



# DCRC Club Newsletter

Volume 53, Issue 6

June, 2007



Frank Tiano, Doug Harper and Sam Wright as Doug receives his Top Gun Trophy

See the whole story on page 6

DCRC Club Meeting

June 15, 2007

Montgomery County Council building

100 Maryland Ave

Rockville, MD 7:30 PM

"The RC Micro World, where Grams and Volts are minimal"

By former AMA President Mr. John Worth



DCRC County  
Appreciation Day  
June 30, 2007

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**Visit us on the web:**

[www.dc-rc.org](http://www.dc-rc.org)

*Did you know that any airplane brought in to the model shop will receive 3 free raffle tickets. Bring in your models each month for your free tickets, and to share ideas.*

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COVER,

DOUH HARPER RECIEVEING HIS TOP GUN TROPHY

PHOTO BY DAVE McQUEENEY

## Presidents Corner by Andy Kane



This month the club is in fine shape, so lets talk about the upcoming events.

June 30 County Appreciation day. This is the day that we open the field to all our neighbors and county officials to let them know how much we appreciate our flying facility and the all the hard work that is provided for us.. We have a catered cooked out, provide a full blown model Air-show, demonstrate some of the hobbies newest planes and equipment, and have the club demonstrators on hand for anyone who would like to try their hand at RC flying.

A big thanks in advance to Andy Finizio, Jim McDaniel and the McDaniel's family, and Mike Peizer, as well as all the other club members who help and participate during this event. Please plan on attending Saturday June 30 at 11 am.

During the month of July the DCRC Air Show team performs at the Great Meadow in the Plains Virginia for a 4th of July extravaganza.. Also during July we have training sessions at our field run by Mike Peizer. If you can help Mike will always be appreciative of your support even ground or administrative support. Training days are June 9, and 23 and July 14 and 28.

In August we will be having our first electric fly in Run by Jay Stargel On August 18 bring all your electric's to the field for a day filled with watts and amps. We will have the genera-

tor on hand to replace your used watts and amps so flying should last all day.

September is the Bealeton month 7-9 at the Flying Circus. Come on down to Bealeton only 60 miles from DC and enjoy a fun filled weekend and great barnstormer Air-show on Sunday. Take that open cockpit bi-plane ride you've been dreaming about.

And finally on September 29 we will have out club Oktoberfest at the Walt Good RC Field. Fun, Food and Friendship will prevail.

I would hope that all the club members will be able to support these event with their attendance

I would hope that all the club members will be able to support these event with their attendance.

See you at the field  
Andy

## May Club Meeting Minutes

BY DOUG HARPER



The meeting was called to order by vice president Dave McQueeney at 7:39PM. Dave remarked that he was presiding because Andy Kane and a few of the other Board members were in South Carolina at the Joe Nall Fly-in.

Dave called for any guests and there were none in attendance. Two new members were there.

Eric Wallgren was once a member way back in the 70's and he has just rejoined.

Mark Ross has gotten into park flyers and wants a place where it's OK to fly.

Next Dave called on Jim McDaniel to make a short presentation. Jim came to the front and listed all the awards that were given out last month at the club meeting. For one reason or another last month one award was not bestowed upon its recipient. Jim presented Andy Finizio with his permanent Al Monska Award plaque.

Old Business: None

New Business: Andy Finizio reminded the members that County Appreciation Day is coming on June 30<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday. We need as many members as possible to show up to thank the county for their continuing support. Bring a plane even if you don't fly.

Dave McQueeney commented that he has been to many fields in his modeling career and this is one of the best, so please come out and show your support.

Andy concluded by asking those who plan on helping out to show up at 9:30 Saturday morning.

Don Gray announced that Dave Robelen passed away in April. He

was a prolific designer and builder from way back. He had many published designs to his credit. He was the author of "Micro-Flying" in Model Aviation Magazine. Dave Robelen was 67.

