

Yankee Rotors

May 2010

The Official Newsletter of Yankee Rotors

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**Regular meetings every
3rd Sunday of each
month at 1:00 p.m.**



Next Meeting

May 30th 12:00 PM at Plymouth Municipal Airport in Plymouth, NH. Discussion will include flyins we will attend this year and other issues members wish to discuss. Rain date due to Spring Fling will be the following weekend on Sunday.

Editorial

Well Spring Fling is fast approaching just about two weeks away. A short article in the Atlantic Flyer announcing the event and telling a little bit about us is published in the May issue. With a little luck we may get a larger turnout from the General Aviation community. And the general public. Bob Day is ready, having anaaled his ship and has already gone flying. I'm jealous. There will be at least two gyos on display in various stages of completion. I've been putting every spare moment and dime into my own project. Our first flyin of the year offers free camping on the field, attendance is free of charge, all aviators and interested people are invited.

It would be nice if someone with a helicopter showed up. Wishful thinking. See you there!

For Sale

Parsons two-place gyro for sale. Contact Rusty Blake: 207-663-4404. B8-

Bensen B8-M

This is a dismantled, frame, packed and ready for shipping. It includes the wheels and other items. It is a project, half the price of any pre-made airframe. The price is \$500 plus shipping. Interested parties should contact John Christopher. Phone number is 603-744-6232.

Barnett JB-4

We have a near complete two seat Barnett for sale. Normally for about 5k, this rolling frame needs an engine, rotors, and some instruments. Then up you go. Price reduced to \$1,000. This is pennies on the dollar for what it would cost.

Drop Keel Gyro

This Dominator style drop keel gyro sports a huge horizontal stab with centerline thrust, an 1100 cc Yamaha engine, seats two people and is a great flyer. Call Ray Maheu at 207-465-3203.



I know, it's hard to see, and that was the idea. This is the only RAF painted in Camo. Everyone goes through great pains to paint their ship. I painted the whole thing inside and out with military camo.

A Little Help with Those Blades

A couple years ago I was at Mentone Indiana for the Popular Rotorcraft Association Convention and saw a couple methods to help mount the rotor blades on the Gyroplane. This setup in the pictures to the right worked quite well, and was fairly inexpensive to build. Some of the Gyros, like this one was equipped with the larger blades and was a bit of a handful to install from a step ladder, unlike my twenty two foot blades that are much lighter in weight. I do not have any measurements for this setup, but I think it can be figured out from the pictures. The pole has an attachment to slide into trailer hitch, with a pin like the ball attachment.

What a simple fix. I can see at right what the rotors are going on, an RAF. Thought of my own came to me occasionally as I know soon my own project will need the same treatment. With 30' rotors the previous owner fashioned a winch on a similar crane to lift his rotors. I haven't use it yet or know how to assemble it. The proper mounting of rotor blades can be simple, but it can be a delicate process. They can be easily damaged, and care must be exercised. Although I still have much work to do, the aircraft is not far away from a hang test, inspection, and soon test flights. It never happens as fast as you think it will.



Above left is bob Day's gyro on his trailer. Notice that the machine is fixed in place. What you don't see is the rear of the keel blocked up so the machine is level and secure. At right, I know it looks bad, but it is getting better. The wire mess is getting more and more organized and with this temporary hook up, all the gauges work and the machine starts and runs great. See this and other ships at Spring Fling 2010!

Last Regular Meeting

As you know Spring Fling 2010 will be next month. As mentioned on the front page our usual meetings will take place wherever we happen to be if we are at a flyin. Our April meeting therefore is the last meeting on the third Sunday of the month. Upcoming meetings will be announced as usual on the front page. Actually, moving meeting places gives other members who live far from New Hampshire a chance to attend a meeting and make themselves known. Mike Paquin is lucky. Look at these parts!



A variation of the Bensen pump style system, it is simplicity at its best. Constructed from Chrome moly steel, it is sheathed in 6061 T-6 and is adjustable for control movement speed. It has few moving parts and pivot points. Merely clamps onto the keel and is installed. Mike also made landing gear with some shock absorbers. The cross tube will be hinged to the keel and diagonal struts to the mast will have shock absorbers. At right Mike holds one of them. The stiff spring probably allows for 4+ inches of travel. The absorbers are a common part.



Above, Mike examines the rotor brake on John's RAF. His fingers are at the pivot end where the brake pad is and that long black lever provides the leverage needed to drive the pad against the ring gear. It is a simple cable operated holding brake. I can't remember what angle we were talking about but Dale makes a visual aid using his fingers to help visualize what we were talking about.

So winter is at its end, Spring Fling is next month, hope to see all or some of you there. Happy Landings.

