

FARM Newsletter

AMA Charter 1654

April 2018

FIELD MARSHALL'S CORNER

Ernie Padgette



A long time ago, in a land far, far away, I was sitting in a college classroom listening to a gentleman I considered to be the best History professor I ever knew. The class was titled “World War Two: Why Hitler Lost”. The professor began by listing ten reasons Germany lost the war. Each reason involved bad decisions or bad strategy on Germany’s, or Hitler’s, part. Ten crucial and critical things Hitler simply got wrong.

Being just as stubborn and irascible then as now (maybe a bit more then, but only a bit), I couldn’t resist asking what was the obvious (to me, anyhow) question. So, I put my hand in the air, waited to be recognized, and asked “What about the big reasons, the main reasons, Germany lost the war”? When asked “What do you mean?” I responded “Germany lost WWII for three main reasons; (1) A nation the size of Texas, with a population of just over 50 million people, tried to take on the whole of Europe. From the outset, they were outnumbered by at

least three or four to one. The odds were simply too great, and those odds got even greater as the war progressed; (2) Germany was critically short of oil, and almost every other natural resource needed to wage modern war, from the very outset of the war. And that situation simply got worse as the war progressed; and (3) The British naval blockade worked just as well in WWII as it did in WWI. By the time the war had gone on a couple of years, Germany was running out of everything, including food. By the end, she was literally starving. Instead of studying why Germany lost the war, we should be studying how and why she almost won the war”.

Needless to say, my answer wasn’t quite what the professor wanted to hear; and led to a back and forth debate that lasted quite a while. In fact, the debate lasted right up until he pulled out his “I’m the professor” trump card and squashed all of my arguments. I enjoyed the class; still consider the professor to be a great teacher, and I learned a lot. But I still think the halls of academia are often filled with scholars looking for the less obvious, the more obscure, the counter intuitive; rather than the simple, and usually more correct, answers. Maybe it’s simply more difficult to sell new research, new thoughts and ideas, and new books, when you’re simply reciting “A + B equals B + A”.

Nevertheless, it still seems to me the best answer is the answer which is the most obvious and simple. We humans have a love of seeking out the obscure, complicated and counter-intuitive answers, it seems; in studying History or in everyday life. Or maybe we simply don’t like the obvious answer. But, for me at least, the simple answers seem to work best. “Why don’t I have any money?” A lot of people will get lost in obscure answers that involve career paths, education levels or savings plans. For me, the answer is a bit simpler. I spent it. Why work any harder than that? I had some money. Now I don’t. Why? Because I spent it.

Perhaps the real reason simple answers work best for me has more to do with simple answers being easier to apply to specific things: “Why can’t I buy that new Flex Innovations CAP 232EX I want? Answer: Because I

bought that new Mamba 10 last week. (Maybe that has something to do with the basement getting really crowded.) How do I apply that answer to myself? Maybe I can have anything I want; but I can't have everything I want. There simply isn't enough room in my life, or my basement. How do I apply that simple answer? I need a bigger basement, of course. Simple answers lead to simple solutions.

Or I might be thinking "Why is it that Don Manson and Dave Rothbart can do those complicated maneuvers so much better than I can"? Simple answer: Because they work at doing those maneuvers a lot more than I do. A lot more. Like the man on the commercial says "We work for it". Application: I need to spend more time working; practicing those maneuvers until I get them down pat. Hmm... Maybe there's something to Dave Rothbart's idea of conducting Training Classes. Okay; simple answer, simple solution. I'm in.

See you at the field. Thanks,

Ernie Padgette



Two young ladies explain the Saturn 5 rocket to a young man at the Udvar-Hazy museum.

EDITOR'S NOTES – Upcoming Events

Jeff Killen

- 1. Club Meeting, Special Membership Meeting, at Warrenton Community Center, 7:00 PM, 4/24/2018**
- 2. Monroe Pattern Contest @ Monroe, SC, All Day, 5/5-6/2018**

- 3. FARM Fun Day Picnic & Fly #2, at club field, All day, 5/6/2018 (Pilot training and flight check day)**
- 4. CMB Buddy Box Day @ Lenn Airpark, 10 AM to 3 PM, 5/12/2018**
- 5. Spring FARM Pattern Contest, at the field, All Day, 5/19-21, 2018, CD: Don Manson**

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jeff Killen

Here are a few notes from the club meeting held on March 27. We had 13 attending, with 6 of these being our club officers.

Presentation

Dennis Smith did an excellent presentation on aerobatic planes at the Smithsonian, and their pilots. We heard about Bob Hoover, Betty Skelton, Art Scholl, Leo Oldenslager,

Old Business

Special meeting at this month's April meeting, on club's financial position.

New Business

At the club field on 3/27, was what Ernie Padgette called a "mystery van/people". They were from a company known as MTSI. They have permission from Mr. Rhynalds to be there. They test flying systems, update skills of their flyers/pilots, and will be there 1-2 times a month. On this day, they had a rather large 6-motor drone, and an 8 foot flying wing with mucho electronics, flight control system from the ground, a parachute, and it launched from a rail on the ground.

Officer Reports

Bill Towne – Mowing – We need 2 persons each weekend.

Keith Crabill – Safety – Nothing to report.

Nic Burhans - Treasurer's report - We have 78 members now. We have \$2287 in the bank currently. Note changes to the club handbook regarding early flying (8-10AM) allowed for drones, quadcopters, and helo-drones.

50/50 Drawing

Keith Crabill won and donated the \$ back to the club !!



One of my favorite military aircraft, the F4 Phantom.



Another beast, the space shuttle Enterprise.



In WW2, the Enola Gay put 2 nuc bombs on Japan

Learn To Fly Better

Dave Rothbart

Below is the itinerary for the upcoming flying classes. Since this is a new event for the club it is subject to change once we get some experience. As always I look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Format for Improving Your Flying Skill Classes

- Class Instruction
- Instructor will demonstrate the maneuver/s for that days class
- Each pilot will then fly with the instructor during which he will be coached
- Second student flight with instructor will be more critically viewed
- Most improved pilot for the maneuver/s practiced will be recognized in the club newsletter & receive a certificate of recognition award
- Instructors will mostly come from pattern community
- There will be a donation box to help defray the cost of lunch

Classes will consist of but not limited to;

- Trimming your plane for stable flight
- Takeoff, Straight Flight, Landing
- Immelmann Turn and Split S
- Loops
- Rolls
- Procedure Turn
- Stall Turn

Advantage of participating in the class;

- It is easier to do than a fun fly event, no unknown and multiple flight maneuvers. Pilots will know the maneuver/s to be flown that day
- This is not a timed event.
- Participants will perform the maneuver as many times as you are comfortable flying

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My brother (Maurice Killen) worked for 25 years on these beasts at the Naval Air Rework Facility, Norfolk, VA (from the Udvar Hazy trip)