

# Streator RC Flyers Newsletter

July 2016



## FAA News!

### FAA Reauthorization Passes the House

Incase some haven't heard or have seen. Just announced is another promising development related to FAA reauthorization. Last week, the House passed a 14-month FAA extension. Importantly for our hobby, this extension preserves the Special Rule for Model Aircraft (the AMA amendment included in the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act) through September 2017.

AMA aggressively engaged with both the House and Senate during the drafting process to achieve the best possible result for our members. The bill affirms our right to continue to fly within AMA's community-based safety program and free from additional government regulations, as Congress continues to recognize the importance and safety commitment of community-based organizations like the AMA. While the problematic language that existed in earlier FAA bills has been removed, this bill does not nullify the registration requirement.

We expect the Senate to vote on the extension, and the President to sign it into law, sometime this week. Once this happens, the status quo will remain in effect for our members through September 2017.

The AMA is said to keep us all updated as soon as the FAA extension is signed into law.

## **Just a Bit of Flying Field Etiquette**

**It's the height of summer, and the flightline (and everyone's nerves!) are starting to really heat up. Here are a few flying-field etiquette tips for all us members new and old.**

**If more than two planes are airborne, please follow the pattern.**

**Always return the tools you borrow (or bring your own!).**

**Clean up after yourself (your mom/wife does not work here!).**

**Please be courteous and announce when you're taking off, landing, etc.**

**PLEASE be sure to lock up the gate when your last leaving! It has been found unlocked when some members have gone out in the middle of the day.**

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**Field & Bench Tips**

With time, experience and lots of trial and error, we RC modelers all learn good way to do accomplish workshop tasks and/or flying field repairs. The simplest things can often make the biggest difference. Here are a few popular tips that will make your hobby time easier and more successful.

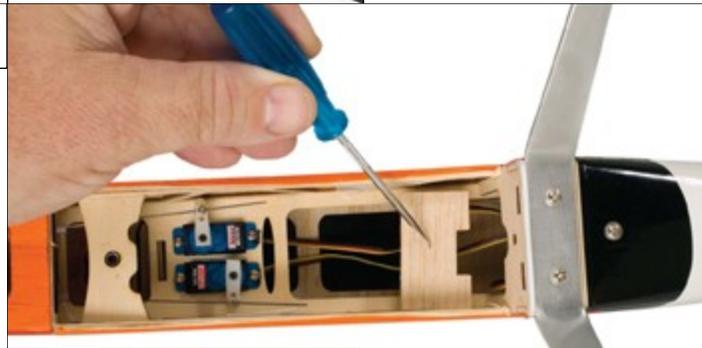
**1) Charged Battery ID**



**2) Propeller Safety Tips**



**3) Small Parts Sticker**



**4) Quick Screwdriver**



**5) Handy Clamp**



**6) Disposable Epoxy Mixing**



## Top Gun's Monstrous Mentor - Mike Barbee's Immense 36% Scale T-34B



Mike Barbee is no stranger to scale competition. He has flown at Top Gun for the past 24 years, and along the way, he has built and competed with eight different airplanes. He is currently the president of NASA (National Association of Scale Modelers), and is the East Coast chairman for the U.S. Scale Masters Association. We caught up with Mike as he was finishing up his newest competitor for the then upcoming 25th annual Top Gun Scale Invitational. Here's what he had to say about his monstrous aircraft.

### **Why did you decide on the T-34 as a Top Gun project?**

I have always liked the flying characteristics of the T-34 Mentor, and last year I won the AMA Nationals with my 26% scale T-34C. My newest plane for top Gun is 10% bigger than that, so it should fly even better. The new Mentor is a B-model. It's 36% scale and has a wingspan of 141 inches, a length of 119 inches, and a weight of 114 pounds.

### **What is the Mentor powered with?**

The plane is a Bob Patton design and features a molded fiberglass fuselage; the wings have precision foam cores. Bolted to the firewall is a 4-cylinder DA 200cc boxer engine from Desert aircraft. It's equipped with Pro-flow mufflers and the engine has a complete baffle system for cooling.

### **What did you use to finish the model? Is there any reason you chose this scheme?**

I used the PPG base coat/clear coat paint system with white and jet glow traffic yellow colors, and all my markings are applied using ProMark paint masks. I picked this plane as a tribute to my Marine corps buddies. We had our 40th reunion in December (I served from 1966 to 1972), and that was when I decided on the color scheme. The pictures I had of the plane were taken at Oshkosh 2011. I also took more photos in Indiana where the aircraft is based.

### **What about on-board systems? How long did your project take?**

For the radio, I am using a Futaba 18MZ and a123 batteries built by electro Dynamics' Andy Low. The retractable landing gear are handmade units by Bob Patton. They are electrically driven and feature a servo-operated gear door system I designed myself. I estimate the build



**Mike placed 3rd in Expert with his T-34 at the recent 2016 Top Gun Scale Invitational.**

As far as the retracts and engine cooling went, it required a lot of design work I was not used to. All in all, I think it all came out great.

## **June 2016 Meeting Minutes**

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:18 AT THE FIELD.

13 MEMBERS WERE PRESENT AND MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES WAS MADE BY ROB AND 2ND BY BRIAN.

THE TREASURY MINUTES WERE READ BY DALE AND MOTION TO ACCEPT MADE BY RICK.

THE TRACTOR WENT IN FOR MAINTENANCE AND WAS WORKED ON BY ROB AND THERE WAS A KEY SHEARED ON THE FLY WHEEL, IT WAS FIXED AND RUNS LIKE NEW.

NEW PROPANE TANKS FOR THE GRILL WERE NEEDED AS THE OLD ONES ARE GOING TO GET FILLED.

THE FUN FLY WAS DISCUSSED AND WE WERE GOING TO TRY A BOMB DROP WHICH WAS TRIED BY A FEW PEOPLE AT THE FUN FLY.

ROB MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE FIELD WEDNESDAY JULY 20TH AT 7PM.