

Curious Scientific Investigators:
FLIGHT ADVENTURES

BUILD A NFFS
Model of the Year

The
WRAM SHOW



ModelAviation

Bringing Modelers Together

March 2012 \$5.95



BIGGEST
Little Airshow
A fun-fly in Hawaii

Model Aviation



VOL. 38 NO. 3
MARCH 2012



CONTENTS

FEATURES

24 Biggest Little Airshow
Model airplanes are the star attraction on historic Ford Island *by Jay Smith*

32 Curious Scientific Investigators (CSI): Flight Adventures
Model airplanes, kids, and a movie come together in Indianapolis *by Rachelle Haughn*

41 Genie Redux
An award-winning design, 15 years in the making *by J.G. Paillet*

50 The WRAM Show
New Jersey hosts the show's 44th event *by Jeff Troy*

58 Understanding Washout
Find out why you might want a twist in your wing *by David Andersen*

REVIEWS

65 Modellbau USA F-86D Dog Sabre
A turbine-powered jet designed for stable flight.
By Greg Moore

77 Great Planes Super Stearman EP ARF
This grab-and-go size model is a real performer
by Tom Sullivan

ON THE COVER

Hangar 79 still bears the scars of the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. It was a maintenance and engine-repair facility during WW II and is now part of the Pacific Aviation Museum. Its mission now is the restoration and storage of aircraft.

During the Biggest Little Airshow on Ford Island, the hangar housed the models used in the show. The RC aircraft waiting to take to the air, while surrounded by their full-scale counterparts, made the perfect photo. Because the island no longer has an active runway, the models and their pilots entertain and educate the spectators as ambassadors of the AMA and the museum. *Photo by Jay Smith.*



DEPARTMENTS

- 6** President's Perspective
Bob Brown
- 7** Click On!
- 8** The Inside Loop *Jay Smith*
- 9** Aero Mail
- 10** In the Air
- 14** Product Spotlight
- 82** Focal Point
- 97** Plans Service Showcase
- 144** Donations
- 172** Classified Ads
- 173** Hobby Shops
- 174** Index of Advertisers
- 175** Viewfinder
- 176** I Am the AMA

COLUMNS

- 84** Born to Fly *Jim T. Graham*
- 91** Micro-Flying *Joe Malinchak*
- 98** Safety Comes First
Dave Gee
- 103** The Battery Clinic
Red Scholefield
- 109** RC Aerobatics *Mike Riggs*
- 115** RC Helicopters
Mark Fadely
- 118** RC Soaring *Lee Estingoy*
- 124** RC Combat *Don Grissom*
- 127** FF Scale *Dennis Norman*
- 133** FF Sport *Gene Smith*
- 136** CL Combat *Rich Lopez*
- 139** CL Aerobatics *Bob Hunt*

AMA NEWS

- 145** View from HQ
Dave Mathewson
- 146** From the Copilot's Seat
Gary Fitch
- 148** District News
- 159** AMA Membership
Application
- 160** AMA Safety Code
- 161** Full-Size Plans List
- 162** AMA Guide to Membership
Services
- 162** MA's Abbreviations and
Acronyms
- 164** Education Through Aviation
Bill Pritchett
- 165** Flying Site Assistance
Tony Stillman
- 166** Focus on Competition
Greg Hahn
- 167** Contest Calendar

Establish a goal for your club

The new year is still in its infancy and the Academy has been busy.

The FAA issue is paramount in every modeler's mind. AMA is spending an unbelievable amount of time and money on the problem. I am confident that those involved have every member of the Academy included in their thoughts.

A short synopsis of my activities during the past month include several days at AMA Headquarters; aligning the mechanics of our FAA awareness plan; attending weekly Model Aircraft Standards workgroup meetings; meeting with representatives of the FAA; and narrating a forum between the FAA and our membership at the AMA Expo.

Considering all of this activity, one has to realize that constant changes within schedules appear. In the past several weeks, we thought the FAA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) would be released sometime during January or February. However, "unanticipated issues requiring further analysis" have created an additional delay.

