September

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<tr>
<th>The EFO Officers</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President:</td>
<td>Vice-President:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Myers</td>
<td>Richard Utkan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911 Bradshaw Ct.</td>
<td>240 Cabinet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce Twp, MI 48390</td>
<td>Milford, MI 48381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 248.669.8124</td>
<td>Phone: 248.685.1705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary/Treasurer:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Sawicki</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5089 Ledgewood Ct. W.</td>
<td>Commerce Twp., MI 48382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 248.685.7056</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Board of Director:</th>
<th>Board of Director:</th>
<th>Ampeer Editor:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Stacer</td>
<td>Jack Lemon</td>
<td>Ken Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16575 Brookland Blvd.</td>
<td>8908 Sandy Ridge Dr.</td>
<td>1911 Bradshaw Ct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northville, MI 48167</td>
<td>White Lake, MI 48386</td>
<td>Walled Lake, MI 48390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 248.924.2324</td>
<td>Phone: 248.698.4683</td>
<td>Phone: 248.669.8124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ampeer subscriptions are $15 a year US & Canada and $20 a year worldwide.

The Next Meeting:
- **Date:** September 12, 2009
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m.
- **Place:** Midwest RC Society 7 Mile Rd. Flying Field

What’s In This Issue:
The 2009 Mid-America Electric Flies

Upcoming Events

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**Mid America Electric Flies 2009**
A 25th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, July 10, found the Midwest RC Society members Jim Lapham and Rich Sievert out at the field early giving it a close-cropped trim and sweeping up some of the long, cut grass from previous cuttings. They were determined to have the field in the best possible conditions for all of our guests. They succeeded! The field was in great shape! Thanks Jim and Rich and Midwest. We really appreciate your work and allowing us to use this very nice field for our meet.

Many EFO members were out early and helped with the field set up. Keith Shaw came out about noon with the Ann Arbor Falcons helping him with the final set up of the large sun shades for transmitter impound and the housing of some of Keith’s great fleet. By early afternoon, we were ready for our guest fliers, and they started appearing and flying. Friday afternoon is always a fun day with a lot of relaxed flying and “catching up” with our many friends.

**The Weather**

While Friday was a beautiful July summer day for Michigan, the predictions for Saturday were not good. A front was coming through, and rain was predicted overnight and continuing into the morning. As I drove down to the field early Saturday morning, the sky was dark and threatening and some sprinkles were falling on my windshied, but the winds were not too bad. Some areas of the road were very wet, indicating that a fairly heavy rain had recently fallen, while other parts of the road were dry.

When I got there at about 7:15, Phil Alvirez of Windsor, Ontario was already flying. There was only a slight mist in the air. It continued to drizzle for a couple of hours, but that did not stop the early arrivals from getting in a few flights. There was only about ten to fifteen minutes of “significant” rain, and things started to clear as 10:00 approached. By the pilot’s meeting at 10:30, it was blue sky and fair weather.

The winds remained moderate through the day until just before the Awards Presentation and Potluck Dinner.
The high winds during the potluck dinner made it very difficult for our great cook, Dave Hares, and his volunteers to keep things from flying away while the preparations were under way.

The Pilots

This year, our fifty registered pilots came from all over Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, Maryland, Florida, Pennsylvania and several places in Ontario, Canada. As always, it was great 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. Ken Myers captured a few shots, Greg Cardillo captured many great images, and James Maughan, Mark Wolf and Rick Sawicki also captured images used here. Greg Cardillo has even more great photos of the 2009 event on his Web photo page found at http://greggallery.gmdesign.com. Greg’s great photos also cover the Mid-Am from 2004 through 2008. Another source of good photos is Matt, aka Esprit440, on RC Groups. Here’s the URL http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=1078560#post12640671

We give out some simple plaque awards on each flying day to recognize some of the great planes and pilots flying at the Mid-Am.

Saturday’s Awards

Jim Beagle of Manchester, MI had a very fast, very nice looking and flying plane. He modified the GWS Corsair into a Super Corsair racing plane by extending the nose, clipping the wing and glassing the whole plane. This plane won the CD Choice award.

