

# WOODLAND/DAVIS AEROMODELERS



## October Newsletter 2020

Prez Sez:

There is no Prez Sez this month. Doug Vice has been ill.  
We all wish him well!

Meetings Minutes

Mike O'Kane

Tribute to John Hoppe

Modelers Corner

R. Geertson

RTL Fastners

Common Questions

Events

**The October General Membership meeting** will be held **at the Club Field** on Saturday Oct. 10th at 9:00am. Watch the WEB page for any changes. Flying is closed during the meeting. Masks are required by Yolo County and social distancing will be observed.

**General Members Meeting  
September 12, 2020  
Meeting location Burgdorph Henson Field**

Board Members present: Randy Sizemore, John Eaton, Mike O'Kane, Chris Dellinger, Jeff Lovitt and Keith Young.

Meeting called to order by Randy Sizemore.

Last month's Board minutes reviewed, motion for approval, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and unanimous vote to pass.  
7 General members are present.

Recognition of guests and new members, Ron Smith as a new member.

Officer reports:

President: Not present

Vice President: Comments throughout the meeting

Treasurer: John reports income of \$290.00 expenses of \$753.00, checking account balance of \$1570.00, savings is \$2,162.00.

Secretary: Comments will be made at a later time in the meeting

Chair Reports:

Membership: John reports there are approximately 99 memberships issued to date.

Safety Chair: Covid-19 concerns were discussed, masks and distance separation needs to be maintained.

Field Chair: Art Williams is present, there is a need of help with Thursday mowing. Please consider reaching out to Art.

News Letter: Rich Geertson is always looking for any article you care to see published please send to Rich's attention and mention the article is for inclusion in the NEWS Letter. Share your past or current build with the Club.

Points Chair: John Stein has the point tally current as of this meeting.

WEB Page: Kerry has the WEB current

New Business: The gate at the levy road that was installed by the adjacent property owner has been removed at the present time. The Board is reaching out to the owner to work out an acceptable method of security to his property and WDA membership access to the field.  
Access to the field could be interrupted at any time, reach out to Board members listed on the NEWS Letter if you have questions.

Membership Fees: A motion was made to eliminate the Points Dues for the 2021 season based on financial stress to the membership due to Covid-19. Consideration for donations are being asked for by those who can afford the fee. Motion was discussed, 2<sup>nd</sup> was made. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Old Business:

Snack Shack shade structure rework is completed. Item is closed.

Woodland Christian after school STEP program.

This project has been postponed until fall

Item open

Salvaged Sun room parts

Item has been scheduled for disposal

Item is open

Copious model plans (container/plans)

The Club intent is to categorize the plans and preserve the vintage model plans.

Item is open

Fencing

Back ground. Pilot fence modifies to 34" height, rework completed. Item closed

Randy has the Club Float Fly retrieval boat at his house and is planning to return the boat to the Field.

Plans are underway to make storage room for the boat in a Conex. Item is open

John Hoppe's Plaque has been ordered, lead time is approx. 6-8 weeks

Next General meeting will be held at the Field on Saturday, October 10th at 0900.

Show and tell:

None

Set aside Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> and come out to the meeting, bring an aircraft to fly and enjoy the field. The meeting is over well before any heat sets in so plenty of time to get in a few flight, there is plenty of shade in the pit area.

Meeting adjourned.



**Please join us after the October meeting for a  
tribute to John Hoppe**

Ben Ponzo, Monty Welch, Mike Cerati, and Sheldon Berkowitz purchased a bench and a plaque to honor the memory of John Hoppe.

John's widow will be present and bagpipes will accompany the presentation. This dedication will be held on Oct. 10th immediately following the club meeting—approx. 11:30am and there will be a lunch for everyone who attends.

Michael Cerati, Sheldon Berkowitz, Ben Ponzo and Monty are in the process of selling Johns airplanes and equipment. There will be a garage sale in the near future at Johns address, a notification will be sent out to all the members

# Modeler's Corner

In this day and age of plug-n-play models, actually BUILDING something seems “so 20th century...”

