

44th Annual Rhinebeck RC Jamboree

Photos and story by Gerry Darrish

When you think of something as being considered a “classic,” you envision something that’s just about perfect and, having been that way for a very, long time. Well, by that definition, the RC Jamboree held each year at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, is indeed the very embodiment of classic success.

Hosted annually by the Mid-Hudson Radio Control Society (MHRCS,) the 2010 WW1 RC Jamboree celebrated its 44th anniversary and it did so on a picture perfect day. With brilliant cobalt blue skies and hundreds of classic, vintage and WW1 era RC models, this year’s extravaganza was one of the best examples that comes to memory. Starting on Friday, the Jamboree has become a 3-day event and as long as there was enough light, the flying never stopped except for the full-size airshow.

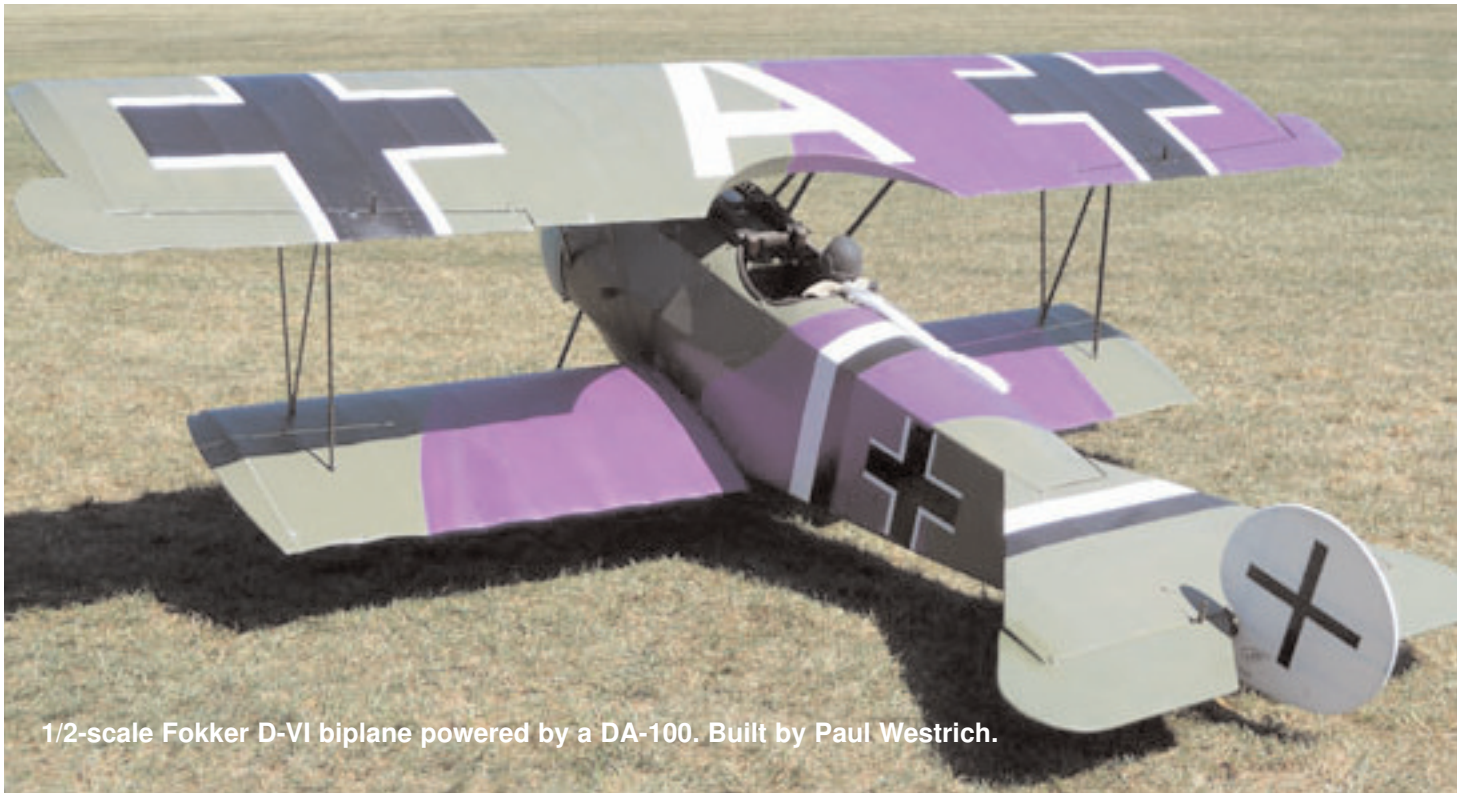
From small electrics and standard size glow-powered models, to gas-burning giants and truly humongous 1/2-scale

