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phone: (248) 669-8124	phone: (248) 68	5-1705	phone: (810) 220-2297
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Jim McNeely	Jeff Hauser		Ken Myers
4733 Crows Nest Ct.	18200 Rosetta		1911 Bradshaw Ct.
Brighton, MI 48116	Eastpointe, MI	48021	Walled Lake, MI 48390
phone: (810) 220-2297	phone: (810) 772	2-2499	phone: (248) 669-8124
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idea. It was my intention to use the Clear Decals film to make decals for my car side windows, but never got around doing it.

way to use what looked like an interesting

Recently, I was completing a scratchbuilt model, The Stikota, which was a Tom Hunt redesign of an old Free Flight model called The Dakota, circa 1950s. I decided to use the decal material, which was gathering dust, to make up some graphics for the desktop publishing program. Before you print it on your clear decal stock, make some test prints on bright white stock paper. See how it fits on the wing panel where the final decal will be attached. It is here that you will adjust the size of the font so it will fit your model.

computer's bank of fonts located in the

Some computer programs let you design a graphic logo that you use on the engine cowl or rudder of your model. Let your

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imagination guide your efforts. Make sure you save what you design in your computer, as you can waste hours of work if you are not careful.

Now to the scanner. If you are building a scale WWI model and need some authentic markings, obtain the largest colo r pictures of' these markings from a set of scale three-views and scan the items you need for the model into your computer.

Once you have these saved in your computer's clipart file you will be able to crop out the unwanted portions. Edit out any lines that might be distracting and scale

them to the size you need.

It is very simple to now copy it to your work sheet with the numbers and names you designed before. T his will allow you to print the most you can fit on the $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ sheet of clear decal material. The decal sheets run about \$1.00 each, so get the most for your money. Plan to make up a sheet with every space utilized with some kind of graphic.

The actual printing is simple. Set your ink jet printer for highest quality printing to get the densest print image on the film. Allow extra time for the final printed sheet to dry before touching the inked area. Failure to wait for it to dry will smear and ruin your w ork.

Now cut out your decal, peel off the backing, and stick it to your model, smoothing out any trapped air bubbles.

If you should decide to make a decal for your home or car window, just set the printer for flip horizontal printing and your final work will now be able to be attached to the inside of a window and will read in the proper way. Remember, put these reverse printing it ems on a separate sheet of decal film as everything on the sheet will print reversed.

To use with glow or gas powered motors, ov er-spray the decal with a clear fuel proof paint or iron over the decal with clear Monokote to protect the image from fuel exhaust.

Have fun with this easy to use, ready to print, clear decal material.

LINKS REMOVABLE TAIL-WHEEL ASSEMBLY

Via Loops & Lies October 2001 River Valley Flyers Newsletter Edited by: Rich Ida, P.O. Box 1013, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495



A lot of the kits out these days either have you mount the tailwheel right on the rudder (ugh!) or have the tiller sunk into the rudder.

There are some problems here - if the tailwheel is mounted on the rudder, all the shocks from that wheel are taken up by the rudder hinges! Not recommended for long life.

The better system is to use a tailwheel bracket to take all the loads - but if the tiller is embedded in the rudder, there are still potential problems.

1) There is little turning shock absorption; m ost of those shocks will be transmitted back to your servo.

2) After a bunch of landings, the tiller tends to turn the inside of the rudder to mush.

3) If the tiller breaks through the rudder, or if the wire strut breaks, there is no way to re move and replace it without ripping up half the rudder.

A removable assembly, as shown in the diagram, circumvents those problems. Use a wheel collar on the bottom to transmit the loads to the bracket. On the tiller, put on a piece of inner Nyrod, then some fuel tube - this will help dampen turning shock loads, easing the loads on the rudder servo. The yoke that goes around the tille r and is bolted to the rudder can easily be bent from clevis rod wire. And the bracket does NOT have to be lined up with the rudder hinge line.

To Fly or Not to Fly OR Lightning Never Strikes Twice

By Frank Korman Via September 2001 Deaf Notes Editor: Greg Judy, 212 Freed om La., Arlington, TX 76002

The reasons and causes for not actually flying one's models while at the field are too numerous t o enumerate, but over the years I've managed to realize quite a few.

