



March 2025 Edition

Safety Officer's Corner: Ernie Padgette



Accident Prevention 101

There are a lot of ways to prevent an accident from happening. One way is kind of like the old adage about "How To Win A Gunfight". The answer: "Don't show up". If you don't show up, you won't be in the gunfight and guess what? You win! In this case, Gordon Collyer showed me how to prevent an accident.

This could have been an accident started a few years ago. I saw a friend flying a Hangar 9 Twist and thought "That's a nice-looking plane and it's pretty aerobatic". So, I bought a used one. Well, this is me we're talking about, so I'll confess. I bought two; both .40 size glow planes. I have no idea of when or where I bought them, but I think they were of the "buy online in a hurry and regret at your leisure" classification. After they spent a few years hanging out in my basement as part of my reserve fleet, I decided to talk Gordon into converting one of them to electric use for me. After all, I had a surplus of 6 Volt, 5,000 mAh batteries lying around and they needed to be put to some use. I

selected one of the two I had available, the better looking of the two, and gave it to Gordon. I thought it was in pretty good shape. After all, the Monocoat didn't look all that bad, so it had to be in good shape, right?

Of course, this rebuild would involve creating a hatch of some sort up front to allow the battery to be changed easily. And that involved removing the Monocoat to expose the woodwork underneath. And that's when Gordon discovered the plane had been crashed. (Or did Gordon say "Trashed"? Maybe that was it.) Several Times, apparently. And repaired, several times, in, to say the least, a rather cavalier fashion.



Let's face it. Someone had wrecked the plane, stuck it back together enough to allow the Monocoat to hide the damage and found a sucker (me) to buy it. Strangely enough, it appears there are some people in our hobby who are less than completely transparent in their dealings with their fellow hobbyists.

But, that's where Gordon saved me from an almost certain accident which would have occurred later on.



We all know Gordon builds nice stuff. He's very talented, very studious and very careful. As he was looking at the hidden damage to the plane's nose, he noticed something amiss with the tail surfaces. Maybe it was just a hunch, maybe the empennages sagged a bit when he picked it up. Whatever it was, he stripped the Monocoat away and found the tail was worse than the nose.



Talk about using toothpicks to brace things; this was worse. One large piece of square balsa rod was only touching at the extreme edges of two points, but had been pressed into service as a brace. The actual area of contact had to be no more than a very small fraction of an inch. And, had he done only what I had asked him to do, the plane wouldn't have survived its first flight after the rebuild. That's the sort of thing to which we all need to pay attention. Thanks, Gordon;

Ernie P

President's Pilot Box: Gordon Collyer

Solid-State Ink.

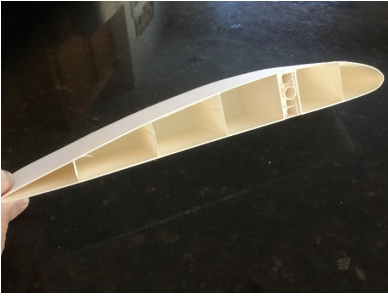
When I was a kid, I got a desk-top printing press as a birthday present. It had rubber type that had to be "set" into small "line trays" and graphics that could be inserted into the "type" field using rubber cement. An "inking" roller pressed against a "type" roller that held the lines of type, and each time the type roller was cranked, black and white 3"x 10" copy was produced. Well, the "inking" process was messy, and 3 pages of copy at 10 cents each for a local "newspaper" didn't pay for more ink. Had I stuck with it, who knows maybe journalism, or better yet Microsoft Word might have been my future. But alas, airplanes soon came along, and any hope of fortune soon was cast away for a life of aerospace engineering and its relative poverty. Now the "poverty" thought takes me to today. For Christmas this year I got a "3d Printer". Like printing ink, you can make a mess melting a lot of filament and have it run all over your work bench trying to tune one of those things. I already have 5 or 6 rolls of different filament and have successfully made "chip bag" clips for my entire extended family and one ex-roommate from college. And do note that "tune" is a relative term. My brother had two 1970's era Alfa Romeos that he could tune every now and then also.

