



The Transmitter

Suburban RC Barnstormers - P.O. Box 524, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

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July 2008

<http://www.suburbanrcbarnstormers.com>

Coming in July and August

July 14th, Member Meeting, Bloomingdale Public Library, 7:00pm

July 20th, Fun Fly #3, Pratt's Wayne Woods, 9:00am trim flights, 10:00am first contestant off

Aug 11th, Member Meeting, Bloomingdale Public Library, 7:00pm

Aug 17th, Fun Fly #4, Pratt's Wayne Woods, 9:00am trim flights, 10:00am first contestant off

Aug 24th, Giant Scale FF #2, Pratt's Wayne Woods, 9:00am

If You See that Big Stick Move, It May Be an Eastern Massasauga

By Scott Taylor

At the last meeting, several members reported they had seen what they believed to be a rattlesnake. As it turns out, they were right!

There are approximately fifty species of rattlesnakes along with many subspecies. The snake that inhabits the field at Pratt's Wayne is the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake.



At one time this snake was common in about four-fifths of the state, but farming has eliminated most of its habitat. As a result, it is actually an endangered species in Illinois.

The Eastern Massasauga likes to live in swampy or marshy areas. Dupage County is included among the few locations where these snakes are found in Illinois. And Pratt's Wayne Woods seems to be a habitat to its liking. The project to restore the wetlands at Pratt's Wayne seems to have led to a significant increase in population.

The Eastern Massasauga ranges in size from about 17 to 40 inches in length. They will generally shy away from humans, but if startled or cornered, may coil and strike. But be aware that rattlesnakes do not need to coil in order to strike and they can hit their targets at lightning speed up to two-thirds of their body length away. Although not nearly as venomous or aggressive as their southwestern counter parts, they are still best left alone. And if you happen to get bitten by one, try to minimize the spread of the venom and seek immediate medical attention.

These snakes are most active on warm, humid, overcast days (like model pilots). So, beware next time you are walking through the brush looking for that downed model.

Notes of the Suburban RC Barnstormers Membership Meeting

June 6, 2008

ATTENDANCE

There were 40 members present.

OFFICER REPORTS

President: Mert Mischnick was absent.

Vice President: Steve Dietrich presided over the meeting in Mert's absence. He said the rollover raffle for the evening was a Spektrum DX6i radio. Door prizes were also donated by Dan Naumowicz (motor) and Glen Larocco (Cool Packs).

Treasurer: Bob Elsner was absent.

Secretary: Scott Taylor reported that the plaques for the winners of the static contest have been ordered and will be passed out at the June meeting. Scott also passed out name tags and said additional copies of the newsletter were available.

COMMITTEES

Fun Fly – Scott Hurley reported on the last Fun-Fly. Twenty-seven members showed up for the event and food. Eleven of those piloted in the event. The original plane was for a Poker Touch and Go, but strong winds made that difficult. So, a 60 second timed flight was substituted. The next fun-fly, which will be on Father's Day, will be another attempt at the Poker Touch and Go.

Giant Scale – Glenn LaRocco reported on the Giant Scale fun fly held on June 8th. Glenn said the day started out nice and there were about 10 pilots attending. Flying was good for about 2 hours until the wind and rain set in. But the pizza was great!

Safety – Tom Lyons said he has seen a few pilots flying out from the pit area. He reminded everyone that this was not a safe practice and that planes should be carried or pushed from the pits to the flight line before beginning to taxi. Members that see this being done should point this out to the pilot.

Tom also said that weather has been unpredictable and severe this year, and pilots

were encouraged to watch the weather and be prepared to take shelter. If you see lightning in the area, please leave the field.

Tom reminded members not to dump fuel on the grass. This kills the grass and leaves spots. A carpet, towel or other absorbent material should be used to catch the fuel, or better yet, recover the overflow in tank or can.

There have been reports of rattlesnakes on the field. Although they are not considered very dangerous or very poisonous, they should be avoided and not provoked. (See article in newsletter for more information)

OTHER BUSINESS

Field Condition – Members reported that the grass was high and the geese have been fertilizing heavily, but the field is flyable. Everyone was reminded that canopies must be put away at the end of the day. If you are the last person at the field, please make sure they are packed in the stand.

