



PLANE TALK NEWS March 2022



Hello Everyone,

Club News

With COVID restrictions winding down, President Alan sent out a notice that club activities and meetings are resuming. The March Coffee Social is on for March 12th, 10am at Westfield. The April club meeting is on for April 5th, 7pm at Westfield. At the April meeting, Steve Huff is presenting how to setup SAFE/AS3X receivers. The program planned for May will be on EDFs by Zane Lathrum.

In a previous newsletter I shared about Larry Petersen holding a building class. Steve Huff was the student. He wrote up an article about his experience with building. I have included it below. I personally enjoy the challenge of building a kit. And, even though the maiden of your labor of love is stressful, there is a lot of satisfaction in seeing your work take flight for the first time.

The TRCC club I fly with in Tucson has an award each month for crashes. The Society of Aircraft Demolishers is an AMA program. Winners get a patch. I plan to start up this program when I get back. Winners are picked by a vote of the members. It is a way to have some fun out of the unfortunate circumstance of a crash that we have all encountered. As the saying goes, all of our models have an expiration date.

It is time to start getting field mowing crews together. Greg Ireland reported that he has his crew together for West. Contact Jim Lewis if you can help with mowing at EPJ this year.

Jim Lewis

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Balsa Building Workshop by Steve Huff

I had already purchased a Balsa kit almost 8 months prior. I figured that watching Youtube videos I would learn enough to be able to construct it. But I still had basic questions, like how much pressure and heat to use when applying Mylar and how to use the plans to lay out the model.

For one thing, when I used CA glue, it usually ran every where except where it was intended to go. Paper towels used to sop up the glue would turn the project, into a paper mache sculpture rather than the Piper Cherokee it was intended to be.

When Larry sent out an announcement to have a workshop on building Balsa wood models, I was excited and responded right away that I wanted to attend . This proved to be an excellent opportunity to learn. I was able to ask questions about techniques and methods of construction and techniques for applying the Mylar covering. I purchased the recommended Sig 4 star Balsa kit, looking forward to the first workshop session.

Workshop Session 1

The first planned day was after our first big snowfall for this winter and we decided to schedule it as soon as the roads were cleared. Larry went over the basic labeling, layout, construction, and gluing techniques. I finally had someone that I could pose questions to and learn from their years of experience. We constructed the main wing. Larry would do the first side, and I would do the other side. I left after the first workshop session having learned a lot and feeling an immense sense of satisfaction. I could hardly wait until the next Saturday to start covering the wing.

Workshop Session 2

I arrived about 9:30 am and Larry went over the joining of the two wings halves that he had completed. He then described in depth the epoxy reinforcement for the wing root. We followed the same process for covering the wing. Larry would cover one side of the wing and then I would cover the second wing side. It took a little while to really understand the process and to get a 'feel' for applying the Mylar. I learned when to use the iron, when to use a heat gun, and when and how much to trim, before folding and sealing the edges.

Finally a Big shout out to Larry for putting on the workshop!