

WOODLAND/DAVIS AEROMODELERS

December Newsletter 2018

Prez Sez: Here we are last month of the year and with Christmas right around the corner. With winter now here and the field getting some rain please keep all vehicles on graveled areas so either the driveway or one of the parking lots. Do not use your vehicles to go out and retrieved crashed aircraft like you would during the summer. Also please do not use the low water crossing now till things dry out in spring. We try to maintain that to a certain extent and we don't need to have a bunch of tire ruts tearing it up during the winter. With winter here we also pulled out the pick-up pipe back at the last work party so that we could close up the flap gate for the field. Speaking of the pickup pipe there has been further discussions and a new option put forth on how to keep the field watered moving forward. We had approved using a solar pump system to maintain our water supply. There is also now a parallel motion to move the existing pump and power supply down to the entrance to directly pull water. There is some research being done into this option and reports expected at the next meeting. As noted in the last 2 newsletters due to the expense associated this will be reported and voted on at the next general membership meeting. So if you have an interest in this topic please plan to attend the December meeting. Speaking of the next meeting, we have some other things going on as well. Then next meeting we are voting in the 2019 officers. We have at least one person for each position with the exception of president. Due to commitments at home and work I do not really have the time to commit another year to the club so we are looking for someone to fill that position. This month being December it is our annual holiday party. So we will be having pizza, drinks and desert at the next meeting. So come down bring your latest project to show off, and your appetite. Couple other items of note for the next meeting is we'll start taking 2019 renewals so if you have your AMA card, fill-

NEXT WDA CLUB MEETING

Woodland Library, Leake

Room Christmas meeting! Monday

Dec. 10th @ 7pm

Board meeting @ 6pm



Prez Sez

Club Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes

Christmas Meeting Auction Plane!

TIPS for selling used RC, Part II

Great Customer Service

Forrest Barton

Mike Frint

Mike Frint

R. Geertson

R. Geertson

out a copy of the application from the club web site and either bring it to the meeting or get that sent in. We will also be discussing the 2019 contest calendar at the December meeting.

Another item that came up at the last meeting was the discussion stemming from the AMA Expo in Pomona. While down there they had a fun fly race / combat using a one design method and the discussion was doing the same. They were using the Flightest Bloody Wonder which is a foam board version of the original Sig Wonder. The airframe is only \$28 and pretty durable and simple to build. They are using the power pack "C" which is \$65. SO for \$93 to get started all you need to do is add a 3S LiPo battery for power. Unfortunately these are back-ordered at the moment, but due to be back in stock in December. So if you are looking for a Christmas gift for yourself, this might be a fun one. We can get them ordered up and maybe do some build sessions in conjunction with a couple meetings to get a bunch of these in the air and have some fun. Could be fun after work-parties or at events as part of the noon time demo if we have enough in the club. We were hoping to have these ready for Chilly n' Chili but will see when they get back in stock.

Speaking of Chilly n' Chili, that is only a month out and arguably the best event of the year. This event started off small and has really grown into something. We have been blessed with pretty good weather the past several years to help it grow. One issue we have run into the last 2 years is a lack of coordination. So this year we are going to start a sign-up sheet at the meeting and then it will be put out to the membership after that. This way we can make sure we have a good balance of food, drink, desert and supplies. So look for that email mid-month in December if you are planning on attending.

I want to welcome and thank Stein Buer for stepping up and volunteering to be our new point's chair. He will be taking over and starting fresh in 2019 as I will be closing out the 2018 points here at the end of the month when I pick up the last set of sheets at the field during Chilly n' Chili.

I want to wrap up with thanking everyone for the effort put forth this year. It was at times kind of a contentious year. But at the end of the day we are all here to enjoy this great hobby and each other's company.

I like to think that has been showing through as the year has moved on. Let's look forward to a great 2019 with some of the challenges behind us and see what opportunities 2019 can provide.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting or the field. As always if you have questions please let me know.

