

Hoosick
AMA  691
Aeromodelers
Hoosick Falls, NY

Man am I glad I belong to this terrific flying club. Not only do we love to fly our model airplanes and helicopters, but we love a “Great Party”. Thanks to George and all his efforts we got a large turn out for the clubs winter dinner. We had an excellent menu with a good variety so as to please even the most discerning dining guest. Over 26 members and their wives enjoyed each other company and ambiance. Everyone enjoyed the get together and again thank you to George for organizing this event.

Please remember to pay your club dues. They have stayed the same as last year. The dues are at \$75.00 for regular members and senior members (at least 75 years old, and membership for 5 years) receive a 10% discount. Send them to Tim Smith 2620 Hancock Road, Williamstown, Ma 01267.

If you missed last month’s meeting you missed a good one. As soon as we got past the standard stuff of running the club, we got a chance to have Steve present his new Sig J-3 Cub. This is an old style favorite kit built airplane and Steve is doing a great job of putting this one together. It’s even got a fully functional drop down door. Steve said that it should be ready to fly come this early spring if all things go well. As Bob said at the meeting, “it was great that someone still enjoys building planes the old fashion way from a kit”. Ken showed off his newest electric, it’s a high wing trainer which he said he got a steal at the last WRAM show. He has done a very nice job of putting this new plane together, it looks great.

Greg Templeton is fully involved with building two new electrics. One is the Platinum series from Hanger 9, it’s a Texan AT6 and believes me when I say that the fit and finish is as close to perfect as you can get. It will have retracts, flaps and a hand painted pilot even nicer than the one he painted in his electric P-51. He also got for Christmas a very nice looking electric Taylorcraft. Again this plane is just outstanding as far as covering and attention to detail. He said he can’t wait to fly them this coming spring.

Jan has ordered the new JR 9303 2.4 radio for his large 1/4 scale Cub, Joe keeps telling him” it’s coming sometime “Thank the lord that Jan ordered it over the winter flying season. Now all Jan needs is a larger vehicle to get this nice looking plane to the field. He had his eye on a Honda Civic hatchback which gets

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40/MPG but when he called on it the dealer said it was sold. I think he will keep on looking.

Got a call from Bill Clark, said that he got a letter from John Foster (former club member) and told him that he could have his new electric J-3 Cub from Hanger 9 and two other planes. What a nice jester since John won’t be able to fly for at least another 5 years.

Don’t let this cold weather keep you and your plane indoors, come out and fly with Ken, Jan and myself over at Strawberry flying field. The snow has mostly melted and we all got together to enjoy a afternoon of flying. Jan had the Kadet up and flying along with his new electric helicopter, Ken got a great maiden flight on his new electric trainer and I got to fly my little electric Kadet just dandy.

Remember to keep flying often and fly safe
Richard Scheer President
Hoosick Aeromodelers



**Mark Your Calendar!
Meeting Dates
Strawberry Acres
7:00 PM**

February 3, 2008

March 2, 2008

April 6, 2008

May 4, 2008

June 1, 2008

July 6, 2008

**(This is the weekend of the 4th
so this may be changed to July 13, 2008)**

August 3, 2008

September 7, 2008



Holiday Party

The annual Hoosick Aeromodelers Holiday Party was held at Fox Hollow restaurant on January 10, 2008. There were 26 + members who braved the chilly weather to ring in the new year! The food and comraderie were great, and a good time was had by all.

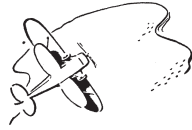






January 1st Traditions

January 1, 2008 dawned cold and snowy. It was nasty, but it WAS New Year's Day and everyone wanted to get to the field. They wanted to brave the elements and continue the tradition of NEW YEAR'S DAY flying that has been held so sacred by certain members of the Hoosick Aeromodelers. Over the last years many have made an extreme effort to fly on this day. The notices had been posted and now all we had to do was wait and see who would show up on this snowy and windy, bitterly cold day. The stove was lit and the garage was warm so all those that braved the elements would get, in the very least, some warmth and good conversation. As the appointed time arrived, it became increasingly clear that few, if any, would show up. Finally, during a lull in the storm, Ken and George showed up to continue with the tradition. One short flight was attempted and successfully completed. Another year is now in the books for the HAM NEW YEAR'S DAY tradition.



A Reflection

The last three years have been a rough ride for the Hoosick Aeromodelers. A year of tumultuous leadership wreaked havoc on our club. Increased costs, low membership, and lack of direction all led some to think that this club was on its way out. Our finances were in the toilet and with decreasing membership, some thought we were doomed. New flyers were buying simple electric airplanes and without the need for a large established area to fly these electrics, the new flyers were not joining our club. A new understanding of these forces acting on our local club had to be learned and addressed. A new direction had to be taken, and steering our club in that direction had to be mastered for this club to continue to exist.

At a critical meeting three years ago Tim Smith stated the feeling that others in this club held. He said, "I think this club is worth saving!" By voicing this feeling, Tim demonstrated a desire to help generate the effort that was needed to save this club from financial disaster. Since that critical meeting many good things have happened.

Our officers picked-up on that effort and provided leadership in many areas. Richard, Tim, Ken and Ray provided the framework around which the members were able to rally and bring this club back from the brink of disaster to where it is today.

First, membership was increased. Just in that first year 15 new members were recruited. Not all remained throughout the years, but their dues and \$50 initiation fees remain in our treasury.

Secondly, volunteers and donations increased. Our two summer functions have been financially successful because of donations and volunteering of our members. How to maximize our donations and convert them into cash for the club has been a learning process. For example, if someone donates a six-pack of soda that costs \$2.50, do we sell that for 50 cents a can and make \$3.00 for the club or sell it for \$1 a can and double the club take to \$6.00. In this case, an initial contribution of \$2.50 actually generated \$6.00 for the club. Who wouldn't donate when the club is getting this kind of return on its money? Greg realized this last year and donated a lot of soda. Many others donated to this concept which led to maximizing our income from just selling hot dogs and hamburgers. Joe's donation generated a lot of revenue similarly.

Third, dues had to be increased. The club revenue was not meeting expenses. Every household knows that this just won't work for long. Savings can be used but after they are spent, how can the club survive in deficit? It simply can't, and so dues were increased to \$75 and senior exemption was changed to a 10% senior discount. This single move has put the club on sound financial footing for the near future.

What are some things the club should be involved with in the future? What should we be thinking about for next year and the following years? The direction is clear. Newcomers must be recruited and made welcome in our club. Older inactive members have come to see that small electrics are not all that intimidating and would start flying again if they were given help and encouragement. AMA has just reduced its fees for folks that fly only park flyers. Our club may develop a similar plan to accommodate these new flyers. The club's two Fun Fly events can be expanded, but will still need volunteers and donations for their success. Current members must make themselves available to the new members to insure their continued interest and future membership. No question should go unanswered and all needs must be met.

It will be an exciting time in this hobby for the Hoosick Aeromodelers. Past challenges have been met and new ones will come our way. This club has a 30 year history and will be secure in the future because of its caring members.

George Brankman

