



The Signal

January 2007

Volume 3

Of Special Interest:

- 2006 Holiday Party
- Next Club Meeting on **Tuesday**, February 27th at the Bridgewater Library at 8:00pm in Rooms B & C.



Contents:

Treasurer's Report	1
For Sale	2
Holiday Party Pix	3
A Look Back	5
50-50 Results	6

The meeting was held on January 31st and called to order at 8:05pm.

Attendance: Patrick Aanstoos, Jim Beard, Bill Becker, Paul Brill, Len Cacciatore, Greg Clarke, Chris DeBlass, Ed DeGritis, Dan Edelman, Len Ferenchak, Serhiy Holodnyak, Ray Jajko, Marc Julius, Richard Levesen, Joe Melick, Rich Negran, Dave Rollino, John Samtak, Tom Viechor and Jim Vignani.

The club was happy to welcome our guests Maury Edelman and Paul Kupersmith.

And we're very happy to welcome our newest member: Frank Vitelli.



Club Holiday Party (Submitted by Ray Jajko)

As most club members know, the Somerset Signal Senders had its annual Holiday Party on January 5, 2007 at a different location. This year the Executive Committee reported they conducted very extensive and serious research, enjoying fine dining at many of the finest eating establishments in Central New Jersey. Of course we all know they went out of their way and sacrificed so much to be sure we had a great place for our gathering. Well, that may be just a bit of an exaggeration.

Whatever they did, they arranged for a terrific location this year. We got together at the Main Street Bistro, on West Main Street in downtown Somerville. We each had our choice of entrees, and I can personally attest to the wonderful meals Sue and I enjoyed.

Linda from the Hobby Hut in Pompton Plains joined us as our special guest for the evening. It was certainly a pleasure for us to have her with us, and I know she enjoyed herself as well.

Our President, Len, underestimated his ability as a public speaker when he said he "was not very good" at it. The truth is he did a wonderful job in presenting the "Member of the Year" award, and coordinating and distributing the many prizes that excited all the pilots.



Treasurer's Report

Expenses

Jim Beard, Turkey Fly (less Dues), Check #1552	\$ 4.05
Marc J, Holiday Party, Check #1553	\$ 36.00
Marc J, Holiday Party, Check #1554	\$ 132.00
Len C, Party Gifts & Member of the Year Plaque, Check #1555	\$ 185.75

	\$ 357.80

Income

November 50-50	\$ 25.00
2 nd Place Donated Back	\$ 10.00
Dues & Holiday Party Fees	\$ 708.00

	\$ 743.00

Balance As Of 1/31/2007 \$1,768.74

Speaking of "Member of the Year", congratulations to our very own Jim Vignani. Not only did he give a super presentation at a club meeting, helping us to understand the basics of electric powered aircraft, he took on a class of amateur builders. Jim designed a plane he named "Scratch", developed the plans and brought together about a half-dozen club members to instruct them in basic construction techniques. Good job Jim, and thanks!

Of course it was a really pleasant evening spent with lots of good people, including the "Wingettes" (a term of affection for our significant others) who endure so much to keep us flying. I wonder if the Executive Committee has started researching a good site for the next Holiday Party...it does seem like they have each put on a few pounds...maybe too much investigating. Seriously, I am sure I speak for everybody in the club in saying "Thanks" to our officers.

**See Pictures Inside
on Page 3!**





If you have any items that you would like listed in the For Sale section of the newsletter, forward them to the newsletter editor. Items will be listed for a three (3) month period. After three months they will be deleted from the newsletter. If you would like your ad to run longer you must make your request again.

Tony Rossi has a couple of planes for sale. If you're interested, call Tony at (732) 545-3811 after 7pm or you can e-mail him at P510851@hotmail.com

Sig Extra 300XS



Sig Extra 300XS ARF used but not abused. Airplane only, no engine, no radio – asking \$160.

Extra 300XS ARF Specifications

Wingspan: 73 5/8 in. Wing Area: 990 Sq In.
Fuselage Length: 68 in. Weight: 12-13 lbs.
Engines Recommended: 1.20-1.50 2 Stroke or
1.40 – 1.80 4 Stroke. Requires 4 Channel Radio,
6 Servos

Top Flite Contender 60 Gold Edition



Top Flite Contender 60 Gold Edition 45 to 61 Engine. It has been flown, but is in really good shape. Asking \$100 for the plane – no engine, no radio. Or \$150 for plane and engine, no radio. It has a Thunder Tiger 61 pro BB and it is just broken in. Tony can start it without a starter. The plane has flaps and is a good flier.