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Even so a new one popped up recently.

There I was ready to toss the Dallaire to its doom when, upon wiggling the sticks for the second time, I noticed a speed controller burp. Oh great, I thought the little black box is not happy all of a sudden. Then I noticed the tail feathers were not moving as they had a moment ago.

Finally, I noticed the battery/signal strength meter on my transmitter was falling rapidly into the dead zone. Odd I thought as the transmitter battery is almost brand new and I had it on charge overnight. Trudge, trudge back to the pits.

The battery was removed and checked. Sure enough it was in a coma. Fortunately, **Bobby Dixon** had the right connections and we quick charged the battery so that I was able to fly out the session with no pr oblems. I felt very lucky that the battery had failed while the plane was still on the ground.

Now to the cause: I use the wall charger that came with the transmitter and have been doing so with success for more years than I care to admit to, but had recently noticed that the little LED's came on intermittently. In fact they ceased coming on altogether right after a (rare summer) lightening and thunderstorm. Even so I still used the charger (how's that for brains?).

When I mentioned this to Bobby he sugge sted I unplug the charger and check the prongs with an ohmmeter. If all is OK, I should see some resistance displayed. Well, I did check two wall chargers used for my JR transmitters and guess what, they both registered zero resistance. Just for fun I chec ked an Airtronics wall charger and it showed about *375* ohms resistance.

So I learned two things, and was reminded of another. One, it's a good idea to unplug wall chargers when they are not in use, or at least plug them into a device which protects against electrical spikes. Two, if in doubt you can us an ohm meter to check the "life force" of a wall charger. And always check radi o function thoroughly before every flight.

The February EFO Meeting

Richard Utkan shared information on his GWS 8channel Dual conversion receiver. It weighs 0.8 oz. and has a switch to change between positive and negative shift, making it easily usable with all brands of

transmitters.

It was also noted by other club members that one of the FMA receivers and the Hitec Supreme have



automatic shift for use with all brands of transmitters.



Richard also shared his Crazy Sparrow. Power is a Graupner Speed 300 with an MPI 5:1 ratio ball -bearing gearbox. He'll probably use a 7-cell 350 mAh NiCad pack, but a 7-cell 600EA pack is not out of the question. (*Flight Level 4 with either 350 or 600AE pack KM*) **Norm Dmuchowski** showed off his *IFO Trainer*. It



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features throttle/elevator/rudder control and has 2 wheels. It uses a GWS A motor. It weighs in at 7.2 oz. and uses a 7-cell 300 mAh NiMH pack with a GWS receiver.



Ron Lalinsky shared some interesting pushrods that he'd found at a swap shop. The appear to be Kevlar and used in building kites. They are \$8 a piece.

He's built up two Robin Hood 10's from plans that he'd also found at a swap shop. As seen, they weig h 7.6 and 7.8 ounces. Ron noted that he really likes the fast building of smaller models.



We tested out the motor on the Crazy Sparrow to see how many amps are being drawn. Rich is using a "servo tester" in place of a speed control. Measurements are being taken with the Astro Flight Whattmeter.

Ken presented some preliminary data on a math formula for finding a "good running amperage" for cells. He also presented a lot of plane data and attempted to explain his Flight Levels and how he derived them.

Oh, Those Park Flyers by Russ Cleversley from The Flight-Log Radio Control Aircrafters of Western New York Ross Cleversley, editor Cheektowaga, NY Via AMA National Newsletter

Recently I was driving by the West Seneca Soccer field off Last and West Road, I noticed a family out on the field flying to fly a park flyer airplane.

After observing from the sidelines for a short period it became obvious that the father did not know how to fly the airplane. I strolled over to him and identified myself as a member of the RC Aircrafters and described what we are all about. He then asked the anticipated question, "Can you fly this thing for us?"

Never having flown with rudder and stab before I told him that it may take me a whack or two to get it right. Fortunately, the airplane had a nice hand-launched glide to it and after having him slowly toss the airplane a few times I was ready to power up the tiny electric motor.

