

Wing Tips



APRIL 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, April 15, at the flying field. Watch your email sent via Google Groups for any updates.
- **May 2023 Wing Tips articles & photo submissions due, Thurs., May 4:** Earn Modelmaster dollars for club related items submitted. Send your submissions to hvmodelmasters@gmail.com Due date is first Thursday of each month.
- **Fun Fly and lunch, Saturday, May 20, 2023:** The annual auction using Modelmaster dollars will also be held during this event. Members have earned 46,665 Modelmaster dollars in 2022. Further details are included below and finalization of arrangements to be discussed at the April meeting.

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 related (rain, snow, excessive 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 March 18, 2023

- + Field meeting Called by President Paul Olivett @ 9:55
 - Another cold meeting day – but the usual hardies are here !
 - ~~Next meeting is Saturday April 8, at the field.~~ Moved to Sat. April 15.

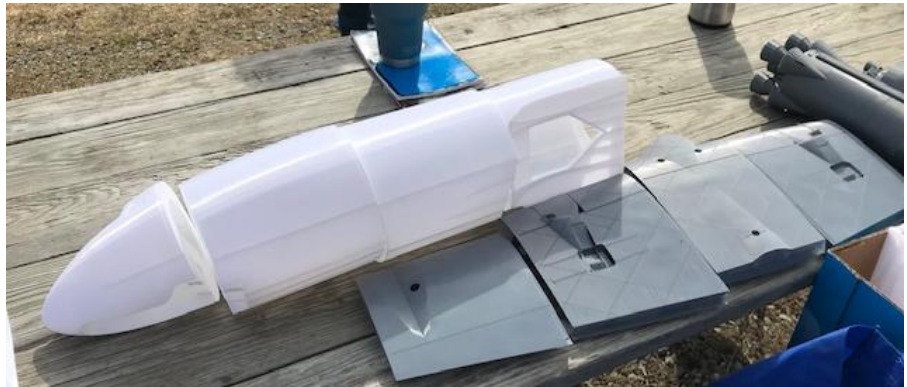
- + Treasurer's report: by Tom Eng
 - \$1556.72 is the current treasury balance.
 - Dom has reimbursed \$450 for the goods to be auctioned at the spring party.
 - Future expense for mowing when Brad gives us an estimate.

- 2023 Membership now at 31
 - All membership cards have been distributed.

- + Old business :
 - Pleasant valley town park activity:
 - Recreation department meeting will be Monday 3/20. Paul will attend.
 - Things will probably get under way, as the Redl's are now involved.

- + New business :
 - Saturday May 20 was chosen for our annual "dinner party"
 - + Bob Santoro will coordinate once again – soon to be back from Florida !
 - + Paul agreed to prepare pulled pork and beans ...Thanks Paul !
 - Members will supply salads, etc. and be reimbursed by MM
 - + Brad & Scott agreed to run the fun fly once more.
 - (please send any nutty contest ideas to Brad and Scott or email the newsletter editor.)
 - Tom's trainer airplane has mysteriously turned up ... 4 months after landing in the woods and far from where it could possibly have come down. One broken wing, but functional electronics, and it does not appear to have spent all those months outdoors !

- + Show & Tell :
 - Flavio showed the DC7 (see photo on right) he is building with a 3D printer.
 - Many amazingly complex parts, beautifully made !
 - Hopefully he will bring it at least partially assembled next month ?!



13th Annual Auction/Fun Fly, May 20, 2023

This year's Auction/Fun-fly will be held at our field on May 20th. As in the past there will be an auction using Modelmaster Dollars for items that our exalted auctioneer, Dom Fusca will purchase. To be decided will be an auction for donated hobby related items either using MMD's or real currency. This is a good opportunity to inventory your hobby collection and donate those items that have been relegated to closets and attics that have not and probably will not be used again. All money received will go into our Club treasury.

