

# The Aerogramme

Official Publication of the NorthEastern Drone Society

Feb. 24, 2011

**AMA Club  
#187**



## **Officers:**

**President:**  
Greg Watson

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Will Hughes

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Warzocha

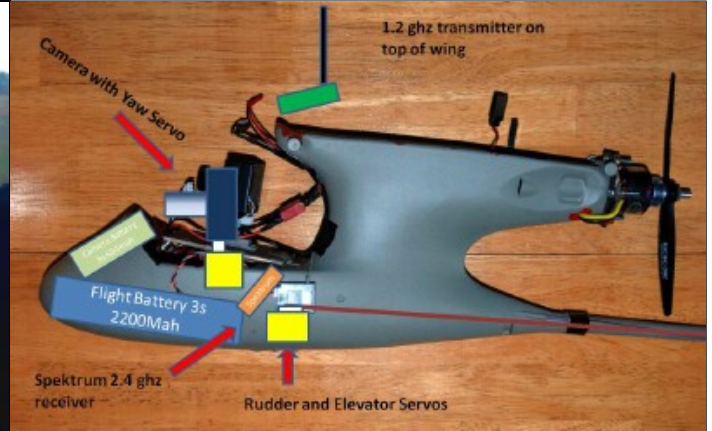
## **Instructors:**

**Aero:**  
Billy G.  
860-429-1046  
Ron V.  
860-205-3277  
John C.  
860-646-0459  
Greg W.  
860-508-2394

**Heli:**  
John C.  
860-646-0459

**Glider:**  
Billy G.  
860-429-1046  
Ron V.  
860-205-3277

**Field  
Marshals:**  
Don M.  
Al G.



## **Flying My Plane from the Cockpit**

By Joshua Idjadi

For many of us, the RC hobby can satisfy our creative itch or our interest in the history of aviation. For some of us, however, RC flight is the closest we can get to experiencing real flight. Full scale flight is risky and expensive and full scale airplanes are not a wise choice for weekend warriors and occasional pilots. Lucky for us, the only consequences for crashing our RC plane is a nasty feeling in the pit of our stomach and an uncontrollable desire to go the local hobby shop and buy a new plane that afternoon! Recently, the ability to experience our RC planes "from the cockpit" has become possible for the average consumer. It began with affordable video cameras that are small enough to fit on an RC plane and now, it has culminated with First Person Video (FPV) rigs that have real-time transmitters that let us experience the cockpit view as the plane is flying.

Last year I jumped into the FPV game after spending many years enjoying my video recordings from RC flights. I wanted to fly from the cockpit! I bought a good quality sony camera and 1.2 ghz system that transmits from the plane to a land-based receiver unit. The camera provides resolution that is more than adequate for real-time flight and has advanced features that allow the ground and the sky to be properly exposed to avoid sudden white or blackouts when changing pitch. The choice of 1.2 ghz was driven mostly by avoiding conflicts with my 2.4 ghz Spektrum radios but it's also a good choice for range and a reasonable wavelength for getting around objects like trees. I paired this equipment with a set of goggles that simulate an 80" television view from 1 meter away!

I had to build a plane to accommodate my new FPV equipment. Many FPV pilots use the 3 channel Multiplex Easystar but I wanted 4 channel control. I combined a fuselage from a Wing Dragon trainer with new tail feathers and a set of Easyglider wings to generate the lift required for the new payload. It has all worked perfectly and it's very stable in flight.

I was very surprised by how easy it was to fly. I did not realize that a 3D view is not necessary when flying from the cockpit because of visual clues like the changing shape of the runway as you descend tell you about your position and distance. Also, as we all know, orientation can be challenging when flying an RC plane from the ground. Not so from the cockpit. I enlisted the help of my brother to be my spotter on the buddy box in case anything went wrong (a wise AMA rule) and I felt so at ease that I found myself calming HIM down saying, "don't worry, I got this thing." Of course, there is always the nervous feeling of flying several hundred dollars worth of hard-earned equipment around but that's the same no matter what model we fly.