As the mini craft left his hand it climbed nicely and the slow speed allowed me to quickly gain som e in-flight feel. The most significant part of the flight was the look of awe written on their faces when the airplane was, indeed, flying. Gazing back at the boy was the most enjoyable. His expression was carved from sheer amazement and fascination.

I gauged him, Robert, to be around 11 years old, distinctly discovering that he was nine and a half. The flight only lasted for a few minutes, and I kept the airplane in close anticipating the depletion of power.

The landing brought a round of jumping, clapping, and cheering from the now delighted family. I now know how Lindbergh felt when he dropped his craft onto the

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shores of France.

After a quick charge we were set to go again. The father, Bob Sr., not wanting to look inept again, declined the first offer to try it out. Robert got so excited when he realized that he could try it that he stumbled while charging over to me and fell face first into the soggy turf. Unfazed and never stopping his forward progress, he bounded up and was at my side in a flash. Not having a buddy box did not pose any problems -the airplane literally floated at a maximum speed of three to five miles per hour into a barely perceptible breeze. Flying upwind and hands-off it hung nearly motionless in the sky. When Robert took the radio his excitement ignited the calm air. With minimal coaching he began his first Radio Control (RC) flight. He did a mazingly well, a tribute to youth, I suppose.

Aware that his father was feeling a little left out and with his pride somewhat compromised, I convinced him to try it on the next flight. I sensed an uneasiness that froze his expression and trembled his hands. Before we took off, I went through the things that he, as a new RCer, would need to be responsible for, giving him an informational edge that would set him a level up from his son.

We toggled the controls and then it was launch time. Steadying the airplane at a safe altitude I handed the radio to him and began giving quiet, almost inaudible instructions. Each second brought a new level of confidence until the pure joy of flying overflowed into a pool of exhilaration. As the power seeped away he tried to hand the radio to me. Instead, I continued to give him reassurance as the airplane began a graceful, feathery descent. As it touched down, Robert Jr., acknowledging a true modern day hero, ran to his father's side and they embraced while reveling in their a ccomplishment.

After humbly accepting their gratitude, it was time to leave them in their pristine moment of splendor. A treasured memory was born and shared between strangers. One that I will never forget.

The controversy over park flyers will intensify in the coming years. Yes, they can be a hazard to established RC fields such as ours. To me it simply means that we need to be keenly aware of what is going on around us while at the field. With our experience and knowledge the burden falls squarely on our shoulders. I noticed on the Great Planes Web site that they include a warning about flying their park flyers near RC fields. It will take some prodding by all the RC clubs to get every supplier to place these warnings on the packaging, instructions, and Web sites. But the adventuresome side of human nature has often precluded good judgement.

The vast majority of the park flyer crowd will fly a few times and then move on to something else. Attrition will help to keep the threat of interference at a manageable level. Those who realize that there is much more to RCing will eventually get involved with a club. That is another great reason for all clubs to stay involved with the public. Not only is it a great opportunity to enlist newcomers, it is also a superb venue through which we can educate them and ourselves.

The experience at that West Seneca field hopefully is repeated and cherished by many seasoned RCers worldwide.

It is uncharacteristic of me to be so open with a stranger unless it is an emergency situation. RCing seems to bring out some great human qualities There is a lot of that quality in our club and others throughout the world.

Let's go flying!

Flight Log by Edward Russell from *Talespins* Aeromasters MAC David Hoe, editor Fredericksburg, VA via AMA National Newsletter, July 2001

I recommend that everyone should try to maintain a log each of your planes, especially a new airplane. This will add greater interest to your flying. Entries in the log should contain; date, time, weather, and a short summary, number of flights, failures, success, etc. I consider a flight as a takeoff and landing. I have maintained a log on my Seniorita, and it now has re ached 533 flights without incident or engine failure.

Remember, a well-maintained airplane will look better, fly better, fly lon ger, and provide more joy.

Bob Kopski has done this forever. I've done it "on occasion." I've kept both paper and electronic logs. I have a Psion Series 5mx PIM/PDA. It has a built in keyboard, and is very easy to use at the field. To learn about the Psion: http://members.aol.com/kmyerspsion/ I highly recommend it over the much better known PDAs.