Lastly, Don mentioned that CASA is having their Spring Sizzle Fun Fly May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at the Gude Drive landfill flying site

Al Hoffman reiterated Andy Kane's thanks for all the help at the field maintenance day last Saturday. A lot was accomplished.

The county is trying to help us out with improving the grass. To that end we need to remember to use overflow tanks. Remember, use of an overflow tank is required at the field.

Ed Leibolt recounted the latest episode of George Washington U and their UAV. The latest version was flown today, but it was very tail heavy. The seventeen foot wingspan aircraft, powered by a ZDZ 60, needed five pounds of lead in the nose to come close to balancing. It flew but the controls were very sluggish. It went in when they were trying to land. The GWU students apparently were thrilled that it flew. Ed thinks he put the biggest dent in the ground ever at DCRC.

Fred Nielsen pointed out that not everyone attending the meeting might know what an overflow tank is used for. Dave explained that the overflow tank is used to catch fuel that might spill on the ground when refueling your airplane.

Model Shop: Ed Leibolt showed a plane that he rebuilt that used to belong to Dave Littleton. It was

totaled and Ed rebuilt it. It's a big old Ugly Stick that Ed bashed to make look more like a WW1, Ein-decker. An O.S., 1.6 FX engine, powers it. Ed calls it a "Stickdecker". It flies well.

Raffle: Walt Gallagher won the raffle prize, a YAK 54 from Seagull Models and immediately put it up for auction. Grady Shook won it with a bid of \$70.00.

Program: Dave McQueeney showed excerpts from the Dave Platt Black Magic series of how-to videos. Dave Platt grew up in the UK. He is known as "Mr. Scale". A story has it that Dave Platt worked on radio control models for a movie about the Battle of Britain and that began the practice of weathering a model to make it look more realistic. Mr. Platt went on from there to found his own company. It is said he builds stunningly beautiful air-

Andy Finizio reminded the members that County Appreciation Day is coming on June 30<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday.

planes. He has competed in every Top Gun since it began until this year. The Black Art of Scale Modeling series is his legacy to the modeling community. The topics covered in the excerpts were, fiber-glassing a wing, how to mix paint to match a color and how he details a cockpit.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

## May Board Meeting Minutes

BY DOUG HARPER



The meeting, held at the field, was called to order by President Andy Kane at 7:03 PM. In attendance were Andy Kane, Allan Hoffman, Scott Davies, Andy Finizio, Nir Schweizer, Michael Peizer, Dave McQueeney, Tom Pfarr, and Doug Harper. Visitors in attendance were Marv Napier and Fred Nielsen.

Doug Harper read the March 21, 2007, board minutes. Minutes were unanimously approved as read.

Field Maintenance: Grass at field has been limed and aerated. Still appears dry due to weather conditions.

Flight Training: Mike added another Tower Hobbies 60 Trainer to his stable. Ed Leibolt is rebuilding another club trainer. We expect 10-12 students this year. Mike has a new field box, new buddy box, etc., so is in good shape. He is still considering a larger, gas-powered trainer as the year unfolds. Next session is this Saturday, May 26.

Events: County Appreciation Day is Saturday, June 30. Jim and Kim McDaniel will contract with the same caterer as we used in previous years. Andy Finizio will decide how and where to advertise this year. Andy wants to use two large, long-flying planes for the demo and training segment. He also plans to place several nice models around the field for people to see.

Sound and Safety: Nir is working on a plan for impounding spread

spectrum radios. One option is to use the top row of card slots for these radios. AMA doesn't require this but Nir feels it would be good for other to know these radios are in use. Nir will buy two drip pans to be used for jets to protect the grass.

Treasurer: Six checks were written for more than \$100.

Programs: Don Gray is contacting John Worth about presenting the program at the June meeting on the subject of micro electrics. There was a lively discussion about the quality of the meeting programs. After much discussion, it was decided that we need to improve the quality of the programs, or we should perhaps skip a meeting program. The Board will continue to work on this.