Bob Livin of Marion, IA had many beautiful old-timers at the meet. His Thermalleer old-timer was presented with the Most Beautiful award. It was gorgeous and flew as “good” as it looks. The transmitter gives a good idea of the size of this beauty.

Chris True of Great Mills, MD had several impressive ducted fans at the meet. His Jet Model Products Starfire won the Best Ducted Fan award. A Neu 1527-1.5Y in a DS-94 fan powers it. It uses a Castle Creations HV-110 ESC with a 12S 5000mAh Li-Poly. This 13.5 lb. plane also has flaps and retracts and was one of the fastest planes at the meet.

Denny Sumner of Canton, MI had several different planes at the meet on Saturday and Sunday. His Ryan’s Daughter won the Best Sport Plane award. While it looks scale, it is really a great flying sport plane. It is shown here with a couple of Denny’s other planes that he flew on Saturday, a 4-Star 40 and Polaris.
Martin Irvine of Kingston, Ontario brought along his fleet of beautiful scratch-built planes. His 10 lb. French Dewoitine D.500 won the Best Scale award. It flies like a “sport plane” and is a unique scale subject.

The Saturday Potluck

Once the awards were presented and the pilots’ raffle held, it was time for Dave Hares and his volunteers to get the steaks and onions going for the potluck. As I mentioned previously, it was a difficult and trying task this year because of the very high winds blowing everything all over the place. Their persistence paid off with a wonderful meal.

The pilots, friends and families provided a wide selection of foods to go with the steak sandwiches.

Bill Brown, EFO and Midwest member, provided some great, homemade chili that disappeared quickly, even on this 80-degree day!

Don Belfort, Flying Models columnist from Westchester, OH, brought his “traditional” Mid-Am cake. The cake tradition has been going on for almost as long as the Mid-America Electric Flies. This year the Mid-Am celebrated its 25th year.

After the potluck is a wonderful time to be at this meet. It is when folks set around and “catch up”, talk planes, family, politics and just relax. The gab sessions lasted well into the evening hours. It is simply a marvelous time to be at the Mid-Am.

Even though the high winds continued through the evening, many folks continued to fly wings and other things that handle the wind well.

Sunday

The weather cooperated on Sunday with moderate winds and a high temperature in the low 80-degree range. There was a lot of flying taking place with three planes in the air at once for most of the day.

Several pilots registered on Sunday and brought some exceptional planes with them!

Again, Keith Shaw handled the flight line beautifully as flight line coordinator.

Sunday’s Awards
Jim Young of Brighton, MI brought several of his beautifully built, self-designed models to fly. Jim kits many of these models as T&J Models.  

http://www.tnjmodels.rchomepage.com/  
His Wedell-Williams Model 44 took home the Best Scale award. It flies very well and has several very interesting design features. Great work Jim.

Jim Beagle had his big, beautiful Staaken R.XIVa 5-motor WWI bomber up and flying at the meet again this year. He received the Best Multi-motor award for his effort.

Mark Rittinger brought several of his famous designs to fly and donated a Quadzilla plan set for the pilot raffle. His Curare won the Best Mini-Electric.  
A good way to check out Mark’s other designs and contact him is to do a search on RC Groups for his name.

Bob Livin was awarded the CD’s Choice for his Thermalleer. Actually, Bob had two of these beautifully finished planes at the meet. The other is owned and flown by his flying buddy, Plenny Bates.

Speaking of Awards

Denny Sumner built one of Mark Rittenger’s Sportwin designs. He powered it with two Speed 400 7.2v brushed motors and a 3S Li-Poly. It flew well, flew fast and proved to everyone there that the Speed 400 brushed motor is not “dead”. Denny received the Most Beautiful award for his effort.
Keith Shaw and I were very surprised when Joe Hass wanted to speak at the pilots’ meeting on Saturday morning. He presented us with some very nice plaques that read,

“25th Anniversary
Mid-America Electric Flies 2009
The Aero Modeling Community Thanks
Ken Myers-Keith Shaw
For Their Dedication To The R/C Community
July 11th – 12th 2009”.