Thanks, **Forrest**

November 12, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members/Officers present: President: Forrest Barton, Vice President: Doug Vice, Treasurer: John Eaton, Secretary: Mike Frint. Board Members: Doug Barton, Chris Dellinger, Mike O'Kane, Danny Winters. Safety Officer: John Lett. **Absent:** Board Member: Kerry Roberson.

The meeting, held at the Round Table Pizza restaurant, was called to order by Forrest Barton at 1809 hours. Nine members were present. Two more members came in during the second half. No guests or new members. The Woodland Public Library was closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

Officer reports:

President: Had nothing.

Vice President: Deferred until the water discussion..

Secretary: Had nothing.

Treasurer/Membership: John ordered the 2019 membership cards. The treasury report came during the general meeting. John did mention that with the watering recently we should put down some grass seed.

Points: We have a new person to be the Points Chair. Stein Buer. Thanks!

Web: The club webmaster was absent.

Safety: Nothing new to report.

Old Business: Safety Audit work-we still need to install the bollards. Doug B. has installed "non-potable" water signs on the control line side and snack shack. Mike O. added that mud daubers have clogged the nozzles on the fire extinguishers and that we should maybe put some blue painters tape on them. The shade structure discussion has been tabled. Mike O. said the County offices were closed. We need to consider permits and design engineering. John E. has the Milt DeGroot memorial plaque and will install it. Water pump discussion-John reports that we are getting good water flow but the loaner pump is hard to start and loses prime. We need to add about 40 gallons of water to get it primed. John suggest we modify the check valve system. Also, it only runs through half a tank of fuel and shuts down. Given the manpower and fuel issues we may need to provide some PG &E electrical power at the pump along with a solar system. Further discussion ensued about power supplies. Mike O. wanted to make a "feasibility" motion but it was decided to test the check valve modifications first. Then we discussed running a single pump system without flooding the ditch. Mike O. made a motion to look at the cost of running a single pump system and not using the solar system. The motion was seconded and passed unopposed. Forrest mentioned we have a motion on the solar system for the December meeting. We decided that this motion will be left on the agenda.

New Business: Shuffling of events on the event calendar was discussed. The helicopter event may be moved to May 9-11 or 23-25. The pylon race still stands at May 18-19. The pattern event may move to September 7-8. A possible Scalemasters event was mentioned. A contest director would be needed. We may not host this event. Chilly and Chili-Monty and Linda won't coordinate the food anymore, it got to be too much work and an imbalance of food types resulted. Forrest suggested that we make a list to avoid this. Mike O. said we do have some food at the field we need to use. For the December meeting, Doug Vice said he will get the pizza.

Upcoming Events: Chili and Chilly on January 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 1903 hours.

November 12, 2018 General Meeting Minutes

Board Members/Officers present: President: Forrest Barton, Vice President: Doug Vice, Treasurer: John Eaton, Secretary: Mike Frint. Board Members: Doug Barton, Mike O'Kane, Danny Winters. Safety Officer: John Lett. **Absent:** Board Members: Chris Dellinger, Kerry Roberson.

The meeting, held at the Round Table Pizza restaurant, was called to order by Forrest Barton at 1915 hours. Eleven members were present. No guests or new members. The Woodland Public Library was closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

A motion was made by Mike O. to approve last month's minutes. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Officer reports:

President: Deferred to later.

Vice President: Deferred to later.

Secretary: Nothing to report

Treasurer: Money was spent on paying the accountant, irrigation supplies, gasoline, and electricity. Also we had to pay a fee to the DOJ because we have a trust.

Membership: We gained one more member and we have 104 total members.

Safety: The safety code sign has been updated and first aid kits installed in the old refrigerator in the pit area. We still need to provide directions to the hospital and add more contact information to the signs. Also, there is no phone number on the road sign, only the club website address. If we put a phone number up, then it would only go to one person. Mike O. added that he cleaned the clogged nozzles on the fire extinguishers from the mud daubers.

