



Oct-Nov-Dec
Editor:

2003
Jim Devlin

Weather 'Reigns' Over Rally

The more money the weather forecasters spend for fancy models of the weather the worse their predictions seem to become.

Early in the week everything looked great for a tremendous scale rally. But as the week end drew nearer, the forecast got gloomier.

Saturday was predicted to be a washout, but turned out not to be so bad. Sunday was predicted to be not so bad and it turned out to be a washout. Add to that scenario, the broken bridge and the detour of Lake View road traffic to distant parts and you have a recipe for disaster.

No matter how much effort the club was able to put into the 2003 Rally, the odds were stacked against us.

All our members did a superb job of getting the rally on. Saturday, brightened quickly and pilots took to the air in a flying frenzy.

The weather improved to the point where it was ideal for model flying. Winds were mild and the temperature was excellent. A somewhat overcast sky stayed with us all afternoon.

The flyers took advantage of the conditions and flew almost



The planes of Saturday

continuously. Even the famous lawnmower put in an appearance.

The food tent did a brisk business, but spectators were notably absent compared to prior years.

As always, the end of the day saw the customary drawing of the prizes for the fliers.

A number of manufacturers had donated gift certificates and products to the rally.

Combined with the prizes contributed by the Flying Knights, it made the rally very rewarding for our guest fliers. Everyone went home with something.

The annual Fliers supper was an outstanding success. So many good things were brought in.

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Summertime, Summertime...

This year the Knights hosted four club picnics. These all took place at our field in North Collins.

Due to the influence of the cold wet early summer that had descended upon Western New York, our very first fly-in was postponed due to wind and rain.

However, on the following week, about a dozen or so knights gathered at the NC field. It was a great day for both flying and picnicking.

Long time member Kevin McCormack turned up and displayed his special brand of aerodynamics. Ron Wojic, our erstwhile president applied his talents to the grill and really put it through its paces.

The hot dogs were excellent and the all of the different dishes brought in were a perfect complement for our afternoon dinner.

The following month of July, the club again hosted this event and as in June, the members who came out had



Ron pilots the grill at North Collins

a tremendous time.

The attendance at the picnics is usually somewhat marginal and composed of a dozen or so of the samo, samo members.



Casual Sunday afternoon flight line

It would be great to see the new and younger crowd out at these events.

There is plenty of room in the sky and there is more than enough food. Dogs and drinks are free.

The club's decision to host four picnics this year appears to be a good one.

The casual atmosphere is a great way to get more members talking and flying together.

Often new members don't really know who's who in the club. A picnic provides an informal venue.

A strong breeze coming across the field made for difficult take-offs and landings. The grass seemed to have sprouted an extra inch for the occasion, also creating a difficult

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The families of the knights are to be congratulated for an excellent presentation of food.

No guest went away hungry.

The weather held on into the evening and those with juice left in their batteries continued to enjoy an ideal evening.

Not so, on Sunday.

Promptly at 10 a.m., Herb Horni presented the national anthems of Canada and our own great land.

Before the last notes had faded, the mist turned to drizzle.

Many of the fliers, apparently anticipating the worst, had already left, leaving the field to only the most stalwart.

In fact, only one flight got off the ground all morning.

The skies opened up and a steady drizzle

became the norm.

A few intrepid pilots hung in during the morning, while the knights wandered aimlessly about from tent to tent and shelter to shelter.

Only the hot coffee and fresh donuts helped to ease the gloom of a dreary day.

Around noon our CD and club prez jointly threw in the towel and yielded the field to the geese and the rain.



Rain, rain, go away, come back some other day.

Christmas Party

**Friday
December 12**

**Vote for
Officers**

Feedback

Many members have stories about aviation that would be of interest to the rest of the club.

Senior members have lots of hints and kinks about modeling, ideas that would make things easier for old and new members alike.

Don't keep this good stuff to yourself.

Tell us about your favorite model or your best flight.

We'll be glad to accept and print your articles.

Member's comments and concerns are always welcome.

North Collin's Corn Maize

In the Town of Hamburg, over on Route 20, there exists each fall, a rather spectacular field of corn.

It is filled with a labyrinth of pathways that twist and turn in a most convoluted manner.

For a few bucks one can wander through the corridors of this extensive acre of tall green.

You can even take a GPS unit (Global Positioning System), into the maize with you as you traverse the winding paths and endless dead ends.

But, even such modern technological tools are of little help, as the tight swirls and loops are within the limits of accuracy of such devices.

Well, not to be outdone, our president, Ron Wojic, tested our a-maizing skills by planting his model smack dab in the middle of the corn field that borders the flying field.

A number of the knights immediately disappeared into the tall green wall, in the general direction of the last sighting of the doomed aircraft.

Jim Devlin, quickly dragged out his GPS unit, but failed to get a good fix on the direction of the lost aircraft.

But not to be deterred, by such a small error, he too vanished into the stand of waving leaves.

