

THE MASTHEAD PLANE

The masthead plane for this issue looks like it came fresh from the Lockheed Skunk Works, or DARPA. In fact, it was designed in 1945 as an improvement to the Horten Ho-229. The Gotha Go P.60A was powered by two turbojets producing a total of a little over 3500 pounds of thrust. The plane spanned 40 feet, and was 29 feet long, weighing 16,425 pounds max. It would have carried either four 30 mm machine cannons, two 30 mm cannons, or two 30 mm machine cannons and two reconnaissance cameras. There was even a proposal to put a rocket engine in the space between the upper and lower jets to improve time to altitude for the high-altitude interceptor!

The pilot lay on his stomach, looking for all the world like Superman, cruising the night skies! Steering was done with elevons on the inner wing, ailerons on the outer wings, and drag rudders that popped out of the wingtips. One problem was that they couldn't figure out how the pilot could eject from a crippled bird!

For the modeler, this would be a challenging model. There is no vertical fin, unless you want to count the engine nacelles. The front retract is long and spindly, and twin engines are always fun to tune in. On the other hand, I bet this bat would really scoot! For reference, the real plane, of welded steel tube and plywood construction, was supposed to go 570 m.p.h. Thanks to the website, <http://www.luft46.com>, for the information.



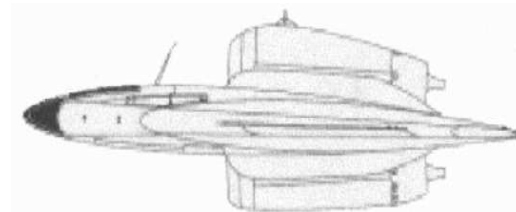
PROPWASH

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Business meeting	3/9	7 p.m.
Business meeting	4/6	7 p.m.
Toledo show	4/10-12	



UP ON A SOAPBOX, PART ONE

Recently at the business meetings, I have been hearing a great deal of "We should do ..." and "We need to do..." followed by a great silence when our president asks for volunteers to implement the plan. I used to belong to a club (not related to R/C) which outlawed those phrases, unless the person speaking was also volunteering to **DO** the things he was talking about! In other words, don't gripe about the situation unless you are willing to take an active part in both formulating and implementing a solution! As an aside, that's how I got the job of newsletter editor. I knew we needed an editor, and I knew that I could do it, so I volunteered. The major perk, from my point of view, is that I can write these Soapbox Editorials when I see a need for them.

Michael Joseph Cuba

DOOR PRIZE AND RAFFLE

There was no drawing for the door prize or raffle at the February meeting. Let it be known that our club has not one, but three members named **Leon**. Apparently, whenever someone named Leon wins the door prize, I assume it is **Leon Ryktarsyk**. **Leon Karpczuk** and **Leon Stein** have been masquerading as **Leon Ryktarsyk**. Next time I ask "Who won the door prize?" be sure to give me Leon's last name, too!

UPCOMING DECISIONS

The February meeting was notable for its lack of members, due to the snowstorm that had just hit the area. As a result, many decisions were tabled until the March meeting. Here are the items of interest.

Static Display Contest. Do we hold one? We won't have the gym for space, so where do we hold it? How about delaying it until May, and holding it (and the meeting) at the field? What planes are eligible? Do we offer prizes?

Annual Banquet. Do we want to continue this tradition? In the last three years, since Sveden House closed, we have tried various other venues, and been disappointed either with the space or the food. Fire Mountain this year was great on both counts. We had a private room, and the food was good, but we had only about twenty members there. If we stay at Fire Mountain, will the attendance at the banquet grow back to something more sizable?

New members. How can we attract more members, especially women and teens? If we do, where will we get the instructors committed to the process?

Special fun flies. We have already scheduled for this summer a helicopter fun fly, an all-electric fun fly, and our big fun fly. We will also be asked, in all probability, to put on an air show for the Rouge Appreciation Day. We need a steering committee to organize events like this. Where are the volunteers? So far, only **Darryl Bell** and **Damon Gaskin** have stepped forward, and we need five or six more people to work with them.

Website usage. Webmasters **Vince Blasky** and **Mike Archangeli** have done a

great job of reconfiguring the DAM website. Now they want to get your ideas for what else should be on the site, and how it should be used.

UP ON A SOAPBOX, PART TWO

The great part of the February meeting revolved around various plans to make the club larger with more active members. I suddenly had an AHA! Moment when I realized that we were all making the same unspoken assumption. **Why does the club need to grow?** We have shrunk from a high of about 250 members to about 100, but that 100 number has remained constant for the last six years or so. Yes, members are aging. Yes, members sometimes drop out due to lack of interest. However, we are replacing members as quickly as they are falling by the wayside.

The primary functions of the club are to provide a place to fly, and to provide camaraderie for those who use the field. It is doing both quite well, thank you. To the objection that only about ten members regularly fly, I would answer that in any club, only about 10% of the members are active. To reiterate, **What could we do with 250 members that we can't do with 100?** If we let this tail wag the dog, we will end up with a club full of people recruiting more members, and the flyers in the club will silently fold their tents and go away.

Michael Joseph Cuba

GUEST COLUMNS AND EDITORIALS

I have a long-standing policy of offering space in the PropWash to anyone who wishes to have their opinions published in a signed editorial, or to write an informative column.

I haven't mentioned it recently, so this is your invitation to submit material for publication. I will edit the material only for spelling, punctuation and libelous remarks. Your thoughts are yours, and if you go to the trouble of sending them to me, I will put them in as you sent them.

Please notice that this also covers a Classified Ads column. If you want to sell (or buy) something, let me know, and it will be in the next PropWash, at no cost.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Tom McNulty, Tim Kirsten and **Mike Cuba** will look over the books and report back to the club.... Sometime real soon now!

DINNER THEATER

Mike Cuba is at it again. He directed and produced a dinner theater murder mystery for the Village Theater in Canton. The show is set in the Twenties, and is the funeral wake/dinner for Vito "The Gut" Marzetti, gunned down while eating his third helping of Moo Goo Gai Pan. His three adult children and his second "trophy" wife have gathered at Ruby's Place, a speakeasy, to figure out who fingered him and where he hid his money. It has had one performance, to very good reviews. The February performance was to a sold-out house! There will be one more performance, March 13th. Ticket information is available at www.spotlightplayersmi.org, or call Mike.

INDOOR FLYING

Jefferson Elementary is no longer available to us for indoor flying. **Nick Kyriacou** announced that the foyer of his wife's dog-grooming business, **You Dirty Dog Pet Grooming**, has made their foyer available to us. We can fly there on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. They are located at 24401 Ann Arbor Trail, three blocks west of Telegraph. I'm told the space is good for helicopters, but any fixed wing model bigger than a Vapor will need more room.

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