We project that the NPRM will be released sometime in the spring of 2012. When it is released, the Academy will advise members of the specific direction needed for reaction. Please update your contact information on the AMA website at www.modelaircraft.org/profile.aspx.

A forum was held with the FAA at the AMA Expo. This forum included Lynn Spencer, FAA's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Safety/Standards Leader; James Sizemore, Team Leader of the FAA Airworthiness and System Engineering; Rich Hanson, AMA's Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs Representative; and myself.

The forum included a synopsis of the AMA/FAA activities and a question-and-answer session. The Academy has placed a video of the forum on our website at www.modelaircraft.org/aboutama/gov.aspx and on

YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/modelaircraft?feature=watch.

AMA Expo 2012

Everyone who attended this year's Expo appeared to enjoy it. Members of AMA's Executive Council spent considerable time meeting with the membership. AMA Executive Vice President Gary Fitch, District X Vice President (VP) Lawrence Tougas, and I spoke with members waiting in line to enter the show.

Several people asked why we were doing this. The simple answer is, "Without knowing your desires, how can we represent you?" Incidentally, next year we hope to reduce the length of the lines.

A thank-you is in order to the speakers at the show. Their diversified topics provided information for several interests.

I took great pleasure in presenting the Hall of Fame plaque to the family of Bill Young. Bill was certainly a deserving recipient.



Bob Brown (L) and NAA President Jonathon Gaffney (R) award Dr. Laird Jackson with the FAI Aeromodeling Gold Medal.

Jonathan Gaffney, the president and CEO of the National Aeronautic Association, and I presented Dr. Laird "Doc" Jackson with the FAI Aeromodeling Gold Medal. Doc and I have been great friends for several decades and I took much pleasure in presenting him with this prestigious award. Doc's knowledge and efforts




as CL Subcommittee Chairman for 33 years will never be matched.

Doc is also known throughout the world for his expertise in the field of genetics. He was recently published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Although he maintains a busy professional schedule, he has agreed to continue to assist the Academy. Thanks again!

The Expo was also the site of the AMA Executive Council meeting. The current council is certainly a group of professional men who are highly capable of providing direction for the Academy. I am sure the teamwork of the membership, AMA Headquarters, and the council will allow the Academy to prosper.

The FAI budget for 2012 was approved during the meeting. The Council has no desire for the Academy to become an isolationist within the aeromodeling world; however, the FAI philosophy has to be modified to incorporate the needs of everyone. Focus has to be on eliminating archaic thoughts and activity and becoming a benefit to all. I will be meeting with other air sports groups within the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) to initiate a catalyst on our behalf.

District VIII VP Jim Rice and his wife, Linda, presented a check for \$2,500 to the AMA Scholarship Fund. This much-appreciated donation was generated from proceeds from the 11th Annual J.H. Rice Memorial Fly-In.

Would it be possible for your club to establish a goal to do something similar this year? 



Click ON!

Find us on:



Biggest Little Airshow

Explore beautiful Hawaii and the Biggest Little Airshow event by viewing more than 100 online exclusive photos shot by *Model Aviation* editor Jay Smith. Plus sit back and enjoy aerial footage of the event taken with a model aircraft! ModelAviation.com/biggestairshow-preview

Super Stearman EP ARF

Tom Sullivan takes us through a video tour of the Super Stearman build as well as aerobatic footage of the model in flight. ModelAviation.com/superstearman

Genie Redux

Learn more about this 2010 National Free Flight Society Model of the Year and order plans online. ModelAviation.com/genieredux

Understanding Washout

Read and share tips with other pilots about how to avoid tip stalls. ModelAviation.com/washout

The WRAM Show

Author Jeff Troy shares online exclusive photos. Plus learn more about the 2012 WRAM show. ModelAviation.com/wram2011

Curious Scientific Investigators

Watch videos and discover more about AMA's partnership with the world's largest children's museum. ModelAviation.com/flightadventures

AMA in Action

Get the latest developments and learn how you can help protect the hobby, sport, and educational pursuit of model aviation from unnecessary government regulation at www.modelaircraft.org/gov.