Chair reports:

Field: See old business. No work party planned.

Newsletter: Rich was absent.

Points: The points chair has been filled by Stein Beuer. Thanks for volunteering!

Website: Kerry was absent.

Old Business: Water pump update: John restated the issues with the loaner water pump. The water is coming out clean and we had to change only one sprinkler head. There are two parallel motions to vote on purchase of a pump during the December meeting. See the Board meeting minutes.

Event reports: UC Davis Airport Open House-Mike F. reported that attendance was down this year. Weather was good though. Our club did not have a display table there this year. Forrest reported that the Fremont Bayside auction was OK. They have gone digital so you can register ahead of time, see what is up for auction and what was paid for it. However, you won't know the order that items get auctioned off. By pre-registering you don't have to drive down there so early in the morning now. AMA Expo in Ontario-Forrest reports that the new venue at the Pomona Fairgrounds is much better than the old Ontario Convention Center. Jeff L. gave a short report on the Kingdon

Jet Rally. Doug B. reported on the Golden State Stunt Championship at Madera. He said there was a tie in expert class that resulted in multiple flyoffs and that the event was very well attended. John Lett asked about our open house event and Forrest stated that, pretty much, Chilly and Chili is it now.

Other: Also noted-the Bayside club field is still closed. The Tomacats club has no road to get into the field. The Ukiah club is losing their field. Crows Landing is reopening as a full-scale airport again. The indoor rink we used is gone for good and the senior center is just too expensive to rent. Mike O. added that a gentleman from Washington state wants to create another big helicopter event.

Nominations: Nominations and voting for club officers and the Board take place in December. Chris Dellinger, Doug Vice and John Eaton said they will continue. Your secretary decided to continue. So Jeff Lovitt made a nomination and it was seconded and passed without opposition. Forrest stated that he cannot continue as President. We need a nomination for President.

New Business: The Vacaville Library event takes place November 15. Forrest is going to send out an e-mail so people can list their potluck contributions on the day of Chilly and Chili. This will avoid the duplication and lack of some foods during the potluck. Doug Vice is going to get the pizza for the December meeting. Doug B. received the Leader Club plaque from AMA along with some hat pins for each of our members. Forrest wants to apply to the AMA flying site grant program to hopefully pay for some of the irrigation costs. By being a Leader Club we also get extra "credit" towards winning such grants. See the Board meeting minutes for changes to the event calendar.

More: The members that went to the AMA Expo observed a combat event pitting the folks from Scaled Composites against folks from NASA. (videos online) They were using Flite Test Bloody Wonder kits. These are small foam board airplanes that sort of resemble the old Sig Wonder kits. Forrest suggested that our club members construct these and use them for combat during the Chilly and Chili event.

Toilet Seat Nominations: None

Show and Tell: None


The meeting was adjourned at 2010 hours.



The airplane below was donated to the club. It will be auctioned at the December meeting.
 Top Flight Sierra .40 with a new O.S. .40, flight box with fuel pump, starter, and power panel! Wouldn't this look great under the tree?



FOR SALE: U.S. Aircore Family Trainer kit. Fold N Fly construction using contact cement. Builds in a couple of evenings. Pre-printed corrugate plastic is fuel proof. 64" span, 4 ch. .40 to .50 engines. \$20. Rich Geertson (707) 693-9537

AirCore 40™ Specifications

- High wing, high-lift airfoil
- Weight - 5.75 lbs.
- Wing Span - 64"
- Fuselage Length - 41"
- Wing Area - 704 sq"
- Wing Loading - 18.8 oz/sq'
- Engine required- Ball Bearing, 40-50 2-stroke or .48-.50 4-stroke
- Channels Required- 4"
- 100% U.S. Made

Kit Includes:

- Fully illustrated 20
- Precision die-cut
- Power Cartridge
- Complete hardware
- 8 oz. fuel tank
- Pre-bent landing
- 5/32" Nose Gear
- Pre-Shaped sp
- Push rods, Cont

Tips for Selling your Used RC gear, part II

a.k.a. The sales Nightmare before Christmas



Last month I discussed what I had learned over the years, selling RC stuff mostly online and locally. I touched on what could be considered an ‘expensive’ example of what you might encounter once all the sales fees are taken into account....

