

Experimental Aircraft Association A Haven for Modern Wright Brothers

by Charles Waelde

The Oswego County chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association got together on Monday, March 12, at the Crosby Hill home of chapter president Ray Ball to discuss their most unusual hobby of building airplanes. No, not plastic models, and not those motor-driven craft that you can fly in circles over a field by remote control, either, but real honest-to-goodness aircraft.

The meeting was held mainly to keep up with current FAA (Federal Aviation Agency) regulations and to follow the progress of local residents on their current projects. The 28 members in the chapter share a common interest in aviation as most of them are either amateur pilots or mechanics.

The EAA itself is comprised of over 400 such chapters and 50,000 members. Founded by a group of aviation buffs in Wisconsin twenty years ago, the organization now encompasses not only the United States, but also foreign countries including Great Britain, France, Australia, Canada, and Japan. Its purpose is to provide for an exchange of ideas between people interested in amateur or home-built aircraft, in effect anything not constructed in a factory. The EAA also works in conjunction with the FAA to insure the safety of equipment and operators before the small craft are allowed to fly.

The Oswego County chapter, headquartered in Fulton, is a little over two years old, having been started in the autumn of 1970. Its members own over a dozen completed EAA-type planes and around the same number of commercial craft, with a half dozen planes in the process of being built right now.

There are two categories of aircraft in this organization: exhibition and sports. The first classification applies to those planes built just to perform stunts or appear in air shows, like the National Air Show held in Oshkosh,

Wisconsin every year. To fly to the site of a show, a special permit is needed, as well as one to fly in the show. The second classification, meanwhile, pertains to those planes flown for pleasure usually in short jaunts of ten to fifty miles. These planes can be flown in and out of local airports and have access to municipal airports if they are instrument controlled. A special permit to fly is not required in this class.

After a plane is inspected and certified to be safe, the pilot may take it up for practice flights within 25 miles of his home airport; he is eligible to receive his air worthiness license after 75 hours of flying the craft without any major problems.

Many enthusiasts build their own planes not only for enjoyment but to save money, too. The cost of an experimental craft varies between \$500 and \$10,000 with the average being in the neighborhood of \$2,000. A builder can also figure to spend roughly 1000 manhours of labor on one plane over a three-year period unless, of course, he has lots of help. The size of his creation is limited only by his pocket book and ambition.

Most experimental planes are biplanes with a wingspan falling in the ten to fifty foot range and a slightly shorter fuselage. The plane is constructed of aluminum tubing (fuselage) and wood (wings). For the most strength and least weight, straight-grained Sitka spruce, Ponderosa pine or fir is used in the wing structure, as well as mahogany or birch plywood. The frame is then covered with a fabric made of linen, cotton, or synthetic material.

Power is supplied by an automobile or airplane engine usually in the 65 to 100 horsepower range. After installation of this piece of equipment the plane weighs 300 to 800 pounds, or a little

less than the factory-built counterparts. There may be one to four seats depending on the desired use of the craft. Air speed may reach 150 m.p.h. with a capability of flying up to 200 miles at a time.

Perhaps one of the more interesting projects of the group is that being supervised by Dick Lane,

an instructor at Auburn High School. His students are currently constructing a "Fly Cycle" eleven feet in length with a 13½-foot wingspan. When finished, the pilot will straddle the fuselage on a tractor-type seat and fly at speeds of 30 to 75 m.p.h. A Volkswagen engine has been installed on the

year-and-a-half old model which is scheduled to fly in May or June. A pilot for 27 years, Lane is also vice-president of the local EAA.

If you feel courageous like one of the Wright brothers, why not give Ray Ball a call at 592-7043, or Dick Lane can be reached at 593-6290. Happy Flying!



PITTS SPECIAL— This aircraft was constructed by Larry Worell. Designed along lines similar to planes used by the USA World Aerobatic Team, it has been to the annual Air Show in Wisconsin twice.



"IT FLIES GOOD"— Matty Mattison of Hannibal is shown overhauling his Starduster Two, which took two and one-half years to build. A 180 h.p. Franklin engine powers the plane.

Rate Reconsideration Denied Niagara Mohawk

The Public Service Commission last week denied a petition by Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. for reconsideration of the Commission's earlier order denying the company temporary rate relief for gas service.

The Commission noted that the company "continues to argue its 'right' to the temporary rate sought. In addition the Company attempts to substantiate a claim that its financial position requires such relief (but) sets forth no new factual basis upon which this Commission can make a finding that (it) is justified."

Commissioner Edward P. Larkin dissented and Commissioner Harold A. Jerry, Jr. did not participate.

Niagara Mohawk had sought temporary gas rates that would provide \$7,800,000 additional annual revenue as part of a request for a permanent increase designed to provide about \$10.8 million annually. Hearings on that request have been closed.

Niagara Mohawk provides gas service to about 411,000 customers in a territory generally from Hudson north to Glens Falls and from Albany-Troy-Schenectady west to Syracuse and Watertown.

