

the

Electric
Flies
Amper

August			The EFO Officers			2018		
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No Mailed Ampeer Subscriptions			The Next Meeting: Saturday, August 4, 10 a.m., Midwest 7 mi. Flying Field					

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 A Report on the 34th Annual Mid-America Electric Flies 2018 -
 Upcoming C.A.R.D.S. of Lansing Annual Electric Fly In -
 Upcoming Events

Mid-America Electric Flies 2018
The 34th Annual
 By Ken Myers

The HOT One!!!
 Again this year, Southeastern Michigan had had no appreciable rain for all of July. Unfortunately, the weekend was oppressively hot well!

The flying field was in good shape, with close cropped, but dry grass. The **Midwest RC Society's mowing team** had done a their job on Wednesday.

Even though it was very hot and humid on Friday, the set up went quite smoothly.

Denny Sumner, Roger Wilfong, Charlie Dochenetz, Keith Shaw, CJ Wysocki and **myself** set up the flying field for the upcoming gathering. The signs were set out along the road, as well as other small details at the field. Keith Shaw's two large canopies were also erected. One of Keith's canopies is used to house the registration and the other is where Keith hangs his fantastic models.

The dining canopy, tables and chairs, from Suburban Part Rental, arrived

unexpectedly on Thursday morning. The tables and chairs were also set up on Friday.

By mid to late afternoon on Friday, many of our out of town guests started arriving. Mark Wolf (Brownsburg, IN), Don Belfort (West Chester, OH), John Kauk (Topeka, KS), Martin Irvine (Kingston, Ont., Canada), Jim Ryan (Cincinnati, OH), along with local fliers, set up their E-Z UP canopies and started some evening flying. It was a beautiful, if extremely warm, evening for flying.

Friday afternoon and evening is always fun. There is a lot of relaxed flying and "catching up" with our many friends.

Friday, and Friday evening, is a great experience at the Mid-Am.

While the EFO and Ann Arbor Falcons members were setting up the field for the Electric event, **Pete Waters** and his grandson also did the set-up for the Midwest RC Society Price-less sale and the open air swap shop. Midwest graciously provides their flying field to be used for this annual meet.

Many folks may remember Pete as the owner of Kraft Midwest, an RC repair business specializing in Kraft radios, but repairing almost any brand. You do remember Kraft radios, right?

The Weather During the Meet

Saturday's weather was sunny for a bit, but clouded over fairly quickly. While the clouds provided a gray sky background, they also kept the sun from beating down on the participants. The temperature reached over 90 degrees F. The west wind remained low throughout the day.

The very hot weather held through the whole day, including the Saturday evening steak sandwich and pot-luck dinner.

Sunday was even hotter with bright sunshine all day long. The breezes remained low and mostly from the west again. Unfortunately, if you were flying, you were also 'baking' under the very hot sun.

The Pilots and Their Planes

This year, our thirty-two registered pilots came from all over Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, New Jersey and Ontario, Canada.

It was a lot of fun catching up with our "old friends" and making new friends. That is what this meet is really about. Okay, the really "cool" planes are a very nice bonus.

A Word About the Photos

A lot of folks captured the images used to illustrate this article, and more are posted online in RC Groups Events section for the Mid-Am 2018. <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3083159>

Even more photos, by Rick Sawicki, can be found at: <https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMzoeXj7INZYJsxa4a-dqKmn6muMJjynyWEtmZqGrxe499pT9bkHjkJ848tYaBOzw?key=c0IyWmUtS2d3N1gxR1RrMEV4Rjg4SVFLMnowUERn>

I am sincerely indebted to C.J. Wysocki, Rob Kalkok, and Rick Sawicki and Ken Myers for their great photos.

Saturday's Awards

Don Belfort, of West Chester, OH flew a beautiful VK Cherokee. It received the **Best Sport**



Ken Myers Photo

Plane Award. He had purchased the 'vintage' kit at last year's Mid-Am and brought it back to 'return to its home field' for some great flying.



Rob Kalkok Photo

Robert Throne, of Ypsilanti, MI, brought an impressive little Aeronca C-3. The little beauty was awarded **Most Beautiful**. It is extremely impressive in flight for such a 'tiny' fellow.



C.J. Wysocki Photo

Denny Sumner, of Canton, MI, was awarded **Best Scale** for his 1/6 scale Mooney Mite. The plane not only looks great, but it flies very nicely. Details of Denny's Mooney build can be found on RC Groups. <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2533763>

Jim Young, of Brighton, MI, flew his self-designed, plans built, MiG 17. Jim was awarded **Best Ducted Fan** for his fine effort.

