



Jan - Feb - Mar
Editors:

2001
Jim Devlin - Tim Ellis

2001 ELECTION RESULTS

December 8th was the night of the Flying Knights Annual Christmas Party for the year 2000.

Traditionally this is the night that we elect a new slate of officers and board members to serve the upcoming year.

This year the meeting seemed to be going extremely smoothly. Having the usual business quickly dispensed with, the

task of the election began.

With an unsurprising dearth of nominees, it became increasingly evident that the present slate of officers were considering continuation in office.

With little fanfare, the membership gave quick approval and a collective sigh of relief.

This was an excellent choice, as the present officers had served in an outstanding manner for the previous year, and the membership felt that they could hardly be improved upon.

So, Ron Partacz and Tom

Filipiak will occupy the offices of President and vice-president for 2001.

Stu Brierly and John Newman continue in the capacity of secretary and treasurer, as well.

In regard to the positions of Board Members, Jim Pravel will continue with his present term. Les Hanks, George Northern and Herb Horni will retire.



They will be replaced by Don Black, Ron Wojcik and Bob Waldraff for the upcoming year.

It was impressive. The election went so quickly that the pizza never skipped a beat.

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One of the factors that played a large part in the desire of our present officers to serve another term had to be the cooperation and support of the membership in carrying out a successful array of events throughout the year.

As Ron said, "Member participation makes his job easy." That sentiment will be echoed by all of the officers and members of the board as our club heads off into the coming year.

Web Update

Our Web site has moved to a new location on the World Wide Web.

Originally designed by Tom Filipiac, who also served as webmaster for the last several years, the site is now being operated by Stu Brierley.

The 'webmaster' is the person who is responsible for maintaining the site.

Anyone with a computer (or access to a computer) can visit the website and peruse the material contained there.

As an example, many of the pictures of our last scale rally are available for anyone to enjoy.

There are sections that tell about the history of our club and lots of links to other club web sites as well as to the AMA.

The new address is:

members.nbc.com/flyknights

Mall Show

This years mall show will be held at the McKinley Mall on March 9,10, and 11th. Last years show was well received by the public.

Of special interest was the Delta Dart program. This is a "hand's on" building program where club members interface directly with young people who show an interest in aviation.

It is an excellent expression of cooperation between the mall, the club and the public.

Parents and children alike share quality time in building the small models. Watching a child's eyes light up when he or she sees the model that they themselves built, actually fly is a most rewarding experience.

Mall shows provide an opportunity to show off the planes that we have worked hard on during the winter season.

The show is also an excellent forum for educating the public favorably about our hobby.

Often the display contains a unique theme exhibit, such as Tom Filipiac's perennial WWII presentation complete with period sounds.

Plan on putting that special plane of yours on display along with the rest of your club members and help make the 2001 Mall Show the best in our history.

TOP AWARDS GIVEN OUT

Somewhere between the pizza and the cookies, Stu Brierley took center stage with the presentation of a couple of prestigious awards.



Our silver tongued emcee described the super human efforts that must be met to qualify for these high honors.

The first was given for a feat that takes superb coordination and an excellent perception of depth, qualities that define the stature of the best RC pilots.

This award is presented each year to that one flier whose feat of daring-do verges on the brink of the impossible, often resulting in a spectacular and instantaneous reduction of a fine airplane to a

tangled fur ball of wooden shards.

However, one of our members, and only one had the nerves of steel and the eye of an eagle to have succeeded where so many before him had met with failure.

The object is to thread your airplane through the wires at the North Collins site, something that Stu himself, claims to have attempted but never accomplished.

Like the Stanley Cup of Hockey, this year's "**Scud**" award was presented in absentia to Les Hanks, who in a 'senior moment' partially threaded his airplane through the aforementioned wires.

New for 2K

The second award is new this year.

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Awestruck champ



Giant Plane Man

A few years ago, many of us watched in amazement as a huge DC-3 lumbered down the runway at the Nike Site.

Gracefully, under the expert hand of pilot, Bill Eberhart the giant bird lifted into the air and entered the downwind leg.

Shortly into the flight, something went wrong and the flight ended prematurely.



Yet, for those few moments, all of us who watched could reach back into our memories to the world of long ago, when the piston engine was king and the venerable DC-3 was the reigning queen of the

airways.

Where did this beautiful re-creation of past glory come from?

Basement hanger

To discover more we need to enter the hanger of Bob Rodgers, a life member of the Flying Knights of Hamburg.

Bob is a master builder and has built many of the great aircraft from the classic and war years that we are all familiar with.

Bob began his fascination with aircraft as a young boy in Arizona. His brother and he worked several nights a week at the local bowling alley setting pins, (if any of you are old enough to remember when bowling alleys had to have their pins set).

They then took their earnings and bought the latest in model engines.

