

FARM Newsletter

AMA Charter 1654

February 2017

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bill Towne



Well it's February, as I write this it is 36 degF and the wind is blowing at 35 mph with gusts up to 50! As I look out the window I see my 70 and 80 foot popular tress (which are too close to the house) swaying back and forth 15 to 20 feet at the tops. I wonder why I shouldn't take my wife's lap top and finish this in the basement! This winter if it's not windy or rainy, it's too cold to fly. That's why we call this "building season" and that's what I am doing.

I like to build kits and right now I am involved with two. The first is a 20 plus year old kit from Hobby Shack called a SST40, a high wing trainer made in Mexico. A friend brought it over because his father had bought it many years ago but never "got around to it". Now my friend thinks his father needs to get off the couch and be more active and he hopes getting him back into RC will help, so he wants to build this kit for his dad. My friend hasn't built a kit for a while and wanted some help getting started again so I agreed to help. Next, he brought over a 20+ year old new in the box Magnum 40 two stroke and a 20+ year old new in the box 72 Mhz. Cirrus radio system both of which his father also purchase way back when. Never

heard of either of them, before my time! Apparently the Cirrus radio was a precursor to JR and was thought to be a pretty good radio system. I thought we might change out some of the system to more modern Futaba but all the little gray connectors are different and would have to be changed, so we decided to go with it as is!

But my friend wasn't done with surprises! The next day he comes in the house with a 7 foot long red thing a ma jig contraption, pictured above. It's actually an A-justo-jig, first built back in the 70's, supposedly for building really straight wings and fuselages. For the last ten years I have always just used my 48 inch balsa building board and felt most of what I have built were more a less straight and flew OK. My friend had done a really nice job of mounting it on a straight oak board, which he routed with a round over bit and then painted it red to match the A-justo-jig! I said we would try to use it. Well after looking it over and trying to figure out how to we were going to build a wing in midair I chickened out and built the wing on my trusty old balsa board. OK, then he showed me he had a Fuse Kit that goes with the A-justo-jig. After chickening out with the wing, I had to give it a try. I was quite surprised that this worked really well, you pencil in vertical center lines on both sides of all the formers and can set up most of the fuse bottom, sides and tops before gluing them. You can sight down the center of the fuse and adjust the brackets to get all the formers exactly in line and squared up before a drop of glue is applied. Then it really gets fun because you can rotate the jig around its axis so you get the perfect angle to apply the glue. Believe me it's a really good way of building a really straight fuse for these types of models. So we were done with the jig and have now started to cover the SST 40.

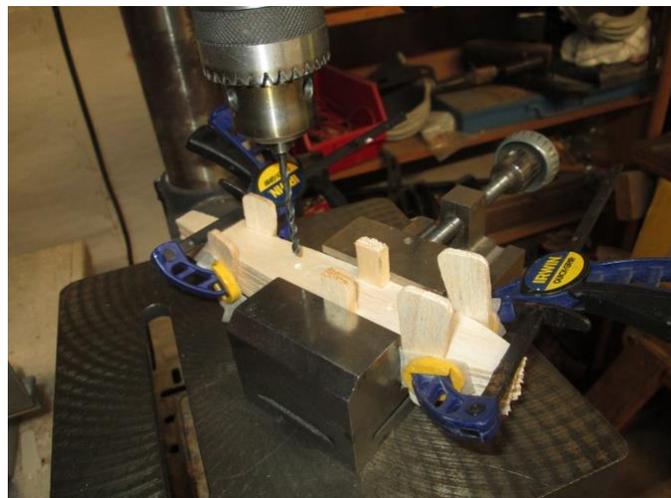
But I said I was building two models. The second is a Sig Hog Bipe which I am also building for another friend. Of course this has two wings, and the top wing is built without dihedral, in one piece, and is longer than my trusty old building board. The A-just-jig has a 6 foot wing span and was staring at me across the room sitting on my ping pong table. So, I gave in and tried it out building a lower wing panel.



Actually it worked out really well and built a really straight wing. See picture. To make a long story short, we built up the Hog Bipe wings and fuse on the A-justo-jig and they came out really straight.

One thing I didn't like about the instructions was they give you this "rib templet" to drill the jig mounting holes in the ribs which they claim you must do one at a time, because you can't just stack them together and drill them at one time on a drill press as the drill is likely to cause them to shift. Let's see, that would be doing forty ribs individually, one at a time, hoping the "rib temple" didn't get out of adjustment. Didn't seem like a good idea to me. But I was able to successfully stack ten ribs at a time held in line with short pieces of top and bottom spar and mounted in my quality drill press vise. See picture (left and below).