(Continued next page)

## Flying My Plane from the Cockpit

(Continued from page one)

FPV has done exactly what I hoped it would do. That is, allow me the feeling of flight from the cockpit for a reasonable price and without risking my neck. New innovations like on screen displays (OSD) can show you GPS headings, altitude, voltage etc. for very reasonable prices. Head tracking devices can actually allow the camera to move in all three axes to mimic the movements of your head. You could glance over your "shoulder" to check the runway on your downwind leg! I hope to get into that stuff soon but for now I'm enjoying being a 40 size pilot.



Above is a new foamy John Cheyer just built. It is a Boeing YC-14 dual ducted fan that was supposed to replace the C-130. Two were built and tested. John included a bomb and parachute drop on the bottom to have fun with at the field. Waiting for good weather to maiden it.



Greg Watson's built this beautiful Extra 300 as a replacement for his current blue Extra 300. This one he filed out the stops for the elevator so he can get about 60 deg of throw instead of the 45 that the blue one gets.



This is "OTTO" gyro, built by John Cheyer. The autogyro is made completely of blue core and cell foam. Weighs .55 lb and cell foam blades (carbon fiber glued to leading edge) have a flapping hinge. Hot glue and tape hold the \$1.22 model together. 1/64 ply under blades prevent blades from hitting the tail.



Photo at right is a new foamie, fashioned after the extra 300, built by Curt Gould. It has a 30" wingspan. Waiting for better weather and removal of the cast on his broken arm (slipped on ice) to maiden it.

**It's time to renew your club membership. Annual dues are \$48 for adults. Please send payment in care of Gary Warzocha, PO Box 83, Storrs, CT 06268**

## **Minutes of the NEDS Meeting of February 10, 2011**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm with 15 people present.

### **Treasurer's Report for January & February, 2011:**

Income \$512 (Dues \$192.00, Raffle \$270.00, hay & t-shirt sales \$50)

Expenses \$694.60 (Mowing \$450.00, Incorporation \$50.00, Newsletter \$27.85, office supplies \$27.06, Porta John \$79.50, Postage \$10.19)

Net loss \$182.60

Total (cash and checking) \$1808.76

### **Old Business:**

Web Site issues continue. If you are having difficulties viewing the site try accessing through GOOGLE CHROME. There is also discussion of having a Co-webmaster to help keep the website up to date and make improvements.

**Tolland Dome flying hours were temporarily changed to 12p to 2p for a couple of weeks. They should be back to normal schedule starting the 23rd. UPDATE!!!!!! ..... Starting immediately everyone should check the STARHILL FAMILY ATHLETIC CENTER web site (<http://www.starhillsports.com/>) for weekly flying time. They will be reserving a 2 hour block weekly for flying.**

Coventry Flying Field DEP Permit has not been returned to us yet. Will Hughes will call the DEP and get a status. UPDATE!!!!!!..... Will has been in touch via E-mail with Dep. Comm. Frechette. She is looking into the matter and will find out where the permit is.

### **New Business:**

**Polar bear fly in has been Scheduled for March 6th at Mansfield. Flying starts at 10 AM.**

We are also in the process of scheduling our float flies. As usual we will be working around the NEPRO schedule to increase participation from our members and those of other clubs who regularly attend these wonderful events.

### **New Faces:**

Scott Hetric of Coventry introduced himself and is looking forward to joining the club!

### **Show and Tell:**

Will Hughes brought in his new Parkzone Ember and his Tower Hobbies P-51 Mustang.

Don MacDougal brought in the fuselage of a Sig LT-40 he is building. He says he's impressed with how strong it is.

Greg Watson brought in his new EXI 450 Pro TT (torque tube) helicopter. He says it's a clone of the Align Pro 450 and the parts are interchangeable and available from local shops. Its cost was \$250- \$300 not including batteries and radio gear. 15 flights and still going strong!

Josh Idjadi brought in a small electric airplane he is putting together as a project for his students at ECSU. Josh is a professor there and will be teaching a course entitled " Human flight: Evolution, Culture.

Recorder: Will Hughes

First Class Mail

NorthEastern Drone Society  
PO Box 83  
Storrs, CT 06268

# NEDS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

1. Complete form, include a photocopy of your AMA membership ID card and return to Treasurer.
2. Dues are \$18 per year if you are under 18, otherwise the cost will be \$48.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

FREQUANCIES USED FOR FLYING: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Certification: I agree to abide by the club rules, by-laws and AMA Safety Code.**

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Gary Warzocha, PO Box 83, Storrs, CT. 06268

