Mid-America Electric Flies 2017
The 33rd Annual
By Ken Myers

A Beautiful Michigan July Weather Weekend
Again this year, Southeastern Michigan had had no appreciable rain in June and through the first week of July. Many cities had fireworks bans.

The flying field was in good shape, with close cropped, dry grass. The Midwest RC Society’s mowing team had done a great job on Wednesday.

Even though it was quite hot and humid on Friday, the set up went quite smoothly.

Denny Sumner, Roger Wilfong, Pete Foss, Keith Shaw, CJ Wysocki and myself set up the flying field for the upcoming meet. The signs were set out along the road, as well as other small details at the field. Keith Shaw’s two large canopies were also erected. One of Keith’s canopies is used to house the registration and the other is where Keith parks his fantastic models.

The dining canopy, tables and chairs, from Kenny & Company (Party Rentals), had arrived late Friday afternoon. The dining canopy was set up. The tables and chairs were also set up.

By mid to late afternoon on Friday, many of our out of town guests started arriving. Mark Wolf (Brownsburg, IN), Don Belfort (West Chester, OH), John Kauk (Topeka, KS), Martin Irvine (Kingston, Ont., Canada), Jim Ryan (Cincinnati, OH), along with local fliers, set up their E-Z UP canopies and started some evening flying. It was a beautiful evening, but there were showers in the area around the flying, but the field only received a few drops.

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

Friday, and Friday evening, is a great experience at the Mid-Am.

On the way home from the flying field that evening, I drove under some pretty heavy rain showers and thought, “I wonder if it doing this at the field?” It didn’t, so there was no problem.
While the EFO and Ann Arbor Falcons members were setting up the field for the Electric event, there was also set-up for the Price-less sale and the open air swap being set up by Pete Waters of the Midwest RC Society, whose field was being used for the meet. Many folks may remember Pete as the owner of Kraft Midwest, an RC repair business specializing in Kraft radios, but repairing almost any brand. You do remember Kraft radios, right?

The Weather During the Meet
Saturday’s weather was sunny and reasonably cool for southeast Michigan in July. The skies had some clouds, but it was sunny and the high temperature was only somewhere in the mid-70s. Nice. Unfortunately, there was a bit of a crosswind, off and on, all day.

The excellent weather held through the whole day, including the Saturday evening steak sandwich and pot-luck dinner.

Sunday was warmer and sunny with lightly shifting breezes. It was a great day for flying.

The Pilots and Their Planes
This year, our thirty-seven registered pilots came from all over Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kansas, and Ontario, Canada.

It was a lot of fun 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 2017. https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2873697

Even more photos, by Rick Sawicki can be found at; https://goo.gl/photos/wFpT6eWDDvaBVf7a8

http://tinyurl.com/y89ppaqo

I am sincerely indebted to C.J. Wysocki, Steve Labuta, Rick Sawicki, John Kauk and Hong, of RC Groups, for their great photos.

Saturday’s Awards

Don Belfort, of West Chester, OH flew a beautiful Convair 240 in Mohawk airlines livery. It received the Best Scale Award. It weighs in at 12 lb., has a span of 83” and 1000 sq.in. of wing area.

Mark Rittinger, of Roseville, MI, brought an impressive little Me-262 electric ducted fan (EDF) and was awarded Best Ducted Fan. It is extremely impressive in flight for such a ‘tiny’ fellow. It is scratch built and uses the electronics from a UMX A-10.

Denny Sumner, of Canton, MI, was awarded Most Beautiful for his Monocoupe 90A. The plane not only looks great, but it flies very nicely. Details of
Denny’s Monocoupe build can be found on RC Groups.

Rick Sawicki photo

John Kauk photo

Denny Sumner, of Canton, MI, flew his plans built AcroStar Biplane. Denny was awarded CD’s Choice for his fine effort.

Details of Denny’s Acrostar can be found on RC Groups.

Mark Rittinger, of Roseville, MI, flew his new Trishula sport plane. It is a great flying plane and Mark was awarded Best Sport Plane for it on Saturday.

Details of Mark’s Trishula can be found on RC Groups.

Tim Young won the Foam Flurry Event. The event was new to the Mid-Am this year. It was an all up/last down type of event for Not Conventional Materials aircraft. Tim flew a Flite Test Spitfire for approximately 25 minutes. Great job Tim.

Here is a link to a build and video of a build for a Flite Test DTFB (Dollar Tree Foam Board) Spitfire.
https://www.flitetest.com/articles/ft-spitfire-build

Rick Sawicki photo

Tim’s Spitfire can be seen in the middle of this group of not conventional materials aircraft, towards the top.