I also have a Palm III with an attachable keyboard. I tried to find the RC Flight Log mentioned on the eflight list, but it seems to have disappeared.. I did find the Modeler's Logbook at:

http://www.computassistomaha.com/ml/. It is Free to try, \$8 shareware. KM

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Building Tip

from *Radio Flyer* Pikes Peak Radio Control Club Bill Sanderman, editor Colorado Springs, CO via AMA National Newsletter, July 2001



If you have a wing or tail surface that has overlapping sheets which form the training edge, put a strip of 1/64-inch ply between the sheeting to provide a harder edge for sanding or finishing.



Five of Ken's planes seen at the Fort Wayne fly last summer. (left to right) Lightening E-250, SR Batteries X-250, SR Batteries Cutie, Spickler Q-500, (rear left) TigerShark.

Tracer E-Conversion From: Clarke "Tex" Gehman eliztex@shaw.ca Winnipeg (Sabrejock)

Ken, I thought I might tell you about one of my more recent conversions: the TopFlite (GP) "Tracer". It's my understanding that this kit is the replacement for their "Astra Sport" aerobatic success of years gone by.

I saw the Tracer fly with glow power and was impressed by its lines and tracking in maneuvers. I had test flown mine with my AF15SB and 12xRC2000's. I was not terribly impressed. Then Greg Gallego's admonitions kicked in and I started stuffing in more cells.

For weight purposes I decided on Sanyo CP -1700SCR. On the bench added cells and added cells until I got to 16. I was changing props as I advanced the volts and ended up with an APCe 12x10. I'm ge tting about 450+W (still at 25A) off charge settling to about 430W. I know people are going to chide me about that, but hey, it's my motor, and the plane really performs. Big round loops and really tall up lines, which I like. It weighs just a tad under 5 lbs. (box says 5 1/2 lb. with a glow engine, so read 6 ish). So the only thing TF are the stickers!

I fly big gasoline powered aerobats too, and am kinda' hard to please when I opt to do aeros with E -

power. I think this one is going to satisfy me.

(*I asked for more details on the power system. KM*) I just checked the RPM on the Astro 15 with Super Gears (3.69:1). 16 x CP1700 and an APC 12x10E Off charge: 6750 @ 24A measuring 18.5v (about 450W) Stable: 6400 @ 22.5A measuring about 400W

The readings were taken with a SuperWhatt meter.

These cells are new, having been "mas saged" only a couple of times. I expect them to improve in delivery with a bit of use. I also see that if I'm careful with the throttle just off charge, I could likely prop it a bit more. It's a very clean airframe, so I know that the amps will drop considerably in flight with the low RPM. I'll fly it a bit and perhaps go to 12x12. Greg G. informs me he's using up to 500W static with the 16 cell setup with no apparent detriment to the motor. Amazing, these little gems!

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(All Photos from Bullet Spinner's Web site)

The Ampeer

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Upcoming CHIEFS Electric International Fun Fly

June 15, Canandaigua, N.Y., Contact: Todd Sheehan email: tms@pt.com

There are a few fun events like, speed run, spot landing, and timed flight.

There will also be two speed 400 Zagi/FMA Razor races! These are great fun. Stock planes and equipment please. Up to an 8 cell pack, and any prop you like. What makes this fun, is it's flown in a figure 8 pattern. All turns are made away from the flight line which also makes it safer for everyone.

Everyone who comes up is encourage to stay the weekend and have fun on Friday, and Sunday as well (although the field will be open to all typ es of flying). Camping is encouraged at the field (sorry, no hook -ups).

Hope to see you there. For more details go to: http:// www.geocities.com/chiefsusa/

Simple V-Tail Mixer By Eric Leadley

Via Electric Flight U.K. Issue #50, Spring 1997

Details are given here of a very simple me chanical mixer for V-tails which I have fitted to my latest model. It has no slides to jam up and weighs but a few grammes. It requires only a small piece of 1/16" ply to mount the rocking servo, two ailerons hinges and a thicker piece of ply to which the hinges are screwed. The elevator servo can be mounted across the fuselage, or in -line as shown.