However, before I incur the ire of our resident 3d-printing alchemist, Jim Restel, I must say I am making progress. Much of this progress thanks to Jim and his 3d-printing learning sessions at the Culpeper library. Now I don't think I'll give up on balsa unless I am relegated to an environment where balsa dust and paint fumes are forbidden, but I have gotten far enough along, to see that wheel pants might be a useful outcome



(the picture a pathfinder design experiment).

I am not planning for a whole printed airplane yet. As an exercise I am thinking about printing a wing to use on my 70% Kadet foamboard trainer. As I can understand right now, a proper design and the right, foaming, lite-weight filament (see also "tuning") should produce a wing that is lighter than a balsa and Mono/Ultra-Cote wing, but heavier (and look better) than the foamboard version. The picture is a "test" section to see how things work out from a printing, weight and strength standpoint.



I must admit there is something mesmerizing about drawing out something on the computer while watching a Commanders Game and then having it “rise” up from the print bed and measure precisely to within small fractions of a millimeter of the intended design. And, I have a possible design for an all plastic, printed hatch latch if I can find a plastic/filament that does not fracture when flexed many times. I guess I am due to acquire more filament. The good news is that no matter what, a “springier” plastic will make better chip clips!

Gordon

Vice President’s Pilot Box: Jay Zompanti

To all CMB and FARM members

Please join us at the CMB field for important club affiliation announcements.

I will discuss Rehoboth Model Aircraft Association's (RMAA) (Kwang’s new club at his new field off Kelly’s Ford Road in Remington, VA) offer of a discounted membership to the BOTH CMB and FARM club members.

This discounted program has been set for all FARM and CMB members in good standing.

I will also explain what I know about use and availability of the RMAA field. I will take questions, answer what I can. If I cannot answer your question, I will return to Kwang for further explanation. I will also field any concerns about RMAA, query Kwang, and either he will answer you directly or I will come to you.

Please join us on >>>> **April 13 Sunday CMB Club Meeting - Club Meeting #1 1:00 PM**
Club Fly Day #1, Fun Flying, Pilot Training, and Flight Checks all day

I will be sending out a separate attendance email as this day and time moves closer

Any question – You can ask now or at the meeting. – jay.zompanti@gmail.com

Jay Z

Secretary’s Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- Membership Renewals:

- The 2025 Club Membership renewal period has totally ended with our membership starting at 46 for the 2025 flying year.

- The Club Charter and Site Insurance have been renewed for 2025.

- The Club taxes for 2024 have been filed and accepted.

- CMB was featured in the March 2025 AMA’s Model Aviation District IV section:

DISTRICT NEWS



IV

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District IV

Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland,
North Carolina, Virginia

The time has finally arrived that we can get back out there, fly, and have fun in District IV. Email me your club newsletter and club event reports for inclusion in *Model Aviation* so that others can see what your club has been up to. Also, sanction all of your club events with AMA so that you can receive the new FAA exemptions.

Before I turn to my monthly report, I want to be sure that you have done the maintenance and prepared your aircraft and equipment for this season of flying. Remember, be cautious using LiPo batteries. Time spent now saves repair time later.

Associate Vice President and Contest Director Nic Burhans reported on the model aviation portion of the 2024 Culpeper, Virginia, Air Fest and STEM Week:



The 2024 Culpeper VA Air Fest and STEM Week.

Beginning on Wednesday, October 9, through the following Sunday, the Culpeper Model Barnstormers (CMB) and Fauquier Aero Recreation Modelers (FARM) participated in the 24th Culpeper Air Fest. Wednesday and Thursday were dedicated to STEM days for 685 Culpeper County fifth-grade students, who were shown everything from full-scale World War II aircraft, welding, solar generation, experimental aircraft construction, and computer programming, to model aviation.



