



### THE MASTHEAD PLANE

What do we have here? Is it a U-2 with two engines? Close, but no cigar. The Bell X-16 was the result of an Air Force request in 1953 for a high-altitude reconnaissance plane. Bell, Fairchild and Martin initially bid on the project, and Bell and Martin were selected to develop their designs. Martin came up with the winning design, a B-57D. The Bell plane was never completed, though a full-scale mockup was built and the first of 28 planes was almost finished before being cancelled.

The body had a circular cross-section for most of its length, and the wings, spanning 115 feet, had outrigger wheels similar to the B-57. The landing gear consisted of a single nose wheel, and two main wheels mounted on one central gear leg. The plane was powered by two P&W J-57 engines, and was expected to fly three thousand miles at 70,000 feet, doing 550 m.p.h.

When Kelly Johnson, of the Lockheed Skunk Works, heard about this competition, he convinced his boss to let him come up with his own design for the Air Force. That plane, first flown in 1955, became the famous U-2.

This plane, while deceptively simple, would be a challenge for the modeler. The wing-tip retracts along would be tricky. The real problem, though, would be those narrow engine nacelles. The J-57 was not a high-bypass engine, and thus was a skinny beast. Getting enough power out of a pair of scale nacelles would be non-trivial!



## PROPWASH

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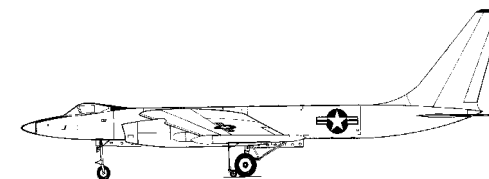
April, 2009

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website <http://detroitaeromodelers.com>

### DOOR PRIZE AND RAFFLE

**Ted Allen** won the door prize, and **Bob Mayhew** won the raffle. Both prizes were gift certificates to **Nankin Hardware & Hobby**. Congratulations, gentlemen!



### FIELD NOTES AND SAFETY

Field marshal **Bobby Harmon** and Safety chairman **Dennis Gazdecki** ask us to remember not only the club rules at the field, but also the rules of common courtesy. If you are doing something that is not allowed, and you get reminded about it by another member, **don't kill the messenger!** The proper response is to say "Thanks!", and fix whatever it is that you're doing wrong. Don't explain, don't protest, just fix it!

The field is in good shape already. We have a new yellow AMA windsock, and Bobby's already got four mole scalps! Bobby asks that you please do not set trash fires in the barrels at the field. It's a pain to clean up, and illegal, to boot.

On another safety note, when the north-south runway is being used, the east-west patterns should not be flown. This was brought up as regards helicopter flights, and will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. Personally, if the helicopters stay well east of the pilot station fence on the north-south runway, I don't see a problem. Please be aware of the potential for a collision, though!

### GIANT AIR SHOW IN AUGUST

The question of whether or not to hold a giant air show in August, as we did last year, was tabled for lack of time (see the article on food fight!). It will be discussed at the May meeting.

## FOOD FIGHT

Every year, at least once, we have a discussion about food at the field. Not whether or not food is a good idea but whether the club should pay for it.

The justification in the past has been that it attracts more pilots to the field. The past five years have conclusively shown that to be false. A second justification has been offered, that it is our money and we can do what we want with it. That one would work, if we had discretionary money to use. We don't. Membership has been slowly but inexorably falling, and primary costs have been rising. There are two major costs required by our constitution. They are field maintenance and publication and dissemination of a monthly newsletter. With the advent of our website, costs of the newsletter are going down. However, field costs are going up, as they have every year for the past dozen years.

In an attempt to "find" the money for the food (\$375) **Mike Cuba** was asked how much had been set aside in previous years for the April Static Display, which went by the boards this year. The idea was to apply that money for food at the field. Mike quoted a figure of \$300 off the top of his head. On looking it up, we spent \$190 in 2007, and \$100 in 2008 on prizes. The \$300 figure came from a much earlier period, when we had more money, more members, more builders and Mike had a better memory!

You know, using the same logic, we could skip building a permanent clubhouse at the field, and we would then have \$50,000 to spend! At any rate, after a long, circular discussion, the club voted not to have free food at the fun flies. **Arden McConnell** then offered a motion that we provide food for the three holidays over the summer flying season. That motion was tabled for the May meeting.

## PRAIRIE PRESERVATION

Partly as a result of budget down-sizing, and partly to preserve the wildlife of the area, "unused" portions of the Rouge Park will be allowed to return to their original prairie condition. In practice, this means they won't be mowing those areas. This should not affect our flying field, and may even provide us with the traditional "tall grass" for initial gliding tests of our smaller models!

## ARCHIVES

Club historian **Bob Mayhew** announced that he now has a complete set of newsletters for the club, dating back to January 4, 1978, when the first issue was printed, edited by **Joe Delaney**. Bob has put together an interesting overview of the club's history, which I would guess will be available on the website sometime in the near future. Did you know our dues were originally \$5 per year. The club was formed in 1974, and was incorporated in 1976.