More information on Jim's impressive MiG 17 can be found here - <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2040946>



C.J. Wysocki Photo

conceded victory. Ken was flying his RUA 2-4-10 'trainer'.

Roger's Lazy Cub can be seen in the middle of the photo of the participants and Roger is the fellow that is second from the right.

More information on the Lazy Cub kit can be found here - <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2301541>



Ken Myers Photo

Jim Ryan, of Cincinnati, OH, flew his vintage, self-designed P-38. It is a great flying plane using twin, brushed, Speed 400 motors. Jim was awarded **CD's Choice** for this oldie but goodie on Saturday.

For those of you not familiar with Jim, he became extremely notable in early electric flight for his Speed 400 warbird designs and kits from the mid-1990s through the early 2000's.



Rick Sawacki Photo

Roger Wilfong won the **Foam Flurry Event**.

This was the second year for the event at the Mid-Am. It was an all up/last down type of event for Not Conventional Materials aircraft. Roger flew a Ken's CAD Lazy Cub for more than 20 minutes. He could have stayed up even long, but Ken Myers

Sunday's Awards



CJ Wysocki photo

Martin Irvine, of Kingston, Ont. Canada, flew a well detailed, big, beautiful Nieuport. It received the **Best Scale Award**. It looked absolutely realistic on the ground and in the air. It is extremely impressive.



C.J. Wysocki Photo

Mark Rittinger, of Roseville, MI, flew his Shockwave. It was awarded **Most Beautiful**. More information on his design can be found here - <https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2085377>



C.J. Wysocki Photo

Jim Young, of Brighton, MI, flew his beautiful, all white, self-designed Lil' Waco. It received the CD's Choice Award on Sunday.



Ken Myers Photo

Rob Kallok, of West Long Branch, NJ, received the Best Multi-Motor award on Sunday for his twin.

My photography wins no prize for sure. Darn trash container jumped into the shot when I wasn't looking. His plane was certainly a winner though!



C.J. Wysocki Photo

The award this year for the **Most Unique Not Conventional Materials (NCM) Aircraft** was awarded to Ken Myers for very highly modified Flite Test Simple Cub Design.

While the design itself was not unique at all, the two months of effort, through four versions of trial

and error design changes and flight tests, were recognized by Keith as unique, as most folks would have just built it and flown it as designed.



Dennis Sumner Photo

Sunday's **Best Mini-Electric** award was given to **Denny Sumner** of Canton, MI for his tiny P-51.

This little guy was built before the availability of the small Spektrum units found in so many mini-aircraft today.

I had to ask Denny for a photo and he sent along some specs as well.

54 square inches.

Weight about 2 ounces with (2) 2.5g servos, a Small Rx and a 2S 200mAh battery. I built mine back in 2008. Covering is silver Ultracote parklight with the red, yellow and black being Monokote. The spinner is balsa and covered in yellow and red Monokote.

This was designed and sold by fly2build.com.

Link to original build thread by fly2build.

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?761596-PS-MUSTANG-KIT-E-Flite-180-Powered-Laser-cut-Micro-Parkflyer>

The Saturday Evening Potluck

Once the awards were presented, and the pilots' raffle held, it was time for the Annual Steak Sandwich and potluck dinner.

Unfortunately, **Dave Hares**, our head chef, was once again under the weather. Fortunately for us, he was still able to bring all the steak sandwich supplies and oversee the dinner as well as grill the

steaks. What a guy!!! **Dave Stacer** and **Christine Myers** helped to get everything set up under Dave's direction. Dave Stacer had already worked pilot registration and then helped out with the potluck. He and Chris provided the much needed help in preparation and clean up. A HUGE thanks go to both Daves and my Chris.

As usual, **Don Belfort**, from West Chester, OH, brought his "traditional" Mid-Am cake. This year's cake celebrated the 34th Annual Mid-Am. The cake tradition has been going on for almost as long as the Mid-America Electric Flies. Unfortunately, it had been cut and about 1/2 devoured before I got I photo of it this year. Dang.

During, and after, the potluck is a wonderful time to be at this meet. This is the time when folks continue to get in more flights as well as 'sit around' and "catch up", talk planes, family, and politics and just relax. It is simply a marvelous time to be at the Mid-Am.

This great tradition WILL BE CONTINUED! It is just too great to let go!

Our Sponsors

We would like to thank our sponsors for providing many "goodies" for our participating pilots each day.

Mark Rittinger provided two sets of plans this year, one for his Pharaoh sport plane and the other for his Omen III design.

<http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=2514451>
<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?2287978>

A HUGE, and very special thanks, goes to **Joe Hass** for acquiring donations from Flight Line Hobbies, Nankin Hobbies, Beacon Adhesives, Air Age Publications and Retro RC.

