



Whirlwind



Newsletter of the Beltzville Flying Machine Society,

P.O. Box 74, Palmerton, PA 18071
August, 2015

carrjci238@yahoo.com JJ,

B.F.M.S. is 32 Years Old by John Carrigan

August, 1983 saw the beginning of the Beltzville Flying Machine Society, that is to say, the founding members began to use the field that we continue to use today. Although the State did not formally approve, they gave permission for the the club to begin flying on the site. Club members in the beginning were a diverse group, some were into free flight while a minority flew control line. The majority were Radio Control enthusiasts.

Early meetings of the club were held at the Carpenters home, and hobby shop in Leighton until the membership grew too large, and the Carpenters, Father and two sons, grew less interested in model aviation, and the hobby shop closed. It was, then, arranged for the meeting to be held in the gym of Jim Thorpe High School. I do not know what or who made the arrangements, but we were allowed to meet there virtually free of charge, to the best of my knowledge. Dues were a nominal \$24.00 per year, and would remain so for quite a long time.

At the present time, Gil Walters and myself are the only current members who can claim membership in the club at this early period. We were both learning at the time. Gil was far more advanced in Radio Control while I was being instructed by Charlie Thon, Eddie Martino and yes, Gil Walters.

Every year for a period of about five years a winter project was agreed upon at a meeting in October. Members of the club that were agreeable, would build the same plane kit that was selected, and in the Spring at the Mall Show the resulting finished planes would be displayed. At subsequent fun flies, contestants would put there planes through the prearranged maneuvers. Some planes were lost to the "Wall-of-Pain," others survived to continue until the next month's contest. Those planes that completed the season undamaged would be seen flying in the following seasons.

The last time I wrote an article about the club was seventeen years ago. A lot has changed since that time, and new members have filled the ranks of the Beltzville Flying Machine Society. The dues have increased to \$35.00, still a very nominal fee for such a nice field, although the "Charlie Brown Trees" still threaten our planes. This has always been, and will remain one of the reasons that we have so few members. A lot of the founding members chose to leave for a more airplane friendly environment at Ashfield. Those hardy pilots that remain members, grow more skilled at avoiding the greenery that surrounds our beautiful meadow.

Hats Still For Sale

Scott Voth is the person to see if you are interested in a new club hat. The cost is \$10.00, the price the club paid to have them produced by Valley Athletic Supply Co. of Lansford.

The two styles were decided upon by the members present at an earlier meeting this Summer.

Get your new hat at the next meeting. If you are like me, it is time for a new one because the old hat is sweat stained, and the “oil needs changing.”



Mark Your Calendar

National Model Aviation Day ————— Saturday, August 15, 2015

Beltzville Flying Machine Society Annual Picnic and Fun Fly — Sunday, September 20, 2015

Fly safely and try to stay off the “Wall-of-Pain.”

This has been a slow news period!

Comments and suggestions should be directed to
John Carrigan
at
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Next Meeting,
Saturday, August 8, 2015
about
12:00 PM (noon)
at the
Field