearly all wing. His goal is to make the total plane weigh 2.5 lbs, and be powered by a Webra 28.

Jerry Hajek should his Airtronics Legend, which is a 113 inch unlimited class sail plane. He has been building the plane for the past six years and is looking forward to its first flight. Jerry Legend was voted the Model of the Month.



**Program:**

The program has video showing the highlights of the 1996 Nationals. The planes and the flying were spectacular.



**Refreshments:**

Jeff Longmore provide the refreshments. The refreshments for April will be provided by Resha Hill.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

**The R/C Flyer**  
EDITOR  
 Michael R. Laible  
ASSEMBLY, POSTING, DISTRIBUTION  
 Bob Blaylock

Articles and want ads can be submitted to Mike Laible at 474-1255, on 3.5" floppies in ASCII or Microsoft Word, E-mail at mlaible@phoenix.net, or hard copy formats can be sent to: 2823 Sea Ledge, Seabrook, Texas 77586. Club Homepage at "http://www.phoenix.net/~mlaible/msc.html"



**"Support Your R/C Flyer"**

**Next Meeting on Thursday**  
**May 8th, 1997, 7:00 PM**  
**Clear Lake Park Building**

**Fuel for Sale**

|             |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Jim Brock   |             | 334-1715    |
| John Campo  |             | 488-7748    |
| Tas Crowson |             | 474-9531    |
| Don Fisher  | 474-4942(H) | 483-2157(W) |
| Wayne Green |             | 484-3151    |
| Don White   |             | 488-1024    |

**Club Officers**

|                |              |          |
|----------------|--------------|----------|
| President      | Mike Laible  | 474-1255 |
| Vice-President | Frank Jenson | 470-1025 |
| Treasurer      | Dave Hoffman | 476-5206 |
| Secretary      | Bill Langdoc | 482-2369 |

**Instructors**

|                        |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| John Campo             |                        | 488-7748               |
| Charles Copeland       |                        | 474-1195               |
| <del>Paul Ellis</del>  | <del>480-3839(H)</del> | <del>488-9878(W)</del> |
| Don Fisher             | 474-4942(H)            | 483-2157(W)            |
| Mike Laible            | 474-1255(H)            | 244-8376(W)            |
| Mike Goza              |                        |                        |
| (Heli and Airplane)    | 554-4016(H)            | 483-4696(W)            |
| Wayne Green (Heli)     |                        | 484-3151               |
| Jerry Hajek            | 486-4722(H)            | 246-4312(W)            |
| David Hoffman          | 476-5206(H)            | 479-1945(W)            |
| David Tadlock (Glider) |                        | 481-5227               |

The R/C Flyer



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