## FRIENDS OF ROUGE PARK

In addition to our traditional air show for the Rouge Appreciation Day (June 6<sup>th</sup>), the Friends of Rouge Park and the Parks and Rec department are asking us to put on a static display on July 11<sup>th</sup>. This will be part of a group of displays by all the park users.

## EARTH DAY 2009

Earth Day will be April 22<sup>nd</sup> this year. We have been advised that there will be cleanup crews going through the park on that day, so don't be surprised if you see someone policing the area. It might even be a DAM member!

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Jack Jensen** is selling a quarter scale Cub with both a one piece regular wing (108 inches) and a clipped wing, all servos installed, and a 120 four-stroke engine for \$200. He also has a Senior Kadet with a 7 foot wing with ailerons, all servos and a Saito 60 for \$100, and a 60-sized Ultimate Bipe, also with engine and servos, for \$100. Contact Jack at 313-278-4893.

## HELICOPTER AIR SHOW

Helicopter expert **Darrell Bell** has organized a repeat of last year's highly successful helicopter air show. This year it will be held June 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup> at the field.

## VIDEO LIBRARY

**Nick Kyriacou**, our video librarian, presented an idea to the club, that we convert all the VHS format films we have to DVD. This would make the library much more convenient to bring to the meetings, and maybe more convenient to use. The motion was passed. Now maybe we can see more of those films! Nick also asked if anyone has DVDs or VHS tapes they wish to donate to the club.

## NOVICE TRAINING

Flight training for novice members will begin on May 6<sup>th</sup>, and will run every Wednesday from 10 to noon and 6 to 8 in the evening. Look for pilots with the initials PI or TPI on their badges. They are qualified to train you. The club owns several buddy boxes, and they may be able to hook your plane up to one of them for the best possible safety and instruction.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership chairman **Al Zerber** announced we have 78 members as of the April meeting, down about 15% from the same time last year. As of now, a \$10 late fee will be applied to membership renewals for the rest of 2009. **Austin Thomas** is our newest, and probably youngest ever, member. Welcome, Austin!

The AMA has a membership drive going on. They are looking for the District, chartered club, individual member, and hobby shop that signs up the most new members. For clubs, the numbers are prorated based on your club membership for the past three years.

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Grand River & Drake Rd 248-477-6266

#### NANKIN HARDWARE & HOBBY

35101 Ford Rd. 734-722-5700

#### NANKIN HOBBY

33350 Nine Mile Rd. 248-919-0080

#### PROP SHOP

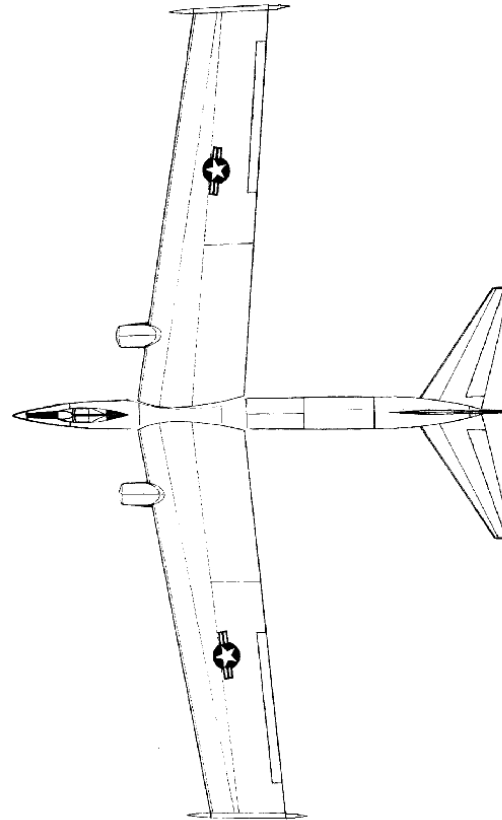
23326 Van Dyke 810-757-7160

#### RIDER'S HOBBY SHOP OF TAYLOR

22789 Northline 734-287-7405

## FUN FLY 2009

**Arden McConnell** has volunteered to be the CD at our regular fun flies, on the third Sunday of each month, May through October. In an effort to bring in some of our less confident pilots, Arden announced that there would be no "tasks" to be flown. Bring what you got, and fly it!



## PROPWASH

31425 Myrna, Livonia, Mi. 48154

**Club meeting at the Redford Community Center**

**Novice training every Wednesday, 10-12 and 6-8 at the field, beginning in May**

5/12	business meeting	7 p.m.
5/17	Fun Fly	noon
6/6	Rouge Appreciation Day	
6/0	business meeting	7 p.m.
6/21	Fun Fly	noon
6/26-8	Helicopter Air show	
7/11	static display	
7/14	business meeting	7 p.m.
7/19	Fun Fly	noon