

the

# Ampeer

|  |   |  |  |      |
|--|---|--|--|------|
| October  |   | The EFO Officers   |  | 2020 |
| <b>President:</b><br>Ken Myers<br>1911 Bradshaw Ct.<br>Commerce Twp, MI 48390<br>Phone: 248.669.8124 | <b>Vice-President:</b><br>Keith Shaw<br>2756 Elmwood<br>Ann Arbor, MI 48104<br>Phone: 734-973-6309            | <b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b><br>Rick Sawicki<br>5089 Ledgewood Ct. W.<br>Commerce Twp., MI 48382<br>Phone: 248.685.7056 |  |      |
| <b>Board of Director:</b><br>David Stacer<br>PO Box 75313<br>Salem, MI 48175<br>Phone: 313.318.3288  | <b>Board of Director:</b><br>Arthur Deane<br>21690 Bedford Dr.<br>Northville, MI 48167<br>Phone: 248.348.2058 | <b>Ampeer Editor:</b><br>Ken Myers<br>1911 Bradshaw Ct.<br>Walled Lake, MI 48390<br>Phone: 248.669.8124                |  |      |
| No Mailed Ampeer Subscriptions   | The Next EFO Flying Meeting:<br>Sat. Oct. 3, 10 a.m. Midwest RC Society 7 Mi. Rd. Field                       |  |  |      |

**What's In This Issue:**  
 The August 2020 EFO Flying Meeting -  
 The 36th Annual Mid-America Electric Flies -  
 Very, Very Special Upcoming Event, Richard Utkan Memorial Fly and corn roast -  
 Upcoming Events

### The August 2020 EFO Flying Meeting



The meeting was held on Saturday, August 1. The weather really cooperated. The morning started off quite sunny, with clouds building during the day.

We had recently suffered through a heat wave for a week, but the temperature moderated to a high in the mid-80s on Saturday.

The winds were almost calm and the day proved to be one of those elusive "perfect" summer flying days.

The "meeting" was scheduled for 10 a.m., but Ken arrived with Mike Russell at 9 a.m. to meet with his four student pilots.

Ken used his RUA 2-4-10 trainer and modified Flite Test version 5 3-channel

planes as the trainers for his students and to get Mike back in the air for a flight after a couple of years layoff for him.

Ken is having great success using both those planes as trainers as both of them just sip electrons while flying at trainer speed. The RUA 2-4-10 uses a 3S 2200mAh LiPo and can do two 8 minute training flights on one pack. The version 5 Simple Cub uses a 3S 1300mAh pack and can get two 7 minute training flights on one pack.



Mike Russell (rear) and one of Ken's student pilots (foreground)

With two charged packs at the beginning of the day, the flying is continuous, while rotating through the four student pilots twice, with no time necessary to recharge.

Others started arriving between 9:30 and 10 and enjoying the beautiful weather while putting up many flights.

While the overall turnout was light, everyone there had a good time chatting and flying on this beautiful day.

### The 36th Annual Mid-America Electric Flies



Flight Line from East End on Saturday - sat-flightline-eastend1.png



Flight Line from West End on Saturday - sat-flightline2.png



Keith and Ken give pilot briefing - ken-keith-2020-2.png - Rick Sawicki photo

**Saturday, July 11, 2020**



Pilots' Briefing - pilots-meeting1.png - Rick Sawicki photo

The 36th Annual Mid-America Electric Flies, AKA the Mid-Am were held on July 11 and 12, 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic continued in the USA.

While the turn out, as expected, was light, it was a wonderful time for all the participants, who practiced social distancing and mask wearing, to get together to enjoy our great hobby!

We were so very happy that our LONG time flying buddy, Don Belfort, still made the trip up from West Chester, OH!



Don Belfort flying his PT19 early Saturday morning - belfort-flying-cj.png - CJ Wysocki photo





Don's PT-19 lifts off on Saturday morning - belfort-takeoff1.png



Dave Grife readies for takeoff and takes off - grife-takeoff-t33-2.png & grife-takeoff-liftoff.png

Dave Grife also made it up and over from Coldwater, MI. It is always great when he can make it so that we can enjoy his company and excellent flying.