Find more features related to this issue including polls, downloadable pdfs, "Modeler's Mall," "President's Perspective," "Inside Loop," and more at ModelAviation.com. Plus you can comment on articles, view past issues, write a letter to the editor, and manage your subscriptions.

Join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, and at ModelAviation.com. Here are a few recent comments:

ModelAviation.com/glostermeteor
Todd Vorhees writes: Great plans-built jet. Looking forward to building it before the weather breaks!

ModelAviation.com/straightline
Greg Hines writes: ... appreciate your excellent article on flight basics. We all share the need to sharpen our flying skills.

ModelAviation.com/enginehistory
David Owen writes: A superbly written, accurate, and very interesting article covering the development and manufacture of model engines in the USA. Thank you for an insight into the fascinating history of the engines which preceded those we fly models with today. Thank you also to MECA for preserving our model engine heritage.

ModelAviation.com/huffer2011
Alex Michaels writes: I agree with Tom [Huff] that flight simulators are a very useful tool to build flying skills! But new pilots still need a mentor, which I'm sure Tom would agree.



DESERT
DA
AIRCRAFT
High Performance
Aircraft Engines

New 3 year warranty!

DA-170



3 Year Warranty!

Displacement: 10.48 ci (171.8 cc)
Weight: 8.00 lbs
Props: 32x12, 32x10 **\$1695.00**

DA-85



3 Year Warranty!

Displacement: 5.24 ci (85.9cc)
Weight: 4.3 lbs 4.53 lbs w/ignition
Props: 26x12, 27x10 (28x10 w/tuned pipe) **\$795.00**

DA-100L

Now Lighter!



3 Year Warranty!

Displacement: 6.1ci (100cc)
Weight: 5.47 lbs 5.783 lbs w/ignition
Props: 2 blade: 26x12, 27x10, 28x10 **\$999.00**



info@desertaircraft.com
Phone: 520 722-0607
Fax: 520-722-5622

**DA-50R, DA-85, DA-100
and the DA-150
all available at:
www.desertaircraft.com**

www.ModelAviation.com

Change is good

The wait is finally over! I hope you enjoy *Model Aviation's* new look. One of the changes you'll notice is that the font size has increased to make the magazine easier to read. We have also made changes to the frequency of a few columns to keep the magazine at roughly the same page count.

Although there is much to be excited about, one of my favorite changes is going to full color from cover to cover. After you've had a chance to look this issue over, if you have any comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Plans observations

Recently I have received a few comments regarding the way we print plans in the magazine when we run construction articles.

Currently the plans are slightly distorted to prevent them from being copied. Previously we had placed a watermark on the plans, but received complaints that led us to begin distorting the plans instead.

Why are we trying to protect our plans? One of the main reasons is to prevent them from being copied and sold without consent. We regularly find this to be an issue.

Each designer is paid for his or her work, and by selling the plans through the AMA Plans Service, MA is able to recoup some of the cost. Similar to musicians who are cracking down on

their music being reproduced without permission, we must also protect our intellectual property.

So if you enjoy our construction

features, but would like to see the plans handled differently, please email me with your suggestions. As I have mentioned in previous editorials, the magazine belongs to the membership and we will continue to evolve and improve it to meet the needs of the majority of our members.



... the magazine belongs to the membership and we will continue to evolve and improve it to meet the needs of the majority of our members.


Hawaii

One of my goals for the magazine in 2012 is to provide coverage of a greater diversity of events, the first of which is the Biggest Little Airshow featured this month. The event took place this past August on Ford Island in Hawaii and was blessed with good weather—it is Hawaii after all! The

pilots and staff of the Pacific Aviation Museum did a wonderful job promoting aviation and aeromodeling.

When I attended the event, we already had it in mind to publish the article in this special issue. Additional photos and a video depicting the event are online at www.ModelAviation.com.

New feature

Before you put down this issue, be sure to check out the last page for a new monthly feature titled "I Am the AMA," where we will interview notable members each month. 