Website: Tom Pfarr will work on the small problem today with the website.

Membership/Newsletter: We have approximately 220 paid-up members. We mail only 75 hard-copy newsletters which means that all other members are receiving the newsletter electronically.

Old/New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

## Schedule of Events

Also on the web  
[www.dr-rc.org](http://www.dr-rc.org)  
 Then click Events

Local and Club events in March

- 9th DCRC Training
- 15 DCRC Club Meeting John Worth program Micro Electrics
- 20 DCRC Board Meeting
- 23 DCRC Training
- 30 DCRC County Appreciation day.

# June 2007

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed                   | Thu | Fri                  | Sat                             |
|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|-----|----------------------|---------------------------------|
|     |     |     |                       |     | 1                    | 2                               |
| 3   | 4   | 5   | 6                     | 7   | 8                    | 9 DCRC Training                 |
| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13                    | 14  | 15 DCRC Club Meeting | 16                              |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20 DCRC Board Meeting | 21  | 22                   | 23 DCRC Training                |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27                    | 28  | 29                   | 30 DCRC County Appreciation Day |

## Calendar of Events

- June
- 1-3 **Maryland Helicopter Assn Fun Fly**  
 Upper Marlboro, MD (C) Maryland Helicopter Assn. Fun Fly. Site: Patuxant River Park. Wayne Hillenbrand CD, 2401 Fox Creek LN Davidsonville MD 21035 PH:410-451-2336 email: [wayne@flymha.com](mailto:wayne@flymha.com).
- 8-10 PGRC NMPRA Q40 Championship, Bowie, MD
- 9 **DCRC Training** Mike Peizer, Germantown, MD
- 9-10 Big Apple Jet Rally Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, NY Flarbus Ave Exit 11s Vinny Caratuzzolo 917-519-7893 vcarat@yahoo.com
- 15 **DCRC Club Meeting**/Allan Hoffman will provide the Meeting program will be: John Worth Micro Electric's The Raffle will be:
- 15-17 23rd Annual Ray Gordon Memorial Jumbo Fly In- Harrisonburg, VA (C-Restricted to IMAA) 23rd Annual Ray Gordon Memorial Jumbo Fly In. Site: Club Field. Tim Blankenship CD, 301 Joyce Dr Bridgewater VA 22812 PH:540-828-6142 email: rcflyertime@yahoo.com.
- 23 Airplanes of the World III Laurel, MD (C) Airplanes of the World III. Site: Konterra Model Airpark. Lee David Harris Jr CD, 9302 Parkhill Terrace Bethesda MD 20814 PH:240-299-2784 email: ldharris84@hotmail.com. This is a scale event and all planes must be a scale version of a real airplane. Any type and size of scale or stand off scale planes are allowed (ARFs that are scale are allowed). <http://www.freestateaeromodelers.org>  
 Sponsor: FREESTATE AEROMODELERS
- 23 **DCRC Training** Mike Peizer, Germantown, MD
- 21-24 2007 IMAA Rally of Giants Waco, TX (C-Restricted to IMAA) 2007 IMAA Rally of Giants. Site: Club Field. Larry Garrett CD, 15359 China Spring Rd China Spring TX 76633 PH:254-717-7929 email: garrettlarry@aol.com. Visit [www.hotmacrc.org](http://www.hotmacrc.org). Sponsor: HOTMAC
- 30 **DCRC County Appreciation Day**, Germantown, MD
- July 2007**
- 4 DCRC Air Show, Great Meadows, VA.
- 6-8 Kentucky Jets KY Lebanon, KY (C) Kentucky Jets. Site: Lebanon-Springfield Airport. Lewis Patton Jr CD, 11314 Corston Ct Louisville KY 40241 PH:502-429-6365
- 12-15 Warbirds Over Delaware 2007 Kirkwood, DE (C-Restricted to IMAA) Warbirds over Delaware 2007. Site: Lums Pond State Park. David Malchione CD, 1161 W Baltimore Pike Kennett Sq PA 19348 PH:610-444-3855 email: bumjpo6@aol.com. [www.delawarerc.org](http://www.delawarerc.org) for further info.
- 13-15 Michigan Jets - Grosse Ile, MI (C) Michigan Jets. Site: Grosse Ile Airport. Burton Eisenberg CD, 7287 Danbury Dr W Bloomfield MI 48332 PH:248-626-8838 email: beisenb652@comcast.net. Visit [www.michiganjets.com](http://www.michiganjets.com) for further info.
- 14 DCRC Training Mike Peizer, Germantown, MD
- 14 PGRC Electric Fly In, Bowie, MD
- 20 DCRC Club Meeting/Mike Dooley will provide the Meeting program will be: The Raffle will be:
- 25 DCRC Board Meeting/Mike Dooley
- 28 Loudoun County Aeromodelers Assoc 8th Annual Electric Fly In - Leesburg, VA (C) Loudoun County Aeromodelers Assoc 8th Annual Electric Fly In. Site: Club Field. Ron Anderson CD, 115 Sue Ann Ct Sterling VA 20164
- 28 DCRC Training Mike Peizer, Germantown, MD
- August 2007**
- 2-5 Liberty Bell Jet Rally PA <http://www.libertybelljetrally.com/index.cfm> Mike Leshner 1
- 11 DCRC Training Mike Peizer, Germantown, MD
- 17 DCRC Club Meeting/Andy Kane will provide the Meeting program will be: The Raffle will be:
- 18 DCRC Electric fly in. Jay Stargel
- 25 DCRC Training Mike Peizer, Germantown, MD
- 25-26 PGRC, CAPI IMAC contest, Bowie, MD, Dave Michael ronmarie@windstream.net

