

**TRI-COUNTY**

# WINGSNAPPERS



**THE CONTROL TOWER NEWSLETTER**

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[www.tcws.org](http://www.tcws.org)

September 2007

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## **NEXT MEMBER MEETING:**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> @ 1:30 PM**  
**TCWS CLUB FIELD**

## **DIRECTIONS TO MOOSE LODGE:**

Hamburg Exit from Route 22  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 12 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Hamburg, PA

## **OFFICIAL FIELD LOCATION ADDRESS:**

Tri-County Wingsnappers, Inc.  
329 Balthaser Road  
Lenhartsville, PA 19534

Tri-County Wingsnappers, Inc.  
c/o David Kilmer  
8-6 Heather Hts.  
Reading, PA 19606

## President's Message...

Dear TCWS Members,

*Nominations are due at this month's meeting (September), and elections for 2008 officers will be held at our October meeting. We need nominations for President and Secretary! Dave and I have served in these positions for two years, and we are not running for a third term! Any member who has not served as an officer yet needs to consider stepping up to the task and helping run our club. I would also encourage new members to consider running for office as well. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested.*

*We have only two more months before we move our monthly meetings indoors! October will be the last outdoor meeting, and the cold weather will be upon us shortly after.*

*See you at the field!*

Paul Hartley

## Editor's Two Cents

*A quick note this month to thank the guys who spent their Saturday at the Reading Hobbytown recently representing the club on Hobby Connection Day. Ed Koch brought both his big Yak and Jack Hilbert's Giant Super Sportster, and Jack and his son Josh, John Messersmith, PaulHartley, and Mike Renzi all did their best to show the club and the hobby in a good light. While we had some bad luck with some of the planes that were provided, Paul was able to get a number of flights in the Hobbyzone Phantom (the one I least expected to fly well in the windy conditions!). Paul told me several applications were handed out, and hopefully that will bear fruit. Again, THANKS GUYS....you always give your best for the club, and it is noticed! I'd also like to thank Bob (Hobbytown's owner) for allowing us to participate, and for providing free use of his tent (it was a scorcher, and the tent was a necessity!).*

*On another note, we can expect cooler weather in the months ahead, so get in as much flying as you can while it's still enjoyable! Oh...one more thing. As will no doubt have been noted elsewhere in the newsletter, we still need nominations for club president and club secretary. It's time for some new blood in these positions after two years, and Paul and I need a break! Elections will take place at the October meeting, so there's no time to waste!*

**Happy Flying!**

David Kilmer

Club Secretary

iflyslow2002@yahoo.com

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## Unofficial Meeting Minutes... 19 August

President Paul Hartley called the meeting to order at 1:30pm at the TCWS Club field. (19) members and (1) associate members were present.

**The 50-50 drawing** was won by Paul Hartley who graciously donated his winnings (\$11.50) back to the club.

**David Kilmer read the minutes** from the July meeting, and no additions or corrections were made. Motion was made to approve by Jim Pauley, seconded by John Messersmith, and approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Donald Umbenhauer read the treasurer's report.. George Case moved to accept, Jim Pauley seconded, and the club voted unanimously to accept the report.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Field Care:** George Case reported that Dennis sprayed for dandelions since the previous meeting.

**Union Fire Company Lawsuit:** No news since last report.

**2007 Bulk Fuel Buy** – Paul reported that there might still be some fuel left for sale for \$12/gal. First come, first served!

**TCWS/Farview Giant Scale Fun Fly Event August 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>** – Paul reminded the club that we need as many members as we can get to help out with this event. He also reminded us that our field will be closed for the duration of the event to allow 72mhz frequencies to be used. The plan is to block off the TCWS driveway to ensure nobody inadvertently flies on those frequencies. Rick Boyer specified that TCWS members flying giant scale planes will get free admission.

**TCWS/Farview Jet Jamboree, October 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>** – Paul noted that we will again need members to help out with the Jet Jamboree. Jets only will be flown from 9am to 4pm each day, with open flying permitted from 4pm to dusk. As in past shared events, the two clubs will share revenues 50/50 from admissions, food sales, etc. Once again, the TCWS field will be shut down during this event, so our members and guests will be permitted to fly 72mhz throughout the weekend without worries of interference. Rick Boyer noted that there is an ad for this event on Bob Violett's web site.

**Bud Wunder announced** that he was able to put an ad on BCTV for the above events.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Hobby Connection Day at Hobbytown in Reading, Saturday, September 8th:** Paul encouraged TCWS members to attend this event to promote the club. The store is to provide several park flyers for us to fly, and we will be allowed space to set up tables and static displays.

**Nominations for Club Officers:** Paul asked if there were any nominations for the open positions for the October election. Currently, we still need nominations for club president, vice president, and secretary. Jack Hilbert has already been nominated for the position of Vice President, and Paul Hartley

will be running for Jack's board seat. Donald has stated that he will run for treasurer again if nobody else wants the job. Here is the status for all nominations for available officer and board seat positions:

**President:** NONE!

**Vice President:** Jack Hilbert (will vacate board seat if elected)

**Secretary:** NONE!

**Treasurer:** Donald Umbenhauer (running for re-election)

**Board Seat #1:** George Case (running for re-election)

**Board Seat #2:** Terry Miller (running for John's seat)

**Board Seat #3:** Paul Hartley (running for Jack's seat)

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*George Case proposed we purchase an additional storage shed* to allow more room in the kitchen. Paul requested that George and Jack discuss the matter and present a proposal to the club at a future meeting.

