

### THE MASTHEAD PLANE

The masthead plane this month is the Airco DH-4 light bomber. The plane had a bad reputation for burning, since the fuel tank was situated between the pilot and observer/gunner. When it got shot up, the crewmen and fuel tank were a neat little cluster for the Germans to aim at. It earned the nickname "Flaming Coffin" for this tendency. In spite of that, it was considered to be one of the best light bombers of the war, outclassing even the DH-9, which was virtually identical except for fuel tank placement.

As I was researching this plane, I was struck by the similarity to the Bristol F2B, the best two-seat fighter of the war, and by some accounts the best, period. Both planes were introduced in 1917. Both used a liquid-cooled engine, 375 h.p. for the DH-4 vs. 275 h.p. for the F2B. The Airco wingspan was three feet longer, at forty-two feet, and the body was two feet longer. They both carried one fixed forward machine gun and two on a flex mount for the rear gunner. The DH-4 weighed 3,472 lb. and flew at 143 mph, while the Bristol weighed 2,779 lb. and flew at 123 mph.

Note that the DH-4 had an endurance of almost seven hours, while the F2B was a typical fighter, with an endurance of three hours, and the DH-4 was carrying 460 pounds of bombs! Strip out the extra fuel and the bomb load, and they'd weigh the same!



## PROPWASH

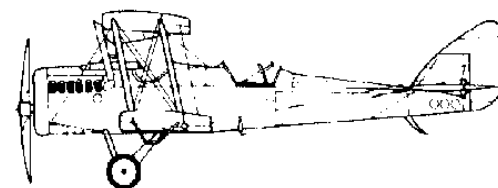
VOL XXXII, No.5      May, 2009

Mark Blair	president	313-534-9634
Ray Piper	vice-president	313-532-7286
Tim Kirsten	secretary	313-565-6093
Robert Huard	treasurer	313-565-5895
Dennis Gazdecki	safety	734-442-3402
Bobby Harmon	field	734-404-6096
Al Zerber	membership	734-427-4872
Ken Goodlesky	at-large	313-584-9182
Ron Wasielewski	at-large	248-991-9336
Charles Henry	at-large	313-926-0961
Mike Cuba	editor	734-522-7638
Charlie Thomas	swap shop	313-565-2973
Bob Mayhew	archivist	313-291-6855
Nick Kyriacou	video archivist	313-277-0908
Vince Blasky	webmaster	248-228-4945
Mike Archangeli	webmaster	313-386-7401

website <http://detroitaeromodelers.com>

### DOOR PRIZE AND RAFFLE

The door prize for the May meeting was won by **Jim Lucas**, and the raffle was won by **Robert Huard**. Congratulations, gentlemen, and thank you, Nankin Hardware & Hobby.



### BUSINESS MEETINGS AT THE FIELD

Our monthly meetings will be held at the field for the next four months. They will still begin at 7 p.m. Rain dates are the following evening.

### GIANT AIR SHOW IN AUGUST

There were no volunteers at the May meeting to CD the air show this August, so it has been provisionally cancelled. If this is unacceptable to you, be sure to come to the June meeting (at the field) and volunteer. Otherwise, no show!

### FOOD FIGHT, PART TWO

Past president **Arden McConnell** proposed at the April meeting that we provide food for the three summer holidays: Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. The motion was tabled at that time, but brought up again at the May meeting. We went through the same discussion we have every time food at the field is proposed... cost and legality of accepting donations. Eventually the motion was defeated.

As an alternative it was suggested that we keep the present procedure going. If you want food at a fun fly or holiday, contact field marshal **Bobby Harmon** ahead of time, and he will get the food. You can pay him at the field. The barbecue will be available for those bringing their own food.

## SHOW AND TELL

**Frank Hansen** brought in a Gremlin, built from plans in the 1992 RCM. After a series of misfires, he got the foam cores from someone in Washington, and floats from this year's Toledo show. The plane is a flying wing with twin fins (no rudders). There is a rudder, but it's a water rudder attached to one of the floats. The plane uses eleven control, and is powered by an OS .40.

## FRIENDS OF ROUGE PARK

**Tom McNulty** has asked for volunteers to help set things up from 8:30 to 9:30 on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, for the Rouge Appreciation Day. If you have a cooler, bring it (with your name on it!)

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.

The members voted at the May meeting to renew our membership in the Friends of Rouge Park. It's fifty dollars well spent!

## INDOOR FLYING

Indoor flying at Jefferson Elementary has been suspended for the summer.

## 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.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership chairman **Al Zerber** reports that we now have 94 members.

### SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOBBY SHOPS!

#### ELECTRODYNAMICS

31091 Schoolcraft 734-422-5420

#### JOE'S HOBBY CENTER

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

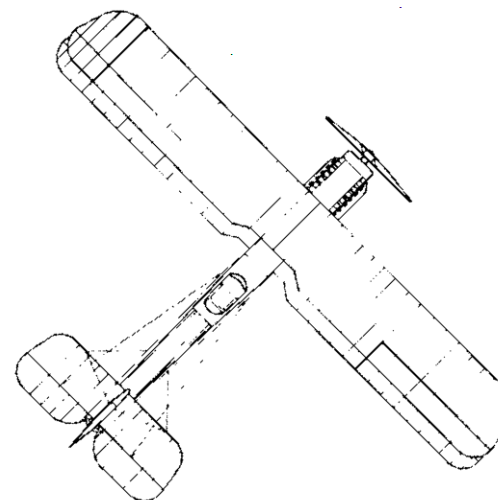
23326 Van Dyke 810-757-7160

#### RIDER'S HOBBY SHOP OF TAYLOR

22789 Northline 734-287-7405

## PROPWASH

31425 Myrna, Livonia, Mi. 48154



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

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