Electric Fly – Carl Barshop told members about and electric fly at the Busse Woods field. The event would be from 3pm until dusk with dinner at 5pm. The event was \$10 "at the gate" or \$7 in advance.

Talon Auction – Keith Egging presided over the auction of a Scott Hurley designed Talon Simple Plastic Airplane Design (SPAD). The model was donated by Ron Hilger and was taken home by the winning bidder, Dan Naumowicz.

PLANES

There were no member planes for "show and tell" at this meeting. Don't forget to bring yours in at the next meeting!

PRIZES

Michael Maciejewski was the winner of the **TruRC** motor pack door prize and **Juan Larios** won the cooler pack. **Elmer Heifert** was the winner of the Turkey Raffle and **Scott Hurley** was the lucky winner of the Spektrum DX6i radio.

June 8 2008 Giant Scale

By Glenn LaRocco

Well, the kickoff giant scale fly-in was not a total bust. We had about 10 pilots attend and some of those pilots chose to sit on the sidelines and watch the real pros battle the winds. With no crashes, I would say it was a good day. But a few of were plagued with mechanical problems. We had about two hours or so before the rains came and were smart enough to pack it up early so no one was drenched to bad. And for those who waited, I had Rocco Vinos Pizza at the field with the help of Jeff Peca bringing the pop. Thanks, Jeff !

Many people ask me what are the rules for giant scale and here it is. A mono plane with a wingspan 80" or greater, a biplane with a wingspan of 60" or greater, or a plane that is "True!!!" one-quarter scale of the full size aircraft. For those of you interested in getting into giant scale, consider joining the IMAA ([International Miniature Aircraft Association](http://www.imaa.org)).

Below are a few pictures from the event.

Hope to see more of you out at our next Giant scale !!!!!



June Fun Fly Report

By Scott Hurley

I want to start by thanking Hobby Town of St Charles for their generous donations for our Fun Fly. We received a GWS Stick, several Real Flight expansion packs, and all items that we purchased were sold to us at cost.

Let's talk about the event. I arrived at about 8:30 with a thunderstorm right behind me. I was quite sure the event would be cancelled but once I saw John Howe pull in I knew we would fly rain or shine, and we did!

Dave and I put up the canopy and John fired up his Ultra Spad and flew it in the rain for about 20 minutes. John claims to have seeded the clouds and caused the last shower, which ended the rain. Way to go John!!

At 10:00am we decided to draw the prizes due to the uncertain weather. We started the drawing at 10:30am in case there were any late comers. Ed went home with a .40 size Tango ARF, Joe got an electric Delta kit, and Steve D. went home with a Hitec 3 Channel radio. By the end of the drawing about \$500.00 in prizes from Hobby Town were given away.

The event was a Touch and Go Poker. There were 4 cards painted on the field, an Ace, a King, a Queen and a Jack. Each pilot

had three passes with a wiffle ball tied to the plane by a 25 foot string.

If you were lucky enough you could get three Aces. This proved to be more difficult than expected. However, as long as the ball touched the field you got to draw a card. Jeff Peca proved to be no threat this time out (Jeff was at a graduation party) so the field was wide open.

John Howe took home the honors in the first round with a pair of sevens, but our Vice President, Steve, proved his flying ability by hitting a pair of Aces. With the event now over and all of the prizes awarded it was time for the food. Due to the rainy weather I opted out of grilling this time and we feasted on three large pizzas. Good food, good friends, and good fun, as always.

I hope after reading this that everyone realizes what a great time we have and all of the benefits (prizes) of attending. Remember, you don't have to fly to participate, you just have to participate.

Thanks to everyone who braved the storms and a big thank you again to Hobby Town of St Charles. Please check out Hobby Town's new web site <http://www.hobbytownfly.com>.



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This newsletter is published monthly by the Suburban RC Barnstormers, Inc.

We reserve the right to edit all information forwarded to us. Permission is hereby given to reprint any article that we publish as long as proper credit is given.

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Articles must be received by the 4th Saturday of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

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