



Marc's Mish Mash

AMA Chartered Club #107

May, 2008

Issue #139



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From the Editor's Desk

There are two things every preacher knows he has to preach on but dreads doing it. One is sinners going to Hell and the other is money. This editor, yours truly, feels a little the same way. Last month was the Hell and sin part or the safety sermon I gave. That message was "we are all guilty." This month is the money sermon. Now before you shake your head and go on a rant about the price of gas, taxes and anything else you can think of...which by the way I would probably agree on, hear me out.

I have written over 50 editorials in the Mish Mash. In that time we have been using the same Membership dues sheet. In fact, it was in place before I started this post. Prior to that time Mark West was our editor and he was using the same information. That means we

have had the same dues since 2003-2004...maybe earlier. Do some simple math all you accountants, computer whizzes and otherwise proclaimed geniuses.

Let's say over the last 4 years we have had an annual inflation rate of 1% (way conservative). That means things have gone up. That also means that what you could buy for a dollar 4 years ago, you can not buy with that same dollar today.

Now look at the changes to our field alone over the last 4 years. Better buildings, better shelter, work tables, electricity, on and on. Now you might say "wait!, I can live without all of those things!" Stop right there, that kind of logic is like trying to win an argument

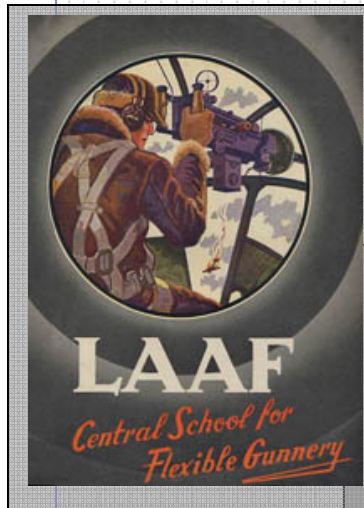
with your wife...it ain't happening. If we don't stay in a constant state of improvement the law of entropy will take over. Entropy is when things are left in a natural state they will deteriorate.

You didn't know you were going to get a science and economics lesson is one shot did you? Secondly, the cost of maintaining the field has gone up as well. Everything we do costs more. Now, here is the part where you can complain about the cost of gas because yes, we have to have that to mow the field. There is certainly a price to progress...guess what? There is a price just to maintain.

So let me finish this sermon. As an officer of the club I don't pay dues. I had rather pay the dues, even higher ones to have and keep what we have. You can have my time for free. Understand this...one of the reasons our club is strong is that we have been fiscally responsible.

If you need a new engine or a new airplane you get one. They average 4 to 6 times what our dues are. Also, go out and check club dues across the country and locally... Give it up. Raise the dues and let's move on.

Safe Flying!



Let the editor hear from you.

Paul Holland
paul.holland@swbell.net

Or

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501-779-5523 C.
501-851-2394 B.

Initiation Fee	\$10.00
Open Membership (19 to 64 years of age)	\$60.00
Senior Membership (65 & older)	\$45.00
Junior Membership	\$10.00

Note: For Juniors, one parent/grandparent is encouraged to join as an Associate Member since the junior member, under the driving age, must be under their supervision at the field. The Junior membership fee is waived if a parent/grandparent joins as an Associate Member.

Associate Membership	\$15.00
Late Fee	\$10.00

Membership fees for those joining during the year will pay \$5.00 per month remaining in the year PLUS the \$10.00 Initiation Fee.

It is time to renew your AMA and Club dues.

Aerial Gunnery

by
Paul Fleming, Jr

Recently, talks at a weekly assembly of MARCSmen converged upon a discussion of gunfire directed from one aircraft towards another. Some offered the view that aerial firing was largely guesswork with little chance of success. However, potential gunnery students were subjected to a six-week course in aiming and firing techniques. While the effectiveness was sometimes iffy, a **lot** of attention was directed towards appropriate procedures.

