Official Newsletter of
Sanderson Field R.C. Flyers
Shelton, WA

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Sanderson Field R.C. News

Charter No. 3079

!! Elections Coming - Nominations This Month - Come and Participate !!

Club Meeting

This months meeting will be held on Thursday November 13th at the Choice High School, *located at 201 N. 8th St. Shelton WA. The meeting room is on the main floor*

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Check out the club web site at
http://sfrcf.quintex.com
for a map and directions

First I'd like to apologize for the mistake in the address of the new meeting place. Sorry for the confusion it caused. It's on the web site for anyone who wants to look at a map. I also found out there were people who didn't know the club has a web site. We do and it's a good place to get field closures, directions to meeting places, any newsletters you missed and some other good info. Check it out.

At the regular meeting we started with Sharon Diaz reading the treasurer's report as Chuck wasn't available. The report was passed as read. Next The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting which were passed as read.

Jody then talked about the board meeting which was basically a brainstorm session about how to get more publicity for the club and be more involved with the community. Bill Bunce suggested doing something with the Library, Bob Andrew suggested the school system, Sharon Diaz noted Choice High School has been very good to us over the years and would like to see something with them and Dick Robb suggested something at Walmart. Good suggestions all, how about you other club members? Got any ideas about publicity? Let us know.

Which brings me to the upcoming elections. It sounds like it will take an act of god to get Jody and Dick to run again so we're going to need a new president and vice president. Nominations are going to be at the November meeting. How about coming and participating.

Jody and Sharon found the plane that was lost at the Pioneer School Demo. The plane was a total loss but the engine and radio gear is ok. Sharon has found another kit of the same plane and Jody is going to rebuild it. Stacy Myers motioned to have the club pay for the replacement which was seconded and passed.

Dick Robb motioned to have the swap meet again this year which was seconded and passed. We decided to have it a little earlier this year and I have booked April 3rd with the School (at the sub again)

Sharon Diaz motioned to have the Christmas party in combination with the Lake Nahwatzel club at the Casino. Motion was seconded and passed. I've contacted the Casino and have reserved the same place we had last year on our regular meeting night, December 11th at 7:30 p.m.

Dick Robb noted we need some new blood in the official positions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m..

IF YOU PAY BY MAIL SEND YOUR DUES, PROOF OF 2004 AMA MEMBERSHIP AND A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO THE TREASURER:

CHUCK KENTFIELD
6843 Gallagher Cove Rd. NW
Olympia WA 98502

Balsa Facts part 3

IS BALSA THE LIGHTEST WOOD IN THE WORLD?

No! Most people are surprised to hear that botanically, balsa wood is only about the third or fourth lightest wood in the world. However, all the woods which are lighter than balsa are terribly weak and unsuitable for any practical use. The very lightest varieties don't really resemble wood at all, as we commonly think of it, but are more like a tree-like vegetable that grows in rings, similar in texture to an onion. It is not until balsa is reached that there is any sign of real strength combined with lightness. In fact, balsa wood is often considered the strongest wood for its weight in the world. Pound for pound it is stronger in some respects than pine, hickory, or even oak.

SELECTING BALSA FOR MODEL BUILDING

Most hobby shops have a large rack of balsa sheets, sticks, and blocks that you can choose from if you are going to build a model airplane from scratch. Undoubtedly, because of the nature of balsa, the actual weight of each piece of wood of the same size can vary slightly. When you select the pieces you want to buy you should keep their final use in mind. Logically one should select the lightest grades for the lightly stressed model parts (nose blocks, wingtip blocks, fill-ins, etc.) and the heavier grades for important load bearing parts of the structure (spars, fuselage stringers, etc.). To a large extent, this selection is already partly done for you. Here at SIG, we purposely cut up our lightest raw balsa into blocks, and our hardest raw balsa into sticks. Sheets are cut in the entire wide range of density.