And if building a wood kit is far-

fetched, just imagine how crazy and antiquated it is to build a model from plans!! Well, believe it or not, building from plans isn't as difficult as you might think. Personally, IF there is a decent kit available for a particular aircraft I fancy, I will default to the kit every time... but sometimes, there is no kit. Fact is, the numbers of available model aircraft kits has dwindled drastically over the past 20 years, owing to a lack of interest in the hobby combined with the availability of so many almost ready to fly aircraft. For those who still enjoy building, this is a reality of the hobby. IF, like me, you have accumulated plans over the years, anticipating this day might come, perhaps it's time to dust them off and try building from them?! We often refer to this type of construction as “scratch building,” but to the purists, “building from scratch” involves drawing your own plans. I have “plans-built” seven models over the years, but never from my own plans. Pardon me if I occasionally slip-up and refer to cutting out all my own parts as “scratch building.”

The biggest difference between the plans that accompany a typical kit and those that are sold by themselves to guide the “plans builder,” are that the latter generally come with parts templates printed on them along with the construction 3 views, and often include extra sheets printed only with parts templates. In the past, I have gone to the trouble of tracing the parts templates from the plans, creating my own template copies. However, I have found that once completing a model I rarely ever refer to the plans again and have adopted the practice of cutting the plans apart and using the templates directly from the plans. Of course, I leave construction 3 views intact so I can still use them as my guide to build the fuselage, wing and tail sections. This cutting apart of the plans actually is beneficial when it comes time to tack them to my building board and build over top of them, since most plans are too large and cumbersome anyway. Unless your building board is as wide as it is long, cutting them into narrower sections (wing, fuselage, empennage) enables much easier use. Granted, my method DOES pretty much render the plans “destroyed” once the model is completed, but I have yet to find that saving them fully intact has much benefit. Ultimately it is up to you to decide if you want to go to the extra time and trouble of keeping the plans fully intact and tracing out all the parts. Even with parts templates provided, often there are parts of the structure that you must locate and trace out to create a template. This comes with studying the plans carefully, combined with past experience.

And keep in mind, at one time, building from plans was “the norm.” For decades, the popular modeling magazines all featured construction articles from plans. Despite the wide availability of kits, many modelers still chose to build from plans. This isn't ‘rocket science’ and is well within the grasp of any modeler with a few wood kits under his belt.

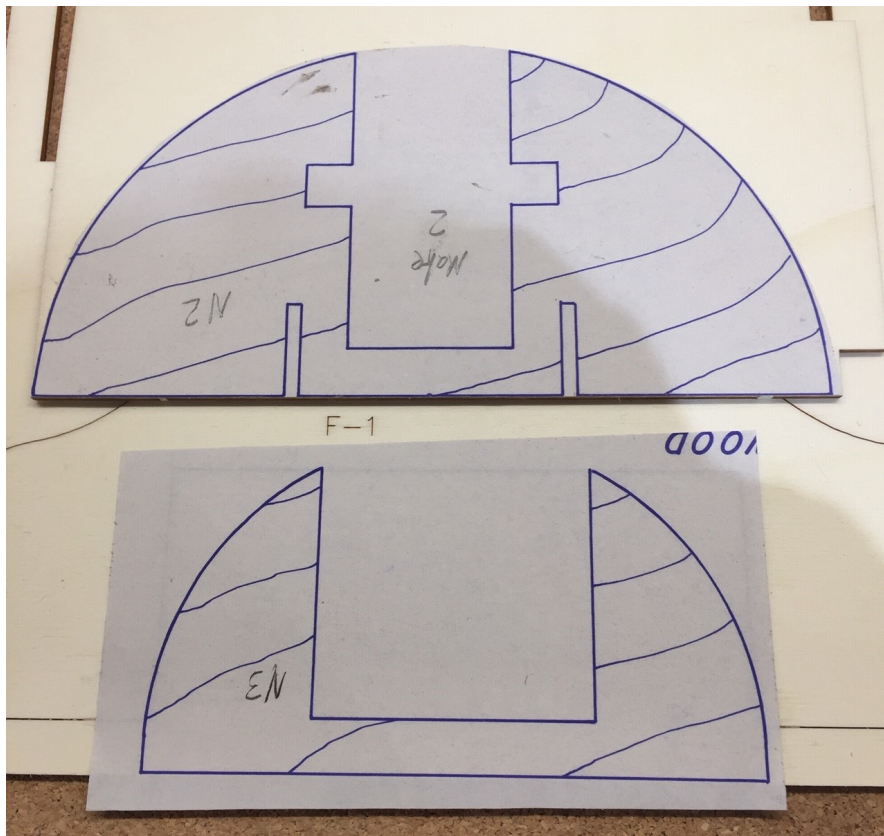
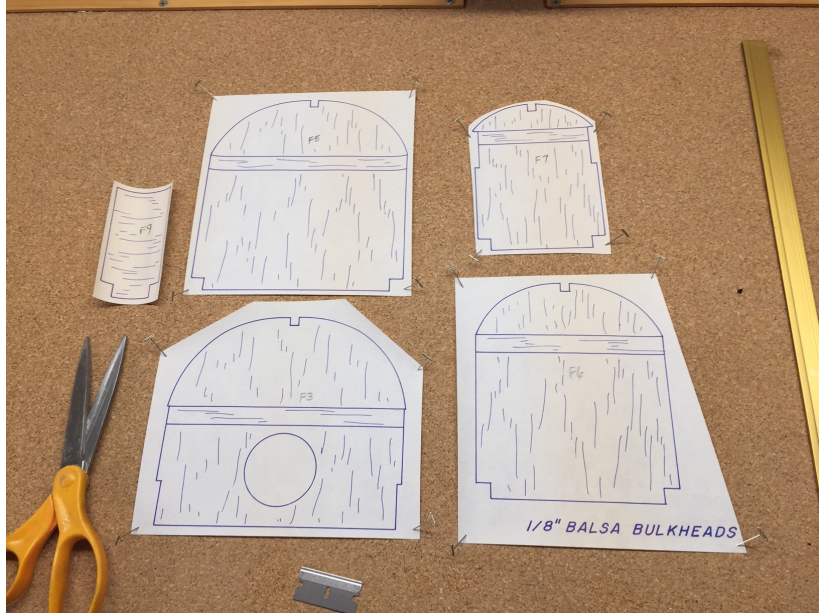
Another word of advice on plans building is that unless you have a large stash of balsa and light ply, be prepared to spend some money on the necessary materials... and it hasn't gotten cheaper over time. You can acquire much of the needed materials at a local hobby shop, but buying individual sheets and other stock will quickly add up! I generally like to do my bulk buying from an outfit like Balsa USA and reserve local wood purchases to the odds and ends. Buying building materials it quickly becomes evident that supporting the boutique kit makers not only provides you with a nice kit, but also saves you money!

