

# FlightLine

*A Monthly Publication of Collins Model Aviators*

*July 2005*

## **President's Corner – Dave Shema**

Well, summer is about half gone by now. The longest day of the year has come and gone, days will be getting a bit shorter from here on out.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend is upon us, the weather looks to be scrumptious. Well, at least much better than the 95 degrees and 95% humidity we had last week. If you're out flying, enjoy the weather, and fly safely. If you're doing something else that weekend, be safe. No matter what, take a moment to stop and remember why we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

The SIG Father's Day fun fly was held a couple of weekends ago – June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. A small group of CMA flyers attended, and Tom Clark and Lloyd Swanson have sent me a bunch of pictures they took while there. I've got something like 22 megabytes of pictures from Lloyd. Tom posted his out on Shutterfly.com (ask him for the link). For those who went, and those who didn't, Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> was absolutely gorgeous. It was undoubtedly the finest day for flying we've had this season. I spent most of Saturday flying helicopters and airplanes out at the Skyhawks site. Though quite a few people were there, not a lot of flying happened. It seemed as if I had the entire site to myself. Sunday was a repeat. The weather wasn't quite as good, but again, I managed to fly the pants off the helis and planes.



**Lloyd took this pic of the pits at the SIG Fun Fly.**

Frank Gutierrez is slowly getting his once-crashed Raptor heli back in the air. After some gyro trouble, he has that sorted out and reports that the heli is now trimmed and deemed fit for some 3D flying.

## **Update on the Rockwell Clubs Reorganization**

There's not a lot to report on this front. I was asked by Dan Mussell to provide a budget request recently, to see if we can get some moola from Rockwell for next year's club operations. I had initially asked for the sum of \$1000 for the club. Dan seemed to have lost that particular email, so he asked a second time. I reconsidered that \$1000 amount, and decided to go for the gusto – in the second reply, I upped that figure to \$2500. I think the club can figure out what to do with that kind of operating funds next year. Keep those fingers crossed. In the same email reply, I broached the subject of “what would be the chances of Rockwell helping the CMA secure a field of their own for now and into the future....”. I haven't had a reply to that question, and don't know where Dan is in the process of submitting the club budget requests and club operating proposal to HR. I'll see what I can find, and update you all if and when I hear.

## **Other Stuff**

Our May club go out and fly day was rained out. The June date was postponed a week to accommodate the SIG fun fly event. The June date was last Saturday, and as I had already committed to a previous engagement, was unable to attend. I haven't heard from anyone if there was any attempt to fly as a club last weekend. The next Club go out and fly day is scheduled for Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was initially scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup>, but that is the weekend of the Skyhawks War Bird fly-in. Weather permitting, I should be able to make it out for the July get together. Meanwhile, the War Bird fly-in should be a pretty interesting day, as there are a lot of WWII era aircraft not only in the Skyhawks organization, but around the Cedar Rapids area, in general

### ***Club Assets***

Believe it or not, a couple of years ago, the CMA authorized the purchase of some common tools and equipment that can be used by club members while building a plane. Frankly, I don't remember WHAT we bought, and I THINK they are somewhere in Steve Plantenberg's garage or basement. We got them in anticipation of having a locker somewhere in the Rockwell facilities so that all CMA members would have access to them whenever they needed them. The locker area was secured, but apparently not very accessible, as it was deep in the belly of the Main Plant building, and we had questions about how to get the stuff in and out without the guards confiscating them.

So – WHO has the club tools – and WHAT IS IT THAT WE OWN? Drop me an email when you can with the whats and wheres. We still need to figure out how to let the members know what we've got, and how to get hold of it when it's needed.

### ***Electric Foamies***

For those of you wanting a little spice in your flying – and who aren't ready to tackle helicopters...consider building and flying some of the smaller electric-powered foam aircraft that are out and about in the market place. Steve Plantenberg, Tom Clark, and I think Frank Gutierrez have plans, and/or pre-cut "kits" available. They're made out of ¼ inch foam you can get at home building supply stores. Add some micro servos, a small receiver, a LiPo battery pack, ESC and motor, you'll have a plane that will let you do some crazy flying. Geoff Barrance let me fly one of his (I think it was from Hobby Lobby) a couple of weeks ago. It was quite a bit of fun. The electronics aren't all that cheap, but the basic airframe can be made for a couple of bucks. They're pretty rugged and can make you look like a flying wizard!

### ***Helicopter Fun Flies***

You might have noticed my obvious bias toward the rotary wing side of the RC hobby. I like choppers, and find them a boatload of fun. Planes are fine, but helicopters offer a real challenge. Over the course of the next couple of months, I'm going to go over to Davenport

and fly with some heli freaks over there in a weekend-long fun fly. I'll try to get some pictures. In August, I'm tentatively planning a four-day trip to Owatonna, Minnesota, to the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Rotary Ring Out. There should be some world class talent at that event. The raffle prizes and other stuff look to be pretty darn useful, too. Last year it included radios, helicopters, and bunch of heli accessories. Factory reps should be there, as well. I thought about attending the IRCHA Jamboree at the AMA site in Muncie, IN, this coming August, but other potential plans kept me from inking that on in on my schedule.

### ***Aerial Video Update***

Sometime in December of 2004, I picked up a 600 mw, 2.4GHz color video camera, transmitter, and receiver with the intent of putting the setup in one of my helicopters and shooting some aerial video. I've been wanting to get aerial shots for about 20 years – the Super 8mm film camera and projector in my basement are a testament to that. It never happened, but now, with good, small video equipment, the dream is almost a reality.

The equipment I purchased has been installed and flying for a while but to date, I've not been able to get what I would call decent results with it. Initially, I assumed my problems were vibration related, so I came out with a second generation mount, and still had the same problems. I'm working with the vendor of the equipment to fix the problem. I think the root cause of my video trouble is that my receiver is pumping out a substandard composite video signal that goes to my camcorder for video capture. I'm having terrible horizontal sync troubles. The vendor is sending me a new RX to try out and it should be here middle of next week. The videos that I have been able to capture look promising, and if I can get some stable, noise-free video, will post them up on the CMA website. The view from above is impressive!

Well, I'd better wrap this issue up for now. Happy flying and Happy Birthday to my favorite uncle, Uncle Sam.

***Dave ✈***

# **HEADS UP, CMA ACTIVITIES**

## **JULY 2005**

7 JULY 5:30 PM MEETING -- SOD FARM

23 JULY 2 PM -- CLUB FLY

## **AUGUST 2005**

4 AUGUST 5:30 PM MEETING -- SOD FARM

20 AUGUST 2 PM -- CLUB FLY, SOD FARM

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