The fun-fly will have challenges at all levels as well as a mass launch for the combat event which inevitably has mid-air collisions.

This event is always a lot of fun and it's hoped that many of you will attend. You don't have to fly and can enjoy the

day as a spectator. You will receive details of the event as they are developed.

Happy and Safe Flying,
Bob



Don Typond's Wilga – A Flying Memorial by Jesse Aronstein

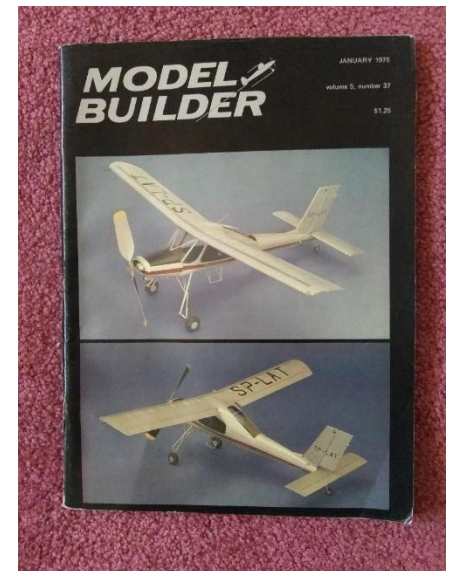
Don Typond was an active member of the Mid-Hudson Modelmasters club for about 15 years and served as the club's President for a few of them. He passed away in 2015. Don was well known nationally as a model builder and designer, an accomplished pilot, and he had been editor of Model Airplane News and several other well-known magazines.

He built the Wilga in the early 1970s, intending to create a balsa wood rubber-powered free-flight scale model of a metal airplane that truly looks as if it is made of metal. He succeeded, creating what I consider to be the Mona Lisa of rubber-powered flying scale models. His Wilga was featured as the cover story of the Jan. 1975 issue of Model Builder Magazine.

A few months after Don died, Eleanor and I met with Don's cousin Doug Chu at Don's house to help guide the disposition of his accumulated modeling stuff. On the wall was a beautiful black and white photo of the Wilga. I asked Doug if that was one of the full-size airplanes that Don flew. He replied that it was one of Don's models, and that it had been on the cover of a magazine. More than that he knew not. The picture itself was an example of Don's photographic talent. He had carefully chosen all the factors – the camera angle, the background, the surface the model it was resting on, the camera lens, and so on – to make it appear to be a full-size airplane. It sure fooled me!

Later, we opened an unlabeled wooden box and there was the Wilga. It didn't take long to decide that this model belonged in a museum, not a swap-and-sell meet. I offered to try to get it into a museum to serve as a memorial to Don.

Two people, independently, advised me to watch the last five minutes of the first Indiana Jones movie before donating anything to a museum. (If you are as puzzled as I was by that, watch it yourself.) Museums generally display only a fraction of the items in their collection. Many donated items never see the light of day, and some get sold off rather than displayed. My ground rules for giving this Mona Lisa of modelbuilding to a museum did not match typical museum donation rules. I decided that, until a suitable home was found for the Wilga, it should be displayed and flown as an air-



borne memorial to Don Typond.

In the Model Builder article, Don said that his Wilga flew well under (rubber motor) power but the glide was “like a clump of grass”. I decided that, in the interest of preserving the model, I would convert it to electric powered R/C. “Heresy”, I hear the gummi-band free-flight purists shout. But control over power and flight path provides a huge safety factor for the model. Don might not have approved, but I made peace with my conscience on that score by setting a ground rule for myself that the conversion to R/C should be reversible back to Don’s original version.

On March 26, 2023, after almost half a century of being grounded in the dark confines of its little wooden crate, Don Typond’s Wilga took to the air once again. The photos below tell the story better than I can. Perhaps I will demonstrate it for you someday. **Jesse** protune@aol.com



Posing for the Camera



Takeoff



In Flight

(These three photos - Dave Garwood.)