If I haven't scared you away from trying your hand at plans building, GREAT! And perhaps it's just my personality, but completing a plans-built project (like completing a kit) has more to do with your passion for the



model, and less about its complexity. My very first plans built model was a Nick Zirolì giant P-40. My next was a quarter scale Gee Bee R2. While it would have made sense to start with something FAR simpler than either one of these, I wouldn't have been excited about just any old plans-built airplane... it HAD to be a subject that REALLY grabbed my interest and held it for the duration! So, DON'T be afraid to build your favorite aircraft from plans; your chances of finishing it are MUCH greater if it's something that really floats your boat!

Shown below are some fuselage bulkhead templates cut directly from the plans. When cutting templates, you do NOT have to worry about cutting perfectly along the outline. As a matter of fact, I suggest you do NOT cut them right on the lines... leave a little extra. WHY? You'll see... 3M 77 contact cement is sprayed lightly onto the backs of



the templates. After it has a few minutes to set up, the templates are pressed onto the wood stock. Obviously you will want to strategically position the parts templates to make the best use of your wood, leaving as little waste as possible. A scroll saw is used to cut out the parts—and again, NO NEED to cut perfectly along every outline.. Just get CLOSE. The final shape is achieved using a belt sander (for ply) or sanding block for soft balsa parts. The goal is to sand to where you actually SPLIT the width of the ink outline. After achieving the perfect shape, REMOVE the paper template (this is why I said to apply the 3m 77 “lightly”). You may be tempted to leave it on...after all, it has the part name right on it! Problem is, later during construction you do not want to create glue joints with a paper barrier! ... Ask me how I know....?

While this process may seem tedious - and admittedly, some of it is, especially when making several copies of the same part - you may find it enjoyable. Just keep thinking about how all this wood you are shaping into precision parts will eventually FLY!