Bob recalls that he would build the models with his two older brothers and then his oldest brother would fly the planes and smash them.

This does not sound like a good sibling relationship.

Railroads too

Bob never lost his attraction for aircraft but somewhere along the way an equal fascination with railroading appeared.

In the rear of his home in

Orchard Park, he constructed an outdoor model railroad that would make any serious railroader envious.

The tracks wander through a scenic wonderland composed of a pond and surrounded by artificial hills of vegetation.

Every spring, Bob sets up the rails, and neighborhood children as well as his own seven grandchildren come to watch the trains as they puff their way around the tracks.

This display alone is well worth a visit.

Building frenzy

But the real story here is the seemingly endless construction of gigantic aircraft. One can expect to see one or more of these huge

models on display at any regular members meeting.

Bob does all of his model building in the basement of his home. The bones of numerous models yet unfinished hang from the ceiling and rest on several large tables

Every Monday night Bob works on the models, often into the wee hours of the morning. He estimates that he spends about 20 hours a week on airplanes.

Over the years, a number of Knights have joined Bob on his building sessions.

On any given Monday night one could find the likes of Jim Landis, George Gard and Anthony Lopez working late into the evening.

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Frequent visitors also included the late Ray Barren and John O'Connell.

Builders welcome

Bob's door is always open for anyone who would like to put in some quality building time.

His address and phone are listed in our club roster.

At the moment Bob estimates that there are 18 aircraft under construction or built. Among these are a six foot Folker DR-1, a 141 inch B-29 bomber and a 101 inch A-26 attack aircraft.

Also in the works are a 101 inch P-61 Black Widow, two 101 inch B-25 fighter-bombers and two 111 inch Piper Cubs.

Presently, Stu Brierley, Frank Shattuck and Hugh Spears are working with Bob on a huge twelve foot DC-3.

The two B-25's are 1/8 scale and weigh 36 pounds. They are powered by two Quadra 42's and feature retractable landing gear.

The B-29 has a target weight of 35-40 pounds and will be

powered by 4 OS- 91 4-stroke engines. It features a Century retract gear.

What's next?

The equipment list for these aircraft reads like a modeler's wish list, so, you might ask what Bob does for a paying job? Well, he spends the remaining 40 hours of the week as a property damage estimator for State Farm.

Oh, and Bob's wife is not a "model widow". She has her own hobbies and is a serious collector of crackle and depression glass.

She and Bob both share in taking care of that outdoor garden railroad in the back yard.

What's next for these giant scale aircraft?

Well, you're sure to see one or more of them at our upcoming McKinley Mall Show.

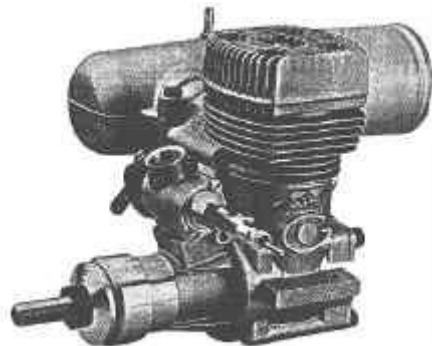
Bob's plan is to have four of them flying at the same time this coming summer.

Also, in the wings, (no pun intended), for this summer season, is the huge B-29.

I'm looking for a good used engine for an upcoming project.

75-90 size 2-stroke

Call Dave Kobie 337-0342



2001 dues are due !

Our Treasurer wants to remind you that Membership Dues MUST be received BEFORE February 2, 2001 or **you will be dropped from the Club Membership Roster.** Please use the form to renew your membership in the Flying Knights.

2001 DUES RENEWAL FORM (PLEASE PRINT)	
NAME _____	AMA # _____
ADDRESS _____	R___ J___ L___
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE # _____ - _____ - _____	\$ _____ . _____

RETURN TO:
John Neuman
45 Columbus Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14220

Regular.....\$30.00
Junior\$25.00
Lifetime.....\$20.00
Make check payable to:
The Flying Knights

INCLUDE:

*** Copy of 2001 AMA card**
***This form**
***Your payment**

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As Stu painfully explained, several of the knights delved into the art of night flying, wherein one attaches a glowing tube to the leading edge of the models wing.

Unknown Flying Object

Actually it is a beautiful sight as the illuminated aircraft wends its way through the darkened sky.

The plane is perfectly visible. Alas, that's not the problem.

Nothing else is visible!

Like, "Where did that \$%#*&^ tree come from?"

Well, you guessed it. Ron Partacz's *plane thonked into the tree along the edge of the Nike Field, and there it sot, till dawn and the start of the Scale Rally.

Perhaps, the glowing tubes should have been placed on the tree instead.

The 'Zagi in the tree' award was won, hands down, by Ron Partacz.

*unfortunately it wasn't Ron's plane, but Stu Brierley's...amazing how long it kept glowing though....