**The Weather**

The week before the Mid-Am, Southeastern Michigan had suffered through a week plus of mid-90 degree F temperatures, while the heat indices were over 100 degrees F for most of those days.

Fortunately, a cool front passed through on the Friday before the Mid-Am and brought some much needed rain and relatively cooler temperatures. Even with the sun shining brightly all day, the midday high on Saturday was “only” about 85 degrees F with low humidity. It was actually quite pleasant, temperature-wise, to be outside.

Why was it so comfortable to be outside on Saturday? As noted, the humidity was low, but the winds were high, very, very high.

The winds started the day at at least 15 mph and then went up with gusts well into the mid-20 mph range or possibly higher. At times it was necessary to grab the EZ Up poles to keep them from taking off, even though they were staked into the ground.

Keith called this Mid-Am, “Windfest 2020!”  
How windy was it?



Czechmate.png - CJ Wysocki Photo

After Keith flew his fast, wind penetrating, Czechmate, he noted that it was extremely difficult to do precisely placed maneuvers and that wind



gusts made some of the maneuvers a bit “unpredictable”.

Even though the winds were high, there was still quite a bit of flying both before and after the pilots’ meeting.



Ken readies his modified FT Simple Cub for Takeoff - ken-with-cub.png - CJ Wysocki photo

**Don Belfort** of West Chester, OH was awarded the Best Scale Award for his beautiful looking, beautiful flying scratch-built PT-19.



Don retrieving his PT-19 after a great landing - belfort-after-landing1.png



Ken’s Cub flying - cub-flying.png - CJ Wysocki photo

Ken probably flew more flights at this year’s Mid-Am than any previous year. He flew his modified, version 5, Simple Cub 4-channel with ailerons and it flew amazingly well in the wind.

**The Awards**

After 35 years, the format of the event was changed this year. Saturday was the “main” flying day and Sunday was a day for open flying of electrics. Awards were only presented on Saturday.

**Best Scale Award**



Denny Sumner’s Kwik Fli 180 - kwik-fli-180.png - CJ Wysocki photo

**Best Sport Plane**

**Denny Sumner**, of Canton, MI, was presented the Best Sport Plane Award for his Manzano Laser Works Kwik-FLI 180.

**Best Mini Electric**

**Joe Hass**, of Rochester Hills, MI, was awarded the Best Mini Electric award. The award was not for one mini electric but 4 boxes full of mini





After polling the possible entrants for this event, it was decided to pass on it for this year because of the high winds.

After the presentation of the awards, the **Pilots' Raffle** was held.

We thank Mark Freeland, of Retro RC (<http://retro.rc.us.com/>), and Joe Hass for donations for this raffle.

electrics with almost all being flown at this "WindFest" meet!

Unfortunately, the photo of the fourth box did not turn out well enough to publish.



Joe Hass' OV-10 Bronco - joe-bronco1.png  
Bill Brown, Sr. with his Slow Stick - Bob Blau photo



Denny Sumner

**Best Multi-Motor Award**

**Joe Hass** was also was presented with the Best Multi-Motor Award for his OV-10 Bronco.

**Most Beautiful**

**Denny Sumner** of Canton, MI was awarded the Most Beautiful Award for his Old School Model Works Robinhood 25.

**CD's Choice**

**Bill Brown, Sr.** of Northville, MI was presented the CD's Choice for boldly flying an aileron version of the Slow Stick in a truly excellent manner. It was just awesome and amazing in those high winds!



Bill Brown, Sr.

**Foam Flurry for NCM Aircraft**





**Unfortunately, the Saturday evening annual steak potluck could not be held this year.**

### **Sunday July 12, the Open Flying Day**

Folks started arriving at about 8:30ish of so.

It was a beautiful morning with a light breeze and a welcomed cloud cover.

Eight fliers returned on Sunday for the open electric flying.

One more person signed up for the event. That brought the total to 20 participants for this year.