Top Flite Contender Specifications

Wingspan: 53.3" Wing Area: 660 sq. in.
Weight: 6 – 6.5 lbs Length: 49.6"
Wing Loading: 21-23 oz/sq ft
Fully Symmetrical, Low Wing Airfoil

Spring Fashion Show –

The club will hold its annual Spring Fashion Show at the April meeting (April 23rd). Everyone is encouraged to bring a model, even if it's not completed. The only rule is it can't have been flown last season.

There will be two prize categories: one for ARFs and one for Scratch/Kits.

Model Builders Wanted –

Our fellow member, Paul Gentile, owner of Airfoilz (www.airfoilz.com) is looking for a part time model builder to build foam ARFs for Airfoilz.

If you have the ability and interest, please e-mail Paul at Paul@airfoilz.com





Tom Viechor wins one of the gift certificates raffled off at the Party.



Len giving away one of the airplanes with Rich's help.

Somerset Signal Senders 2006 Member of the Year



Congratulations to Jim Vigani – Member of the Year. Here being presented a plaque by Len Cacciatore, our President.



This table of party revelers had to be asked to stop dancing on the tables!



The Rollino Family enjoy themselves with Dan and his family.



Treasurer's Report: 2006 Year End Report

Beginning Balance:	\$ 1,169.24
Ending Balance:	\$ 1,804.49
Profit for Year:	\$ 635.25
Expenses*	
Opening Day	\$ 152.01
Closing Day	\$ 202.93
Gift Certificates and Prizes	\$ 430.75
Gliders for Okee Sunokee	\$ 119.98
Postage	\$ 31.30
AMA Charter & Insurance & Corporate Filing	\$ 140.00
Web Hosting and Redirect	\$ 117.09
Income*	
40 Paying Members (32 in 2005, 25% Increase)	\$ 1,160.00
50-50 Collected	\$ 282.00
Profit from eFly III	\$ 219.38

*Note: These do not represent all of the line item credits and debits from 2006, just the ones I thought were worth pointing out. The club's books are available to any member. To review them, please contact the club Treasurer.

GLOW PLUGS - Why do they Fail?

by Clay Ramskill

The "ignition system" in our engines is in the main, the glow plug. The other vital ingredient, compression, actually determines the ignition timing, so it can't be totally ignored. But usually it's the plug that gives us the problems.

Why DO glow plugs fail? There are four likely probabilities, five if you count old age. Yes, old age! The plugs operate by using a catalytic (chemical) reaction with the alcohol in our fuel to maintain their heat; as the plug gets "old", it gets more and more covered up with combustion byproducts (carbon, etc.) which hinders the whole process. Of the other four, LEAN RUNS is probably the most prevalent - not so much that the engine was running lean, as it was HOT. Too much heat and the element fries and shatters, or even melts.

TOO MUCH BATTERY power is another failure mode - very related to the above paragraph. Your battery should heat the plug to a nice bright orange or red orange color; if the plug glows white hot, it just isn't going to last. It's bad enough that we subject a tiny little element glowing hot, to the pressures of combustion. But if we add more VIBRATION to the situation, we get trouble. Unbalanced props, loose engine mounts, etc. may all add up to plug failure, especially in combination with too much heat.

Another plug failure mode is from FOULING. The element is very small, and located down in a well. It doesn't take much trash flying around in your combustion chamber to foul (and ruin) the plug! Aside from the obvious dirt coming through the intake or with the fuel, the fouling can come from metallic sources, usually a result of bearings coming unglued, or from excess carbon deposits in the engine. If the combustion chamber is full of caked-on carbon, pieces of that can, and do, come adrift and end up fouling the plug!

A quality plug run in a sport engine should last for dozens of flights. If they don't, it's probably not the fault of the plugs - its time to look elsewhere for the source of the REAL problem!



A Look Back at 2006 –

(submitted by Rich Negran and Ray Jajko)

To see what's around the corner for the New Year, we first need to take a moment to reflect back on 2006 to see how far we have come as an RC club...

