

the

Ampeer

April		The EFO Officers		2007
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Ampeer subscriptions are \$10 a year US & Canada and \$17 a year worldwide	<p>The Next Meeting:</p> <p>Date: Saturday, April 21 Time: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Place: Midwest 5 Mi. Rd. Flying Field, Northville Twp., MI</p>			

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RC Micro World Newsletter
 From John Worth johnworth@cox.net

At the end of January 2007 I received the following via email from John. Just want as many folks to know about this as possible. KM

RC MICRO WORLD—It's a great monthly online magazine for modelers interested in the fast growing activity involving the building and flying of small RC models. In less than 2 years, RC Micro World has become the world's leading source of regular information about this activity, featuring What's New and Who's Doing it, produced by John Worth and including articles by famous personalities like Bob Aberle, Dave Robelen, Gordon Johnson, Matt Keennon, Dick Adams, Paul and Ralph Bradley, Stew Meyers, etc., many of who also produce articles for the regular print magazines.

Because RC MW is online monthly, it often scoops the print magazines with larger and more timely articles, with many more photos, about the latest and greatest news of what's happening in the

world of the smallest and lightest of models, both indoor and outdoor.

RC Micro World also provides links to other websites, which greatly expands the coverage. Hundreds of subscribers are involved from 30 countries and the list grows daily. Because it is a computer product, each issue has information that is current, often only days—sometimes hours—old, rather than weeks or months old, compared to print information delivered by postal mail or newsstands.

The cost to new subscribers is \$30 for the calendar year 2007 (January thru December) and it includes all previous issues from 2005 and 2006. For new subscribers who are AMA members a subscription is only \$20.

You can see what this is all about, by using any computer with an Internet connection and going to www.cloud9rc.com On the Welcome page you will see a list of the current month's contents, free links to other websites, a free sample look at a typical past issue, a free guide to Indoor RC Information, and options for subscription payment.

It costs nothing; therefore, to see if RC Micro World is something you want to be part of. It's easier if you have your own computer, or have access to someone else's in your home or at work, but you can also access the RC Micro World website at public libraries or places like restaurants or department stores (like K-Mart) that provide free use of computers for customer use.

John Worth, Executive Editor

February EFO Meeting

We thank Rick Sawicki for once again hosting a wonderful EFO meeting. There was a lot of good airplane talk all night, as the photos indicate. We also managed to get down into Rick's basement to have a go at it with our AirHogs. We just can't thank you enough Rick for your wonderful hospitality! ☺



Rick Sawicki shared his new RipMax ARF available from Tower Hobbies. It will be using a 3S pack and an old style (gray) AXI motor. Rick noted the many nice innovations in this kit. He also said that he was inspired to get it after a trip many years ago to England where he had seen three of the models flying very nicely in formation! He tried to get the kit at that time, but they were out of production then.

Roger Wilfong shared his 1/4-scale Clancy designed fun-scale biplane.



Pres Bruning had three beautiful rubber-powered free flight models to share with us.





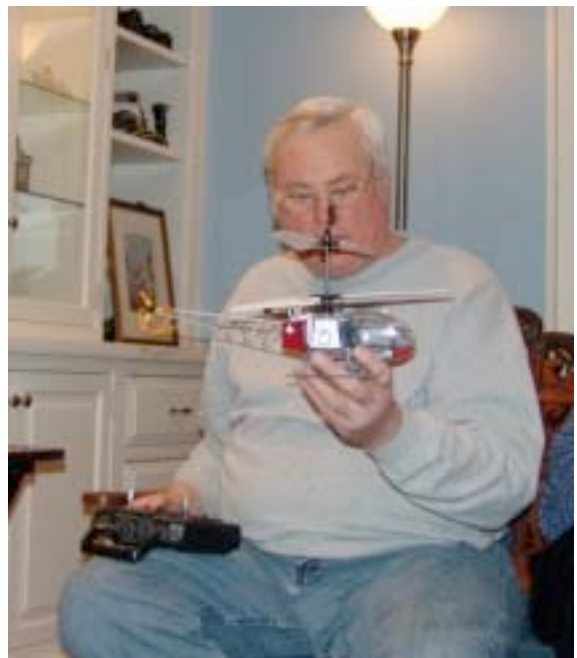
Yes, that is a P-47 with an inline engine!



