

# Pilot Briefing

Volume 3 Issue 1

January 2011



## Upcoming Events!!!

**Jan. 8 Frost Fly 9AM Red Wing Field– (rain date– 1/15)**

**Jan. 10 Next Meeting** -7 PM Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church

**Jan. 14 Holiday Dinner**-PUMC info to come

**Jan. 22 Scale Building Seminar– 10AM-5PM PUMC**

**Jan. 24 Board Meeting** 7PM PUMC

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## President's Corner

As I look back over this past year I think this club rebounded pretty well with the loss of our long time Hopewell field. While everyone will probably agree that the Red Wing field will never be a replacement for Hopewell, it is still not a bad place to fly, and the Wallkill field did seem to get used more this year than it did in the last 2 years. This coming year MHRCS will still have both fields and I think it will be another good year for this club.

There will be a need to do some work in the spring on the Red Wing field (seeding) and a good rolling but other than that both fields are in good shape overall. There will also be only one sport activity (football) at the Red Wing field next year. The Lacrosse teams have gone back to the fields they used in previous years.

As we go into the New Year there are a few events in Jan. that might be of interest to some members.

Jan 8<sup>th</sup>  
Frost Fly event.  
Red Wing Field at 9am

It will be an unorganized, bring what you have to fly event. We did this a few years back and we had a good turn out. So mark your calendars and keep an eye to the computer if the weather is not looking good.

Jan 14  
MHRCS Holiday Party  
Dinner will be at the United Methodist Church.  
John Philbrick will be taking reservations

A formal note should go out soon.  
Jan 22  
Building Seminar at the United Methodist Church  
Start time 10am

Snow date is the 29  
See the flyer on the MHRCS web site for more information.

As this will be the last news letter for this year I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holidays and see you next year.

Warren Batson  
MHRCS President

# Scale R/C Aircraft Building Techniques Seminar

January 22, 2011 – 10AM

(Snow date – January 29, 2011)

## Featured Guest Speakers

**Roy Vaillancourt** (Vailly Aviation)



**AND Dave Wigley** (Mr. Top Gun 2010)



Join the **Mid-Hudson R/C Society** in welcoming two of the hobby's Master Builders & Scale Competitors presenting this Seminar. Whether you like scale modeling for fun or competition you'll have an opportunity to interact with these experienced scale modelers and serious competitors.



## Topics up for Discussion:

- ❖ Wood Sheeting
- ❖ Fiberglassing Wood Structures
- ❖ Finishing with Epoxy
- ❖ Panel Lines
- ❖ Rivets
- ❖ Weathering
- ❖ Introduction to Scale Competition & Contestant Considerations
- ❖ And more...

So bring along a camera, note book, or an unfinished subject that you have questions about. The idea here is to have some mid-winter fun with other scale enthusiasts where we can all share the knowledge! This is applicable to all R/C scale aircraft, Military or civilian from any era – no model is too big or small. The Seminar will progress in approximately one hour long segments **starting at 10:00 AM** and continuing into the afternoon. There will be a 1 hour break from 12:00 to 1:00 PM and **no charge for admission!**

### Location:

Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church  
Recreation Hall  
2381 New Hackensack Road (RT. 376)  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

### Contacts:

Bob Allen - Seminar coordinator  
(845) 473-5611 or email [allen24@optonline.net](mailto:allen24@optonline.net)  
Roy Vaillancourt – Guest speaker  
(631) 732-4715 or email [vaillyav@optonline.net](mailto:vaillyav@optonline.net)

Visit the Mid-Hudson R/C Society website ([www.mhracs.com](http://www.mhracs.com)) for directions and updates

