



Wing Tips



MARCH 2023

The Newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Modelmasters

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2023 Club Officers

President: Paul Ollivett

Secretary: Larry Kunz

Sgt. at Arms: Flavio Ambrosini

Vice President: Scott Fellin

Treasurer: Tom Eng

Club Calendar

Coming Up:

- **CLUB MEETING:** Saturday, March 11, at the flying field. Watch your email sent via Google Groups for any updates.
- **April 2023 Wing Tips articles & photo submissions due, Thurs., April 6:** Earn Modelmaster dollars for all R/C related items submitted. Send your submissions to hvmodelmasters@gmail.com Due date is first Thursday of each month.

Other Events:

- **MONTHLY MEETINGS:** Watch your email for meeting announcements..
- **OUTDOOR FLYING SESSIONS AT REDL PARK (aka West Road Field)** – Every Saturday Morning, weather permitting. Generally there is someone there every Saturday. Most members are flying between 9am and 12pm. Exceptions are weather, rain, wind. If driveway to field is covered in snow, meet behind West Road School. If temperatures are extremely cold (roughly below 20 degrees) people tend to leave earlier than 12pm.

Model Masters Meeting Minutes February 18, 2023

+ **Field meeting** Called by President Paul Olivett @ 10:05

- Another cold meeting day – but the usual hardies are here !
- Next meeting is Saturday March 11, at the field.

+ **Treasurer's report:** by Tom Eng

- \$1999.42 is the current treasury balance.
All current expenses have been covered.
Future expense for mowing, when Brad gives us an estimate.

- 2023 **Membership** now at 29

Latest new member is Roman Servan-Schreiber. **Welcome Roman !**

Tom will take cash at the field, or send check to...

Tom Eng PO Box 566, Pleasant Valley, NY 125

(make check out to "ModelMasters")

+ **Renewal is \$35 after Feb 1**, new member \$25 any time.

+ Renewals: Just send check and any address change etc.

+ New members: Please use form available on our website:

<http://www.modelmasters.us/>

+ All 2023 Membership cards have been handed out, **or are in the mail today !**

+ **Old business :**

- Pleasant valley town park activity quiet for now.
- No indoor flying this year due to an issue with the school and AMA insurance.
(Members please suggest possible new indoor flying venues !)

+ **New business :**

- Saturday May 20 was chosen for our **annual "dinner party"**

+ We are hoping Bob Santoro will coordinate once again... **Please, Bob ?!**

+ Dom agreed to do the auction and was authorized \$450 for merchandise.

(please send suggestions to Dom for things to buy for the auction !)

+ Brad & Scott agreed to run the fun fly once more.

(please send any nutty contest ideas to Brad and Scott)

+ **Show & Tell :**

No show and tell this month.

From Members

Rick Rizza – I am in the final stages of the assembly of a Nexa ARF Beech Baron. It's a nice quality wood ARF which has a moderately challenging build. Nexa is sold by Motion RC and produced by VQ models. I have 4 Nexa models, only 1 of which I have actually flown, and although they have their quirks, I am not disappointed. Here are some pictures.



Larry Kunz - This is an obit from the Feb 12 Poughkeepsie Journal. This guy was quite an aviator !

Leonard E. "Leo" Opdycke

POUGHKEEPSIE – Leonard Emerson Opdycke, 93, died at Vassar Brothers Medical Center on Feb. 3.

Locally, Leo was best known as an educator, particularly for his time as head of the Poughkeepsie Day School (1965-72). He was a transformative director, expanding the curriculum, restructuring the physical layout, and adding a high school. Among other things, he introduced the Central Subject program, under which each of the middle grades devoted a full year to studying the history, literature, art, and music of a single time-period, such as the Greeks, the Elizabethan Age, or the Civil War. After leaving the Day School, Leo taught English at Rhinebeck High School, and then spent many years teaching writing at Marist College.