monsters, the flightline was filled to the brim with amazing old-time flyers. You could not throw a stick without hitting something really special. When you see it all laid out before you, you can’t help but notice the great diversity in the size and

types of models representing the early days of aviation. By far the most popular is the WW1 era fighters and observation planes. Fokkers, Sopwiths, SPADs, Nieuports and SE5a Scouts were everywhere. Though there were a few



Rich Feroldi's Dr.1 Fokker Triplane



1/2-scale Fokker D-VI biplane powered by a DA-100. Built by Paul Westrich.

ARFs models, the vast majority of planes on the Aerodrome flightline are either kit built or completely scratch built from plans. Several were designed and built from plans drawn and developed by the modelers flying the planes.

From time to time, something really special arrives at the Jamboree but this year, there were several amazing projects that showed up for the weekend. First was Paul Westrich and his amazing 50-percent-scale Fokker D-VI. Powered by a big DA- 150cc twin-cylinder gas engine, Paul's massive German Fighter stood head and shoulders above the other "smaller" 1/3-scale giants. Another monstrous biplane at the



Flightline safety crew.



Keith Zimmerly's 1/3-scale de Havilland DH-4. Big biplane indeed!

event was Keith Zimmerly's newest project a 1/3-scale de Havilland DH-4. With a 15-foot span and being 8 feet long, it was powered by a 100cc gas engine. What was really impressive about the DH-4 (besides its sheer presents,) was that Keith's build it in a meir 5 weeks. He enlarged and modified some 1/4-scale Balsa USA plans and turned out a true beauty that can be setup at the field in only 20-minutes.

Another impressive, and on-going project is a half-scale Fokker D-VIII being assembled by Tom Kosewski. This amazing piece of craftsmanship is



museum-scale throughout, including steel-tube construction and exact scale dimensions. From the cables and turnbuckles, to the engine cowl attachment and all the

bracketry, Tom has reproduced a true work of art. It is actually a real shame that to finish his project, he'll have to cover up most of its finely reproduced details. Not to



be out done in scale appearance, if not all out size, Jim Lloyd brought his nicely done 1/6-scale Avro Type-4 triplane.

With delicate spoked wheels and an open triangle shaped superstructure his triplane looked like it jumped out of the

2010 Jamboree Winners

Best of Class

Civilian
Doug Pierce Stampe

WW1
Paul Westrich Fokker D-VI

Spirit of Rhinebeck
Ray William Vickers Gunbus

First Place
Ted Zadlo Morane Saulnier AI

Best of Show
Mitch Epstein Waco YMF-5

old Hollywood classic, "Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines."

Quarter-scale seems to be the standard size and there was a huge collection of 'regulars' flying at this year's extravaganza. People from all across the country and even north of the border, came to have fun this year at the aerodrome, Top Gun judges Bob Curry and Lee Henderson were on hand as well as Nick Zirola Sr., who drove up from Maryland. Also on hand was his own



scratch-built, fully functional Gnome 160 rotary engine was Ray Williams! A true work of art, Ray's engine is fully throttlable and spins a humongous pusher prop for his A

giant 1/3-scale Vickers F.B.5 Gunbus. This amazing RC flying machine has a wingspan of 144 1/2 inch and a length of 107 1/2 inches. If you heard this thing

running, you could not tell it from the full-size! Of course with the help of an electric starter, it was a whole lot easier to start the model engine, than the full-size ones!

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Electric SE5a Scout



Tom's 50% scale Fokker D-VIII



If you have never been to this magic place called the Old Rhinebeck aerodrome, you are missing out on one of life's greatest experiences. Whether you are a modeler, a aviation nut, or just want to bring the family to a fun place to be, be sure to mark the 2nd weekend in September on your calendar for 2011. You'll be glad you did it! See ya next time, I know I'll be there with all the rest...