

# Greater Midwest Rotorcraft Club



## Monthly Newsletter

In B&W (color version available online)

Members: FREE

March 2007

Editor: Jim Schuler

### Next Club Meeting

**Date:** Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**Time:** 7:30 PM Sharp  
**Where:** Lyons Township Hall

**Special Topic(s):**

- Club Incorporation Status
- Spring & Summer Fly-ins
- Club Build Update

### Sport Pilot Ground School Course at PRA Convention at Mentone

Kevin (Hognose) O'Brien has volunteered to prepare a gyroplane Sport Pilot Written Test Ground School class at the PRA 2007 annual convention at Mentone in August. The class will be conducted by Kevin and/or other volunteer instructors. A passing test grade on the FAA written test is required for Sport Pilot applicants. The Sport Pilot written test for gyroplanes covers standard aviation knowledge areas as other aircraft types, as well as some gyroplane specific knowledge areas.

This two-day class will prepare you for the knowledge areas that would be expected in the Gyroplane Sport Pilot Written Test. Class materials will be provided. The class is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday (August 1 and 2) during the convention at the Mentone, Indiana airport. This class will be conducted at the same time as Marty Weaver's ELSA Repairman course – so you may need to decide which class is more important to you to attend.

This class is offered to PRA members only. The fee for this ground school class is \$100. It will be 8 hours each day for a total of 16 hours. The class will be limited to 20-30 students, so register quickly if you want to be sure to attend. If you are not a PRA member, you could sign up at the same time you register for the class. You may register for this SP Ground School class by contacting Jennifer at the PRA office at (574) 353-7227.

Posted on PRA Website by Greg Gremminger

### Awards Banquet Report

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the club held its annual awards banquet at Petey's II Restaurant in Orland Park, IL. With 30 people in attendance, it was the one of the larger banquet showings in recent years.

Club member Tom Rogan put together this year's awards, which were in the style of granite tiles. They came out looking really nice, and we really appreciated his generous donation. Award winners this year included ABET Industries and Sun Aero Helicopters for being *Friends of the Club*, and vice-president Matt Novotney received an award for making his first pattern.

The banquet attracted some friendly faces that we haven't seen in a while, including Bill Borgstrom, Jim Kutza, and Lenny Schneider. We were also excited to raffle off a R/C Helicopter, which was won by Randy Myers. Nick Costa held the lucky ticket for the door prize, a gift card to Cracker Barrel and a bottle of Riesling.

Joe Mahr was at his best while hosting the auction. He even managed to get stuck in a backpack while modeling it. The banquet brought in close to \$400 this year, so it was the most profitable club event since at least 2001.

To make the night even better, the food wasn't bad either – several club members have frequented Petey's II for some time and have yet to be let down by the quality of their food. We hope to host next year's banquet at a similar location.

*Thanks to all for making the banquet a success!*

### Club Officer Switcheroo

Unforeseen circumstances have caused a possible switch in the club treasurer position. This will be cleared up at the next club meeting, but we have arranged to have Brian Burke fill in as treasurer, replacing Chuck Roberg, until elections in November.

...basically, you should make sure that your hangar rent is in on time. Brian Burke. Need I say more?

**President**  
Adam Helwich  
(708) 912-1624

**Vice President**  
Matt Novotney  
(219) 308-8589

**Treasurer**  
Chuck Roberg?  
(630) 983-7625

**Secretary**  
Nick Costa  
(708) 296-4489

**Guru/Sergeant at Arms**



Italian-American Nick Costa tells a joke to Brian and Adam during the build meeting. Judging by the picture, Adam didn't get it, and Brian was really interested in the idea of it.

## Monster Hangar Build Team Progress Report

\*\*\*\*\*

We are back on the cold weather schedule, meeting Wednesday evenings at Sun Aero's Hangar. If you plan on attending, check with one of us to make sure we will be there. We occasionally meet at a machine shop to make gyro parts.

\*\*\*\*\*

Over the past couple weeks, Adam has pretty well completed his airframe assembly, but he ran into a couple snags working in Sun Aero without the convenience of ABET's machines. Last weekend, we moved much of the supplies back to ABET and plan on meeting there for a couple weeks, beginning March 28<sup>th</sup>. We should be able to take care of any loose ends while at ABET.

The majority of the assembly of his machine took only a couple of hours. The snags occurred trying to mount his seat tank on a slight angle, using a different method than used on the prototype.

Nick has begun working on the controls for the build team members and will soon be selling them to those interested.

## Wunderlich Prerotators

A few club members, including Tom Milton, Adam Helwich, and Nick Costa have been meeting fairly regularly at Wunderlich's shop trying to keep the prerotator business moving forward during this period of transition.

They are working diligently on piecing together exactly how Dick made his prerotators. They are also working on filling any outstanding orders to major gyro manufacturers to help keep the industry afloat.

Once all orders have been filled and inventory/new orders can be managed, a strategy will be formed on how to best keep Wunderlich Prerotators in business.

Linda and the family have been very supportive in keeping the prerotators business going in order to support the gyro community, much in the way that Dick himself would have done.

## **Upcoming Events**

March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Club Meeting (7:30 PM) – Lyons Township Hall  
 April 11 - 14<sup>th</sup> – Bensen Days – Wauchula, FL  
 April 17 – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sun 'n Fun Fly-In – Lakeland, FL

*The Monster Hangar Build Team now meets on **Wednesday** evenings in the Sun Aero's hangar unless otherwise noted. Call ahead to make sure.*



Adam's airframe, complete with shocks and all. The frame itself went together without a hitch, but it's the little things that are causing some holdups with assembly. We have moved the machine to ABET to speed some things up.