

the

Electric  
Flies  
Magazine  
Ann Arbor

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|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| August  |  |  | The EFO Officers  |  |  | 2015   |  |  |
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| No Mailed Ampeer Subscriptions  |  |  | The Next Meeting:<br>Saturday, August 1, 10 a.m., Midwest 7 mi. Flying Field                                  |  |  |  |  |  |

**What's In This Issue:**  
 A Report on the 31st Annual Mid-America Electric Flies 2015 -  
 Upcoming C.A.R.D.S. of Lansing Annual Electric Fly In -  
 Upcoming Events

**Mid-America Electric Flies 2015  
The 31st Annual**

Again this year, it had been one of the wettest weeks ever in southeastern Michigan. The field was in pretty good shape, but the 'lush' grass did prove to be a problem for some planes with smaller wheels. There were more pools of water off the east end of the runway than ever before. There was a 'ring' of extremely high grass surrounding the field, as it had been too wet to hay the area.

The EFO and Ann Arbor Falcons thank the Midwest RC Society for allowing us to to use this very nice flying field.

Many EFO and Midwest members were out early on Friday morning and helped with the field set up. There is always plenty to do to get ready for this type of event. It is really true that many hands do make light work. Their hard work was very, very much appreciated.

Keith Shaw, and members of the Ann Arbor Falcons and Scio Flyers, came out about one o'clock to do the final set up of the large sunshades for the registration,

formerly registration and transmitter impound, and to provide additional shade for the pilots.

By mid-morning on Friday, we were ready for our guest fliers.

Pete and Carolynn Foss and Greg and Lori Cardillo had been camping at the field since Thursday. They also pitched in and helped with the setup.

By early Friday afternoon many folks started arriving and immediately started flying on this beautiful summer day.

Friday afternoon and evening is always fun. There is a lot of relaxed flying and "catching up" with our many friends.

With some truly good flying weather, some great planes took to the air through the afternoon and well into the evening.

Unfortunately, swarms of mosquitos drove the folks off the field before any real night flying could be done. Friday, and Friday evening, is a great experience at the Mid-Am.

**The Weather**

Friday's weather was absolutely perfect. It was one of the very best weather days at the Mid-Am in years! The

winds were light. There was sunshine all day. The humidity remained low and the temperature was moderate, for Michigan in July.

Saturday was almost a repeat of Friday's perfect weather, but with a bit higher temperature and humidity and a sometimes a south wind.

Earlier in the week, the weather folks had predicted rain for Sunday for most of the day. Thank goodness, THEY were wrong! There was a drizzle of rain very, very early in the morning, but by 8:30 the sky started clearing. There were light breezes early. The wind picked up some about noon, but it was another beautiful summer Michigan day.

### The Pilots and Their Planes

This year, our thirty-seven registered pilots came from all over Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kansas, North Carolina and Ontario, Canada.

For some reason, this year proved even more fun than last year in catching up with our "old friends" and making new friends. That is what this meet is really about. Okay, the really "cool" planes are a very nice bonus.

### A Word About the Photos

A lot of folks captured the images used to illustrate this article and more are posted online in RC Groups Events section for the Mid-Am. <http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=2397829>

I am sincerely indebted to Denny Sumner, C.J. Wysocki, Rick Sawicki, Bob Weak, Dave Stacer, Martin Irving and Roger Wilfong for their great photos.

### The Awards

Simple plaque awards are presented on Saturday and Sunday. The plaques recognize some of the great planes and pilots flying at the Mid-Am. To receive an award the model must be scratch-built, built from a kit or be an extremely modified ARF. It must also fly at the event.

### Saturday's Awards

**Denny Sumner**, of Canton, MI, flew a beautiful 63-inch Jack Stafford Alon Aircoupe. It received the **Best Scale** Award. It looks great and flies extremely well!

Details of Denny's Aircoupe can be found on RC Groups. <http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=2289081>



C.J. Wysocki photo

**Dave Grife**, of Coldwater, MI, brought a de Havilland DH 108 electric ducted fan (EDF) and was awarded **Best Ducted Fan**. It is very, very impressive in flight.