Upcoming Propstoppers Fun Fly

From: Dave Harding davejean1@comcast.net

The Propstoppers Electric Fun Fly will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2002 in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, just south of Philadelphia. We fly from a small, pretty, secluded field which is easily accessed from I-95.

In addition to fun flying we will hold three fun contests; Scale, Elexaco and Zagi Combat.

Scale will be judged with a simplified stand -off standard and flight judged on flight realism. Elexaco will be to Joe Beshar rules and just bring your Zagi and fly, it's a hoot.

Vendors are welcome.

Details will be posted as they develop at www.propstoppers.org

Dave Harding, 610-872-1457 davejean1@comcast.net

March EFO Meeting

Ken said that the deal for the area where the Midwest R/C Society is located fell through. We are still planning on holding the Mid-Am there. Ken also discussed his very strange email request on how to construct an "auto-piloted" R/C plane. He also noted that he turned the information over to the FBI. New versions of Ken's flight evaluation information were passed to all members attending.

Gus Nuerenberg showed us his "auto-pilot".

Jim Young shared is super-dooper field box and Balsacraft FW-190, which is powered by a brushless motor on ten cells. Jim also had "his" version of an ACE Simple 400 club racer with the S400 6v and 7 600AE cells.

Mike Holroyde has his Blue Max ARF ready to go. Norm Dmuchowski shared the following in formation on Li-ion batteries.

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Mark Levitt 613 Plymouth La. Foster City, CA 94404 Or: PAYPAL, user ID: mark@hackettelec.com http://www.hackettelec.com/~hackel ec/qc.html



Jim's field box.



ACE Simple 400

Upcoming 3rd annual Bluegrass Electric Fly In From: Keith Hollifield keith6566@qx.net

July 20, 2002 - 3rd annual Bluegrass Electric Fly In Lexington, KY

This will again be a single day event and will emphasize open flying and fun with electric airplanes . The site features a $600' \times 50'$ asphalt paved runway



Jim & Balsacraft FE-190



Mike and Blue Max ARF

along side a 600' x 60' grass runway, a covered pavilion, and over 100 acres of overfly area. The Lexington Model Airplane Field is conveniently located about 5 minutes east of the I-75 / I-64 intersection in Lexington, KY. We hope to see all those that attended over the past two years and meet some new "E-flyers" looking for a laid back flying event. Check out Don Belfort's colu mn in the February 2002Flying Models magazine for a brief synopsis of the BGEF 2001. See the events section at our club web page at www.lmacky.org for directions and updated information.

Upcoming Third Annual Ottawa Electric Fun Fly

Again this year again the Ottawa region is uniting under the Ottawa Regional Electric Organization (OREO) and the Ottawa Radio Control Club (ORCC) on June 8th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for the now regular Electric Fun Fly which brings flyers from Kingston, Toronto, Montreal and visitors or curious from all around.

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Activities planned, besides people showing off their latest acquisitions or creations, are pylon racing, streamer combat and F5J. We'll also have the usual lunch and great chat and plenty of cool new models to show off (EDFs, Scale birds, racers, new e-gliders, etc)

The event will be held on OREO's superb sod farm, about 30 km north of the 401 and 60 km south of the 417.

Contact Mike Anderson (mikea@magma.ca) (Ph 613 258 5817) for additional details.

OREO website:

http://www3.sympatico.ca/rwoolley/ore o.htm ORCC Website: http://www.ottawarcclub.com F5J Event web site: http://www.aei.ca/~ouroboros/f5jrules.html Pylon Racing Web site: http://members.rogers.com/ldionne5531/rc/e_racing.htm Directions to the field http://www3.sympatico.ca/rwoolley/field1. htm

> The Fenix 400 Bob Hatmaker EFO Member Planecrazyman@aol.com

I chose to make it according to the plans, including painting the plane. I changed very little on the plane. I did add an extra vent for motor cooling. Also, a push rod guide was added for the rudder.

Building this plane was pretty much straight forward. The wood in the kit was of good quality and light.



The wings did warp after construction, but after adding some weights, and a giving it a couple of days, the warps were eliminated.