Club members Nic Burhans, Gordon Collyer, Ernie Padgett, Dave Rothbart, Bill Towne, and Jay Zompanti demonstrated topics, including the theory of flight, radio controls, different types of model aircraft, and aircraft simulators.



On Saturday, the show got underway. For 2-1/2 hours after the gates opened to the area guests, RC pilots from northern Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia provided a continuous show of 3D, Giant Scale, drone, and jet aircraft flights during this year's event. Thanks to Andrew Benjamin, Beresford Davis, Al Hampton, Arlin Harbaugh, Mike Hornbecker, Jorge Jimenez, Kwang Ko, and Kevin Moran.

During the morning's RC flying and the afternoon's full-scale flight demonstrations, Gordon Collyer, Ernie Padgett, and Jay Zompanti staffed the CMB and FARM display table, answering questions about AMA, RC flying in Northern Virginia, and how model aircraft and drones are controlled and fly (basically STEM for children, their parents, and grandparents).

The 2024 Culpeper, Virginia, Air Fest (the best little air show in the East) and fifth-grade STEM Program was a tremendous success in all aspects for RC model aviation.

Go fly and have fun safely.

ModelAviation.com

- CMB Club Calendar:

The updated 2025 Club calendar has been sent out to all Club members and posted on the Club website.

- Upcoming 2025 events:

April 13	Sunday	CMB Club Meeting @ Lenn Model Airpark Club Fly Day #1, Pilot Training, and Flight Checks all day	1:00 PM
April 19	Sat	1st Church 5K Run Lenn Model Airpark Will be Closed During the Run	6am-Noon
April 26-27	Sat-Sun	Kinston Aero Modelers Pattern Contest @ Kinston, NC CD: Carl Zavalney carlzavalney@bshg.com	All Day
May 3	Sat	15th Lenn Park Wicked Bottom 5K Run Lenn Model Airpark Will be Closed During the Run	6am-Noon
May 9-16	Fri-Thur	Joe Nall @ Triple Tree Aerodrome @ Woodruff, SC https://tta.aero	All Day
May 17-18	Sat-Sun	Charlotte, NC Pattern @ Monroe, NC	All Day

CD: Rick Harn Rharn47@gmail.com

May 31 Saturday CMB Member Day @ Lenn Model Airpark All Day
CD: Jay Zompanti jay.zompanti@gmail.com

Remember to Be SAFE

Nic

Treasurer's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- As of 31 January, the Barnstormers have 46 members. (17 Regular members, 27 Senior members, 1 Junior member, 1 Associate member, and No Life members).
- As of 16 March, the Club has a balance of \$4,515.94 in the general fund.

Be Safe

Nic

Safety Officer's Pilot Box: Ernie Padgett

- No Club specific items this month.

Ernie

Field Marshal's Pilot Box: Jay Zompanti

- No Club specific items this month.

Jay Z

Member at Large Pilot Box: Al Hampton

"Behind every successful person is a substantial amount of coffee... and at least one person who believed in them." - Unknown

One summer morning last year, standing in the middle of the field at Sweetbrier Park in Lake of the Woods, I was carefully flying, more like fighting, my 400mm Volentex Spitfire as I flew pattern around the Soccer field. After cartwheeling it to a landing in the grass I walked back over to my truck to put in another battery. I was then greeted by a lady walking her dog along the path around the park. She was fascinated by the small little aircraft and told me that she stopped a few times just to watch me fly. After talking a short bit, she told me that she walks the path every Friday and hopes that I will continue to come out Friday mornings so she can be entertained while on her morning walk. I smiled and told her I would do my best. I have to say this is not a unique occurrence and has happened a few times and after this as well. I even once had a kid maybe around 14 say that he didn't even know there were remote controlled planes. Just this week even I had comments on RC cars I had out doing test speed runs with as well.