- January brought out the true diehards or screwballs that fly in any kind of weather. Obviously too many CA fumes in an enclosed area!
- We then started off with a February "Scratch" building class. High enthusiasm, balsa dust and a lot of socializing.
- The WRAM show and Lebanon Swap meeting are always exciting places to buy stuff you really, really, need, and rub elbows with like minded people in our chosen hobby.
- Making a trip to Udvar-Hazy during the winter months surely cleared the mind for a choice of scale models to be built.
- Opening day at the field with a BBQ was a great way to start off the flying for the season.
- Let's not forget the presentation we gave to the Okee Sunokee kids at the Park Commission. It really does make you feel good to give something back doesn't it?
- We started "Warbirds" Over North Branch" this year and it has all the makings of a large exciting annual event with more pilots from in and out of the area.
- Our Annual Glider Contest always brings out those seasoned pilots who learned to use the winds for serene flying.
- And our 3rd Annual Electric fun-fly. What can you say? Scary! It gets bigger every year. If you don't have an electric aircraft in your stable, you're just not trying.
- Closing Day and the Turkey Fly always means shaky weather, and it was, but good food, a lot of fun and flying was the order of the day. Many members participated.
- We had a "first" this year when members met at the library for a viewing of "Splat DVD's". Fortunately, most of us are expert pilots and it's never been a problem taking off or landing. Yeh, right!

So what's going to hold our interest in 2007? Who knows? This is an exciting time we live in. So read your flying magazines. Attend build classes when they're offered. Support the events of the club even if you don't have a model to fly. Come up with suggestions.

It's going to be a great year for RC fun. More and more of our members are participating in the club, as they should be. Don't let the same few members do all the work, and have most of the fun!!! Build a new model for 2007, volunteer for a committee; bring in something for the fashion show.

Remember, the more ideas that come from you, the more interesting and exciting the club becomes. What you put into the club affects what you get out of it.



Somerset Signal Senders



Support your local Hobby Shop:

The Hobby Hut
567 Route 23
Pompton Plains, NJ
(973) 835-2077

Your RC Headquarters

Linda Ciesla, proprietor

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Senders, Inc.
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Miscellaneous Club Business

January 50-50: The club took in \$40 in large part due to Bill Becker donating a giant 111" Piper Cub to raffled off with the 50-50 cash prizes. Thanks for the donation Bill! The plane was won by Paul Brill. Ed DeGritis won \$25 and Jim Beard won \$15.

The club will be buying a subscription to the AMA magazine for the Library and Park Commission. This could enhance the club's standing with the community.

Chris DeBlass brought in his Pitts Special kitted by Midwest. The engine is a Veco .61. Everyone agreed they want to see it fly at the field! Nice job Chris. Chris was given a \$15 Tower Hobbies Gift Card.

Build Class: The next session of our club's build class will start soon. It was agreed that this time around everyone would work from a kit. The kits don't have to be the same – feel free to get whatever kit you want. If you have any questions or need help selecting a suitable kit – check with Jim Vigani. We'll decide on a start date at the next club meeting.

Len C, our President, suggested that a club flight school could be created which would eventually produce a precision flight team that could put on noon time demonstrations at our club events. Anyone interested in sharpening their flying skills or volunteering to help train, please contact Len.

A club trip to the Cradle of Aviation in March will be discussed at the February meeting.

2007 Membership Dues are due!

If you haven't sent in your 2007 dues, please make sure you get them in before the March meeting.

Dues are the same as last year, \$30.

You can send them to the club's treasurer along with a copy of your 2007 AMA card to:

Marc Julius
45 Stephen Terrace
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Make checks payable to:
Somerset Signal Senders



Club Information

- The Somerset Signal Senders will meet **Tuesday**, February 27th at 8pm at the Bridgewater Library in Meeting Rooms B & C.
- Our club website is <http://www.somersetsignalsenders.org>
- Questions concerning our website can be directed to: webmaster@somersetsignalsenders.org
- Head Flight Instructor: Tony Rossi
- Field Safety Officer: Len Cacciatore
- Newsletter Editor: Marc Julius, newsletter@somersetsignalsenders.org
- Questions can be directed to: President@somersetsignalsenders.org

Upcoming Events

February 23 – 25, 2007

WRAM Show

March 10, 2007

Lebanon Swap Meet

May 20, 2007

Opening Day