# 2007 TOP GUN

Doug Harper

Photos by Dave McQueeney and Palmer Johnson

Dave McQueeney and I had the privilege of attending Top Gun again this year in Lakeland, Florida. For those who may not be familiar, Top Gun has been a high level scale contest run by the infamous Frank Tiano for about the last 15 years. It is by invitation and attracts some of the best scale flyers from all over the



world.

This year, there were five classes that attracted around 90 flyers. The five classes are Masters (model is designed, built and flown by pilot), Expert (model is built and flown by pilot), Team (one member builds the model and another flies it), Pro Am – Pro (model can be built by someone other than the pilot, pilot has won other classes of Top Gun), and finally Pro Am – Am or Sportsman (model can be built by someone other than the pilot, most pilots are new to Top Gun). Dave and I flew again this year in Pro Am – Sportsman since we both flew aircraft built by someone else. There were 29 en-



trants in Pro Am – Sportsman so there was plenty of competition.

Masters, Expert and Team all have up to 100 points for static judging and 100 points for flying. For those who remember the scale contests DCRC used to run at Bealeton, we used a similar judging scheme. Pro Am uses a zero or 25 point scheme for static using a photo of the full-scale aircraft to gain the 25 points. Pro Am also uses 100 points for flying.

The 100 point flying score is broken down into 10 maneuvers worth up to 10 points each. Five of the maneuvers – takeoff, landing, fast fly by, slow fly by, and realism (how the plane appears in the air compared to its full-scale counterpart) are mandatory. The other five are at the choice of the pilot and can consist of any five of the typical maneuvers that a particular plane commonly can do. For example, many pilots do a loop, roll (either axial or



barrel), stall turn, chandelle, missed approach, Cuban eight, etc. Certain planes can also use up to two mechanical options in place of maneuvers. For example, retracts could be counted as one maneuver and generally would be worth the full 10 points. Since it is usually hard to get a 10 on a flying maneuver, mechanicals are popular.