Time passed as these adventurous souls slid back and forth along the corridors and openings between the sturdy stalks of corn.

Gazing down along the length of the rows they remained ever alert for the tell-tale flash of color that would signify the location of the hapless model.

Seldom did any cross paths, yet in utter corn-fusion wandered back and forth, round and round.

Jim with his erstwhile GPS, marked a number of waypoints so that he did not have to cover the same area twice, but was no luckier than any of the rest in discovering the remains of the plane.



Latitude 42:00.43 N Longitude 80:00.24 W

Strange how much alike every inch of corn looks like every other inch of corn. After an Irish war dance lasting half an hour, suddenly, a miracle!

Among the waving tassels, someone stumbled upon the bones of the downed aircraft, bringing the whole torturous exercise to a grinding halt.

The ordeal ended with all but one member accounted for and Ron showed up with his model held high in triumph. Meanwhile, Jim Devlin, his eyes glued to the GPS screen and oblivious to the ensuing success, wandered back and forth along the endless rows.

Fortunately, the aroma of hot dogs cooking on the grill wafted

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Thinking Outside the Box an editorial

Two things came together this year to severely impact the seed money that we have come to expect from our rally.

This is money used to underwrite the rally for the up coming year.

1. The Thruway Bridge repairs re-routed traffic on Lake View Rd. so that it missed our rally all together
2. The Sunday rain wiped out the entire day's proceeds.

The seed money includes the raffle model, fliers's postage, flier's prizes, food and drinks, john rental / cleaning and so forth.

It has been proposed that the club take some of the profits of past years, i.e. the future field fund, and cover the shortfall for next years rally.

So far, so good. Proposal # 2 addresses that problem.

What's surprising is that certain club expenses seem to tangled up in the rally ruckus.

It has remained somewhat obscure just how the rally problem ties into the day to day operation of the club.

Postage has certainly gone up.

Club field mowing has increased dramatically.

The immediate response was to submit Proposal #1 which would instantly increase the member assessment to \$40.

Up from \$20, that's a 100% increase!

Last year, (a good rally year), our day to day expenses seemed to be contained. Is it possible that we were letting the rally carry the club?



Suddenly, in one bad year, our "day to day" expenses are out of hand?

When the assessment was first proposed, it was originally attached to the annual dues to cover the expenses of the NC field mowing and the postage used by the club for meeting mailings and club newsletters.

Several other expenses have indeed crept in over the years.

For example, the trailer needs to be stored somewhere.

That costs \$270 each year. Taxes on the NC field run \$290 per year. We need to pay the taxes.

Newsletter and meeting mailings run about \$256 for the year.

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across the tops of the stalks and following the scent, he too, soon appeared.

Let it be known by one and all, that the famous maize of Hamburg may

have many stories to tell, but there's probably not a kernel of truth to any of them.

But the singular tale of the maize of North Collins on that fateful day in 2003 will long live in history.

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take-off situation for a number of models.

But the temperature was great and not a raindrop in sight. The food seemed to taste especially good and everyone enjoyed a fine sampling of dishes brought to pass.

This years club picnics must be given a high five. Those who took advantage of them had a fantastic time, with many memories shared.

Next year can't come soon enough.



Let's get flying guys!

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The most dramatic increase of all, is the NC field mowing. It is now pegged at a whopping \$1300 / year.

Increasing the assessment may be warranted, but cannot some of these costs be contained.

Whilst wandering about in the cornfield and keeping one's ears open a number of thoughts were overheard.

Here are some of the thoughts.

- **Maybe we've too many bells and whistles.**
- **Maybe our field mowing is too steep.**
- **Maybe we've too many freebies.**
- **Maybe our donations are too generous.**

We want to have Pizza and pop at the Christmas party. Maybe we should settle for cookies.

Originally the Christmas radio was an incentive to increase attendance through out the year by offering a ticket to each member simply for attending a meeting.

That brings up the meeting cards.

Do we really need to tell each member about the next meeting. We give away an expensive radio as an incentive. We have roll-over raffles.

Everybody gets a schedule of meetings for the year. Yet the same people come to every meeting.

Could we use the phone tree? It has

the advantage of being free. So is email. Maybe a combination might work.

Is an increased assessment going to make people come to the meetings if they aren't coming now?

Currently we pay \$270 for storing the trailer. No member should store it for free, but perhaps a member might do it for half the amount we now pay.

The old-timers remember the field mowing schedules and how difficult it was to get out to the field on your day to push by hand the club mowers.

Overheard....

1. There may be other mowing services less costly.

2. A riding mower costs less than one year's mowing cost.

There's a big difference between sitting on a mower for a hour, than pushing 2 hand mowers around the field for 2 hours. With a riding mower, even a voluntary mowing team is not out of the question.

Something to think about.

Perhaps more time should be spent "looking before leaping".

A point to consider:

As with school budgets and city councils, voting for an increase in cash flow eliminates the pressure to find a cure to the problem.