COMMON MODELER'S TOOLS FOR CUTTING AND SHAPING BALSA WOOD

Balsa is a very "friendly" wood to work with -- so light, so soft, so easily worked into so many things. You don't need heavy-duty power saws and sanders like you would if working with a hardwood. In fact, even with an extensive power shop at their disposal, the professional model builders here at the SIG factory find that they still rely primarily on 4 or 5 simple hand tools for the majority of their work. If you are just starting out in the model airplane hobby, here are the tools that they recommend you get: X-ACTO No. 1 knife with No. 11 blade for general cutting; X-ACTO No. 2 knife with No. 26 blade for carving; Razor saw for cutting thick sizes of wood; Razor plane for shaping; A knife or razor blade will work well for cutting balsa sheets and sticks up to 3/16". Always keep replacement blades on hand - blades do wear our and a dull blade can make it impossible to do a good job.

YOU WILL ALSO NEED SANDING BLOCKS

In addition to the cutting tools, you will need an assortment of different size sanding blocks. These are indispensable tools for model construction. You can buy ready-made sanding blocks or make your own. The most often used general-

Club Officers

President	Jody Diaz	(360)427-6102
Vice President	Dick Robb	(360)427-4521
Treasurer	Chuck Kentfield	(360)866-9473
Secretary	Bob Beatty	(360)426-5601
Field Marshal	Chuck Kentfield	(360)866-9473
Safety Officer	John Tupper	(360)426-6383
Board Member	Jody Diaz	(360)427-6102
Board Member	Dick Robb	(360)427-4521
Board Member	Herb Coslett	(360)275-4158
Board Member	Stacy Myers	(360)426-9367
Board Member	Darryl Casad	(360)275-8690
Alt Board Member	Bob Beatty	(360)426-5601
Alt Board Member	Chuck Kentfield	(360)866-9473

Balsa Facts part 2 (cont..)

purpose sanding block in our model shop is made simply by wrapping a full 9" x 11" sheet of sandpaper around a 3/4" x 3" x 11" hardwood or plywood block. Use three screws along one edge to hold the overlapped ends of the sandpaper in place. Use 80 grit garnet sandpaper on the block during general construction. Another handy sanding block to have can be made by gluing 80 grit garnet sandpaper onto a 24" or 36" long piece of aluminum channel stock. Most hardware stores carry a rack of aluminum in various sizes and shapes. This long sanding block is very helpful for shaping leading and trailing edges, and other large pieces, accurately. Last but not least, glue sandpaper onto different sizes of scrap plywood sticks and round hardwood dowels. These are handy for working in tight places and for careful shaping where a big sanding block is too hard to control.

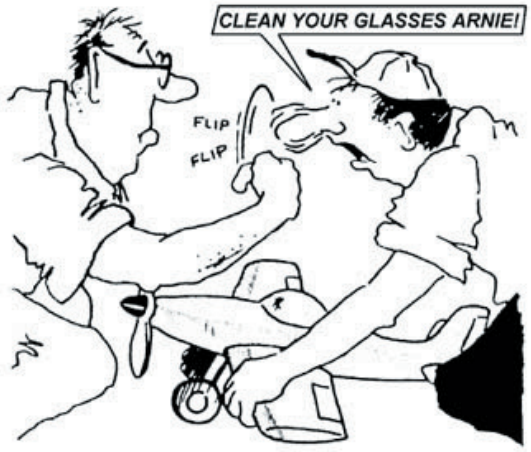
BALSA GRAIN -- LEARN HOW TO IDENTIFY ALL THREE GRAIN TYPES

In selecting balsa sheets for use in your model, it is important to consider the way the grain runs through the sheet as well as the weight of the sheet. The grain direction actually controls the rigidity or flexibility of a balsa sheet more than the density does. For example, if the sheet is cut from the log so that the tree's annular rings run across the thickness of the sheet (A-grain, tangent cut), then the sheet will be fairly flexible edge to edge. In fact, after soaking in water some tangent cut sheets can be completely rolled into a tube shape without splitting. If on the other hand the sheet is cut with the annular rings running through the thickness of the sheet (C-grain, quarter grain), the sheet will be very rigid edge to edge and cannot be bent without splitting. When the grain direction is less clearly defined (B-grain, random cut), the sheet will have most intermediate properties between A and C grain. Naturally, B-grain is the most common and is suitable for most jobs. The point to bear in mind is that whenever you come across pure A-grain or C-grain sheets, learn where to use them to take best advantage of their special characteristics.

A-GRAIN sheet balsa has long fibers that show up as long grain lines. It is very flexible across the sheet and bends around curves easily. Also warps easily. Sometimes called "tangent cut." DO use for sheet covering rounded fuselages and wing leading edges, planking fuselages, forming tubes, strong flexible spars, HL glider fuselages. DON'T use for sheet balsa wings or tail surfaces, flat fuselage sides, ribs, or formers.