Dave Bubolz shared his rubber powered free flight.



Jim Young has a good start on his Savoia Marchetti S.65.



Hank Wildman brought along one of the first commercially available coaxial helicopters.

Rick Sawicki showed off his Great Planes ElectriFly P-51 Sport Fighter EP ARF and FW-190 Sport Fighter EP ARF. These ARFs come complete with a Speed Force 370 brushed ball bearing motor with 5:1 gear drive and a 10x4.7 prop with prop saver and combat streamer material for \$24.99 each. Rick feels that they are an excellent value for the money. It only takes about two hours to have one ready to fly using your own speed control, receiver, servos and battery pack. He also noted that they do fly very well for what they are.



After the show and tell, we all moved to the basement and struggled to fly in the same environment we flew in exactly a year ago. Oh, my, are we getting old? ;-) Lots of fun though.

Of course there was a lot of informational exchange (read: bs) between all the folks there. The EFO are a great group of folks to be associated with. Thanks again, Rick!

Bill Evans' Saracen and Future Shock

From Claude Vest cvest17@msn.com

You'll find attached to this email pictures of my two electric winter projects, both were test flown once and won't be flown again until after my club's mall show.

Both are Bill Evans' designs. The Saracen was originally a glider, but I used the remains of my defunct Zagi to convert it to electric. It was a twenty-some year old kit off of E-bay. The only modifications needed were to drill three holes in the trailing edge, two for motor mounting dowels and one for wiring, and a 1/16" diameter wire about 6" long on the rudder to keep the RX antenna out of the prop.



The Future Shock was also a vintage kit off of E-bay. This is the only Simitar designed for electric. I am using an Astro-Flight geared 25, APC Electric 11x7, and 14 RC-2400 cells. Pez Skrat test pilot.

I have posted all of the original construction articles for the Simitar series at RC Groups, <http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=502443>

They would all make great flying electrics, wide speed range, no stall, and sturdy construction.

Big Fun for the Money!

From James Maughan jamesmaughan@yahoo.com

These pictures were taken on March 13, 2000 when we did our first few flights of our two new GWS Tigermoths. They were flown by recently retired auto executives Rich Utkan, EFO vice-president, and EFO member James Maughan.

It's all about the fun per buck spent on a GWS slope kit for \$23. You just add your favorite CD-Rom motor, a tiny 2-cell LiPo battery pack and fly about the park for 30+ minutes per charge. It's BIG time fun on a budget. Everyone should have time for 'Moth therapy'. It's a good thing in this sometimes crazy world.

The Portable Plane Perch

I received an email from Tony (tbgiambruno@msn.com) about his portable plane perch. His Web site is: PortablePlanePerch.com

I found the following on his site: "The PPP is a mount that lets you strap down your glow or electric R/C airplane. The mount attaches to any standard camera tri-pod.

This allows the R/C pilot to work on his/her airplane without having to hold it, or use it to display your airplane.

Takes up less space and is less cumbersome than a pvc cradle."



James Maughan & GWS Tigermoth



Photo from PPP Web site.

A123/M1 Info

From John Riese jriese@hotmail.com

Dear Ken,

Here is some information on my experience with A123 batteries that may be of interest to your readers.

I built a couple of A123 packs following the "Disassemble a DeWalt battery" instructions on RCGroups.