There were four plane kits, and many, many useful hobby tools and accessories.

Flite Test provided kits of their Mini-Arrow and Simple Cub as well as Flite Test Decals and a couple of transmitter lanyards.

Martin Irvine provided many vintage, full-scale aircraft books. *(Again they proved to be a HUGE hit this year! KM)*

Ken Myers also provided a kit for the raffle.

Keith and I thank all of our sponsors very much. We know that the registered pilots, who received items from our sponsors, are very grateful as well.

A HUGE Thanks to All Who Helped

Keith and I cannot thank enough all of the folks from the EFO, the Ann Arbor Falcons, and the Midwest RC Society who helped to make this meet the success it is.

It is pretty easy to go to a "meet" and enjoy the facilities and forget that it takes a lot of dedicated and hard working people to pull it all together. The physical field needs to be in the best possible condition, the dining facilities, registration, concessions, potluck picnic grilling and a myriad of other details need to be taken care of. **Our behind the scenes folks are the best!** Guys, Keith and I cannot be more sincere when we say thank you, and we really couldn't have done it all these years without you!



Parking, Concessions and the Price-less Sale



Parking and parking directions were handled by the Midwest RC Society members **Barb and Bob Weak, Arthur Deane, Bill Brown, Jr, Arnie Nielsen, Ron Krause, Jim Ouillette, Greg Eilers and Ken Sutton.**

Concessions were headed up by **Charlie Dochenetz** with the Chef **Mike Russell** on the grill.

Pete Waters wrangled all of the items for the price-less sale.

The Flight Line

Keith Shaw handled the flight line beautifully on Saturday, although the excessive heat pretty much 'wiped him out'. He also took control of the flight line on Sunday as the flight line coordinator. He also put on noon demonstration flights both days.

Registration



Rick Sawicki photo

Denny Sumner (right) and **Dave Stacer** (left) handled registration. Gotta love these guys. They are there all of the time to do anything and everything asked of them and more. Thanks so much!

And More Thanks

Keith and I sincerely thank Denny Sumner, David Stacer, Dave Hares, Arthur Deane, Roger Wilfong, Barb and Bob Weak, C.J. Wysocki, Pete Waters, Charlie Dochenetz, Jim Ouillette, Mel Berent, Mike Russell and Greg Eilers for all of their super help and support. There were more members of the EFO, Ann Arbor Falcons and the Midwest RC Society who pitched in with other spur of the moment jobs. Thanks to you folks as well!

Also, a special thanks goes out to the **Midwest RC Society** for allowing us to use their field and flying time for the majority of our Mid-Am meets. You guys and gals are the very best!

Our Potluck Chef Dave Hares

Many folks attending the Mid-Am know Dave as **THE MAN** attending to the grilling at the Saturday evening potluck. For more than 20 years he's filled this extremely important position. Besides cooking the steaks and sautéing the onions, he has been the organizer of the potluck and chief wrangler to see that everything is there for our guests. That is no small feat, especially this year when he was getting ready to enter the hospital again.

Thanks again Dave for another special year at the traditional Saturday evening potluck. Also, a huge thanks to **Dave Stacer** for pitching in after working a full day at registration. Dave Stacer was also able to give a helping hand this year during the potluck setup and clean up. Thanks to my wife, **Chris**, for also stepping up and filling in this year.

A Lesson Learned

On Sunday morning, before the formal meet started, a gentleman had his plane go down 'off field'. He left to locate it by himself. When he didn't return, I went searching for him.

I didn't know it, but he was fine and back at the field while I continued to try and find him.

We will be adding a sign-in sheet for a person to write down their name and cellphone number on. We will also be implementing a 'rule' that no one goes alone to look for a downed plane.

It's Just 'Plane' Fun

Again this year we recognized the model BUILDERS who use Not Conventional Materials to construct their aircraft. These types of aircraft are popular with younger builders and we will continue to encourage this segment of the hobby with recognition for their efforts.

The photo shows many of the NCM aircraft and their builders at the Mid-Am this year.



C.J. Wysocki Photos

On Sunday, he flew Czechmate and the Yak UT-1

Well That is Just Silly!

It all started innocently enough. **Bill Brown, Sr.** asked Keith to fly his Retro RC Ebenezer. (<http://retrorc.us.com/katana-3-2-2-1-1-1-1-1-1.aspx>) **Keith** flew it several times off of a 5 ft. long by 18 inch wide piece of cardboard and made several attempts to land back on the cardboard.

Jim Young said, "Why don't we use a table top laying on the ground?" Still pretty innocent.



Rick Sawicki Photo

The photo also shows the mass launch for the NCM Aircraft All-Up-Last-Down Event.