Within a few hours I was able to make 24 parts:

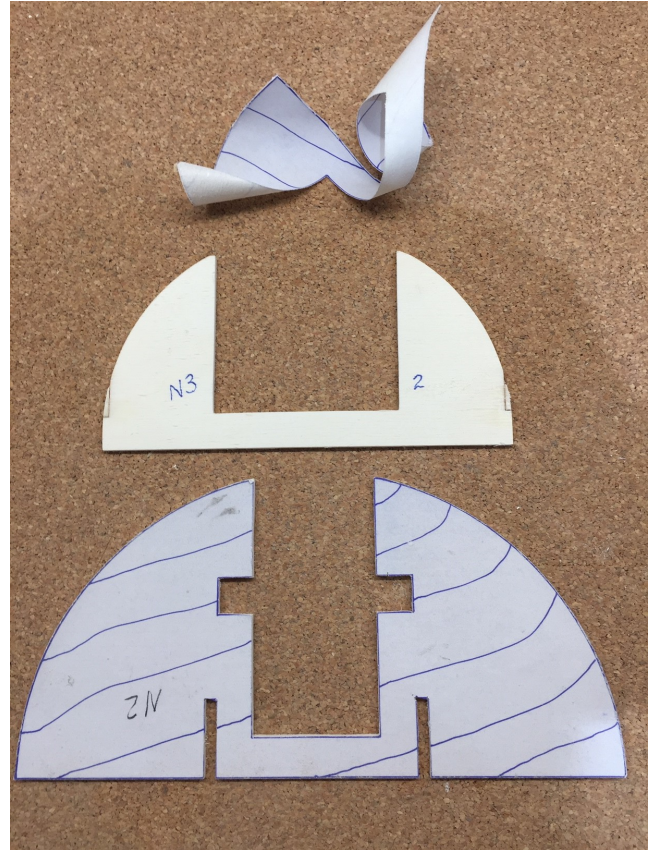
- 9 fuselage formers
- 10 nacelle parts
- 2 wing and 2 stab doublers
- Wing mount

I would estimate that within one week the typical modeler can create an entire “kit” from plans. The other advantage to this is that YOU get to pick the quality, weight and density of the wood used for every part. I am such a modeling miser, I have been known to graft and laminate odd pieces together to create a large enough or thick enough piece to make a part. Hey, as long as you use common sense and make good glue joints, it IS an efficient way to utilize every scrap!

So... WHAT are these pieces ultimately going to create???

...Next month...

*Rich Geertson*



# COMMON QUESTIONS

*RTL Fasteners' Terry Dunn shares his knowledge about hardware selection*

By Jay Smith | jays@modelaircraft.org  
Photo provided by Terry Dunn

**M**uch of the hardware that hobbyists need for their RC models is smaller than what you will find at a local hardware store. Those unique nuts and bolts are the products that we've focused on since opening RTL Fasteners in 2001.

Because this hardware is not very common in everyday life, many hobbyists are often slightly unclear about what they need for their latest project, so we have provided answers to some of the common questions that we receive from our customers.

## How Do I Get the Correct Screw?

Many customers come to us because they want to replace one or more lost/damaged screws on their models. Modelers are often not quite sure what they are looking for. That is totally understandable because many of the fasteners we deal with appear similar.

For instance, a 4-40 screw looks a lot like a 3 mm screw but they are definitely not interchangeable. Trying to force the wrong screw will strip the threads and create massive headaches.

The first step in sizing a screw is to determine whether the hardware is metric or Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE or "standard"). One easy way to get started is to consider the source. If the hardware came from an ARF model, it is most likely metric. We actually deal with that situation frequently because a lot of ARF models include poor-quality fasteners.

Hardware pulled from a kit-built model is more likely to be SAE. The engine mounts, pushrods, and wheel collars found in local hobby shops are still produced by US-based companies, such as Sullivan and Du-Bro. The bulk of those items manufactured in the US utilize SAE hardware.

When you've determined whether a screw is metric or SAE, you can typically nail down the size by measuring the diameter of the threaded portion. A ruler will usually work well enough if that's all you have, but calipers are more precise. Our website (see the "Sources" listing) features a screw size chart that provides the diameter of most fasteners used in the RC hobby.

Another tactic for identifying mystery hardware is to visually compare it to known hardware. Our most popular items are assortments that contain fasteners in a variety of sizes. You simply size up your unknown screw to those in the assortment until you find a match. Just make sure that you compare the diameter of the screw, as well as the number of threads per inch.



