

THE MASTHEAD PLANE

The Lavochkin La-168 was designed to fulfill a Soviet government request in 1946 for a single-seat, swept-wing trans-sonic fighter design. Although the La-168 ultimately lost out to the Mig-15, it was, in many respects, the superior plane. Powered by the Rolls-Royce Nene II engine, it maxed out at 670 m.p.h., with a 930 mile range. It carried the same armament as the Mig, 2 23mm cannons and one 37 mm cannon. Pilots preferred its gentler handling characteristics.

So why did it lose out to the Mig-15? The Mig first flew four months before the La-168, using the then-available Nene I engine. Lavochkin decided to wait for the Nene II, which also ultimately powered the Mig-15. About a year into testing, the canopy of the pressurized cockpit collapsed when all three cannons were fired in flight! Finally, it was the bean-counters who prevailed. The La-168 was more complex and expensive than the Mig-15.

For the modeler, this early jet offers no unusual challenges. It has the typical narrow stance landing gear, and the nose wheel is definitely not one for a grass field! Think of the fun you can have at the field, when someone points out that the Mig-15 didn't have a shoulder wing!



PROPWASH

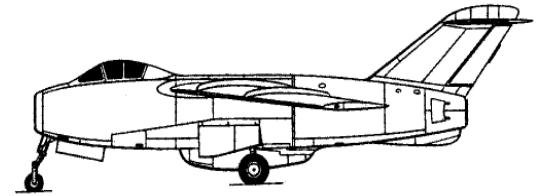
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DOOR PRIZE AND RAFFLE

Dan Walsh won the December door prize, and **Bob Huard** won the raffle, both being gift cards from **Nankin Hardware & Hobby**. Congratulations, gentlemen, and thank you, Nankin!



AUDIT COMMITTEE

The committee for the annual audit was selected (read volunteers were pulled from the ranks!) at the November meeting. **Tom McNulty**, **Tim Kirsten** and **Mike Cuba** will look over the books and report back to the club.

ANNUAL BANQUET

Tim Kirsten has volunteered to organize the annual banquet again this year. We decided, on Tim's recommendation, to hold the dinner at Fire Mountain, located on Warren just east of Wayne Road. Cost will be about \$14.25, and we will have a private room. Please pay Tim at the door, with correct change! The festivities start at 6 p.m. on January 26th, and will include awarding the titles for Most Improved Pilot and Most Valuable Member.

CLUB RECOGNITION

Charles Henry was voted out Most Improved Pilot, and **Darryl Bell** was voted our Most Valuable Member for 2009. Congratulations, gentlemen!

FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

Field Marshall **Dennis Gazdecki** reported that we are planning to replace the bench on the north side of the field, and repaint all the benches and tables this coming Spring.

INDOOR FLYING

Jefferson Middle School is once again the site for our indoor flying on Fridays from 6 to 9 p.m. The only date left this year when the school will be open is the 18th. They have not yet set their 2010 schedule, so we don't know if we will have the room next year, yet.

CONTEST DIRECTOR NEEDED

The club is in need of one or more AMA-recognized contest directors. The process is rather simple. You download the rules book from AMA, then take an untimed, open-book test also available from them. The only other requirement that I know of is that you have run at least one unsanctioned event. C'mon, guys! Didn't you always dream of an untimed, open book test in high school?

EVENT COMMITTEE

Dam is sponsoring a much greater number of events this year than in the past. As such, president **Mark Blair** has called for the formation of an events committee. Their primary function would be to see to it that we don't have to re-invent the wheel for each event. Contact Mark if you are interested in serving on the committee.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership chairman **Al Zerber** reported that we have twenty-three members signed up for the 2010 season so far. Avoid the rush! Join now!

DAM SWAP

Swapmeister **Charlie Thomas** has set the date for our swap as January 17th, nine a.m., at the K of C hall on Farmington just south of Eight Mile. Dealers come in at eight a.m. Cost this year for a table is \$17 (\$20 at the door) with general admission \$5. Call Charlie if you can help with setup, ticket-taking, and/or tear-down.

Business meeting	1/14	7 p.m.
DAM Swap	1/17	9 a.m.
DAM banquet	1/26	6 p.m.

PROPWASH

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