The Noon Demos by Keith Shaw



C.J. Wysocki Photo

On Saturday, Keith flew his Bugatti and his Ryder 6 8 Ball. The twin engine powered Bugatti is thrilling to listen to as Keith flies his precision routine with it. Gotta love the sound of those two props!



Ken Myers Photo

Like Keith's attempt, shown in the photo on the top of the next page, Joe's Retro RC Saucerus (<http://retrorc.us.com/1913eastbournemonoplane-2-1.aspx>) wouldn't get off in the length of the table. The Ebenezer easily did it most of the time.

The always churning mind of Jim Young came up with a perfect(?) solution. He said, "Let's turn that table into a ramp. I'll hold the plane and Joe can pour the coals to it."



Is Jim celebrating or going, "Oh My Gosh, I am so sorry Joe!"?

To find the answer to that earth shattering question, view the video at <https://youtu.be/AFfrM6wu024>
The Keepers of the Light and Gate



Rick Sawicki photo

Keith Shaw (left) and Ken Myers (right) briefed the pilots on the field safety rules and the procedure to follow incase of a fire.

After the pilots' meeting, Ken asked everyone there who participated in the Mid-Am between 1985 and 1999 to step onto the field for a photo.

Here we are, "that ole gang of mine", as the song says.

Rick Sawicki photo





Rick Sawicki Photo

At least Pete Foss' Snoopy and Woodstock were dressed correctly for the weather.



C.J. Wysocki Photo

Mark Rittinger's swept forward Trishula is always interesting to watch fly.



Ken Myers Photo

John Kauk gets one of his big ones ready. He rolls in from Topeka, KS every year with a trailer full of great planes, and its great to have him.

Upcoming Event
Cards of East Lansing, MI
8th Annual Electric Fly In
 from Marvin Thomson

When: Friday, August 24 1:00 pm - 9:00pm and Saturday August 25 from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

Pilot and Aircraft Requirements:

Current AMA — Open to All RC Electric planes, helicopters, and multi-copters/quads.

Best two runways in Mid-Michigan

Practice FPV Multicopter Course on N/S runway open on Friday and Saturday from 4:00-9:00 pm

Pilot Raffle on Saturday

Pizza, pop, and water available on Saturday

Spectators Welcome

Landing Fees:

\$15 (includes Pilot Pizza & Soda)

CD Marv Thomson 517-802-7675 or

mthomson@wowway.com

Website: www.cardsrc.com

Address: 8328 Otto Rd, Grand Ledge, Mi 48837

The graphic includes a map showing the location of CARDS Field - Grand Ledge, MI relative to major roads (M43, M100, I-96, I-69) and nearby towns (Grand Ledge, Lansing, Charlotte, Potterville, Detroit). Below the map are logos for the Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce, the AMA Member logo, and the Cards of East Lansing logo. At the bottom, it says "Spectators Welcome" and lists "Pop and Water Concessions" and "Pizza delivered on Saturday".

Website:

<http://www.cardsrc.com/index.php/events/electric-fly-in>

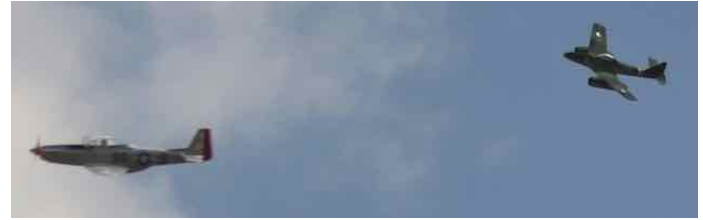
Upcoming E-vents

July 28, Saturday, Wing It Flying Event, Skymasters' flying field, 3 p.m.

August 4, Saturday, EFO Flying Meeting at the Midwest RC Society 7 Mile Road Flying Field, about 10 a.m., everyone is welcome, current AMA membership required to fly.

Aug. 24, Friday & Aug 26, Saturday, Capital Area Radio Drone Squadron (C.A.R.D.S.) (Lansing area) RC Electric Fly-in

Sept. 2, Sunday, Wing It Flying Event, PMAC flying field, 3 p.m.



C.J. Wysocki Photo

While Denny's little P-51 being chased by Mark's little Me 262 is a great picture, I'm sure, in real life, the P-51 pilot would be quite uncomfortable in this situation!

You are Invited!

Keith and I cordially invite you to join us for the 35th Annual Mid-America Electric Flies in July, 2019. See you then!



The Ampeer/Ken Myers
1911 Bradshaw Ct.
Commerce Twp., MI 48390

<http://www.theampeer.org>

The Next Monthly Meeting:

Date: Saturday, August 4, 2017 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Place: Midwest 7 mi. Rd. Flying Field