ModelAviation

President Bob Brown
Executive Vice President Gary Fitch
CFO/Treasurer Doug Holland
Executive Director Dave Mathewson

STAFF

Director of Publications Rob Kurek
Account Executive Yolanda Jones
Administrative Assistant Lisa Johnson
Assistant Editor Jennifer Orebaugh
Communications Specialist Ashley Rauen
Copy Editor Rachelle Haughn
Director of Design/Production Carla Kunz
Editor Jay Smith
Multimedia Editor Chad Budreau
Production Associate Vickie Wilson
Senior Editor Elizabeth Helms
Technical Editor Bob Aberle

Contributing Editors

Stan Alexander	Eric Henderson
Bob Angel	Jim Hiller
Bill Boss	Louis Joyner
Paul Bradley	John Kagan
Sal Calvagna	Rich Lopez
Lee Estingoy	Joe Malinchak
Mark Fadely	Dennis Norman
Dave Garwood	Richard L. Perry
Dave Gee	Mike Riggs
Greg Gimlick	Aaron "AJ" Seaholm
John Glezellis	Red Scholefield
Jim T. Graham	Gene Smith
Donald Grissom	

Academy of Model Aeronautics

5161 E. Memorial Drive
Muncie IN 47302
Phone: (765) 287-1256
Fax: (765) 289-4248
www.modelaircraft.org

Editorial offices

8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays
Phone: (765) 287-1256, extension 231
Fax: (765) 281-7907

Design & Production

www.touch3.com

Advertising Representative

Mark Lanterman, Airborne Media
7414 Burton Dr.,
Liberty Township OH 45044 (513) 755-7494

Model Aviation is an official publication of The Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc., an associate member of the National Aeronautic Association (NAA). NAA is the official U.S. representative of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), the world governing body for sport aviation, and represents the U.S. at FAI meetings. NAA delegated to the AMA supervision of FAI-related aeromodeling activities such as record attempts, competition sanctions, and selection of U.S. teams for World Championships. (ISSN 0744-5059, USPS 087-930 Publications Agreement No. 40688541) is owned exclusively by The Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc., a nonprofit organization, and published monthly at 5161 E. Memorial Dr., Muncie IN 47302. Periodical rate postage paid at Muncie IN and at additional mailing offices. Canadian return address: Station A, PO Box 54, Windsor ON N9A 615



If you have a letter to the editor, please submit it to MA Editor Jay Smith at 5161 E. Memorial Drive, Muncie IN 47302, or email to jays@modelaircraft.org.



You Made My Year!

I just got the January 2012 issue of *Model Aviation* today and I had to look three or four times at page 97 (top right). I was thinking, "Wow, that looks like Central Hobbies. *Holy smokes! It is and the guy behind the counter is me!*"

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Riggs and you couldn't ask for a nicer guy. Next to my kids being born, this was an unexpected shock. All of us at Central Hobbies in Billings [Montana] would like to invite Mike back, or anyone who has the love of RC to stop in and say hi.

Thank you all again for the unexpected stardom (ha ha). Merry Christmas and God Bless.

—Ed Harvilak
via www.ModelAviation.com

Small-Field Flying Plans

In the December 2011 *Model Aviation*, there was a column called "Small-Field Flying."

It said that plans were ready for download for Carl Hock's Min-E-Bipe. Where can I get these plans?

Thank you

—Ken Watts
via www.ModelAviation.com

You can download the plans at www.parmodels.com/Plans/Mini-E-Bipe.htm.

—Jay Smith
MA Editor

Ask The Glue Pros

Bob • Charlee • Kent
"Your Adhesive Company"

Q I would like to attach clear polystyrene canopies to plastic models. What CA can I use that will not fog the inside of the canopy? Also, what thin CA can I use on very thin polystyrene sheet? CA usually deforms the plastic.

— J. Ruehle, Houston, TX

A Be sure to thoroughly clean and dry the canopy, or clear plastic sheet, first. Super-Gold+ works perfect for this application. You can also use Insta-Set to speed the bonding with no affect on the clear plastic.