Dave recently sent me a link to a video of this impressive plane flying at NEFI, in Muncie, IN. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0s\\_NCEazLI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0s_NCEazLI)



C.J. Wysocki photo

**Jim Young** of Brighton, MI, was awarded **Most Beautiful** for his Wedell-Williams. It was the prototype for one of his original kit. His kits are available at T&J Models.

<http://www.tnjmodels.rchomepage.com>

The Wadell-Williams is front and center in the photo on the next page. The photo also shows some of Jim's other great planes.

The plane not only looks great but it flies very nicely.

Unfortunately it suffered a 'radio problem' on its first flight of the day, when the radio seemed to

just 'sign off'. The good news is, with the long grass off the field this year, it 'landed' softly, and it is just fine. It will be back in the air as soon as the radio problem is isolated.



Rick Sawicki photo



C.J. Wysocki photo

**Denny Sumner** of Canton, MI flew a beautifully finished Gee Bee Z. It is a great flying plane and Denny was awarded **CD's Choice** for it on Saturday.

There is more information about this plane in the Manzano Builder Kits - Mckellar GeeBee Z - 42" Thread on RC Groups.

<http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=1961040>

**Dave Stacer**, of Northville, MI, flew his Fusion 380 low-wing sport plane. It was scratch-built from plans by Ken Myers. It was his first scratch-build and it is a great flier. Dave was awarded **Best Sport Plane** for his fine efforts. Thanks for the photo.

#### Sunday's Awards

**Martin Irving** of Kingston, Ontario, Canada brought a nice flying, beautiful Cassutt racer. It



weighs in at 3.25 lbs. and uses a 4S A123 2300mAh battery pack. Martin was presented with Sunday's **Best Scale** award. Thanks for the photo.



Roger Wilfong photo

**Roger Wilfong** from Novi, MI flew his electric RC conversion of the Hitec Hawkeye free flight model. It flies very well and has a unique look with its twin boom tail. Electrolyte EDF. It was awarded **Best Mini-Electric**.

**Ken Myers** of Commerce Township (Walled Lake), MI flew his slightly modified, electric conversion of the Sig Four-Star Forty. Like all of Ken's planes, it



is red and yellow, but this one sports a rather unique 'hawk' scheme. It was awarded **Most Beautiful**.



Ken Myers photo

**Dave Grife**, of Coldwater, MI, received a very unusual, almost never happens, second award for his de Havilland DH 108. It was Keith Shaw's **CD's Choice Award**. Congratulations on this awesome plane Dave!



Rick Sawicki photo

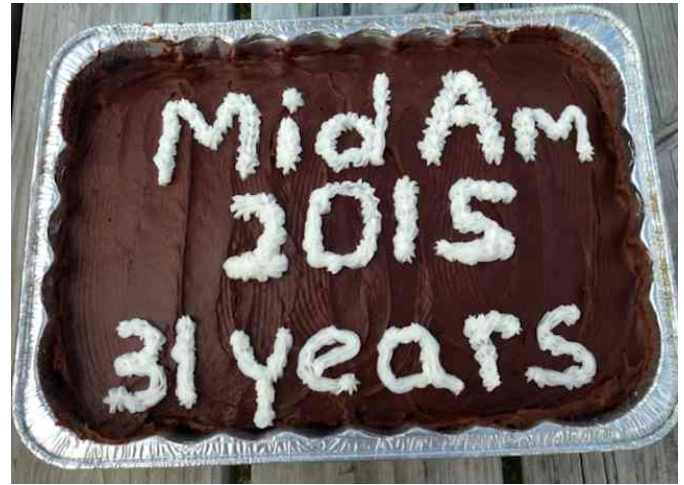
The Swallow sits among Dave's other great flying EDFs.

### The Saturday Evening Potluck

Once the awards were presented and the pilots' raffle held, it was time for the Annual Steak Sandwich and potluck dinner. **Dave Hares** and **Pam Sockow** prepared the steaks and onions. Pam had already worked the Midwest concession stand and then helped out with the potluck. This year, **Chris Myers**, was also able to help with the setup

and clean up of the potluck. **Thanks to all three of you very, very much!**

The pilots, friends and families provided other great foods to go with the steak sandwiches.