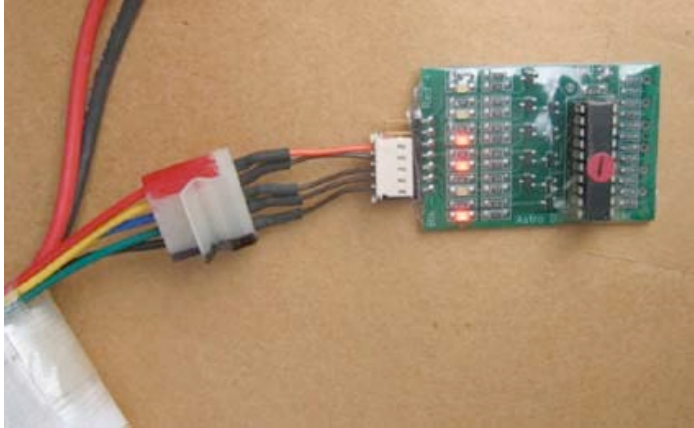


Richard Utkan & GWS Tigermoth



I added a balance tap using a made-up cable from All Electronics. It has what looks like number 18

wires and a flat nylon shell. I think the part number is CON-235. There is a lip on the female (battery side) nylon part to retain the header. I Dremeled that off. I used the female balance connector and wires from the discarded DeWalt electronics module and soldered the wires to the mating male header that goes to the battery. The DeWalt plug fits the Blinky connections. I used red and black Sharpies to mark the positive and negative sides of the nylon housings.



Another thread on RCGroups had directions on how to hack the Astro 109 for A123 charging. That was more difficult to do because of the tight quarters and surface mount components. I wouldn't recommend this mod for anyone who hasn't a lot of experience with printed circuit rework. What the mod does is fake out the battery voltage sense to terminate the charge at 3.6 volts instead of 4.2. The voltage display will show what it thinks the battery voltage is, not the real voltage. I put in a switch to select LiPo or A123. I don't know what Astro Bob thinks of that; hopefully I won't blow up the charger again and have to send it in. I was able to charge my 4-cell A123 pack at close to 8 amps!

The modified Astro 109 and A123 Blinky work well together. After charging I measured the cells and they all read the same to one hundredths of a volt, the limit of my 3 1/2-digit meter.

BTW, I didn't see the A123 Blinky listed on the Astro Flight site. One place that had it was Espirit Models. Their service was very fast, also.

Take care and keep in touch,
John in Kalifornia

Another DX-7 Curiosity

From John Mrozinski JohnEXI@aol.com

John received the following email and passed it along to me. I thought it interesting enough to share with you. I have removed the names from the email that John received from a well-known RC magazine publisher, but I can

verify that the person making the statement is well known and respected in this hobby.

"First & Last Name disassembled my DX7 at the Perry, GA show, and we now know for certain that the JR XP7202 and Spektrum DX7 transmitters DO NOT have a lithium backup battery."

Bench Supply for Charging

From Dan Kahn dank71@verizon.net

Hello Ken,

I sent the message below to Bob Aberle and he suggested I send it on to you. I knew Bob and George Myers when they worked at Grumman and I was working for Hewlett Packard. George got me into gliders and I later did frequency validation for transmitters at the NATS using an HP Spectrum Analyzer.

I thought, with the requirement to do a lot of battery charging, a good 12 volt supply would be a plus.

You can use this idea in your forum.

Regards,
Dan Kahn

In one of the last month's publications there was a suggestion in the Tips and Tricks section about using a fan to cool a LiPo battery during charging. The suggestion was to purchase a fan from Radio Shack.

The other day I came across a tower PC being put out to the garbage. I knew that one of the supply voltages used in PC's is 12 volts. Being the engineer I am, I removed the power supply, wiring harness and fans. This provided a complete power system to supply my Triton charger along with a cooling fan. Most PC 12 volt supplies can provide over 5 amps of current. I looked into this a little further and later version of supplies have a soft turn on and turn off. The only difference between supplies using a switch on the input AC and the later models is the way they are activated. The 'soft On' supplies need the control pin to be grounded to turn ON. This control signal is on a separate harness with only three wires. Black is the ground, Red is the +5 volt and White is the control. To turn the output of the supply ON, just jumper the White to the Black.

I now have two old supplies from PC's, and the last one is rated for 10 amps at 12 volts. More than enough to charge any type of battery. These supplies are of the switching type so they are very efficient.