Insta-Flex flexible thin CA works great on opaque plastic, especially when it's thin. It is a version of a medical grade CA that produces less heat when curing. Rumor has it that it is also ideal for cuts on fingers. It cures to a flexible consistency, even when accelerated, which also makes Insta-Flex ideal for use with CA hinges since the hinge line will not become brittle. It also has a different, less irritating odor compared to regular CAs.



**BOB SMITH
INDUSTRIES**
INCORPORATED

See BSI at your local Hobby Shop.

Send your questions to:

info@bsi-inc.com

fax: (805) 466-3683

call: (805) 466-1717

www.bsi-inc.com



8060 Morro Road • Atascadero, CA

in the Air

Membership news and updates from
AMA Headquarters

Lloyd Quick Receives District II Service Award

Lloyd Quick, member of the Mid Hudson Modelmasters and Mid Hudson Radio Control Society, both AMA clubs located in Dutchess County, New York, received a District II Service Award on November 2, 2011, at an appreciation dinner held at Coppola's restaurant in Hyde Park, New York.

At age 77, energetic and passionate about the hobby/sport, Lloyd has served the local clubs in numerous ways for many years. Lloyd, nicknamed Dr. R/C, is often at our flying fields with new members by his side, operating a buddy box and giving instruction in his gentle and encouraging manner.

Whenever possible, he conducts what



Mid Hudson Modelmasters Secretary Bob Santoro (L) presents the AMA District Service Award to Lloyd Quick.

we call "R/C 101 Clinics" under the canopy he brings to protect members from the sun. He makes himself available to everyone anytime they need his advice and assistance. In addition to phone calls and emails, Lloyd often invites members to his house where he does everything from teaching how to solder to constructing new aircraft and repairing distressed airplanes.

Throughout the years, Lloyd has served as an officer in the clubs. He has given numerous presentations—particularly on technical topics—and is always the one to call upon to help with the annual picnic or mowing the fields.

Lloyd has a passion for learning as well as teaching. He spends much time reading RC publications and enjoys doing research for himself and others.

In addition to being an accomplished

AMA Thanks Its Lifetime Supporters!

The Academy recently welcomed Life Members Tommy Lee, Altheimer AR; Justin Peacock, Mobile AL; Craig Meyer, Wynnewood PA; Michael Gregory, Greenville SC; Dennis L. Stephenson, San Anselmo CA; Dennis L. Stephenson, Austin MN; Tommy Hue, Trabuco Canyon CA; Edward Olague, Sulphur Springs TX; George Sauter, Eldersburg MD; Jeffrey Lovvorn, Donalds SC; Kyle Lucas, Livonia MI; Aaron Lavender, Mesa AZ; Terry Bhagwansingh, Hollywood FL; John Morley, Tewksbury MA; and Blaine Watson, Farmington NM.

For information about becoming a Life Member, contact AMA Headquarters at (800) 435-9262.

—AMA Membership Department

pilot, Lloyd is an avid gardener, boater, and motorcyclist. Yes, he does love his toys and tools! A sign hanging in his hobby room reads, "The Man Who Dies with the Most Tools Wins."

Lloyd is a devoted family man. He and his wife, Joan, have raised seven children, some adopted, and 12 grandchildren. And he manages to make time for all of them.

Lloyd is one of those people you meet in life whom you know are special. In recognition of all he has done for the local clubs, as well as promoting the hobby/sport in general, it was befitting for him to receive the District II Service Award for his contributions.

—Bob Santoro, Secretary,
Mid Hudson Modelmasters

75th Anniversary Club Newsletter Contest Winners

Last year, in celebration of AMA's 75th Anniversary, *AMA Insider* invited clubs to participate in a newsletter contest. Clubs were asked to submit any one issue of their newsletter in 2011 that was dedicated to the 75th Anniversary theme. Submissions included history articles about AMA and individual clubs, member profiles, and 75th Anniversary design themes.

Winners were chosen by the

AMA *Insider* editor, members of the publications staff, and Executive Director Dave Mathewson. The first-place winner will receive an award plaque for the club and the club's newsletter editor(s) will receive a one-year free AMA membership. Monetary awards for redemption at the Cloud 9 Museum Store will be awarded to all three winners at \$75, \$50, and \$25 respectively.

