

# Greater Midwest Rotorcraft Club



## Monthly Newsletter

In B&W (color version available online)

Members: FREE

April 2007

Editor: Jim Schuler

### Next Club Meeting

**Date:** Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 7:30 PM Sharp  
**Where:** Lyons Township Hall

**Special Topic(s):**

- Club Incorporation Status
- Bensen Days / Sun 'n Fun Reports
- Club Project Updates

### Wunderlich Prerotators Update

Adam, Nick, and Tom have been continuing to learn how Dick made his prerotators, and although they are finding it to be a lot of work (especially for one person), they have been making steady progress.

A few weeks ago, they put Dick's foundry to use and began learning the aluminum casting process, with the help of one of Nick's machinist friends.



Adam and Nick proudly display their first set of cast parts using Wunderlich's foundry.

"They're cool to the touch.... Ouch" -Nick

### In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that I announce the loss of one of our members. John Deagan passed away.

John had been suffering from emphysema and was recently hospitalized with double pneumonia. He recovered from what could have been very life threatening, but while in the hospital, John was also diagnosed with cancer.

He gave a good fight.

He was a very intelligent, talented and gifted person. John was a loyal friend to many of us and a real gyroplane enthusiast. John always talked of the joy he experienced flying his Air Command.

We will all miss him dearly.

Please keep John's wife, Judy in your thoughts. Judy's mother lived with them in Long Grove, IL. She recently passed away as well.

Judy said John wanted a simple memorial service. She has planned it for early May. I will keep you updated.

- Tom Milton

*John Deagan was also the inventor of the Hats Off emergency helmet removal system. You may read more about this product at [www.hatsoff.info](http://www.hatsoff.info).*

### Club Dues

With Brian Burke recently taking over the treasurer position, all dues will now be sent to him. Membership renewal forms with his address are available on the club website.

The club is also looking into allowing *PayPal* transactions for membership renewals. We should have more information on this at the club meeting.

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

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

**Treasurer**  
Brian Burke  
(630) 651-8735

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

**Guru/Sergeant at Arms**



The Xenon gyro has been attracting a lot of attention recently. Here's a shot of the machine in Florida.

**Monster Hangar Build Team Progress Report**

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**We have not been meeting on a regular basis lately. If you plan on attending a build night meeting, check with one of us to make sure we will be there... and where we will be meeting. We typically meet at Lansing airport and ABET Industries machine shop.**

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The past month has been one of waiting for the build team. Several club members are waiting on parts to arrive for assembly, and many club members have had scheduling conflicts on build nights.

On a brighter note, though, we should be back on track to close out the month. As parts begin to arrive, Adam Helwich's machine will begin to take on some additional character, and Jim Schuler will be looking to complete Tom Rogan's machine in the weeks ahead.

Final considerations for assembly will be for tail designs, and this will be the last major hurdle as the gyros are completed. The original design did not restrict tail design, so any common tail design can be accommodated on the machine.

Nick Costa has also completed his first control assembly, and word on the street is that it is one of the nicest assemblies around... and at a great price! If you are interested in having one, talk to Nick.

Brian Burke is ready to begin working on his VW engine that is currently on his Bensen.

During his stay at the Florida fly-ins, Tom Milton also picked up Adam's engine, an MZ202, which he has been anxiously awaiting. Adam plans to install the engine by himself, with one hand, in front of a crowd of gyro enthusiasts.

**Xenon Gyroplanes**

For those that do not already know, Tom Milton has been selected as the Chicago dealer for Xenon gyroplanes. Along with a couple other club members, he will be helping to introduce the Xenon gyro to the local area.

The machine has received rave reviews at recent events, like Bensen Days and Sun 'n Fun, and plans are already in place to have a booth at Oshkosh.

The machines run from \$61,000 - \$72,000, fully assembled with LSA registration.

For more information, check out their website at [www.xenongyroplanes.com](http://www.xenongyroplanes.com), or talk to Tom Milton.

**Upcoming Events**

April 27<sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting (7:30 PM) – Lyons Township Hall  
 August 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> – PRA Convention – Mentone, IN

*The Monster Hangar Build Team now meets on **Wednesday** evenings in the Sun Aero's hangar or at ABET Industries, unless otherwise noted. Call ahead to make sure we will be meeting.*



A closer view of the prerotator parts cast at Wunderlich's shop.