Personals

JOHN WOOLSON was an overnight guest Saturday of Donnie Parkhurst of Lycoming.

SUNDAY DINNER guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Parkhurst of Mexico were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lawson and Amy, Mrs. Alice Pittsley, Penny Pittsley, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pittsley, Donnie Pittsley and Jennifer, all of Oswego.

Channel 24 Director Will Be in Fulton Next Week to Enlist TelAuc Aid

The director of development at WCNY-TV, Channel 24, Syracuse, will be in Fulton March 29 (Thursday) to explain public broadcasting and educational television to Fulton Rotarians and their guests.

Paul C. Hasenplug will be the program guest of Dr. Ray Escher at the Noon meeting in Iroquois Village of Lakeview Lanes, at the end of Phillips street on Route 3.

According to Escher, Hasenplug will also tell about "TelAuc-IV," the annual auction through which operating funds are raised. Escher is co-chairman with wife Peggy in this area.

Escher has urged his fellow Rotarians to bring guests to the luncheon and he advises anyone in the community to come to what he terms a "very interesting program." He says the only reservation necessary is a telephone call to the Lakeview Lanes management at least a day before the luncheon.

The auction will be telecast live May 13 through 19 with merchandise and services donated by merchants and businesses on display. The way it works, viewers are invited to phone their bids to a team of special volunteer operators. After a reasonable amount of bidding time has been allotted, the item is declared sold to the highest bidder.

Dr. Escher and his wife will be urging local merchants to participate in the auction. "The auction format gives merchants an opportunity to gain beneficial on-air

exposure for their products and services while helping public broadcasting with their donations," states Dr. Escher.

Local SAR Team Explains Work's Facets to Sportsmen

The Trailings Sportsmen Club hosted Norm Hayden and Steven Ives of the Pioneer Land Search and Rescue Team on Feb. 28.

A presentation, termed excellent by a spokesman for the Club, was given which included slides of the team in action.

"The Trailings are proud to recognize this fine service organization which is headed by Bart Bartholomew," it was stated.

The sporting club will hold an auction on April 7 at Madden's Auction Service on Emery St., Fulton. Club members say any and all donations will be appreciated. The number to call is 592-9713, or 593-2286 anytime for pick up.

Personals

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE SIMONEAU and Dwayne Hyde of the North Rd. and Francis Sawyer of Lake View Rd., Scriba, spent the weekend in Malone where they attended the ski-doo races.

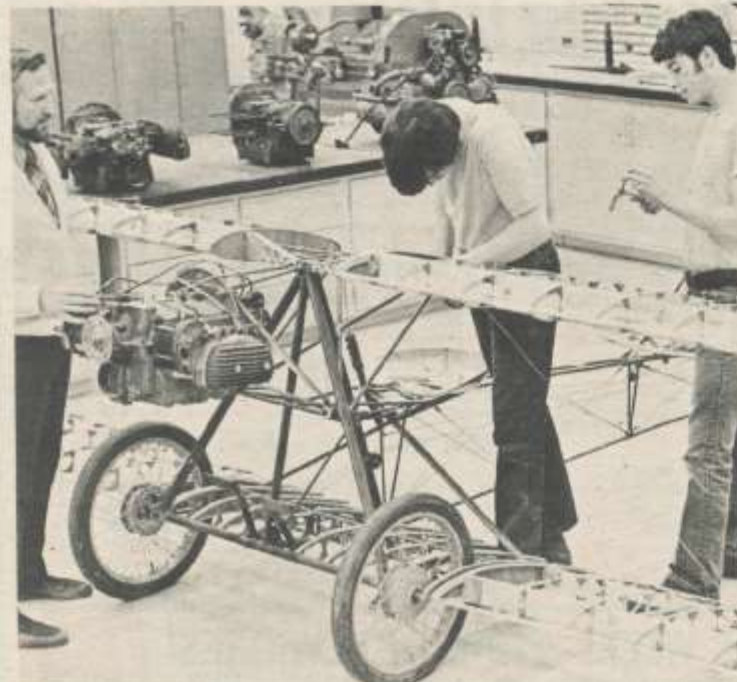
MR. AND MRS. WARD PARKHURST of Shore Oaks Drive were callers Monday of Mrs. Katherine Hyde of Demster.



QUARTER CENTURY MARKED— Congratulations were in order recently as Richard Haven, center, received his twenty-five year service award from John E. Nordgren, sales manager-converting, left, and Burk D. Tassell, vice president-general manager of Black Clawson Fulton Operations. Haven is sales administrator at Black Clawson.



FLIGHT ENTHUSIASTS— Officers of the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association include, l. to r., Joe Demo, treasurer; Ken Meech, secretary; Richard Lane, vice-president; and Ray Ball, president.



EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT— Two Auburn High School students work with Dick Lane (left), vice-president of the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association, on the "Fly Cycle", an eleven-foot long biplane that will be completed this Spring.