Dave has competed in Top Gun for several years. Two years ago he unfortunately crashed his primary aircraft, a P47, but fortunately was able to fly a backup Pitts Special to second place. This was an out-

standing achievement by Dave and a testament to his piloting skills. Last year, Dave intended to enter his F8F Bearcat but again substituted his Pitts. The wind last year was so strong during the entire contest that it was almost impossible to fly.

Last year was my first year at



Top Gun and I proudly took a FW190 that was built by Bill Cunningham. This aircraft was truly beautiful and a fine flyer. Unfortunately, the aforementioned wind made it almost impossible to fly. I did get it in the air once and immediately landed. So, this was not a great way to break into Top Gun.

This year, Dave entered the F8F which has had several mechanical enhancements including a RCS 250cc radial engine. The F8F is a large plane and this radial fits like a glove in the cowl. It produces awesome power and has the most natural sound of any model engine I have ever listened to. It truly is a match made in heaven. This plane has great presence in the air and flies like it is on a wire.



I took a little different approach this year. I figured the wind would again be strong in Florida in the

(Continued from page 6)

spring but, given my history flying Cubs, I would take my chances flying a 1/3 scale Cub. It might not be obvious that a Cub would fly well in wind but I figured I could at least control it. The good news is that the winds were negligible this year so the Cub turned out to be a great choice. Just before Top Gun, I had the opportunity to obtain a beautiful L4 built by Tony Massiello based on the Bealeton Flying Circus L4. Knowing how well this model flies on the venerable G62 engine, I immediately decided to take this plane to Florida. It turned out to be a good choice.



As the Top Gun contest has evolved over many years, several changes have been made to open it up to more flyers and to enhance competition. Pro Am was added to make the contest bigger and more interesting to the many spectators who attend. An interesting aspect of Top Gun is that just about any model can be competitively flown. At first I wasn't convinced this was



really true but I now believe. For example, about a third of the en-

trants are jets who fly side-by-side with WWII warbirds, all sorts of civilian aircraft from the 30's and



40's, and even WWI aircraft. There are some score adjustments applied to certain craft like tail draggers but the primary strategy used to level the field is to judge the model based on what the full scale aircraft can do and how it looks in the air. This technique works very well and I feel good flying and an attractive plane will come out ahead.

Many of the big names in the hobby today are regulars at Top Gun. Flyers from many countries show up including Canada, Ger-



many, Thailand, Brazil, Argentina, etc. Most of the well known scalars from the US are there as well. It is truly a privilege to rub elbows with the level of pilots and builders in attendance. The planes are breathtaking and the pilots are more very accessible, even to newbie's like myself.

Dave and I (and Dee) had a great time this year and feel we will try to compete again next year. Dave came in ninth and I came in second in Sportsman. Dave has taken some

beautiful pictures of this event which accompany this article.

For more info visit [www.franktiano.com](http://www.franktiano.com)



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Radio Control Club

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One of the oldest and largest RC  
clubs in the US.

[www.dc-rc.org](http://www.dc-rc.org)

June 2007

## DCRC PRESENTS

6<sup>th</sup> Annual County Appreciation Day

Saturday June 30, 2007 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Montgomery County**

**Model Airpark**

**16200 Schaeffer Road,**

**Germantown, MD**

- Model Air Show
- Aerobatics demonstrations
- Jet-turbine demonstrations
- Helicopter demonstrations
- Scale Models From WWII
- Fly model airplanes
- Pony Rides

Open flying to all DCRC members and their  
guests

**Bring your family and friends and  
enjoy a day of exciting  
entertainment, food, and fun!**

*Directions: From I-270, take Clopper Rd (Rt 117) west to  
Schaeffer Rd (first left past Rt 118). Continue on Schaeffer  
Rd approximately 2 miles. Pass the soccer fields; take first  
left into the airfield.*

**Sponsored by District of Columbia**

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