Ken Myers photo

As usual, **Don Belfort**, from West Chester, OH, brought his "traditional" Mid-Am cake. This year's cake noted the 31st birthday of the Mid-Am. The cake tradition has been going on for almost as long as the Mid-America Electric Flies.

During, and after, the potluck is a wonderful time to be at this meet. This is the time when folks continue to get in more flights as well as 'sit around' and "catch up", talk planes, family, and politics and just relax. It is simply a marvelous time to be at the Mid-Am.

It was a total surprise to have our old friend, Greg Gimlick, join us again this year after more than a decade. Fantastic!

This great tradition WILL BE CONTINUED! It is just too great to let go!

### Sunday

The weather was much better than anticipated. The day started with just a bit of drizzle, but it cleared early to a perfect day.

Many pilots returned to enjoy the beautiful day and three more folks registered and flew!

Flying continued until a little before 2 o'clock.

Sunday's awards were presented and the pilots' raffle prizes passed out.

Many of the registered pilots helped with the 'break down' of the field, before heading home. That was much appreciated.

### Our Sponsors

We would like to thank our sponsors for providing some "goodies" for our participating pilots each day.

**Mark Rittinger** provided plans for two of his great flying planes, a Top Dawg and P-47.

#### Sponsors included:

Tower Hobbies  
Sig Manufacturing Company  
Eagle Tree Systems, LLC  
Model Airplane News  
Castle Creations  
APC Props (Landing Products)  
RTL Fasteners  
Great Planes  
Beacon Adhesives Company

A very special thanks goes to **Joe Hass** for making the great donations from Great Planes/Hobbico and Beacon Adhesives happen!

Several individuals also donated some very nice raffle items as well.

Keith and I thank all of our sponsors very much. We know that the registered pilots, who received items from our sponsors, are very grateful as well.

#### A HUGE thanks to all who helped

Keith and I cannot thank enough all of the folks from the EFO, Ann Arbor Falcons, Scio Flyers and Midwest RC Society who helped to make this meet the success it is.

It is pretty easy to go to a "meet" and enjoy the facilities and forget that it takes a lot of dedicated and hard working people to pull it all together. The physical field needs to be in the best possible condition, the dining facilities, porta johns, registration, concessions, potluck picnic grilling and myriad of other details need to be taken care of.

**Our behind the scenes folks are the best!** Guys and gals, Keith and I cannot be more sincere when we say thank you, and we really couldn't have done it all these years without you!

#### The Flight Line

**Keith Shaw** handled the flight line beautifully on Saturday and Sunday as the flight line coordinator. He also put on noon demonstration flights both days.



Archive photo

### The Concession Stand Crew



**Arthur Deane**, president of the Midwest RC Society, headed up the concessions with the help of **Margaret Deane** and **Pam Sockow**.

#### Parking

Parking and parking directions were handled by the Midwest RC Society members.

#### Registration & Impound

**Denny Sumner** and **Dave Stacer** handled registration and a bit of transmitter impound. **Dave Stacer** and **Ken Myers** are pictured in the photo. Denny took the photo. Gotta love these guys. They are there all of the time to do anything and everything asked of them and more. Thanks so much!





Denny Sumner photo

Keith and I sincerely thank Denny Sumner, David Stacer, Paul and Pam Sockow, Dave Hares, Arthur Deane, Roger Wilfong, Barb and Bob Weak, and C.J. Wysocki, for all of their super help and support. There were more members of the EFO, Ann Arbor Falcons and the Midwest RC Society who pitched in with other spur of the moment jobs. Thanks to you folks as well!

Also, a special thanks goes out to the **Midwest RC Society** for allowing us to use their field and flying time for the majority of our Mid-Am meets. You guys and gals are the very best!

**Our Potluck Chef Dave Hares**

Many folks attending the Mid-Am know Dave as **THE MAN** attending to the grilling at the Saturday evening potluck. For more than 20 years he's filled this extremely important position. Besides cooking the steaks and sautéing the onions, with an able assist from Pam Sockow, he has been the organizer of the potluck and chief wrangler to see that everything is there for our guests. That is no small feat.

Thanks again Dave for another special year at the traditional Saturday evening potluck. Also, a huge thanks to Pam for pitching in after working a full day in the concession stand. **Chris Myers** was also able to give a helping hand this year during the potluck setup and clean up. Thanks Dear.