ITEM	Winning Bid	Shipping	PayPal fee	eBay fee	Net
Hasegawa SE5a kit	\$475.50	\$52.06	\$14.09	\$47.55	\$361.80

But this was FAR from a “worst case” scenario... This month I will describe a situation I find myself in that has yet to be resolved to my satisfaction.

I auctioned a very rare Fitzpatrick .61H ABC engine on eBay. The item was posted for 7 days and was accompanied by 7 CRYSTAL CLEAR photographs from every angle of the engine; 1 clear photo of the box contents and 1 clear photo of the engine box. As the engine had never been fueled or fired, it was listed as “New In Box,” although it was clear from the photo the box was not perfect, nor did my ad state as such. The winning bidder was in the U.K. I stated in my auction that I would ship Internationally at extra cost to the buyer.

Apparently an engine collector, the winning bidder had had 7 days to examine all photos, digest the ad, and ask any questions about the condition of the engine, the box, and contents prior to bidding. He never asked any questions about the item before winning the auction.

Upon receiving the engine, the Buyer immediately questioned ‘whether I had shipped the correct engine? The one he received had “obvious signs of use, casting marks, and a torn box.” I responded the same day with a request that the Buyer please send me photos of the engine and box. After more than a week, none were received despite several requests by me, all of which were logged in the eBay Messages folder. The Buyer then initiated an eBay RETURN stating “the item was not as described.” eBay immediately froze the funds in my PayPal account while the matter was adjudicated. The Buyer claimed the engine was used and “only suitable for the trash” (his exact words).

I explained to eBay what I explained above, resubmitting all AD photos and also explaining that “casting marks” are the RESULT OF THE PRODUCTION PROCESS AND NOT A SIGN OF USE. The Buyer responded with pictures of the ‘casting marks,’ the torn box, and engine mounting lugs which did reveal very slight signs of having been mounted. I responded again with my ad photos showing the box was intact when it was in my possession, the ‘casting marks’ were CLEARLY VISIBLE in my ad pictures and the very subtle mounting marks on the lugs were also visible (WHY didn’t the Buyer ask about them or simply PASS on this engine that failed to meet his high standards?). He won’t answer that question, always defaulting to my “deception”...

After much back and forth, eBay U.K. found in favor of the Buyer. Both his purchase price and shipping were refunded, and I was instructed to “arrange a pick-up of the item and return shipping at my expense!” I was also told by eBay U.K. that failure on my part to respond within 5 days would result in the Buyer keeping all proceeds AND the item!

This is starting to sound like some kind of scam, right? **WRONG. This is eBay policy!** It’s all there in the find print. I sent a message to the Buyer that there was no practical way for me to arrange a pick up of the engine in the U.K... Is this a business or residence? What are his hours? How can I guarantee he will be home when the courier arrives to pick it up? This is a logistics quagmire! So, I purchased postage from the Royal Mail and emailed it to the Buyer. All he had to do was repack the engine, apply the pre-paid postage and either hand it to his mail carrier or drop the item at a local post office. In subsequent communications he claimed he ‘never received any postage’ and that “if I fail to arrange a pick up of the engine by December 7, **it will be disposed of.**” (again, his words and in the eBay Messages for all to see)

Being a Seller (and Buyer) with literally HUNDREDS of “Excellent” ratings and comments on RCU, RC Groups, Flying Giants, and eBay, I never imagined such a scenario! I always try to give the Buyer MORE than they expect. When that isn’t possible, I guarantee to meet their expectations, and in 20 years of transactions, have been 100% successful. This experience has been an infuriating anomaly! And it’s not yet over...

