

THE MASTHEAD PLANE

First, let's take another look at last month's masthead plane. As **Mark Blair**, our president, guessed, it was proposed by North American. Using captured German research, they investigated the possibility of using a forward-swept wing and mixed propulsion system. The airframe was based on the P-51, and was powered by an Allison engine and a Westinghouse jet. At the time, wind tunnel tests left too many unknowns to continue development of the plane. Using today's analysis, the wings probably would have ripped off the plane under high G-loads. As far as I know, it was never given a development number (like XP-47), and was certainly never built.

On the other hand, with carbon fiber spars, it might make a very different kind of "scale" plane!

This month's offering is another one of those crazy German ideas that was given much time, money and effort to develop, only to be abandoned in the final year of the war before reaching production (or even prototype construction!). The Focke-Achgelis Fa 269 was conceived as a point defense fighter-interceptor, capable of vertical takeoff and landings.

Like the V-22 Osprey, it used two oversized props that could be rotated from a horizontal orientation to a vertical one. Unlike the Osprey, however, the prop disc rotated down below the wing



PROPWASH

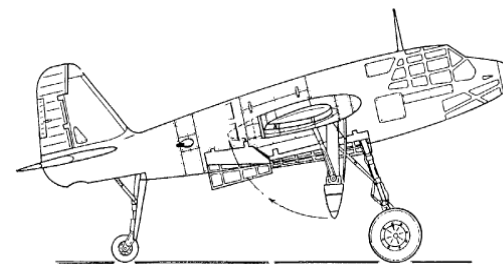
VOL XXXII, No.3 March, 2009

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	248-514-8532
Mike Archangeli	webmaster	313-386-7401

website <http://detroitaeromodelers.com>

DOOR PRIZE AND RAFFLE

Tom McNulty pulled off a perfect double at the March meeting, winning both the door prize and the raffle, both gift certificates from **Nankin Hobby**. Congratulations, Tom. Wanna tell us how you did it?



for vertical performance, and back behind the wing for forward flight. This meant that the plane could not short-field land with the blades at a 45 degree angle. The plane had to take off and land as a VTOL. The other difference was that, unlike the twin-engined Osprey, the Fa269 ran on one centrally mounted air-cooled radial engine. It was estimated that the plane would do 350 mph and carry two 30 mm cannon in the lower nose.

I cannot imagine the modeler brave or crazy enough to try this one! Long-legged retractable landing gear, tilting rotors, one left-handed and one right, and the center of lift in vertical flight significantly below the center of gravity? Give me a break!

AN EVENING WITH HORIZON

The Skymasters club is sponsoring a special Evening with Horizon, featuring three speakers from the company, as well as the owner and founder of Seagull Models. It's at the Ultimate Soccer Arena, 867 South Boulevard, Pontiac. More information is available at the DAM website.

FIELD NOTES

The field is mud-luscious, to quote the poet e e cummings. **Don't drive on it!** We have a new cutting contract, with the same cutters. The price per cut has gone up \$5, to \$160.

NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

At long last, we have a viable website, complete with current newsletters! Webmasters **Vince Blasky** and **Mike Archangeli** waded through the masses of bureaucracy required to get a new domain name, and then completely redesigned the website. Please note that it is now **detroitaeromodelers.com**, where we used to be a "dot org" name. The old site still exists, and there are no markers to send you to the new one.

At about the same time, newsletter editor **Mike Cuba** finally bit the bullet and bought a program to convert his Works files, which apparently only he can read, to PDF files, which can be read by anyone with Adobe Acrobat software, which can be downloaded free from the web.

From now on, all computer-owning members will be able to access the website to see the latest PropWash. Those members who send Mike an email at mikecuba@sbcglobal.net will receive a monthly email with the PropWash as an attached PDF file. Each member who does this will save the club \$6 to \$8 per year on postage and printing, as well as getting the newsletter a few days earlier than the US mail. Given the tighter club finances, I suspect that by next year, there will be a surcharge on your dues if you still want to get a paper copy of the newsletter.

SHOW AND TELL

Vince Blasky brought in his electric indoor Vapor, and was passing around the control box. The only pilots who got into trouble were those who didn't realize that he had the rudder and elevator on the right stick! For a plane with as much lightness added as the Vapor has, it is remarkably easy to fly, and remarkably sturdy when you forget how to fly! Thanks, Vince!

FRIENDS OF ROUGE PARK

Tom McNulty, our representative at FORP, reported that they have asked us to help them again for their Rouge Appreciation Day on June 6 with volunteers to help with the cooking and serving of the food, as well as giving them a good airshow. They are also starting a program to introduce people to the organized activities available in the park, and want us to do a static display, with plenty of members to talk to the people, on 6/11.

DONATIONS

The **Redford Youth Department After School Program** will receive a \$150 donation this year. We will continue annual donations, with the donations rotating among the four groups identified last month by **Tom McNulty**

STATIC DISPLAY CONTEST

In a sign of the times, the static display contest will not be held this April. In the recent past, the number of home-built entries has dropped off so severely that there would not be enough models for a contest. Everyone is flying ARF's! At least that saves the club the money that would otherwise have been allocated for prizes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership chairman **Al Zerber** reports that we have 57 members as of the March meeting. Last year at this time, we had 74. That's a 23% drop. We need to recruit and retain members! Al also reminded us that after the April meeting, there will be a surcharge on renewing membership. We had one new member, **Ron Loken**. Welcome!

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