Nationally and internationally, Leo was best known for his leadership in the field of early aviation. His involvement began in 1961, when he started helping a friend put out a newsletter for people who were building and restoring World War I airplanes. Gradually, Leo turned the newsletter into a full-fledged magazine, *World War I Aero*. By the 1980s, it was nearly 150 pages long, with subscribers all over the world. In 1987 he added a second magazine, *Skyways*, to cover the period between the world wars. Working with members, commissioning articles, doing his own research, publishing a "Wants and Disposals" column where readers could buy and sell needed parts and drawings, writing scores of book reviews, and maintaining a file of individual projects and museum holdings around the world, Leo established himself as the man to call with any question, no matter how obscure, about early aviation.

Besides the two magazines, Leo had a dream-project, which was to build his own WWI airplane -a full-scale reproduction of a 1913 Bristol Scout. During the early 1980s, working from the original factory drawings, and hand-crafting all the metal fittings, he gradually built the whole thing in pieces in the basement. His next-door neighbor had a spacious extra garage, and that is where the Scout was finally assembled.

In 1986, Leo took the completed plane to the Rhinebeck Aerodrome for its first flight. Alas, its first flight was also its last. After a short time in the air, the magneto failed, and Leo had to make a crash landing. He was unhurt, but the plane was significantly damaged. Nevertheless, it caught the interest of some British museum people, who bought the plane and had it shipped to England, repaired, and placed on exhibit in the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Museum in Yeovilton, England.

One final aviation project: during the 1990s, Leo visited archives in Paris, London, Berlin, Ottawa, and Washington DC, gathering material for his monumental book, *French Aeroplanes Before the Great War*. Published in 1999, this was a coffee-table-size volume, packed with photographs and breaking new ground in the amount of information it provided about early

French aviation.

Leo was born in 1929 in Boston MA, the son of Leonard Opdycke, a professor of Art at Harvard University, and Frances Prescott Opdycke. As a boy, he attended Shady Hill School in Cambridge MA. Shady Hill's progressive approach to teaching had a profound influence on Leo's own ideas about education. He went on to Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter NH, and then to Harvard College, where he majored in English and comparative philology. He graduated, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1951. Then, after a year as an apprentice at Shady Hill, he spent several years teaching fourth grade at the Dedham Country Day School, Dedham MA.

In 1956, Leo moved to the Harley School in Rochester NY, where he taught English, and also served as head of the upper school. It is a mark of his impact there that the Class of 1964 dedicated their yearbook to him. He spent 1964-65 earning a Master's degree in Psycholinguistics at the University of Rochester. Then in the fall of 1965 he began his work at the Poughkeepsie Day School.

One of Leo's major volunteer interests, starting in the early 1980s, was the Poughkeepsie Family Development Center. He was a devoted board-member for 25 years, serving several times as president or co-president, and playing a leading role in negotiating the agency's merger with the nearby Community Daycare Center. When the reorganization was complete, in 1995, the new Community Family Development Center was the largest day-care center in Dutchess County, and it remains so today.

Leo had five daughters -- Susan, Deborah, and Meg (with his first wife, Susan Woolcott, and Sarah and Frances Louise (with his second wife, Jeanne Bernhard). In 1976 Leo married Sandra Auchincloss, who brought along her own three daughters – Robin, Brooke, and Megan.

During all these years, the Opdyckes' beloved Yellow House in Bar Harbor ME functioned as the family's annual summer gathering place, bringing together varying combinations of daughters, along with a growing number of grandchildren. Leo and Sandra also did considerable traveling — visiting their children here and there; going to Mexico, Peru, and Australia; and making many extended car-trips, both in the United States and Europe.

Leo spent his final years at the Taconic Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Highland NY, where the staff provided him with extraordinarily kind and thoughtful care. He is survived by his wife Sandra, by his daughters — Susan Opdycke, Deborah Bailey, Meg Lamme, Sarah Kardas, and Louisa (Frances) Opdycke — and by nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned for later this year. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, 9 Norton Road, Red Hook NY, 12571.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wm. G. Miller & Son FH, Inc. If you wish to send an online condolence, please visit our website at www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com