I would recommend this plane highly for anyone who wants a neat, simple construction, fun flying plane.

About the only thing that I would recommend is some extra bracing (ribs) for the wings. It might eliminate the tendency for the wing to warp.

It is a fun flyer that should be in everyone's hangar.

Upcoming Mid-America Electric Flies 2002 Updated for June

As I write this on May 18, 2002, July 13 &14 are the dates for the 2002 Mid-Am. The field is still scheduled to be the Midwest R/C Society field on 5 Mi. Rd. in Northville Twp, near Plymouth, MI. The informational and map fliers have been posted to the EFO site; http://members.aol.com/kmyersefo/

Only NiCads and NiMH will be allowed to be used in the All up/Last downs. That is really the only change over previous years.

Please check the EFO site frequently for any possible changes. Information will be posted on the homepage, should there be any change in plans. For up -to-date info, send me an email, kmyersefo@aol.com or give me a call at 248.669.8124

If you do not have Internet access, I'd be happy to send you the flier and directions to the field with hotels in the area listed. I'm sorry, but I can't answer any questions about the local hotels/motels, since I don't stay at them or even know where some of them are.



A few of the planes that showed up for the cool and windy April EFO meeting.

Up Coming Events

June 1 & 2 Keith Shaw Birthday Party/ Electric Fun-Fly, Balsa Butcher's flying site in Coldwater, MI- field available for flying Friday May 31 for early arrivals. Contest Director Dave Grife email: grifesd@yahoo.com or phone: (517) 279-8445

June 8 Skymasters Small Fry, **Electric**, and Sailplane - Scripps Road Field. AMA. any size **Electric** Pete Foss (248) 652-8756 Visit the Web site for more details and map: www.skymasters.org

June 8 Tennessee Electric Fly 2002, The Coffee Airfoilers of Tullahoma, TN, contact: Craig Logan jclogan@charter.net or 931-728-5446, at the Airfoilers Field adjacent to Arnold Air Force Bæe. Web site www.cafes.net/herb for event info

June 8 (Rain day June 9) Third Annual Ottawa Electric Fun Fly, Contact Mike Anderson (613 258 5817) or mikea@magma.ca

June 8 and 9 5th Annual 2002 River Valley Flyers Electric Fun Fly and Swap Meet, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin Contact Chuck Benner cjbenner@tznet.com

June 8 & 9 LVRCS 15th Annual RC Electric Fly Easton, PA, Site: Club Field. Dale Hart CD, 2534 W Columbia St Allentown PA 18104 PH:610-821-0977. June 15 CHIEFS Electric International Fun Fly, Canandaigua, N.Y., Contact: Todd Sheehan email: tms@pt.com For more details go to: http://www.geocities.com/chiefsusa/

June 21 - 23 Southeast Electric Flight Festival, Atlanta, GA, Fayette Flyers, contact: Jeff Meyers jsmeyers@earthlink.net Event Web site: www.koolflightsystems.com/seff.htm

June 21, 22 & 23 MARCEE Electric Event, Near Minneapolis / St Paul, MN details see www.marcee.org or contact Rich Ness r_ness@msn.com or 651-451-8998

June 22 & 23 2002 Land of Lincoln E-Fly, Springfield, IL, contact: Tim McDonough tim@mcdonough.net Additional details: http://tim.mcdonough.net/knights.htm

June 29 NCRCC Electric Fly-in, Ellington, CT.

June 29 - Kingston Electric Fun Fly - Southern Ontario, location and directions available online at www.emfso.org

July 13 & 14 Mid-America Electric Flies, The BIG ONE, sponsored by the EFO & Ann Arbor Falcons, location is the Midwest R/C society 5 Mi. Rd. flying field, Northville Township, MI (Near Plymouth, MI) - Flyer 2002, Hotel list & map, for more information, call Ken Myers 248.669.8124 or email Ken



The Ampeer/Ken Myers 1911 Bradshaw Ct. Walled Lake, MI 48390 http://members.aol.com/KMyersEFO

The Next Meeting: Date: Saturday, June 15, 2002 Time: 10:00 A.M. Camp Dearborn, Milford, MI