Sunday’s Awards

Martin Irvine, of Kingston, Ont. Canada, flew a beautiful Nieuport 11. It received the Best Scale

CJ Wysocki photo
**Award.** It looks great in its Italian livery and flies extremely well!

**Mark Rittinger,** of Roseville, MI, flew his small, Me 262. It was awarded **Best Mini-Electric.** Video of this little bird, that uses the electronics from the UMX A10, can be found at: https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2833051

![CJ Wysocki photo](image1.jpg)

**Jim Young,** of Brighton, MI, flew his beautiful, self-designed and built Monocoupe 90A. It received the **Most Beautiful** Award on Sunday. Details of Jim’s Monocoupe can be found on RC Groups. http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=2359828

![Steve Labuta photo](image2.jpg)

**Tom Bacsanyi,** of Farmington Hills, MI, received the **Best Multi-Motor** award on Sunday for his VQ Legend P-38.

![CJ Wysocki photo](image3.jpg)

There was a new award this year for the **Most Unique Not Conventional Materials Aircraft.** **Pete Foss** of Oxford, MI won for his Snoopy on a skateboard, complete with flapping ears.

![Rick Sawicki photo](image4.jpg)

Sunday’s **CD’s Choice** award was given to **Denny Sumner** of Canton, MI for his WACO SRE. This little gem weighs in at 7.5 ounces. More information about it can be found on RC Groups. https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showpost.php?p=36601601&postcount=13

**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.

Unfortunately, **Dave Hares,** our head chef, had was just out of the hospital and recovering. Fortunately for us, he was still able to bring all the steak sandwich supplies and oversee the dinner. **Dave Stacer** and **Christine Myers** prepared the
steaks and onions and got everything set up under Dave’s direction. Dave Stacer had already worked pilot registration and then helped out with the potluck. He provided the much needed help in preparation and clean up. A HUGE thanks go to both Daves and my Chris.

As usual, Don Belfort, from West Chester, OH, brought his “traditional” Mid-Am cake. This year’s cake celebrated the 33rd Mid-Am. The cake tradition has been going on for almost as long as the Mid-America Electric Flies. Unfortunately, it had been cut before I got a photo of it this year, but it does say, “Mid Am 33”, and it was as delicious as ever. Thanks AGAIN Don!!!

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.

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

Our Sponsors

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

Mark Rittinger provided two sets of plans for his Pharaoh sport plane.

A very special thanks goes to Joe Hass for acquiring donations from Hobbico and Beacon Adhesives.

Hobbico: Tactic DroneView FPV Wi-Fi Mini Camera
Beacon Adhesives: several 1 oz. FOAM-TAC Adhesive
http://www.beaconadhesives.com/all/rc-planes/foam-tac/
Retro RC/Mark Freeland: 1937 Slingby T7 Kirby Cadet - RC kit
http://retrorc.us.com/retroemoth-1-2-1-2-1-1-3-1.aspx
21 cell Ammo Box Divider
http://retrorc.us.com/batterybox1-3-1.aspx
8 Super’Phatic! Glue
http://retrorc.us.com/specialglues.aspx
4 Bill's Fingers - 4 pack
Roger Wilfong a small, complete ARF Spitfire
Keith Shaw - many vintage, full-scale aircraft books (Again they proved to be a HUGE hit this year! KM)

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.

Denny Sumner receives an award from Ken and Keith on Saturday. Awards are presented both days.

A HUGE thanks to all who helped

Keith and I cannot thank enough all of the folks from the EFO, Ann Arbor Falcons, 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, registration, concessions, potluck picnic grilling and a myriad of other details need to be taken care of. Our behind the scenes folks are the best! Guys, 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.

Parking
Parking and parking directions were handled by
the Midwest RC Society members Barb and Bob
Weak and Arthur Deane.

Registration
Denny Sumner and Dave Stacer handled
registration. Gotta love these guys. They are there
all of the time to do anything and everything asked
of them and more. Thanks so much!

And More Thanks
Keith and I sincerely thank Denny Sumner,
David Stacer, Dave Hares, Arthur Deane, Roger
Wilfong, Barb and Bob Weak, C.J. Wysocki, Pete
Waters, Charlie Dochenetz, Jim Ouillette, Mel
Berent, and Greg Eilers 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,
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, especially this year
after just getting out of the hospital.

Thanks again Dave for another special year at
the traditional Saturday evening potluck. Also, a
huge thanks to Dave Stacer for pitching in after
working a full day at registration. Dave Stacer was
also able to give a helping hand this year during the
potluck setup and clean up. Thanks to my wife,
Chris, for also stepping up and filling in this year.