I was an aerial gunnery instructor at Buckingham Army Air Field near Ft. Myers, FL for about 18 months flying on B-17s, B-24s and almost on B-29s. The primary focus of the instruction was about *flexible* gunnery, that is, the application of gunfire from turrets or from hand held positions on bombers with the targets being attacking fighter planes. The problems of fixed gunfire from fighters aiming at bombers was addressed at fighter schools and were not mentioned at our locations.

Early in War II, 30 caliber weapons were common, but by mid-war these had been largely replaced with the 50-caliber variety. The 20mm cannon received some attention but this was never a very satisfactory weapon on bombers because at the time it was not too reliable.

The school devoted about two weeks to these two calibers of machine guns, dis-assembly, assembly, adjustment, cleaning, etc. A **lot** of time was spent on tracking a moving target. First, we developed skill in operating the controls of a turret. H-shaped handles were moved about a vertical axis to swing the mounting right and left: rotation about a horizontal axis moved the guns up and down. It was not a simple skill to acquire; the turret and gun motions were not self-evident and at least five different training aids were arranged to develop turret control.

Firing skeet from the backs of pick-up trucks developed tracking skills; both with hand held shotguns and then from turrets modified to mount a 12-gauge shotgun. The evidence of good marksmanship was immediately obvious.

At the end of three weeks, we flew four-hour gunnery missions in B-17s or B-24s. There were about 50 B-17s and/or B-24s at Buckingham Army Air Field, and as many at the other five gunnery schools. Ten aircraft were held in reserve or were undergoing heavy maintenance, but forty of these flew in the morning and again in the afternoon six days a week. Buckingham had 10 runways and airplanes were dispatched on two of these simultaneously. The objective was to get 40 aircraft airborne within 30 minutes by 0800 and again at 1300.

Two instructors attended 10 or 12 students in a 17 or a 24. First we ascended to 22,000 feet (on oxygen) and fired at tow targets pulled by B-26s flown by women pilots (WASPS). About an hour was needed to get to altitude and another hour to exercise each student at the upper turret and at the waist positions. The tow targets were not too effective as training aids for bombers. The target merely sat there a couple of hundred feet away; the benefit was in firing guns at altitude while on oxygen. Also, the ammunition used for these exercises was *training grade*, not good enough for combat but more than adequate for training. A *lot* of jams were encountered, and these were cleared while encumbered by the oxygen mask and the cold of altitude. Following the altitude work, the craft descended quickly to about 500 feet over the Gulf of Mexico. Each student fired into the water and then tried to hit his splash. This was pretty effective because success was obvious.



At end of a four-hour mission, 10 students had fired about 1500 rounds of ammunition or about 150 rounds each. Forty airplanes fired about 60,000 rounds in the morning and another 60,000 in the afternoon. There was no way to verify, but we were told that one gunnery school fired as much ammunition as a combat theater.

At the end of the six weeks, students were awarded a pair of wings in the form of a *winged bullet*. Graduate gunners often obtained one or more extra sets at the Post Exchange and passed these on to girl friends. The Bell P-59 jet pursuit plane received a lot of publicity during the mid 1940s and the newbie gunners often depicted themselves as being *jet-propelled pilots*. Some of the girls said they believed it.

Next time, I will discuss some of the technical details of firing at an attacking fighter plane.

From the President...

It's finally Spring and that means its time for our annual family picnic on May 17th.

The bad news is that King Kat catering will not be there this year because Bryce's wife is graduation med school on that day so your president will prepare a family picnic feast for you. This year's raffle prize will be the E-flite DHC-2 Beaver 25e with servos. This bird can be seen at Marks Hobby Shop. You can buy tickets there or from yours truly.

On another note this month's meeting place has been changed to the Whole Hog Café in the Riverdale Shopping Center. We will meet at 6:00p.m. in the banquet room for dinner and the meeting will begin at 7:00p.m. if you missed last months meeting we talked about raising club dues for next year and that's on the agenda for this month so show up and make your vote heard.

