



The MCA

Flightline

Newsletter of the Music City Aviators

AMA Chapter #494 - www.MusicCityAviators.org

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May 2020

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Hello MCA Members, We know this is a very difficult time for everyone, but our flying field is still open as long as we observe all CDC and local guidelines for everyone's protection. Many of us are using this time to build and repair so stay safe and be well. MCA Officers

Time To Renew with MCA

It is that time of year to renew your Club membership for the coming year. There are two (2) easy ways you can pay your dues:

- 1.) Come to a meeting and pay in person.
- 2.) Pay online at our website. There is a link to pay via PayPal on the Club Info page.

Don't forget to renew your AMA and Metro Park Permit too!



June Meeting

**Next meeting – To be announced.
TBA- Depending on Covid-19.**



Check out the new internet home of the Music City Aviators!

www.MusicCityAviators.org





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Points Of Interest

Upcoming R/C Events

Part of the fun in our Hobby is attending special events hosted by various local clubs. Obviously, many of the events have been cancelled or delayed due to the virus, but we are hoping things will get back on track soon.

Each Monday from 1-3 pm: Indoor flying at the Mt. Juliet Recreation Center, Charlie Daniels Park. **Cancelled until further notice**

Each Wednesday at Peeler Park: **The Park is open but Old Fart Get-togethers is cancelled until further notice**

MTRCS Club is still planning to have a Jet Fly at Cane Ridge on May 23rd

Want more MCA between newsletters?

Join the conversation in the Music City Aviators Facebook group.

Click the logo to jump to the page.



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April/May Meeting Minutes

No Meetings



Find Out More...
- Info on Peeler Park
- Info on Park Permits
- How to Join the Club
- Upcoming Club Events

www.MusicCityAviators.org

Spread the word about the Aviators!

**Meet someone new and want to invite them to join the MCAs?
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Another Fun Article from John Forehand

Shopworn

Since we are all stuck inside, and of course building model airplanes right and left. What? You're not in your shed building? You're inside watching YouTube? Bingeing on "Nashville CSI", or something similar? For shame, get thee to thy shed!

Once you are happily seated and reaching for that knife, let me offer some safety rules to make sure this is an enjoyable period of time. I am the Safety Officer after all.

#1 When pushing straight pins thru plywood or hard balsa, do not use your thumb! The indentation in said thumb hurts at the least and will leak blood if you push too hard. Point of interest here, blood doesn't sand off balsa. The mark will always be there mocking you.

#2 When using super glue (CA) the quicker you pull your glued fingers apart the easier it is. If you wait more than a second, it sinks in and bonds your fingers together. The only release, if you don't have a gallon or two of debonder, may be a single edge razor to gently slice the skin apart. And remember from rule #1, blood doesn't sand off balsa.

#3 Do not carve toward yourself when using a #11 blade. When you slip and the knife heads toward you the pointy end is leading. Remember Blood doesn't sand off balsa. Always carve away from yourself is the rule. Only problem, when carving away, you have no control of the knife and you will certainly slip and stab yourself in the knee. This is ok, as it's pretty hard to get blood on your balsa from your knee.

#4. When applying Monokote or any of the heat shrink coverings we use, always look before reaching for and picking up the hot iron. Reaching and not looking will result in a very sore hand with blisters. Also, broken blisters also leave a lighter stain on balsa that doesn't sand off.



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Another Fun Article from John Forehand, Con't

#5. When using the hot air gun and pulling Monokote around wing tips, make sure that your fingers are covered in a glove of some kind. Burnt fingertips make picking up straight pins extremely difficult. Also, make sure the glove you use isn't latex or the like. When it melts on your fingers it can cause blisters, and blisters when popped stain balsa that won't sand off.

#6. When soldering XT60 connectors to battery wires or ESC wires. make sure you are pushed up very close to your work bench. If you leave a gap between the work bench and your lap, melted solder will always fall in your lap and while you won't feel it at first, you will. Also, melted solder causes holes in jeans which causes your wife to get highly irate and remember blood doesn't sand off balsa.

#7. Do not leave the lid off cans of CA debonder or Acetone. Unless your shed has massive air leaks, you will get a headache, and when trying to rub it, will either stab yourself with your knife, glue your fingers to your forehead, or stick the straight pin in your hand in the center of your forehand. All the options lead to stained balsa wood.