I have appealed eBay’s decision both online and via live conversations with eBay agents in the U.S. and the U.K. Interestingly, both agents told me ‘**it was NOT reasonable NOR my responsibility to arrange a pick up of the item from the Buyer.**’ -BUT this IS what was stated in the eBay U.K. decision.

Honestly? The return of the engine or the return of all or even some of the money has become far less important to me than JUSTICE BEING DONE! At this point, it is the PRINCIPLE!!!

I consider this Buyer to be an unethical JERK who is abusing the eBay Buyer Protection policy and have filed a com-

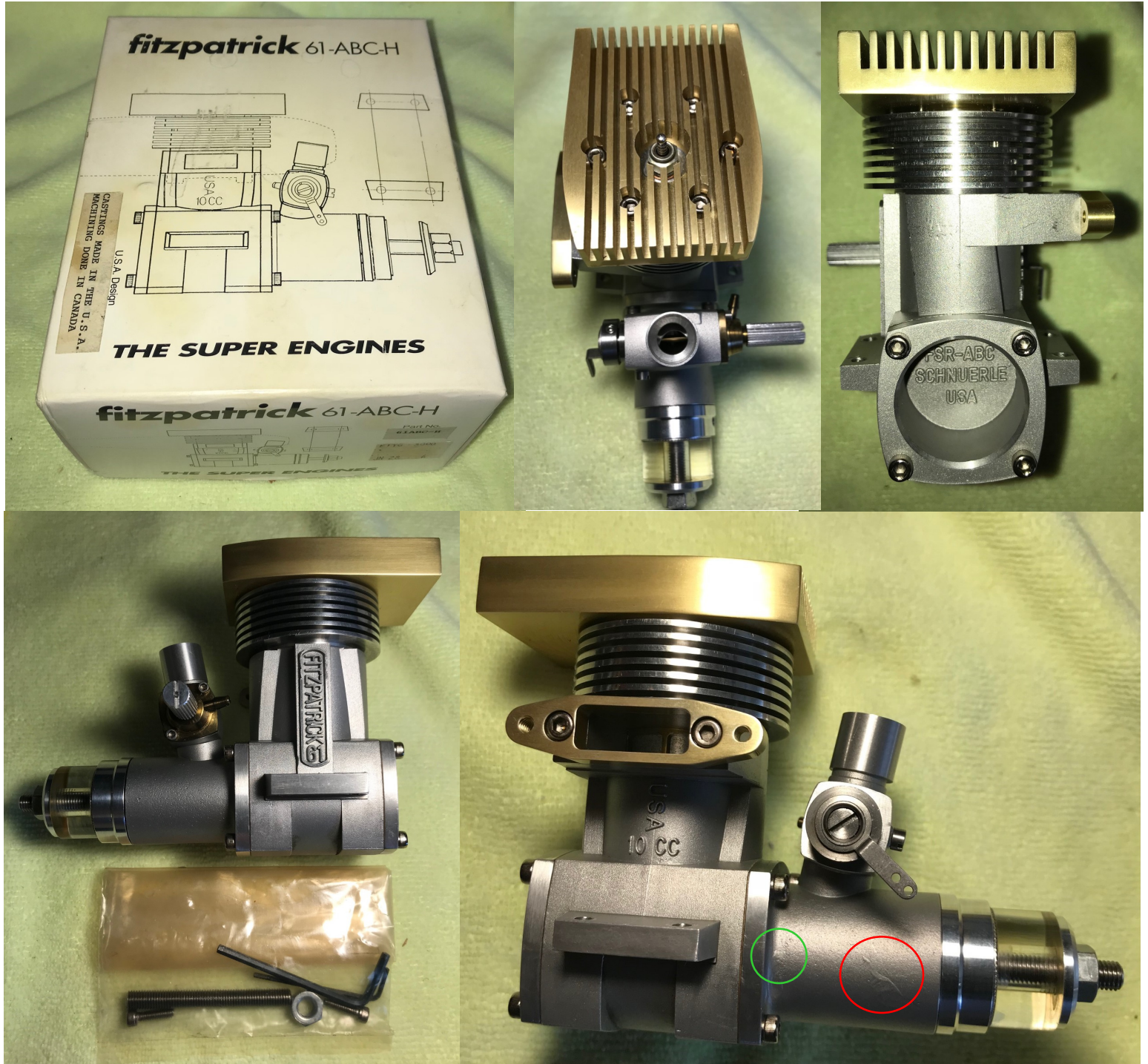
plaint against him with eBay (much good that it will do...)