These interactions were the seed that sparked my interest in attempting to start an RC club in the LOWA community. After mentioning this in past discussions at the field and receiving positive feedback I decided to take action on the ideas. Well, it's hard to believe but it's actually happening! We now have a LOGO, and Facebook page so that makes it official right?...LOL.

But seriously, we do, and we have LOWA Community approval from the Office of the General Manager and Community coordinators. We have our Officers / Directors set for the first year, which consist of me, as President.

I am super Honored to have these Officers assigned as well.

VP – Nic B.

Secretary – Gordon C.

Treasurer – Jay Z.

And I am functioning as Safety Officer as well.

The new Bylaws are over 50% complete and we are still working on documentation specific to the club and to AMA, but everything is coming together much easier and quicker than I thought it would. Honestly it's all thanks to the formed committee members for the Lake Of the Woods Community RC Club (LOWC-RC) Project of Culpeper Model Barnstormers.

So, this month, I just wanted to give a special thanks to all our Officers and Directors of Culpeper Barnstormers for supporting the vision so far. I have been blown away by not only the Support of the CMB leadership team but also the positive words of encouragement by many of our members who I have had the honor of meeting during the Holiday party and on the field.

With that, I would like to also offer any of you CMB members the opportunity to be involved in any way including membership. We are currently finalizing the membership application and for any CMB club members who would like to participate in activities and events we will be working to plan for the year. Just shoot us an email on our newly created email account lowcrc@gmail.com to just let us know, and we will send you over a membership form once it is completed and answer any questions you might have. Also feel free to visit and follow the Facebook page I have listed below.

Have a wonderful and awesome season my friends and I look forward to seeing you at the field!

LOWCRC Email: lowcrc@gmail.com

LOWCRC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573563783334>

Your friend and fellow Barnstormer!

- No Club specific items this month.

Al H

Member at Large Pilot Box: Bill Pratt

- No Club specific items this month.

Bill P

Member at Large Pilot Box: Bill Towne

- No Club specific items this Month.

Bill T

Training Officer's Pilot Box: Gordon Collyer

- No Club specific training items this month.

Gordon

Web Master's Pilot Box: Dick Sutton

- No Club specific website items this Month.

Dick

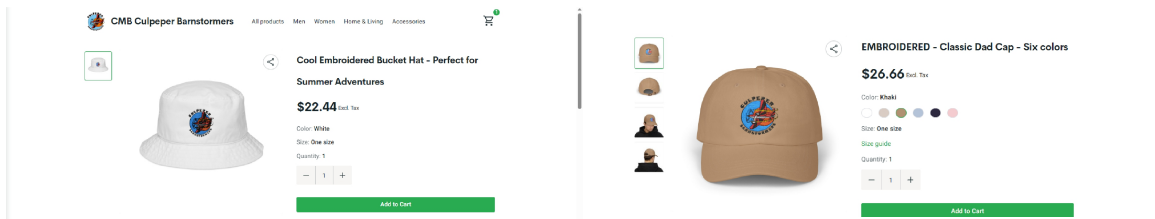
"CMB Tips and Projects Jar": All CMB Members

- No inputs this month.

Member “From the Field” Anything Input Box: All CMB Members

- All: New EMBROIDERED hats and other Club Logo items are available -- Get yours.

- They are available now in both the CMB and FARM stores on the websites.



- Check out all the items Club items.

JayZ

CMB CLUB 2024 OFFICERS

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The CMB Newsletter is published monthly by the Culpeper Model Barnstormers, AMA charter #4894. It is forwarded to CMB members and to other clubs on an exchange basis. Articles related to all types of aviation are welcome. Opinions expressed in the newsletter articles are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect those of CMB Inc.

Publishing input deadline is the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please forward all inputs (Pictures in jpg format) to: Nic Burhans

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Our Club web site is: <http://www.cmbclubrc.com>