So that's my story for this month. I am sure some of you have tried this system before and may still be using it. I liked it and will use it again. It is kinda fun, when you get used to it, especially getting to rotate it around and get the perfect gluing angle. Of course there are some models this probably won't work well with, such as delta wings and round fuselages. But it seems to work very well with the traditional straight wings and slab sided planes.



Hoping for milder weather and to be seeing you all at the field

Happy Flying,

Bill Towne

EDITOR'S NOTES – Upcoming Events Jeff Killen

1. **Club Meeting, at Hobby Hangar (address below), 7:00 PM, 2/28/2017**
2. **AMA Expo East, at Secaucus, NJ, all day, 2/24-26/2017, amaexpo.com**
3. **Hanover RC Swap Meet, Mechanicsville VA, 9 AM-12:30 PM, 3/4/2017, see hanoverrc.org**

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SECRETARY'S REPORT Jeff Killen

I was unable to attend the meeting on January 24 due to an illness. Nic Burhans provided the following notes.

- President Dave Rothbart call the Joint meeting to order at 7:02 pm Tuesday, 24 January, at the Warrenton Community Center.

- He welcomed all FARM and CMB members and two guests, John Hunton's son and grandson, Nick.

- Dave commenced with the FARM Club's meeting.

- There was no response to Dave's call for old FARM Business.

- The call for new Business:

---- Nic reported that the AMA 2017 Charter renewal packages have arrived for both clubs:

----- The basic charter fee is now \$40.00 for both clubs.

----- The Field insurance is now \$80.00 for both clubs.

----- Dated, special (sanctioned - off site) event insurance has remained \$25.00 per event.

---- Nic reported that Lake Ritchie LLC has approved our two Float Fly dates (24 June and 30 September).

---- Nic reported that the Culpeper Airfest presently scheduled for Saturday, 14 October, with a rain date of Sunday, 15 October. The Airfest Committee is looking into the yes or no possibilities of making it a two day Airfest - a lot of research still remains on the possibility.

---- Nic reported that the Crocket Park Children's Festival is also presently scheduled for Saturday, 14 October, with a rain date of Sunday, 15 October.

---- Nic reminded all the AMA EXPO EAST (the old WARM show) is scheduled for 24-26 February; with the AMA membership Saturday morning, 25 February. (The flyer is attached to this month's Model Aviation magazine)

---- Dave reminded all that we still need CD's for the last four of this year's FARM Fun Fly events.

---- Dave reminded all that we will need mowing crew for this year. John Gilbert will again be in charge of mowing crew scheduling and Bill Towne will manage mower maintenance coordination.

---- Bill will be scheduling a mower spring maintenance and mower orientation day for all interested in helping the 2017 mowing crew.

---- Dave reminded all that our next joint FARM - CMB meeting will be Tuesday, 28 February, at the Hobby Hangar store. Kwang will be demonstrating jet engines and electric ducted fans. All are welcome!

---- Dave presented Mark Best and Michael Harper their FARM "SOLO" club caps and updated Membership cards

---- Dave also presented Mark Best his CMB "SOLO" updated Membership card.

---- Nic reported that we presently have 97 members of which 81 have renewed for 2017.

---- Nic reported that the club presently has \$4383.10 in the bank and this quarter's field rental has been paid.

- The meeting was turned over to Gene Flynn to show and

tell his 2 meter Tower Hobby KA8B sailplane which he has just completed. He has it configured for both electric motor powered flight and towed flight without the motor. Gene plans to use his giant electric Cub as a tow aircraft.

- The meeting was then turned over to John Hunton for his presentation about what is available in the small model and accessories arena on the internet.

---- John provided a reference sheet (copy attached).

---- John discussed all the parts that are available and some of the pitfalls.

---- John showed and demonstrated small aircraft that came from the internet.

---- John brought several boxes of small aircraft for "mass launches".

---- Much fun was had!

- John's grandson, Nick, won the 50/50.

- The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

- A short Board meeting was held and it was decided that we would hold swap meets at our Float Fly events for the participants to bring items to swap - no concessioners.

- All departed the Community center by 8:40.

John Hunton gives small R/C talk at Jan. club meeting.



The gang is ready to fly small R/C @ Jan. club mtg.



(More pictures from John Hunton next month !)

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**Gene Flynn with his Show & Tell model at
January club meeting.**