*George also asked if there was interest in a club picnic this year* – While interest was expressed by several members, Jack observed that unless we decided it today, we wouldn't have time to organize anything. Therefore Paul vetoed the idea.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next meeting will be Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30pm.

*Motion was made by Bud Wunder to adjourn the meeting. Rich Kratzer seconded,* and all present voted to close the meeting.

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**FLIGHT REPORT: E-Flite Edge 540BP**

**By David Kilmer**

While this year has been a quiet one for me insofar as actual flying, I've still managed to acquire some new toys. At least 11 planes are in various stages of preparation, I have two new 4-strokes ready to be broken in (including a gorgeous Saito 1.50 Golden Knight). And I even replaced my dearly departed Seagull Spacewalker recently (too nice a plane to not have one in the hangar!). Most recently, I picked up one of these new E-Flite Edge 540BP electric profiles.



As I've noted in the past, I am NOT a 3-D pilot! I can knock my planes around fairly well, usually staying out of trouble, but hovering, torque rolling, and harriers are still beyond my abilities. Nevertheless, I liked the look of this plane, and had most of what I needed to get it flying, so I took a chance.

First off, let me say, this is a really nicely built ARF. All the components were packaged nicely, the covering was perfect, and the assembly was perhaps the easiest of any ARF I've come across. The quality of each item in the box (except for the landing gear) was above reproach. Stay tuned for more about the landing gear...

Now, I waited quite awhile after building this plane to maiden it. You know the feeling...you want the wind to be just right (as in none), a helping hand nearby to get you out of trouble if necessary, and for your nerves to calm down enough to hold the sticks without looking like you're trying to stir coffee with them.

As it happened, I only got one of my wishes to come true, in the form of Dan McCoach, our resident 3-D guru, sage electric expert, and all around good guy. As for the wind, (quoting Tony Soprano) fuhgeddaboutdit! While it would have been nothing for a larger plane, my little 16oz profile was about to be tested!

Knowing this was beyond my personal limitations, I gladly handed the transmitter to Dan, who calmly taxied the little Edge out and nailed the throttle. With a 1250mah 3-cell E-Flite lipo and a brushless 20amp motor up front, she was up and clawing for altitude after a ground run of about 5 feet. Dan began to trim her out, and quickly established that although I'd balanced the plane at the factory-suggested 4-1/2 inches, this thing was still tail heavy and VERY twitchy. Despite this, he was able to fly a few circuits and felt comfortable enough with it to hand the controls over to me.

To say I was out of my depth is putting it kindly. But Dan stayed nearby and fed me advice in his usual quiet, confident voice. Knowing he thought I could do it somehow made ME think I could do it. OK, it wasn't the smoothest I've ever flown a plane. But I kept it in one piece, and determined that once the balance was adjusted, the Edge will be a keeper. It has more than enough power to punch out of almost any dicey situation (or to hover all day long if you so desire). I'm waiting for a calmer day (and the correct CG) to test the Edge out more thoroughly, but I can see that going vertical will never be a problem with this bird!

One thing I did notice, which has nothing to do with its flight characteristics. The plane is covered in clear red and yellow Ultracote, which looks really cool on the ground...but in the air, it's very easy to lose orientation! I may add some contrasting color to the bottom of the wing to alleviate the problem in the future.

I left the landing up to Dan (after I agreed he wouldn't be at fault for any damage that might ensue, since the wind had continued to pick up during the flight...I mean, really Dan...do you always carry legally binding liability waivers in your pocket like that??), and he managed to float it down to the ground with only a slight side load on the gear. Remember what I said earlier about the gear? I'm not kidding

here...when it touched down, the plane literally had NO forward motion, due to the wind. Yet with even the slightest sideways motion at the moment of touchdown, the left gear literally folded under itself as if it was made of soft lead! Do yourself a favor if you get one of these E-Flight profiles....replace the gear immediately! Or better yet, just leave it off entirely! You'll thank me!

To sum up, this is a neat little plane, and deserves a spot in your hangar. It's cheap (\$80), strong (except for the landing gear!), and a real hoot to fly. I like that I can throw it in the back seat and fly it at lunch without any cleanup afterwards. Until my skills improve, I'll save it for that wonderful period of calm we usually get towards the end of the day, and be happy that any area the size of a soccer field will suffice to test my thumbs!

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**UPCOMING R/C EVENTS**

**October 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>** - Golden Age Model Meet sponsored by Tri-County Sky Barons (tricountyskybarons.com) in Mifflintown, PA. Contact Mike Warner ([mikewarner@nmax.net](mailto:mikewarner@nmax.net)) for further details or check their web site.

**October 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>** – Jet Rally at Farview RC Flyers' field (Grim's). The TCWS field will be closed for the duration of this event to prevent frequency interference, since 72mhz and HAM bands will be used during the event.

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**CLUB OFFICERS**

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Guess what? My baby Edge has a big brother on the way!