We also received Applebee gift certificates. Thanks you very much Joe and the Aero Modeling Community! It has been our great passion and pleasure to contribute to the growth of electric power.

While Joe had the audience, he also noted that indoor flying begins at the Ultimate Soccer Arena in Pontiac, MI in November. Please check the Skymasters’ Web site at http://www.skymasters.org for further details.

The Flavor of the Mid-Am

It is very hard to describe what the Mid-Am is. It is friends, family, planes, camaraderie and just “plane” fun!
A Look down the flight line Sunday morning (KM)

Chris True’s jets and high performance sailplane (KM)

A Dawn Patrol on Sunday

Blue sky as the adversaries’ circle (MW)

Don Belfort’s Neiuport (MW)

Mark Wolf’s Swing Wing (Matt)

Martin Irvine’s Neiuport (MW)

Rick Sawicki & Other EFO members’ planes (RS)
Jim Beagle’s Fokker D.VII (MW)

Dave Grife’s D.VII (MW)

Even More Flying and Planes

One of many Choppers that flew over the weekend (GC)

Al Muroc, ClassicAero.com came with several of his “fly off the water designs.”

Sikorsky S-39 Single Engine Flying Boat (JM)

Loening by Classic Aero (JM)

Dave “Turbo” Dantonio helps Dave Thacker of Radical RC prepare for another flight of Radical RC’s Wright Stick. Many folks had a go at the sticks of the Wright Stick all through the weekend. The conversion parts are available from Radical RC at http://www.radicalrc.com (KM)
Dan launches one of many autogyros flown (GC)

Jim Beagle’s Air Force (KM)

Keith Shaw’s Crosby racing plane and Vought V-173 / XF5U-1 "Flying Flapjack" or "Flying Pancake" (JM)

Probably the largest aerobatic planes at the meet (JM)

Dave Grife’s Air Force (RS)

Our Sponsors

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for providing some very nice “goodies” for our participating pilots.

At the field we had Radical RC, Rider’s Hobby Shop of Ypsilanti, Air, Land & Sea Hobby.com, Retro RC, T&J Models, and Mark Rittinger. Other very welcome donations came from Tower Hobbies, SR Batteries, Windsor Propeller Company/Master Airscrew, Horizon Hobby, Dremel, Sig Manufacturing, Eagle Tree Systems, Multiplex USA/Hitec and John Mayer of West Bloomfield, MI.
Also, a special thanks goes out to the Midwest RC Society for allowing us to use their fields and flying time for the majority of our Mid-Am meets. You guys are the best!

A Highlight for Me

I don’t usually fly during the “official” flying times of the meet. Most of my flying is done on Friday afternoon and evening, Saturday morning and evening and Sunday morning.

Merle Davies, long time Ampeer subscriber and attendee of the Mid-Am, approached me and said that he wanted to see me fly, since for all these years he’d never seen me actually with a plane in the air.

I was thrilled when my flying buddy, Dave Stacer, said that he would take his ElectroFlying Models Fusion up with mine on Sunday. While Dave is far past the beginner stage of flying, he’s never taken a plane that he likes as much as the Fusion up at the Mid-Am.

Everything went very well, and Merle even got to see me do one of the best landings I’ve ever made with my ElectroFlying Models Fusion. Whew! 😊

Until Next Year

Thanks to everyone that came, everyone that helped and everyone that has ever helped to make the Mid-Am what it is today, 25 years after its very humble beginning.

To my flying buddy, Keith Shaw, thanks, you’ve really made this “electric thing” all happen!
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 E-vents

Sept. 18 - 20 Northeast Electric Aircraft Technology (NEAT) Fair, 10th year!, Peaceful Valley Campground, Downsville, NY, Tom Hunt CD, information at http://www.neatfair.org

Important Notice!
The EFO WEB site has had to move. Now at: http://homepage.mac.com/kmyersefo

The Dawn patrol awaits word to take to the air at the 2009 Mid-Am