

WHAT'S UP – JAN 1, 2022

by: The Old Guy

Happy New Year 2022 everyone. Due to the wide open space at ORCM and despite Covid concerns, our 2021 flying season was relatively normal except for the rather windy daytime weather. As we look forward to the 2022 season let's hope things get back to some semblance of normalcy both on and off the field.

This column has been sort of an on again off again thing for a long time and now that we have an updated website I will try to make this a more consistent feature. Many members are not able to attend club meetings on a regular basis so you can look to this column or other areas of our website (www.Owatonna-RC-Modelers.com) to get information on major events and issues.

Frozen Finger Fly:

January 1 is traditionally our Frozen Finger Fly event. With temperatures forecast well below zero and 20 mph winds it was decided to wait for a more tolerable day to avoid carnage and frozen appendages. However, on December 31 a couple of souls ventured to the field and got in a few flights. Dylan, a buddy and John B. braved the weather to get in a few flights. John had floats on his Sport Cub while Dylan and friend used their heli's as vertical snow blowers. Dylan's friend had his heli impact the well frozen terra-firma and broke a rotor blade. Otherwise no other damage this day.



Dylan doing his thing – inverted as usual! (12/31/21)



Buddy's hamming it up – (or are their faces frozen!)



John's Sport Cub on floats – not just for water you know!

Yours truly braved -32 degree wind chill and 10-15 mph wind to get two flights with my now refurbished and re-maidened Timber X. The airplane needed lots of trimming but with gloves, watering eyes and an intense interest in landing in one piece I just gave the sticks a workout. I came home with a fully intact airplane. Neil, John and Kenny witnessed the insanity. Arlin joined us at HyVee to warm up with coffee and donuts.



Dick and his Timber X (1/1/22 – yes it was cold)



Neil, Kenny, John and Dick

The big news for 2022:

Mowing the field has always been done by “whoever is available.” It turned out that for years, just a couple of people did most of the mowing. Since many members are from out of town and/or have daytime jobs it was difficult to enlist other help. During the 2021 season the club

considered contracting field mowing. Late in the season the club prepared contract requirements and requested a quote from Ballstadt Enterprises, LLC in Owatonna. Nick Ballstadt visited the field and discussed the requirements with Dick Baumer and Greg Salmonsens. The submitted quotation was accepted and signed. Details are as follows: Price is \$200 per mowing. Frequency is once per week with mowing on Thursdays so the field is ready for Friday through Sunday which are generally the peak usage days.

Special events such as the Aero-Tow and 3D Fest will have the field groomed on Wednesday as these are typically four-day events. The contractor will monitor weather forecasts and mow a day earlier if rain is forecast.

Separate from the mowing contract, Nick Ballstadt offered to buy the Ford tractor and all the spare parts. That offer was accepted for which the club was paid \$3,600. Even better news followed when Nick picked up and paid for the tractor as he donated \$400 to the club. The tractor was picked up two days before the December 10 storm.

The good news gets even better but information about that will have to wait until later in January as additional details remain to be worked out.

So no more mowing??

Yes but far less. Ballstadt will be using bigger and faster mowers and because of that the contract calls for his crews to stay away from the runway. In a nutshell, everything we mowed with the Cub Cadet will still need to be done which includes the pits, the area between the runway and pit fence, and the gate area. One or two rounds around the runway will also be done with the Cub as in the past. Trimming will also be done by members as in the past. We will continue to look at ways to eliminate or reduce that chore. The good news is that the club will not be saddled with maintenance and repair on the Ford. Servicing the Cub is a simple task and can be done by anyone in about 45 minutes or slightly longer if plugs and blades are replaced/sharpened. As in the past, if you have a few minutes while charging batteries or just sitting around, jump on the Cub and mow or trim a little.

The New Web Site:

In case you haven't checked lately, the ORCM web site has been redesigned. Neil has worked hard on this and the result is a very professional web page. The address is www.Owatonna-RC-Modelers.com. There is a Facebook link to photos and videos from various events at the field. Check it out.

This newsletter is intended to pass on important information about the club, the membership and other happenings. If you have a new airplane, heli, quad or glider send me a picture with a brief description and it can be bragged about. If you happen to have a mishap, why not make some fun out of an unfortunate event and display the carnage.

Adios until next time! Fly Safely & Fly Often

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