I know you can add a lot more safety rules to the above, and if you would like, email them to me at jfaircraftsales@gmail.com and I'll get Charles to put them in the newsletter. Well, for me, it's back to fun and games in the shed!!

Note from Newsletter Editor: I appreciate John's monthly contributions to our newsletters. Not only are they humorous, but very educational as well. I would like to say more but I need to get back to bleaching the blood out of my new balsa project. On second thought, maybe I will just paint it "Blood Red".



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An Article submitted by the “HARK”

As the lovely Lisa Spencer of local WSMV TV Chief Meteorologist weather renown had earlier prophesied; Today was an absolutely near perfect day for one to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Although it had been a little breezy in the early afternoon, by late afternoon the wind had all but died and weather conditions and opportunity to go fly something were what an old RC plane flier like myself had been missing.

My friend and fellow R/C enthusiast (Charles Waterston) lives 2 miles from my front door and his large yard is a great location for a makeshift flying field, especially for a small electric RC plane modified to be HIGHLY visible, complete with reflective tape, silver wingtip streamers and towing a 40 yard length of distinctive red, white and blue crepe streamer. Indeed...Numerous drivers of passing cars along Stewarts Ferry Pike have honked their horns (hopefully in appreciation) having seen the little Parkzone Sport-Cub S2 maneuvering over Charles' humble abode while putting on it's patriotic themed local airshow. Charles occasionally joins me, especially to fly our GWS Slo-Sticks. Mine is red and Charles' is yellow and together they provide a good contrast of color when we're flying our planes together in formation.

I flew "solo" today as Charles and his lovely wife (Peggy) were busy with finishing up yard work. Using their driveway as my runway, I had successfully flown my Sport Cub for about an hour, discharging about 5 battery packs in the process. With the sun setting in the western sky and with my plane in the air on my last battery pack, I heard the unmistakable sound of a radial aircraft engine ("music to my ears tone" I might add) and it was quickly getting closer. It was a beautiful Stearman bi-plane with shiny yellow wings and blue fuselage and it's pilot was no doubt enjoying his late afternoon low flight above the rural countryside. Guess the last thing he expected was to suddenly catch sight of lower air traffic in his vicinity. No doubt that the Stearman pilot saw my little plane silhouetted low against the rooftops and green foliage as he wagged his wings, turned and headed east toward Gladeville. Now that in itself is something that a "Foam-Buster" founding member RC pilot lives for...To have anything else in the air at the time (ESPECIALLY a buzzard, hawk or other bird) deviate from it's flight path because of the sheer presence of our remotely piloted vehicle.

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Hark's article Continued

Indeed...I've been accused of engaging such birds in a "dog-fight" and all I can say for that is....If a bird changes it's flight path in any way...It's considered a "KILL". I'll further say (for the benefit of any animal rights activists) that I've NEVER hit a bird with any of my RC planes, although I've made some twist and turn violently to avoid them. :-).

I was excited by just having caught sight of a slow, low flying antique Stearman but was absolutely delighted that it's pilot saw my plane, flying at a much lower altitude safely below his, and... further acknowledged my presence by wagging his wings. Little did I know that the best was yet to come. My battery pack was starting to get low and I was preparing to land when I heard the plane coming back toward me over Stewarts Ferry Pike heading west. I turned my plane westerly also, safely out of his way and for a brief moment my little plane was several hundred feet below the Stearman in a staggered formation of sorts flying in the same direction as he passed above. The Stearman banked to the left as he passed and I also banked my little RC plane to the left to stay well out of his way. As he passed high overhead, he again wagged his wings and also turned on his smoke for several seconds. Then he set course on a NE heading directly toward the Lebanon Airport. I was absolutely elated by having safely flown semi-formation with an actual Stearman and....to have it's pilot acknowledge me with his salutes. Charles said: "I doubt that the Stearman pilot was so excited as to tell his friends about having flown with a low flying RC plane as you are of having flown with a higher flying Stearman. He's no doubt RIGHT!!

I've seen that gorgeous plane at the Lebanon Airport and I'm sure it's pilot is local. If anyone reading this knows his/her identity...Let them know that they made an old RC pilot's day and.....IF they want RC flying lessons; I'll be glad to provide. It'd only cost a ride in the Stearman.

Jim Harkreader

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Recent Photos



Special thanks
to David Blood
for allowing us
to use some of
his photos.



Please send pics to cwaterston@comcast.net for publication.

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