Everyone took turns flying at their leisure. It was a very, very relaxed flying day!

Steve Labuta flew his new simple sport plane, and it flew wonderfully. Steve had shared his CAD design for this scratch built and how he'd cut it on his CNC machine at EFO meetings this past year.

<http://theampeer.org/ampeer/ampjun20/ampjun20.htm>

<http://theampeer.org/ampeer/ampaug20/ampaug20.htm>

About 11 o'clock, a father and two sons came to the flying field. They were looking for flight instruction.

Thanks to **Robyn Rissell** of Lake Orion, MI, Ken was able to borrow his Tactic TTX650 for a buddy box with his Tactic TTX660.

Ken had his 3-channel, modified FT Simple Cub in the car, so he was able to give all three their first introductions to RC flying using his modified, 3-channel, version 5 Simple Cub.

They noted that it was definitely not easy.

This was the first time that Ken had used his modified, 3-channel Cub as a trainer, and it worked out extremely well, even though the wind had picked up some and was at about 10 mph by the time the last training flight was taken.

By about 1:30, while the sunshades were being taken down and packed, the winds had increased to at least 15 mph with several gusts much above that.

By the time that everything was packed away, the temperature had reached 81 degrees F, which was still very pleasant.

### **Some of the Interesting Planes and People**



Robert Throne chose to fly his RUA 2-4-10 in the windy conditions rather than his beautiful scale models. The RUA did very well flying I the wind!

robert-flying-cj.jpg - CJ Wysocki photo



Robert's RUA 2-4-10 in the air - robert-rua-cj - CJ Wysocki photo





freelands-planes-rs.png - Rick Sawicki photo

**Mark Freeland** brought some of his Retro RC planes to fly. They are built from Retro RC kits. (<http://retorc.us.com/>)



Joe readies the Antic - joe-antic2.png also brought along quite a fleet of other planes.

One of them was the fantastic looking and flying Antic. He did a write-up for the August 2020 Ampeer. Besides flying very well, hearing that “old” Astro Flight gearbox was a great trip down memory lane.

**Summary**

With the pandemic and high winds taken into consideration, it was still a very enjoyable Mid-Am.

Everyone seemed to still have a good time, and that was Keith’s and Ken’s intent.

Both Ken and Keith noted that they enjoyed this WindFest/pandemic Mid-Am very much and felt that there was a lot less pressure on them. They both noted that they are now looking forward to the 37th annual Mid-America Electric Flies in 2021.

**Even More Info from the Mid-Am  
The Cat with 9 Lives**



More of Joe’s Fleet - joe-all-foam-planes1.JPG

**Joe Hass**, of Rochester Hills, MI was really, really ready for this years Mid-Am.

Besides his boxes and boxes of mini-electrics, for which he won his a Best Mini Electric Award, he



The Antic in the air - antic-flying-cj - CJ Wysocki photo





**Robyn Rissell** brought a recently purchased, used, F9F Panther EDF. It was not really the day to try and fly an unfamiliar plane, but Robyn persevered on both Saturday and, again, on Sunday. Despite several disappearances into the weeds and off field, that cat kept coming back for another flight. Way to go Robyn and that is one tough cat!



Don Belfort's PT-19 Rick Sawicki photo - db-pt19-3.JPG

### **Don Belfort's Beautiful PT-19**

The following information on Don's plane comes from his column in the Summer 2020 issue of *Park Pilot* magazine, p. 28 and p. 29.

Motor: E-flite Power 90

ESC: Castle Creations Phoenix Edge 100

Battery: Thunder Power RC 8S 5000mAh

Prop: APC 17x8

Full power amp draw: 55 amps

RTF weight: 11 lb. (176 oz. KM)

Wing Area: ~1200 sq.in.

Wing loading: ~21 oz./sq.ft.

(Wing Cube Loading: 7.3 KM)

The WCL indicates why this plane flies so well at about 21 oz./sq.ft.