B-GRAIN sheet balsa has some of the qualities of both type A and type C. Grain lines are shorter than type A, and it feels stiffer across the sheet. It is a general purpose sheet and can be used for many jobs. Sometimes called "random cut." DO use for flat fuselage sides, trailing edges, wing ribs, formers, planking gradual curves, wing leading edge sheeting. DON'T use where type A or type C will do a significantly better job.

C-GRAIN sheet balsa has a beautiful mottled appearance. It is very stiff across the sheet and spits easily. But when used properly, it helps to build the lightest, strongest models. Most warp resistant type. Sometimes called "quarter grain." DO use for sheet balsa wings and tails, flat fuselage sides, wing ribs, formers, trailing edges. Best type for HL glider wings and tails. DON'T use for curved planking, rounded fuselages, round tubes, HL glider fuselages, or wing spars.



Tips

I've asked and I've heard a lot of questions about how to get fuel out of the inside of your plane if your tank leaks or what ever. I went searching and this is what I came up with.

Cleaning oil soaked wood

Cleaning fuel soaked balsa. K-2R will remove fuel from balsa wood very nicely . Just spray the K-2R directly onto area that you want to clean and the power will extract any fuel and oil from the wood. The power is then easily cleaned up with a damp rag. The K-2R will however leave the wood with a white finish. - Jim Dooley

{I think K-2R is used to take stains out of clothing and should be available where ever laundry cleaning supplies are sold. Have not tried this one, but will have to keep it in mind.}

Cleaning Planes

Automobile windshield washer antifreeze cleaner works very well as a spray on cleaner for taking oil off airplanes.

{It's cheap at 99 cents a gallon and if you put a small drop of dish soap in the spray bottle it will work even better.}

Pull Oil out of Wood

Sometimes firewalls and engine areas of older planes get soaked with oil from the fuel. This weakens glue joints to the point where a plane could fall apart in midair. Try using Cyanoacrylate (CA or superglue) kicker (catalyst). Just spray it on and wipe it off. I've been told it pulls the oil right out of the wood. Several treatments may be necessary. This also works if a fuel tank develops a leak and the fuselage gets soaked with fuel. (Courtesy Jevan F.)

Film Covering Degreaser

Have you ever wanted to add more film covering (Monokote, Ultracote) to a plane you've already flown? It's difficult to get all the oil exhaust off the plane so the film will stick. Try using Cyanoacrylate (CA or superglue) kicker (catalyst). Just spray it on and wipe it off. I've been told it's a very good degreaser. (Courtesy Vince R.)

Removing Oil from Balsa

We had a Lazy Bee that got oil soaked and from advice we used Corn Starch after applying K2R. Applying corn starch to the area and heating with covering iron the oil was gone!!! It does work. If you can't find K2R then try mixing alcohol and corn starch together. Heavy on the alcohol, but not to the point of dripping. This will work, but it will take several applications if it is really bad.

TIP TIME: WHAT DO YOU NEED IN YOUR FLIGHT BOX?

What do you consider necessary for your flight box? Usually, the most important are the items needed to keep you flying while at the field. Obviously, you can't carry everything. I tried that once. I custom built my own flight box. When finished, it more or less resembled a steamer truck, and I still didn't have what I needed at times!

When you are beginning, all you can do is make your best guess at what you will need at the field. Better yet, go ask some of the veteran members what they keep in their flight boxes. Some items can be substituted for others. For instance, if you don't use a starter, a leather glove, or a chicken stick to start your model, you'll have plenty of room for band-aids, which you'll surely need eventually!

A small roll of clear packing tape can patch up those cornfield MonoKote dings and allow you to keep flying. Of course, spare glow plugs and props are always high on the list. The nice thing about all this is that among the members who are usually at the field, someone will always have what you're looking for. Don't be afraid to ask for something if you need it.

from Flying Times
Valley RC Flying Club
Randy Ryman, editor
Harrisburg VA

Other Scheduled Events

December 11th 2003 .....7:30 p.m. at the Casino Christmas Party/Elections
April 17th 2004 .....10th Annual Swap Meet 9 to noon high school Sub