You're President
Randy Womack

Member and Club Events

MARCS 2008 EVENTS

- May 17 Family Picnic
- Aug. 30 Float Fly
- Sept. 1 Labor Day BBQ
- Oct. 11 Pancake Breakfast
- Nov. 15 Hot Dog Lunch
- Dec. 6th Christmas Party Whole Hog

OFFICERS 2008

- President-** Randy Womack 372-0373
- VP & Editor-** Paul Holland 851-6063
- Secretary-** Phillip Whiting 834-0909
- Treasurer-** John Karolson 851-3828
- Tech Officer-** Dennis Glover 835-0386
- Field Marshall/Safety Officer-** Mark West 961-1641



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MID ARKANSAS RADIO CONTROL SOCIETY (M.A.R.C.S.)

ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Date: May 17, 2008

Location: Bishop Field (www.themarcs.org contains directions to field)

Menu: Main Course: Hot Dogs and Hamburgers

(Serving will begin around 11:00 a.m.)

Time: 8:00 a.m. till everyone leaves

Prices: \$ 5.00 for each adult person
\$2.50 for each child 12 and under.

Raffle: DHC-2 Beaver 25e ARF



The Raffle includes the airplane and servos only \$2.00 per ticket or 3 for \$5.00
YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

BRING YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS FOR A GOOD TIME AND GOOD FOOD

A NUMBER OF MEMBERS WILL HAVE TRAINERS AND BUDDY BOXES TO LET
PEOPLE FLY THAT NEVER HAVE FLOWN BUT HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY A
REMOTE CONTROL AIRCRAFT.

**MID ARKANSAS RADIO CONTROL SOCIETY
(M.A.R.C.S.)
APRIL 03, 2008
MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by our president Randy Womack with the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Members: None

New Pilot: None

Guest: None

Announcements:

- Southeast Arkansas Modelers Swap Meet - April 12, 2008 at Lake Monticello.
- Scale Fly-in at the Piggott Flying Club.
- Horizon Hobby is having a promotion on the 2.4 GHz radio equipment.
- The club received a thank you card from the Mike Pruter family.
- The club received a thank you e-mail from the soldiers in Iraq which received the planes we sent to them.
- They are sending us a US flag flown by a C130 in Iraq.
- Pancake breakfast and swap meet will be April 12 at the MARCS field.
- October 24-05, 2008 the Sky tigers club will have a WATT-TOBER FEST at their field for electrics only.

Reports:

- March meeting minutes were read and accepted.
- March treasurer report was given and accepted.

Old Business:

- The new tax rule mentioned at an earlier is not ready to be accepted by the IRS.
- A new wind sock has been ordered for the field.
- The cabinets have been installed in the club house and the new building has had shelving installed.
- The club house has a leak. Randy Womack will check out and try to determine where it is leaking.

New Business:

- We are waiting on some dry weather prior to painting the new building.
- Earl Glover wants the large gravel rocks in the parking lot removed so it will be easier for some of the members to walk.
- The club decided to purchase 3 Handicapped sign for those having problems walking. This will provide them a closer parking space to the main gate.
- We are planning on underpinning the new building and the club house as soon as weather permits.
- A suggestion was made to extend the runway to the north. No action was taken.
- A suggestion was made to eliminate the spraying and use that money to buy dirt. No action was taken.
- A suggestion was made that we think about raising the initiation dues and annual dues. No action was taken.

Show and Tell:

- Ron Standfield showed number 196, a Veco control line conversion Sue. It was powered by an OS 15fp and weighed 41.5 Oz. It has had 1 flight.
- Dan Davis showed a Sig Waco powered by a 125 Saito with a 16X8 prop. Wing span was 68" Has not been flown.
- Dr. Schratz showed a Seawind electric which weighed 25.5 oz. it ahs been flown once and it was splashed. Had to replace the ESC.after the splash.
- Steve Pierce showed an Electric Cessna. It contained 2 servos, an ESC, and a receiver about the size of a dime.

Raffle:

Two members each won a gallon of fuel.

There were 18 members present.



MISH MASH

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