**It's Just 'Plane' Fun**

There are all kinds of flying vehicles that take to the air at the Mid-Am.

Pete Foss flies these surprisingly well. Snoopy and Woodstock are a sight to behold in the air!



Rick Sawicki photo

The photos of Pete's flying vehicles are by Rick Sawicki.



Rick Sawicki photos





Keith Shaw prepares to take off his Miles SparrowJet. It is a unique, tail-dragger, fixed gear, Electric Ducted Fan. The plane flies very well, much like a typical low-wing sport plane. It is a beauty in the air.

This Maxford USA 1/6 Bristol WWI Fighter F2B ARF belongs to Wade Wiley. He has done quite a bit of 'work' on it to get it flying so beautifully. One of his 'very cool' pilot figures doubles as the safety arming switch.



Ken Myers spots for Joe Hass while he flies his KeeCat, shown on the previous page. Information on Joe's conversion of the KeeCat appeared in the July 2015 *Ampeer*.

Rick Sawicki photo



Rick Sawicki photo

Jim Ryan's usual helicopter fleet had an airplane addition this year! The pilot figure, for the E-flite



PT-17, is Jim himself. He had a 3D bust made of himself. Very cool.



Rick Sawicki photo

C.J. Wysocki caught Keith Shaw's Sparrow Jet in the air.



Ken Myers photo

Lori Cardillo concentrates on flying on Friday afternoon.



Rick Sawicki photo

It was great to have Jim Beagle back with his fabulous Staaken bomber. The two WWI fighters in front of the Staaken, in the photo, are built to the same scale as the Staaken.

It is extremely impressive and realistic in the air.



Rick Sawicki photo

Don Belfort readies his big, light J-3 Cub for a flight.



C.J. Wysocki Photo



Look very carefully at Dave Grife's Me-163, on the previous page, right behind the fuselage. C.J. Wysocki managed to capture the rocket ignition and burn just before Dave went vertical. What a thrilling site that is!

Mark Rittinger in his handy, dandy pit area with table. Very convenient Mark.



Big Smiles is what the weekend is all about. The photo in the left column shows Robert Throne, Jim Ryan and Jim Beagle doing just that.

Mark Rittinger's Shockwave was captured on a fast flyby by C.J. Wysocki.

**Upcoming CARDS Electric Fly In**



**EFO Pit Area at the 2014 CARDS meet**



Denny Sumner photos

C.J. Wysocki photo

The Capital Area Radio Drone Society (CARDS) Electric Meet is Saturday, August 22, 2015

<http://www.cardsrc.com/2015/electric/>

Their field is located at 8328 Otto Rd., Grand Ledge, MI. Time is from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Landing Fee is \$15, which includes pizza & a soda. The field is available to registered pilots for electric only open flying on Friday Aug 21st from 4-9:00 p.m., Pilot pre-registration and Spectators are welcome.

**Pilot and airplane requirements:**

Current AMA or MAAC card required  
Open to All RC Electric planes and helicopters

**Site Accommodations:**

1000 ft E/W runway  
Basic restroom facilities

Contest Director: Marv Thomson



### Upcoming E-vents

**August 1** EFO Flying Meeting at the Midwest RC Society 7 Mile Road Flying Field, about 10 a.m., everyone is welcome, current AMA membership required to fly.

**Aug. 22 Saturday**, Capital Area Radio Drone Squadron (C.A.R.D.S.) (Lansing area) RC Electric Fly-in, (info in this issue)

**More Mid-Am 2015 Photos can be found at:**  
<http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=2397829>



C.J. Wysocki photo

Jim Ryan's Cheyenne beautifully crafted at lower left. It flies as good as it looks.

Paul Sockow and family relax and enjoy the Mid-Am.



Plan on joining us next year for the 2016 Mid-Am!



The Ampeer/Ken Myers  
 1911 Bradshaw Ct.  
 Commerce Twp., MI 48390

<http://www.theampeer.org>

#### The Next Monthly Meeting:

**Date:** Saturday, August 1, 2014 **Time:** 10 a.m.

**Place:** Midwest 7 mi. Rd. Flying Field