### **The Joe Hass Air Force at the Mid-Am**

Joe DEFINITELY had the most planes at the meet and flew almost all of them!!! Great show Joe!

Here is a list of the planes that he had available to fly.

### **"Smalls" (under 3 ounces) Not Flown**

Right Flyer (wing broke from the wind carrying it to the flightline)

Teerific F 22 (just too small)

Teerific MIG 25 (just too small)

Gnat (had 2 there - flew the more powerful one)

Retro RC Baby Bi Winger (had 2 there-flew the heavier one)

### **"Smalls" (under 3 ounces) Flown**

Retro RC Camp E' Racer

Retro RC Baby Bi Winger

Retro RC Ebenezer

Radical RC Mini Stick

Goldberg Shoestring

Goldberg Ranger 21

Gnat

Hot Wing

Stringless Wonder



Joe Hass with his GNAT at the Mid-Am - Rick Sawicki photo  
Stringless Wonder 150%

### **"Mid Size" (over 6 ounces) Flown**



Aspect Aviation F-106 Delta Dart  
 West Michigan Park Flyers OV-10 Bronco  
 West Michigan Park Flyers F-22  
 West Michigan Park Flyers Mini F-22  
 Model Aero Cessna 310  
 Flyzone L-39  
 Weekend Wonder  
 GWS C-130 Cargo Master (4 motors)  
 Tower Ryan STA

**"Giant" (over 80" wingspan) Flown**

Proctor ANTIC  
 Another great time.  
 From Joe Hass

**Photos and More Photos**

Our thanks go to CJ Wysocki, Rick Sawicki, Ken Myers and Bob Blau for the photos of this year's Mid-Am.

The following are links to even more photos taken at the 36th Annual Mid-America Electric Flies.

**Rick Sawicki's photo link**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZkVLo8ijEXVHmzJr5>

**CJ Wysocki photo link**

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showpost.php?p=45036547&postcount=172>

**Ken Myers' photo link**

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showpost.php?p=45145521&postcount=174>



Large Multi-Rotar - C.J. Wysocki photo

A large, photographic, first person video, multi-rotor flew during the Mid-Am.



Keith Shaw's Bear Kitty - C.J. Wysocki photo

Keith Shaw's venerable Bear Kitty flew again this year at the Mid-Am. Watching this "antique" airframe in the air is always a pleasure.

### Upcoming E-vents

**Oct. 3, Saturday**, EFO Flying Meeting, 10 a.m., Midwest RC Society 7 Mile Rd. Flying Field. Everyone with an interest is welcome. Proof of AMA membership is required to fly.

### Very, Very Special Upcoming Event

**Saturday, September 19, 11 a.m. - 4**

**p.m., \*Richard Utkan Memorial Fly and corn roast.**

\*RICHARD UTKAN was an active member of the original Union Lake Flying Organization (UFO) when it was on Wise Rd. near Union Lake, MI. He was the vice-president of the Electric Flyers Only (EFO) from its inception, in February 1988, to his untimely death in September of 2019.

The event is hosted by the United Flying Organization (UFO) at their flying site in the Highland Recreation Area. The flying site is 1.8 miles south of M-59 on the south side of Teeple Lake Rd. The driveway is on the right about 1/4 mile on Teeple Lake Road from Duck Lake Rd. A Michigan State Park Recreation Passport is Required.

There will be open flying from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proof of AMA membership is required to fly.

You are invited to share your memories of Richard and to bring your "FRANKEN-PLANES" and "Huhh, does that really fly?" planes in honor of Rich.

Please bring something to share. (A favorite memory, food...)

Fresh Grilled Corn is Provided. Donations accepted.

More Information is available from Steve Labuta

Phone: 248-360-1766

Email: [slabuta@yahoo.com](mailto:slabuta@yahoo.com)



The Ampeer/Ken Myers  
1911 Bradshaw Ct.  
Commerce Twp., MI 48390  
<http://www.theampeer.org>

#### The Next Monthly Meeting:

**Date:** Oct. 3, 10 a.m.

**Place:** Midwest 7 Mi. Rd. Flying Field