And that is where this issue stands at present.

I will do a follow-up to let you know the final outcome... and yes, you WILL learn the identity of this engine collector / eBay patron so you can avoid him like the plague!!

Here are a few of the pictures that were posted in my eBay Fitzpatrick .61 auction - and btw, the pictures in my ad could be magnified to allow close-up inspection of each photo...

There were 3 more photos of the engine in my ad; 7 total.



**It was obvious the engine had never been run.
The box wasn't perfect, but neither was it damaged.**

The "casting marks" the expert engine collector was so bothered by were clearly visible in my ad. Any engine with a cast crankcase may exhibit casting marks. It's part of the production process nimrod! BUT try telling that to an eBay arbitrator who doesn't know a casting from a crumpet...



And now for an AMAZINGLY GOOD RC customer service story...

I have been flying Futaba radios for many years. After 10 years of great service from my ACE MicroPro 8000, I made the switch to Futaba based on a great reputation and the not so insignificant fact that my ACE radio was no longer supported. I began with a 9C, then a 12Z and 14MZ.

My first 2.5 Ghz radio was the dual band 10C.

I have been flying a 14SG for several years now and it's been a great radio, but I was looking to upgrade.

For their 70th Anniversary, Futaba produced 500 "70th Anniversary 18SZ" radios; only 100 were shipped to the U.S. These are only available to purchase direct from Futaba USA. Just 5 days after receiving the radio Futaba emailed their "Cyber Monday SPECIAL" which was \$700 off the 70th Anniversary 18SZ! *Huh?!?! What?!?!?*

I phoned Futaba and spoke with a very polite lady who essentially told me, "I am sorry sir, there is nothing I can do for you." I finally said, "So, perhaps I should return my radio for a full refund and buy another using the Cyber Monday code? How much sense does that make?" She agreed, but still said there was nothing she could do for me (bless her lil' black heart). I asked to speak with her Supervisor who got on the phone and right out of the gate responded to my incredulity

with the same song and dance... I explained that most merchants will honor a sales price that close to a purchase. I also explained to him that I had called Futaba tech support and discussed the pro's and cons of the 18SZ and 18MZ, asking IF Futaba had any SPECIALS coming up? The tech had answered that he was unaware of any, so I purchased the radio at the retail price. I told the Supervisor if the Cyber Monday Special was \$70 off, I would not be on the phone with him, but for a \$700 savings I was inclined to return my untouched 18SZ and buy another one... but again, what sense does that make? Within seconds, he agreed.

Within minutes I had a \$700 refund in my PayPal account! Futaba already had a very satisfied customer... now they have a customer FOR LIFE!

(if I can just keep eBay U.K and "the engine collector" out of my PayPal account...)

**Happy Christmas to all
and to all a good night.**

**70th
Anniversary
Futaba**



WDA Officers and Board

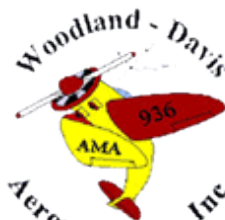
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WDA Cabinet

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Jet Turbine Instructors

⇒ OPEN

Helicopter Instructor (Only):

⇒ OPEN



Next Club Meeting: Dec. 10th at 7pm

Woodland Public Library "Leake" Rm., 250 1st St, Woodland, CA



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