Thank you to all of the clubs that entered the contest and congratulations to our winners!

—Ashley Rauen
AMA Insider Editor

First Place

The Fox Valley Aero Club,
St. Charles, Illinois: *Flypaper*

Second Place

The Las Vegas Radio Control Club,
Las Vegas: *The Aerial View*

Third Place

The Rapid City Propbusters Radio Control Club, Rapid City, South Dakota: *Propbusters Newsletter*

Honorable Mention

Chino Valley Model Aviators, Inc., Chino Valley, Arizona: *Chino Valley Official Newsletter*



Operation Homefront—Michigan Hockey Helping Heroes

Operation Homefront-Michigan is an organization dedicated to helping the families of deployed US military personnel with basic needs. Whether it is a new starter for a car or fixing a broken faucet, the organization's members try to ease the burden on those family members left behind.

One of the organization's fundraisers was an evening of exhibition hockey on February 18, 2011, at Cranbrook Schools in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Keeping with the military theme, the organizers had a group of active-duty personnel on hand, as well as an Honor Guard for the national anthem. They wanted to do a flyby typical of larger venues, but how could it be done at night and indoors?

Rick Loewenstein, one of the organizers, contacted Ken Myers, the author of the well-known *Ampeer* newsletter. After Rick explained his desires, Ken described what today's aircraft could do. Ken said, "There is only one local organization that can pull this off. Call the Skymasters."

Rick reached Chris Hass and made an appointment to visit the hockey arena. Chris flew a demonstration flight to let the organizers know firsthand what today's generation of indoor aircraft can do in a confined space. The organizers asked Chris to fly a 2-minute routine to Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA."

After the national anthem played on February 18, the guard moved to the side to give Chris the full arena. There was a short introduction, and then Chris launched into a high-energy routine that included flying through speaker arrays, light fixtures, and banners. Rolling harriers, hovering, and a host of 3-D maneuvers were all included.

Chris flew his own design, an Edge foamie, with which he hoped to compete in the 2011 Electric Tournament of Champions in Toledo, Ohio. The Edge is equipped with lights, and the beautiful patriotic color scheme was designed and applied by noted Scale modeler, George Maiorana.

At the end of the flight, Chris hovered the Edge and plucked the airplane out of the air. The crowd enjoyed the entire flight, clapping in time with the music, and there was a round of applause at the end.

Head coach Andy Weidenbach called the flight "awesome." Organizer Rick Loewenstein said, "The evening was a complete success and the feedback was fabulous." The fundraising goals were exceeded.

One interesting and unexpected side note: The Edge sat on the ice for approximately 10 minutes before the flight. In that time, the warm, 4.8-ounce aircraft melted just enough of the ice to get stuck to its surface. That has to be a new one in the world of foamies.

—Joe Hass

History Preserved: What's New?

The National Model Aviation Museum not only collects old artifacts, but also amasses newer models and equipment as technologies develop and evolve, in an attempt to document history as it is happening.

Trying to preserve history as it is happening is difficult because often people are less willing to part with new equipment than with older equipment. Trying to decide what should go into the collection without the benefit of hindsight and the knowledge of what might turn out to be significant is also challenging.

Most newer items are added to the collection sparingly, and are seldom donated by individuals. In late 2011, the museum received two model aircraft that showcase the hobby's development and changing technology.

MA editor, Jay Smith, donated an Überlite 2-in-1 RTF set, designed by FlyZone and ItCanFly, to the museum collection after he finished reviewing it for the magazine. The set consists of an electric motor on a removable power/control flight module that can fit into multiple airframes. The set comes with two airframes: a monoplane with a 16.1-inch wingspan, and a biplane with a 14-inch wingspan.

A 2.4 GHz radio system is also included. The transmitter has a mixing dial that allows it to operate multiple forms of control surfaces, making it as interchangeable as the flight module.

Horizon Hobby donated the LR-1A Pogo prototype model used in the research and advertising for its ARF kit of the same name. With a 49-inch wingspan, a flying weight of 3.13 pounds, and a Power 15 or Power 25 motor, it was created to meet the requirements for the new Electric Formula One Pylon Racing event.