## A RTF B 29 conversion by Rick Rizza



### A RTF B 29 conversion:

This began as a differential thrust controlled B 29 model from some no name Chinese factory that I bought on eBay. These models are easy to find there if you search "electric radio control airplanes" and they generally will cost about 50 dollars, either 99 cents plus BIG shipping or 40 dollars and reasonable shipping. Either way, you get a complete foam and plastic model with 4 brushed motors, battery and controller. But any pilot knows differential thrust is not a good way to control an airplane, so I removed the supplied electronics and installed a GWS mini receiver and a small speed control. The tail surfaces are modified by cutting away the elevator and rudder and I hinge them with CA type hinges and foam safe glue. The elevator halves have to be connected with a piece of stiff wire bent to shape and epoxied across the fuse. On mine, there is a plastic fitting in the fuse for assembling the tail which has to be notched to accommodate the elevator joiner wire. Rather than separating the fuse halves and struggling with interior mounted servos I simply cut the foam fuse along the back and installed them there with a touch of soft glue. Dubro micro pushrods and control horns are used. The first one I built I left the wheels off and hand launched. I decided to install the wheels, including the non-steerable nose wheel as I planned to mainly fly it with my Sunday morning group which flies off a paved school parking lot, and I enjoy ROG. I found that if you taxi moderately fast the rudder effectively turns the model on the ground.

In flight, the model is quite controllable. I had to add 2 ounces of lead to the nose to get a balance point around 1/3rd back on the wingspan. Because it originated as a 2 channel model there is a fair amount of dihedral built in, and in flight the dihedral is enhanced so it is well suited to rudder only turning. 4 motors turning and burning is a lot of fun and it sounds great at the field. And I have my own model B 29! Mac Hodges, eat your heart out! LOL. Ignore the decals. The Chinese don't know the difference between a B 29 and a B 52!

## Batteries— by the Editor

In the August 1010 issue of Model Aviation, Don Apostolico had an article titled Defensive RC flying. In the article, he attributes battery failure as the “second leading cause of crashes outside of pilot error.” He recommends redundant batteries and proper load-testing of batteries before and after each flight. An additional action may be worth considering as well.

At recent MHRCS meetings Warren and Whitney have made presentations on A123 battery packs. At the December meeting Warren mentioned that he was moving to putting A123 batteries in his transmitters as well as in his planes. I don't know how many of you have strayed from NiCad's, but the change can be a bit daunting. That is especially true if you have not had any problems with NiCad's. The old saying ' If it ain't broken don't fix it' tends to haunt you when you consider a change. But technology does change and offer new benefits. I am certain that the computer that assisted Neil Armstrong in the lunar landing in the summer of 1969 won't be loaded on the next manned lunar flight when it happens. With future of nicads in some doubt, and the potential fire danger of LiPo's it might be time to test the water of A123 battery packs.

In an e-mail Whitney offered the following:

“For those of us that are not into soldering up our own packs, I recommend Hangtimes Hobbies as a source for A123 receiver packs. Warren, Dad and I are using them quite successfully in our GS planes and even some of the smaller ones. FAM makes two great chargers that allow balancing and Hangtimes has a FAQ on how to use these packs with your current radio switches.

[http://www.hangtimes.com/a123\\_packs.html](http://www.hangtimes.com/a123_packs.html)  
Whit”

Bill Lederer offered:

“I have been using DeWalt A123 battery packs for a number of years. Periodically I balance them with this:

[http://www.atsrcplanes.com/lba10\\_cell\\_balancer.htm](http://www.atsrcplanes.com/lba10_cell_balancer.htm)

Then I charge them with my old Triton charger, using this:

<http://www.slkelectronics.com/lipodapter/index.htm>

There are a lot of new equipment available now, but these work fine for me.”

By the time this newsletter is distributed, I plan to have a couple of A123 packs and a compatible charger in my hanger. Be sure to do your own research on the topic. But, considering the endorsement given by those club members mentioned above and from what I have read on the topic, I think it is time to retire a couple of my older nicad packs. Ok, so I discovered that a package arrived in the mail and peeked before Christmas....It was a charger.... Then I got these e-mail messages....

It's not Christmas yet!! Please return to Santa immediately at the following address:

Santa

C/O Whitney

Pok, NY

And another—Have a good holiday Oh, I forgot you already did, LOL Little boy

I am so glad to be associated with all of you wonderful friends, who like me,  
NEVER LEFT TOY LAND! May God Bless you and your family this Christmas Season.

CAVU till next time.... Ron