



Whirlwind



Newsletter of the Beltzville Flying Machine Society,

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March, 2015

Hello from the South Pacific

Currently, we are sailing southwest toward Australia, stopping along the way at a few islands to stretch our legs on solid land. First was Honolulu, Oahu, then Apia, Samoa, followed by Suva, Fiji. We will arrive in Port Vila, Vanuatu tomorrow, Friday, March 6, 2015. All of these islands, except for Oahu, are part of the island group called Micronesia.

Brian is correct, of course, it is warm. Actually it is hot and humid since we have crossed the Equator, and are now sailing the tropical waters of the Southern Hemisphere. The days are getting shorter the further south we go. We are heading for Autumn in Australia.

Another reality check is the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. We have been sailing the Pacific since February 17th, and have not seen one other ship except in the harbors we visited.

Do Not Forget!

We still have the problem of the grubs that attract skunks and/or crows that have been digging up the field. This must be attended to come Spring.

Remember that the Beltzville State Park Manager has asked for our help in ridding the Park of the Geese menace.

I am not sure that the National Model Aviation Day was discussed at the last meeting. Do we want to participate again this year? I will try to put a calendar of events in the next newsletter.

Comments and suggestions should be directed to

John Carrigan

at

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Next Meeting,

Saturday, March 14, 2015

about

12:00 PM (noon)

at

Beltzville Tavern

COCKPIT CORNER— by Brian Sherman, did4ways@aol.com

March certainly came in like lion, but John and his wife hardly noticed as they wisely escaped to cruise the warm waters of the South Pacific while the rest of us were left to suffer the brutal sub-zero temperatures and hunker down inside. For me that meant finishing up my 3rd winter project, a seldom seen version of the Jimmy Franklin Waco UPF-7. Jimmy was a regular crowd pleaser at air shows using his jet-assisted performances to wow the audience with his outstanding piloting skills.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyXzy8AzOxo>

This version was designed for a 40-60 nitro engine, but I chose to convert it to electric using an E-flite Power 60, Castle Creation Talon 90 (one of the few ESC's with a built in BEC providing 9amps continuous current) and a Turnigy 5000mAh 6S 65C A-Spec G2 LiPo. (Look it up.) This combination should provide plenty power for 3D maneuvers and a virtually unlimited vertical climb rate.

It's maiden flight, however, will likely be postponed until sometime in May as back surgery must come first and is scheduled for March 16th. I told the surgeon that he better do a good job because I am fully expecting to up and partying on by B-day 3/17. Now Gil and I have will be able to swap war stories. For those that are curious the picture shows where the surgeon will cut away the bone inside the white circle to make more room for the nerve bundle then fuse the two vertebrae with the rod & posts. I think the colors nicely compliment the stainless steel hip implant in my left side. LOL!



During my convalescence I will be working on the Goose-be-Gone RC land-water vehicle for the park.

The March'15 BFMS meeting is scheduled for 3/14 12:00pm at the bar and tavern at the cross roads of Pohopco & Penn Forest Rd (the road to our field).

Until next time keep the cockpit up and be safe.



Robert Louis Stevenson House and Museum on the Island of Samoa near the Capital of Apia. The author of *Kidnapped* died here in 1894, and is buried on the Mountain Top near his home.

Diamond Head in Honolulu, Hawaii- a dormant volcano. the crater is accessed through a tunnel, and is now a park giving hikers the opportunity to climb to the summit from the interior.



Suva, Fiji

The island is very large. This photo does not do it justice. The city of Suva is very cosmopolitan, and quite extensive. Just like Samoa, buses service the entire Island.