

Greater Midwest Rotorcraft Club



Monthly Newsletter

In B&W (color version available online)

Members: FREE

February 2007

Editor: Jim Schuler

Next Club Meeting

Date: Friday, March 23rd

Time: 7:30 PM Sharp

Where: Lyons Township Hall

Special Topic(s):

- Club Incorporation Status
- Spring Fly-ins
- Club Build Update

Tribute to Dick Wunderlich

As many of you may already know, Dick Wunderlich passed away on the morning of Wednesday, February 14th. With Dick's passing, the club (really, the whole gyro-world) has lost one of the greatest and most generous members it has ever had.

Dick served as club president for many years, and has always been one of the most active club members – from its founding days in the sixties as one of the *craziest* flyers, right on through recent days, assisting club members with machining projects and still making prerotators from his shop in Lockport.

Although attendance had fallen in recent years, Dick still held open shop nights on Thursdays, where he welcomed everyone to his machine shop to work on their projects. He was always willing to lend a hand and would even teach you how to run the machines. As recently as a few weeks ago, Dick helped Adam Helwich make the faceplate to his new instrument pod. If you get a chance, take a look at it – it is one fine-looking piece of machined aluminum.

Dick served as a volunteer to his community and flew his gyro at many conventions and air shows, including the EAA shows in Wisconsin.

Dick Wunderlich will truly be missed. This year's club banquet will serve as a tribute to Dick for the great service and joy he brought to the club.

AWARDS BANQUET REMINDER

Just a reminder that the annual awards banquet will be held at Petey's II Restaurant & Lounge, located on 159th St and LaGrange Road in Orland Park, IL at 6:30pm on Saturday, March 3rd.

We will be honoring this year's award recipients, and providing a special tribute to the late Dick Wunderlich.

If you haven't already prepaid by mail, tickets are \$25 at the door, which includes dinner and a chance at the door prize.

This year, we will be selling chances to win another great raffle prize, an R/C helicopter from Orland Park's HobbyTown USA. The owner of this hobby shop has been very generous to the club and may be in attendance to show off some other goodies that his hobby shop has to offer.



Dick Wunderlich served as a volunteer for the Will County Forest Preserve District, where he was recently named Volunteer of the Year.

President

Adam Helwich
(708) 912-1624

Vice President

Matt Novotney
(219) 308-8589

Treasurer

Chuck Roberg
(630) 983-7625

Secretary

Nick Costa
(708) 296-4489

Guru/Sergeant at Arms

Mentone Airport is Paid Off

The Mentone airport is now wholly owned by the PRA. The last payment was made in December, 2006.

The final payment of \$375.33 on the Mentone, IN airport was made on 12/20/2006, and the Mentone airport is now wholly owned by PRA Mentone, Inc. The airport was purchased by the PRA through PRA Mentone, Inc. for \$155,000 on May 13, 1993. The PRA had made a down payment of \$50,000 at the time of purchase. The Popular Rotorcraft Association, Inc. (PRA) has been making monthly \$1000 payments toward the original 5% (APR) note of \$105,000. Payments (principle and interest) toward this note totaled a little over \$160,000. The Mentone airport is now estimated to be worth well over a quarter million dollars fair market value.

Improvements at the Mentone airport by the PRA since purchase include: Resurfacing the runway, concessions stand, the Archimedes Rotorcraft Museum building and shower/restrooms, and the observation tower on the West end of the hangar building. Generous PRA members donated most of the funds for these facility improvements, including the PRA office facility at Mentone.

With the payment of this note and other cash flow actions implemented over the past year, the PRA Board of Directors will now be looking at different solutions regarding improving Rotorcraft magazine.

Article by Greg Gremminger, taken from PRA website

New FAA Regulations

At the last club meeting, Tom Milton went over some new regulations regarding N-Number registration for home-built experimental light-sport aircraft. If you missed Tom's discussion on this topic, contact him to find out how you can register your aircraft before the new regulations take effect.

Also, make sure that you are up-to-date on the laws regarding state sales tax on your aircraft (even if it is home-built). Several club members are aware of these laws and should be able to help you out if you have any questions.

Upcoming Events

February 28th – Monster Hangar Build Team Meeting – Sun Aero
 March 3rd – Club Banquet – Petey's II in Orland Park, IL
 March 23rd – Club Meeting (7:30 PM) – Lyons Township Hall
 April 11 - 14th – Bensen Days – Wauchula, FL

*The Monster Hangar Build Team now meets on **Wednesday** evenings in the Sun Aero's hangar unless otherwise noted. Call ahead to make sure.*

Monster Hangar Build Team Progress Report

We are back on the cold weather schedule, meeting Wednesday evenings at Sun Aero's Hangar. If you plan on attending, check with one of us to make sure we will be there. We occasionally meet at a machine shop to make gyro parts.

After meeting for each of the past several weeks at Abet Industries, the build team has completed the machining of all of the plates for nine monster gyros. In total, we have created over 125 plates during our time spent at Abet. The regulars included Tom Milton, Adam Helwich, Nick Costa, Brian Burke, Jim Schuler, Randy Myers, Larry Schoenenberger, and Flash.

On February 28th, we will be back at Sun Aero's hangar in Lansing and plan to start assembling our machines. Bobby Prater (from Indiana/Michigan) recently joined the club and plans on building the last remaining monster gyro from the bulk metal that was ordered a couple years ago. We look forward to working with Bobby on his machine.

We will be back at Sun Aero beginning February 28th, making trips back out to Abet as needed.

Email Addresses

If you haven't been receiving club emails, please send an email to Tom or Jim with your new email address.

Tom: gyroplanes@aol.com

Jim: jameschuler@hotmail.com

We will be updating our mailing lists this month.

Mentone Convention

This year's PRA convention will be held once again at the Mentone Airport. It is being held a little later this time around, going from August 1st – August 5th.

Just a reminder that the club will be assembling a gyro from start-to-finish at the convention. We plan on using mostly pre-machined parts, providing a demonstration on using the drilling jigs (made by Nick Costa). We hope that you will be there to support the club!