Maybe you can use this.

Best regards,
Dan Kahn

The March EFO Meeting

The March 2007 EFO meeting was held at Ken Myers's house and was one heck of a model meeting

night. There were a lot of planes and a lot of good and useful plane talk!



EFO VP **Richard Utkan** brought along his shoulder-wing Clancy Bee. It is pretty light with a brushless motor and LiPo batteries and should be a good flier. With the lighter than recommended power system he used “heavy” type wheels to get the balance to work out.

Paul Sockow brought along his new kit for a Cessna that Hobby Lobby recently had on one of their Wednesday “Crash” Sales. It was carefully passed around and viewed by all. It looks quite nice but it seems that a lot of work will be required to complete this “ARF”.



Jim Young showed the fuselage for his Laird Pesco Special “Meteor” named Matty. It will have sheeted foam wings. He will be powering it with an Astro Flight 05 brushless geared motor and using a Li-Po battery. He is

building it as part of an ongoing design contest on RC Groups.

The 5-view below Jim’s plane is not of his plane, but one that Ken is starting to work on, a Vultee BT-13 “Valient”.



Keith Clark brought a Ted Davey designed E-3. The Davey kits were some of the first available as marketed for electric flight. Unfortunately, with the power systems available at the time, they did not fly very well. With today’s power systems using light brushless motors and LiPo batteries, according to Keith, his E-3 is a wonderful flier! He said that he brought that one along to jog my memory, and it certainly did! ☺

The Upcoming April EFO Meeting

The next EFO meeting will be the first flying meeting of the year. It is being planned for Saturday April 21 at the Midwest RC Society 5 Mile Rd. Flying Field. The get together will start at 10:30. Please be aware of field conditions and do not drive onto the grass area of the field/pits if the ground is soft. This is very important. Remember that everyone who flies **MUST** have their Midwest membership card or their current AMA card. **ALL** Midwest RC Society field rules are to be followed at all times. See you then!

Ampeer Paper Subscriber Reminder

When subscribing to or renewing the paper version of the *Ampeer*, please make the check payable to Ken Myers. We do not have a DBA for the *Ampeer* or EFO. Thanks, Ken

Upcoming Events

April 13 - 15, Weak Signals - R/C Expo, "The Toledo Show", SeaGate Centre, 401 Jefferson Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604, Info www.toledoshow.com/

Saturday, April 21 EFO flying meeting, 10:30 a.m., Midwest RC Society 5 Mi. Rd. Field, Northville Twp., MI AMA card REQUIRED to fly.

April 26 - 29 Southeast Electric Flight Festival 2007, hosted by the Fayette Flyers of Georgia, www.fayetteflyers.com, Location: Hodges Hobbies, 428 Neil Hodges Rd., Andersonville, GA 31711 CD: Jeff Meyers jsmeyers@earthlink.net

May 20 The Kishwaukee RC Flyers of DeKalb, Illinois - For details and contact info please visit: www.kishwaukeeercflyers.org

June 9 & 10 The Keith Shaw's Birthday Electric Fly, Quincey, MI near Coldwater, MI, Dave Grife CD, 517-279-8445.

July 7 & 8 Mid-America Electric Flies, Electric Fly-in, Midwest R/C Society 5 Mile Rd. flying field, Northville Twp., MI Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Falcons, Electric Flyers Only of southeastern Michigan and the Midwest R/C Society. CD's Ken Myers & Keith Shaw. Info: kmyersefo@aol.com

August 18 & 19, Greater Detroit Soaring and Hiking Society (GDSHS), Detroit X5J (Electric Launched MOM sailplane contest), club field at Addison Oaks County Park, 1480 W Romeo Rd Leonard, MI 48367, Info gdshs.com



The Ampeer/Ken Myers

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<http://members.aol.com/kmyersefo>

The Next Flying Meeting:

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Place: Midwest RC Society 5 Mi. Rd. Flying Field
Northville Twp., MI