It’s Just ‘Plane’ Fun

This is the first year that we have recognized the
model BUILDERS who use Not Conventional
Materials to construct their aircraft. These types of
designs are becoming popular with younger builders
and we will continue to encourage this segment of
the hobby with recognition for their efforts.

The photo shows many of the NCM aircraft and
their builders at the Mid-Am this year.

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The Noon Demos by Keith Shaw
On Saturday, Keith flew his Yak UT-1 and his
new Ryder 6 8 Ball. The winds were quite brisk,
and shifting. Keith handled both planes well, even
though he’d had little time on his new 8 Ball.

On Sunday, he flew the 8 Ball again, and also
brought out a crowd favorite, the Bugatti. Keith
flew the 8 Ball even better on Sunday. The twin
engine powered Bugatti is thrilling to listen to as
Keith flies his precision routine with it.

Robyn Rissell, of Orion Township, MI,
demonstrated electric power control line flying on
both Saturday and Sunday. That is Robyn at the
controls and Rick Sawicki, a control line expert,
hand launching for him.
Yes, that is an inverted pass.

C.J. Wysocki photo

Gotta love the sound of those two props!

C.J. Wysocki photo

Jim Ryan, designed, published and produced kits for several very successful ‘Speed 400’ stand-off scale kits. He flew the P-38 once again at this year’s Mid-Am. Also in the photo are his P-47 and two of helicopters that he brought.

Wade Wiley of Ferndale, MI, flew this beautiful Blackburn with onboard sound.

C.J. Wysocki photo

Pete Foss, of Oxford, MI, took Wile E Coyote for a drive and then a flight.
The start of the NCM Foam Flurry, all up/last down event.

Tim Young doing a bit of FPV flying while Jim Young spots.

Don’s Convair on a fly-by with gear up.

Keith and Ken get ‘em flying with the pilots’ meeting on Saturday morning.
This big and beautiful old timer belongs to Gordon Pearson of South Lyon, MI.

Upcoming Electrics Over White Lake
From CD Hank Wildman

On Saturday, July 22, the Pontiac Miniature Aircraft Club (PMAC) present Electrics Over White Lake at their flying field in White Lake, Mi. A map to their flying field available on the PMAC Web site. (http://pmac.us/)

Registration begins at 1 p.m. and flying is from 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

There will be awards for the top two places in each category; Best Scale, Best Ducted Fan, Best Sport Plane, and Pilots' Choice. Planes must fly to be considered for an award.

PMAC wants fliers to join them for a day of fun and relaxed Electric Flying! Even through this is called a contest, the purpose is fun and enjoyment in sharing the electric experience!

Food and Beverages are available throughout the day

NO LANDING FEE
AMA membership required for all pilots
P.A. Announcer
Daily/Yearly State Park Pass Required
400' maximum altitude
Come Look, Listen & Learn
Fly Electric ~ Fly the Future

Upcoming Event
Cards of East Lansing, MI
7th Annual Electric Fly In
from Marvin Thomson

When: Friday, August 25 4:00 pm - 9:00pm and Saturday August 26 from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

Pilot and Aircraft Requirements:
Current AMA — Open to All RC Electric planes, helicopters, and multicopters.
Best two runways in Mid-Michigan
Practice FPV Multicopter Course on N/S runway open on Friday and Saturday from 4:00-9:00 pm
Pilot Raffle on Saturday
Pizza, pop, and water available on Saturday

Spectators Welcome

Landing Fees: $15 (includes Pilot Pizza & Soda)
CD Marv Thomson 517-8027675 or mthomson@wowway.com
Website: www.cardsrc.com
Address: 8328 Otto Rd, Grand Ledge, Mi 48837
Upcoming E-vents

**July 22**, Saturday, PMAC Electric Fly-in (info in this issue)

**August 5**, Saturday, 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. 26 Saturday**, Capital Area Radio Drone Squadron (C.A.R.D.S.) (Lansing area) RC Electric Fly-in, (info in this issue - also see info for flying on Friday, Aug. 25)

**More Mid-Am 2017 Photos can be found at:**
and  
https://goo.gl/photos/wFpT6eWDDvaBVf7a8  
And  
http://tinyurl.com/y89ppa9o

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The Ampeer/Ken Myers
1911 Bradshaw Ct.
Commerce Twp., MI  48390
http://www.theampeer.org

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The Next Monthly Meeting:
**Date:** Saturday, August 5, 2017  **Time:** 10 a.m.
**Place:** Midwest 7 mi. Rd. Flying Field

Jim Ryan’s Cheyenne, which is beautifully crafted, flies as good as it looks.

**You are Invited!**

Keith and I cordially invite you to join us for the 34th Annual Mid-America Electric Flies in July, 2018. See you then!