

Greater Midwest Rotorcraft Club



Monthly Newsletter

In B&W (color version available online)

Members: FREE

June 2006

Editor: Jim Schuler

Next Club Meeting

Date: Friday, June 23rd
Time: 7:30 PM Sharp
Where: Lyons Township Hall

Special Topic(s):

- Report on EAA Pancake Breakfast
- Preparations for Mentone
- Homer Glen Parade

Monster Hangar Build Team Progress Report

We will begin meeting on Thursday evenings starting June 22nd.

This month, the build team continued tweaking the protogyro, including the installation of a trim spring, adjustments made to the steering system and front wheel.

The team also weighed the gyro after the last club meeting, and to some surprise, the machine checked in at 253 lbs. That's right – we actually made an ultralight. There was some debate at the last club meeting as to whether the machine should get N-numbered, but now that we know it's underweight, it should no longer be a concern.

We also performed several center of gravity tests earlier in the month, and the results were all over the place. Two tests were done using Tom's scales, and one was done using digital photographs while hanging the gyro from two different points. The photo method, along with the last scale test showed that the center of gravity is in the middle of the seat just below the thrust line, so we are right where we want to be there.

In the weeks ahead, we will be looking to begin assembling another gyro. Hardware was counted last week and can now be ordered.

Mentone, Mentone, Mentone!

The biggest gyro event of the year, the PRA Annual Convention, is fast approaching and the club has got some big plans. First there will be seminars presented by such well known club members as Tom Milton, Adam Helwich and Nick Costa. Tom will be discussing fuel systems, and Nick and Adam will be discussing the monster hangar gyro, a project that has caused quite a stir in the gyro community – so much so that none other than Greg Gremminger himself requested the presentation to be made at this year's convention.

Also, there are plans in the works by more than a couple club members to *fly* to this year's *fly*-in, imagine that! If you are interested in joining the PRA 18 Armada for this historic flight, come to the next meeting so we can talk about it! We're also going to need ground support, so even if you aren't interested in flying but would still like to be a part of the fun, there is plenty to be had.

At the next meeting we'll have a show of hands of who is planning to attend the convention this year and when so we can work out possible transportation and lodging sharing. So, July 19th through the 22nd make plans to head east for some rotorcraft fun. For more detailed info as to the location of the Mentone Airport, check out www.pra.org, or just ask someone who's been there.

Article by Adam Helwich

Oshkosh Trip

Joe Mahr is heading up a bus/van trip up to Oshkosh once again this year. Oshkosh runs from July 24th through the 30th, and as usual, we'll be heading up there during the week to avoid the huge weekend crowds. The plans are not yet final, so if you're interested in coming along either talk to Joe at the next meeting or call him at (630) 325-0505. This is always a fun time and there is no better place in the world to take in every aspect of aviation.

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Adam Helwich
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Secretary
Nick Costa
(708) 296-4489

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Dick Wunderlich
(815) 838-0450

Homer Glen Parade

As you may have noticed, the June club meeting was changed from Saturday the 24th to Friday the 23rd. The last minute change was made because the club will be represented in the Homer Glen Independence Day Parade in Homer Glen, Illinois on Saturday, June 24th. That's right, 157 years ago this Saturday, a rag tag group of 200 Homer Glenians defeated the combined forces of Lemont, Orland Park, Frankfort and Mokena and finally won their hard earned independence. They fought like warrior poets, they fought like Homer Glenians. But history aside, the parade will kick off at 11:00 am at the intersection of Parker Road and 151st Street, head north and terminate near 143rd Street.

The club is expected to tow the club protogyro in the parade.

Since V.P. Jim Schuler's back yard is on the parade route, it will serve as our base of operations and be a good place for any club members interested in attending to meet. Jim's address is 14755 Arboretum, Homer Glen (60491). Just park on the street and walk into the back yard. If you get lost, call Adam on his cell phone (708) 912-1624.

We hope to see you there!

Mr. Milton's Neighborhood

Hey rotorcraft owners, I see aircraft, gyroplanes especially, all over the country, with duct tape, wire ties and other primitive "fasteners" holding parts on. It may be anarchistic to disregard standard aircraft construction practices, but it doesn't do anything to improve the image of gyros.

Right now, several of you are gritting your teeth at me. Don't be angry, it isn't a personal attack. I first posted this observation on the internet. I'd like to see gyroplanes get the respect they deserve and making them appear more "airworthy" is a start.

For a start, the FAA has guidelines available for aircraft fabrication, repairs, etc.

The FAA publishes an Advisory Circular called: AC 43.13-1B ACCEPTABLE METHODS, PRACTICES AND TECHNIQUES, Aircraft Inspection and Repair. This information is available online.

I am working on a series of articles and Power Point programs on aircraft construction practices, systems and components, theory and maintenance. I plan to debut the first one at Mentone as a seminar on fuel systems. Maybe I'll preview part of it at our meeting.

On another topic, our little project gyro has now been flown by 4 different gyro pilots. Nick did some of the preliminary in-flight stability tests. We are soon going to re-engine it with a Rotax 532, taking its horsepower from 38 to 64. We will also be re-doing the center of gravity and flight tests with the new engine. For safety and convenience, a new Wunderlich prerotator will be affixed.

Website Updates

Not sure if this made the last newsletter or got cut off, but in the coming weeks, look for a new set of updates to be made on the club website www.gyroclub.com. I am changing the appearance around, which will allow us to do some faster updates, easily add pictures/news, etcetera, etcetera.

I still haven't gotten everything working correctly, so I apologize for the delay.

Upcoming Events

June 22nd – Monster Hangar Build Team Meeting – Club Hangar
June 23rd – Club Meeting (7:30 PM) – Lyons Township Hall
June 24th – Homer Glen Independence Day Parade – Homer Glen, IL
July 19th - 22nd – PRA National Convention – Mentone, IN
July 24th – 30th – EAA Oshkosh AirVenture 2006 – Oshkosh, WI

*The Monster Hangar Build Team now meets on **Thursday** evenings in the club hangar.*