**GET 30% OFF AT  
WWW.RTLFASTENERS.COM**

Use promo code AMA30 at checkout to save 30% on either the #5000 Master Assortment or #992 Complete Metric Assortment.

One final method for determining the size of a fastener is to use a screw checker. This is a metal plate, about the size of an index card that has multiple threaded holes in common sizes. You will know the screw size when you find a hole that it threads into. This is obviously not an option if the screw has damaged threads. When all else fails, contact us and we will help you figure out the screws that you need.

### Why Hex Drives?

We encourage our customers to use hex drive fasteners whenever possible. In fact, all of the machine screws and most of the self-tapping screws in our inventory have hex drive heads. The primary reason for this is simple. Stripped heads are a common and frustrating problem with the small screws that are typically used by RC hobbyists. When you use hex drive fasteners with good-quality hex wrenches (Allen wrenches), you are much less likely to strip the head than with Phillips or slotted drives.


Another common hardware-related problem for hobbyists is the driver slipping out of the screw head. Raise your hand if you've ever damaged one of your airplanes when that happened. This is hardly ever an issue when using hex drive hardware.

RC models frequently require us to install small

screws in confined, awkward locations. This is easier to accomplish with hex drive hardware because the screws will stay attached to the driver while you move it into place. We offer extra-long ball drivers that are useful for installing screws into those really cramped spots.

### What the Heck Is a Bonded Washer?

Most of our customers are familiar with flat washers and lock washers, but they draw a blank on bonded washers. Basically, a bonded washer has steel on one side and rubber on the other. These types of washers are useful in numerous hobby applications.

Bonded washers hold snugly but provide a cushioned grip. When used with plastic canopies or fiberglass cowlings, bonded washers help prevent cracking around the screw holes. In applications with heavy vibration, such as an engine mount, bonded washers provide damping and help prevent the screws from backing out, and the rubber is fuel resistant. 

### SOURCES:

**RTL Fasteners**  
(800) 239-6010  
[www.rtlfasteners.com](http://www.rtlfasteners.com)



# **Radio Control Flyers Unlimited**

## **2020 Giant Scale Fall Fly In**

**Saturday October 17, 2020**

**Ward Hendricks Field, 8400 Eastman Rd, Oakdale, CA**



## **All IMAA Legal Aircraft Welcome**

**\$15 Landing fee—Pilot's meeting at 8 AM—Coffee and Donuts provided**

**Hard surface runway 800' X 60' Covered pit area**

**Lunch-TOGO'S box lunch--Sandwich, chips, cookie, can soda-\$15 pay at the field**

**AMA sanctioned event-Please bring AMA card**

**Please RSVP to [lenci@1938e@aol.com](mailto:lenci@1938e@aol.com) so we know how many are planning to attend**

**Pilots please bring a fire extinguisher!**

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Jack Cooke 209.409.4378

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# **Nor-Cal Huckfest -**

**Giant Scale Event  
Saturday & Sunday**

**October the 17th  
and 18th, 2020**

**At the AMOS field Located at  
4015 East Catlett RD, Roseville, CA**

**One Mile from the Thunder Valley Casino  
\*\*Great Event Lodging\*\***

**Any Giant Scale 79" and above wingspan  
3D Model Airplane can Fly**

**Free overnight RV parking**

**Pilots can arrive on Friday 16th to Practice**

**Flying at the field.**

**\$10 Landing Fee Saturday - Sunday no charge  
AMA insurance is Required**

**Great BBQ - Hamburger or Hotdog \$7 meal Tri-tip \$10**

**The AMOS Field is a Gold Member AMA field  
One of the Best in California**

**Contacts: Basil 916-410-2791**

**Geordan White 916-521-8590**

**Gary Meyer 916-276-6990 Web [www.amosrc.com](http://www.amosrc.com)**

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**WDA website**  
[www.wdarc.org](http://www.wdarc.org)

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# Flight Instruction

## Flight instructors:

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[johnneaton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnneaton@sbcglobal.net)

⇒ Carlos Reyes (650) 243-8894  
[carsi@hotmail.com](mailto:carsi@hotmail.com)

## Jet Turbine Instructors

⇒ OPEN

## Multi-rotor Drones

⇒ Keith Young (530) 848-3666

## Helicopter Instructor (Only):

⇒ OPEN



**Next Club Meeting: Saturday Oct. 10th, 9am AT THE FLYING FIELD**



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DIXON, CA 95620