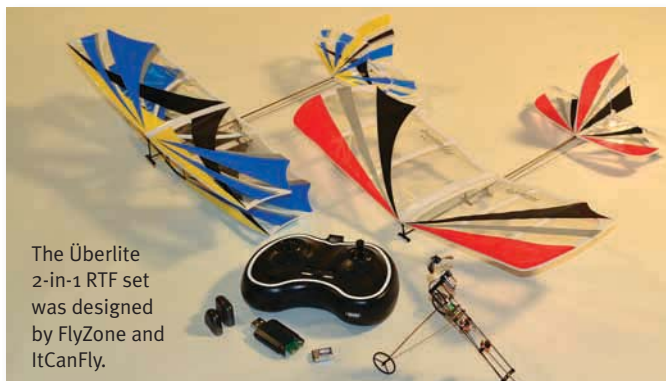
Designed by Jerry Small, in collaboration with Pete Bergstrom of Horizon Hobby and the National Miniature Pylon Racing Association, the model can also serve as a general sport flier. Various components can be purchased in white, allowing one to customize the color scheme.

These new artifacts help us tell the stories of model aviation, even if it just occurred yesterday.

—Maria VanVreede
Museum Collections Manager



Horizon Hobby donated the LR-1A Pogo prototype.



The Überlite 2-in-1 RTF set was designed by FlyZone and ItCanFly.

FAA Meets with the AMA Membership

On Saturday, January 7, 2012, representatives of the FAA met with the AMA membership in an open forum at the AMA Expo in Ontario, California. Lynn Spencer and James Sizemore from the Unmanned Aircraft Program Office (UAPO) provided an update on the small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) rulemaking process and addressed many of our members' concerns regarding FAA's intent to regulate model aviation. The open forum was captured on video and can be viewed on AMA's website at www.modelaircraft.org/aboutama/gov.aspx.

In the meeting we learned that publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for the sUAS rule has again been delayed. Going into the 2011/2012 holiday season, it was believed the proposed rule would be released sometime in January or February. However, citing "unanticipated issues requiring further analysis," the rule failed to clear the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) before the

year's end.

Projections are that the rule will clear OST by the end of January.

It will then be sent to its final stop at the Office

of Management and Budget (OMB). The OMB will evaluate the regulation for potential adverse impact on small businesses and small government entities.

OMB's review could take as much as 90 days, which would put publication of the NPRM in May 2012. There is some optimism that OMB's review will not take the full 90 days and the current best guess on the release date for the NPRM places it in the spring of 2012.

In the week leading up to the Expo, UAPO representatives met for 2½ days with the Model Aircraft Standards workgroup to continue development of AMA's model aircraft standards. It is understood that the sUAS rule will allow for organizations such as AMA to develop their own set of standards for model aircraft operations, and if accepted and adopted by the FAA, these standards can be used as an alternative means of complying with the provisions of the sUAS rule.

Where the sUAS rule may be relatively restrictive in its sanctioning of model aircraft activities, the standards are aimed at providing more latitude and flexibility

in model aircraft operations. In doing so, the standards must contain sufficient detail so, that if followed, the provisions of the standard will reasonably sustain safe model aircraft operations.

The workgroup is continuing to develop the model aircraft standards, and this work will likely continue for many more months to come. As we move closer to a final product, the proposed standards will be presented to the membership and opened for comments and suggestions.

Although publication of the sUAS NPRM has been delayed, the proposed sUAS rule is very much alive and release of the NPRM is only a matter of time. Current information regarding the NPRM can be found on the AMA website. After the rule is published, AMA will provide guidance and information regarding how to respond to the call for public comment.

Please make sure everyone you know is aware of the impending regulation, and ensure everybody who shares our love for this hobby is well-informed and participates in the response to the proposed sUAS rule. Timely updates regarding the sUAS rulemaking can also be found on Facebook by Liking 'AMAGov,' and on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AMAGov](https://twitter.com/AMAGov).

—Rich Hanson
Government and Regulatory Affairs

