

# Greater Midwest Rotorcraft Club



## Monthly Newsletter

In B&W (color version available online)

Members: FREE

July 2006

Editor: Jim Schuler

### Next Club Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 11:00 AM Sharp

**Where:** Club Hangar

**Special Topic(s):**

- *Mentone Report*
- *Upcoming Fly-ins*
- *Oshkosh Report*

### Club Hangar Cleanup

If you have been out to the club hangar lately, you probably noticed that it is in the process of receiving a much needed cleaning. We are going to be removing all items that do not belong in our club hangar, so if you may have left something of importance in the hangar, please claim your items before they are removed in the weeks ahead.

The cleaning has made additional room for building, and at one time during the past month, we temporarily had ten gyros in the hangar with room to spare.

We are hoping to have the organization finished during August.

### Matt Novotney's First Solo

After weeks of runway work and various tweaking, Matt Novotney made his first pattern on the evening of June 29<sup>th</sup> in the presence of Jim Schuler and Adam Helwich. The solo came as somewhat of a surprise, as Jim and Adam were just expecting him to ride down the runway as he had been doing for many days prior. The flight looked good from the ground, and Matt felt great flying his own machine.

Following tradition, Brian Burke later cut the back out of Matt's shirt. He was pissy at first, but got over it rather quickly.

Matt has been flying safely since his first solo flight, flying at the Lansing airport, the Mentone fly-in, Knox airport, and at Bass Lake. He has even become a celebrity of sorts, attracting some attention while flying at Bass Lake following the PRA convention.

### New Club Members

The club has three new members:

- Tim Burgess – Mac-powered Bensen.
- Brian Sherwood – recently purchased a Gyrobee.
- Joe Tracy – will be working with the club on constructing a tall tail for the prototype gyro.

The club is very happy to have a few new faces around. A couple of these members will be joining us for the weekly build team meetings, so stop by to welcome them!

### Mentone Report

Mentone was a really fun time this year as usual. Among those in attendance from our club were Tom Milton, Chuck Roberg, Nick Costa, Matt Novotney, Joe Day, Jim Kutza, Joe Mahr, Rich Vitt, George Smundin, Brian Sherwood, Stan Foster, Bob McGuire, Jim Schuler and myself (I apologize if I'm forgetting anyone in this list). Although we were probably the most represented club at the convention with 5 flying gyros (Adam and Nick's Honeybee, Matt Novotney's Honeybee, Bob McGuire's RAF2000, Stan Foster's Sparrowhawk, and the club Protogyro), it would have been nice to have a few more gyros on the flight line from chapter 18.

One of the highlights was the Breakfast Run to Rochester on Saturday morning. Nine gyros made the trip altogether including 4 of chapter 18's machines. It was the first time Matt Novotney had ever landed at a different airport than the one he took off from, and he handled it very well. As always, it's nice to meet new people and to put faces along with names from the magazine and the rotorcraft forum ([www.rotaryforum.com](http://www.rotaryforum.com)). We particularly had fun with Ron Awad and a couple guys from Georgia on Friday night... remember, what happens in Mentone stays in Mentone!

Tom gave two presentations – one on Sport Pilot and one addressing fuel systems, and Nick and I gave one on the club project gyro. The Protogyro really generated a lot of interest and got a lot of compliments; it even received praise from famed Gyrobee creator, Ralph Taggart. On that note, probably the biggest thing to happen this year for the club has everything to do with next year's convention. We were asked by a couple guys who run the newly reorganized rotorcraft museum to build one of our club gyros at the convention next year and fly it on Saturday. They will make as much space available to us as we need and a plethora of tools including a drill press, band saw, belt sander, lathe and mill. They are very excited about this project as am I. I discussed this with the other club members in attendance, and we even thought about turning this project into a fundraiser for the PRA and our chapter. We have a lot to discuss about this before next year!

Tom Milton was the MC for the awards banquet again this year and did a great job, he even managed to squeeze in a joke involving beloved down-state club member Stan Foster. I don't have a complete list of all the award winners but Ron Awad swept the awards, walking away with "Most Innovative", "Reserve Grand Champion – Single Place Gyroplane", and "Pilot and Machine" awards. Bob McGuire won "Grand Champion – Two Place Gyroplane" with his Star Trek paint schemed RAF 2000.

So much happened that it's hard to decide what to put in this report, all in all it was over too quickly. I'm sure next year will be even better, so start making your plans to attend now!

*Article by Adam Helwich*

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Stan Foster giving Ron Awad a ride in his Sparrowhawk.



Matt Novotney safely landing before an astonished crowd.



Air-to-air picture of Adam Helwich laying down a smoke trail over Mentone, taken by Ron Awad.



George Smundin and Joe Mahr help to make James McNeilly's Little Wing questionably airworthy.



Nick Costa and Rich Vitt scoping out a sweet honey on the flight line.



Chapter 18's gyros on flight line in front of the club tent.



↓ Club elder Dick Wunderlich passes on a Chapter 18 tradition to Ron Awad, Adam Helwich, Nick Costa, and Matt Novotney at the banquet.

## Upcoming Events

July 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> – EAA Oshkosh AirVenture 2006 – Oshkosh, WI  
 July 27<sup>th</sup> – Monster Hangar Build Team Meeting – Club Hangar  
 July 29<sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting (11:00 AM) – Club Hangar  
 September 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> – ASC Nationals – Marshall, MI

*The Monster Hangar Build Team now meets on **Thursday** evenings in the club hangar.*