

THE TOWHOOK

An informal and semi-official newsblurb of the Inland Empire Soaring Society

Edition 1 Volume 1 February 2004



Goodbye Bill,

One of our friends has recently left us. Too quickly and far too soon. On January 13, Bill Weirauch succumbed to the cancer he was diagnosed with last fall.

Bill had served in the Air Force and worked with Bureau of Mines as a draftsman and photographer. And most recently was retired. He is survived by his wife Carolyn, a son and a daughter, and several grandchildren.

Some of his greatest joys had come from building model airplanes and teaching kids about modeling. For several years Bill volunteered his time at Gary Junior High showing the kids how to build and fly their own rubber powered models. In fact, this is what helped to secure GJH as an indoor flying location. Bill was one of the founding members of the IESS club and has organized or helped out at many of our events. He was actively involved in several different aspects of our hobby. Indoor flying, slope, thermal, or electric; it all seemed to capture Bills interest. And it did not stay there. He shared his knowledge and time with anyone who needed it.

Last summer at a contest, one of our members pointed Bill out and said "Win lose or broken plane, he always has fun and always has a good attitude". That is a pretty good description of how Bill related to everyone. When I was the 'new guy', Bill was one of the first to come up to me, grin, and introduce himself. He then asked what I was building and what did I need to know. I don't think Bill was much interested in prestige or acclamation or cool toys. He cared about people. And in leaving each one a bit happier or smarter.

That attitude is something we can all remember about Bill. Each one of us is indeed a bit better off for having known him.

Sites

Go here to get some of the best soaring screen savers.

[Http://www.8ung.at/aviation-savers/gliding.htm](http://www.8ung.at/aviation-savers/gliding.htm)

The calendars are out of date - but hey we have our own club calendar. Enjoy the vintage photos.

To See

* Disclaimer *

This is my first attempt at journalism. Yes I know things could be better. Too bad. Unless the subscribers wish to send in articles and reports, you are stuck with my mindless babbling and witless drivel. Almost any content is acceptable for submission. Certain 'graphic' items may need careful review before acceptance.

Concerning fonts; I thought I had found a good way to produce Adobe Acrobat Reader files (.pdf) for web publication. This has proven to be difficult. Acrobat does weird things to the fonts. Thus the crude choppy appearance of the articles on your screen. They look just great on my computer. I hope to find a way around this sometime in the future.

The Editor.

Meet the Pilot



Most folks know Lee Urbaniak as the leading electric guru of the club. How many know he started out flying kites? If you are like me, you didn't. I called him up the other night and asked him several questions such as: Who are you? What do you do? Why are we on planet Earth? Just kidding on the last one. Lee was kind enough to put up with my interruption, and tell

me some things about himself.

Originally, Lee was involved in designing and flying kites as a hobby. Until he saw a movie called the "Right stuff" that featured some extreme flying. This inspired him to start building and flying his own electric powered aircraft. After he happened upon some glider guys at Farragut, Lee joined the IESS and began flying in thermals.

Although his open class sailplanes come from a box, Lee still continues to design and craft his own electric airplanes. And his current hot project is designing and producing a charger for Li-Po battery cells. >insert sales ad<

Lee lives in Spokane with his wife Sherry, and works as a n audio/visual techie at E.W.U. He is deeply involved in the teleconferencing and TeleVideo that the college produces.

When I asked "What is the greatest part of this hobby"? Lees answer was fast and direct. People. He says that if it was not for the camaraderie and friendship of the people he meets, he would have long ago grown tired and given the hobby up.

In the Shop,

When the phone rang, Doug Russell was working away on an F-16. Gotta spackle the fuse and cover the wings. Its going to look good. I inquired of Doug, "What is the most cool building tip you can give me for free?"

"Rotary cutting mats." Was his instant reply. From the fabric store or sewing shop. These green mats have 1" grid lines on them that are square. And the mat is hard to cut even with an exacto. The best blade to get though, is the accessory rolling fabric cutter. You simply lay your cove ring material on the mat, square it up to the lines, and roll away with the blade. Doug says his mat is several years old and still is not worn out. He even has cut some carbon fiber on it. Speaking of carbon, don't saw on your carbon rods! That frays the edges. Instead, roll them underneath a knife edge. This cut them from the outside in. No more embarrassing split ends.

Now I don't know if I want to be seen going into a fabric store by myself. And its been too many years since I hung around a store and asked a stranger to make my purchase. But maybe I can say something like: "Honey, I'll take you to the fabric store, but only if I can fly this afternoon". Dougs building tip is worth the try.



Arsenal 4111

Single-seat performance sailplane. First flight on April 11, 1949. Only 1 ever built. Span: 62'Length: 24' Max Weight: 1036 pounds. Max Speed 111 mph. Smoothness: 27. This sailplane was flown by a Mssr. Fantielles (France) in the first World Championship Soaring Contest held in 1950 at Orebro, Sweden. It placed 3rd in the distance task flying 293 kilometers between Orebro and Varberg, Sweden

Upcoming Events

Monday February 2

Indoor Electric Powered Flying, 7:00 - 9:30 PM
Garry Middle School gymnasium, 725 E. Joseph
(6 blocks south of Francis at Nevada). Electric
indoor flying alternates with rubber indoor flying.

Thursday February 5

IESS Club Meeting, 7:00 PM
Meeting at Shari's restaurant, 320 N. Sullivan in
Spokane Valley.

Friday February 6

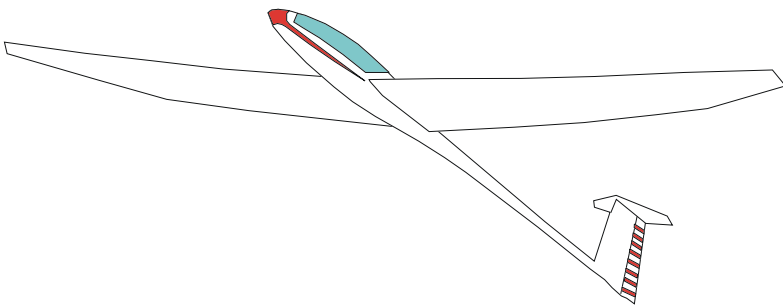
Indoor Rubber Powered Flying, 7:00 - 9:30 PM
Garry Middle School gymnasium

Monday February 23

Indoor Electric Powered Flying, 7:00 - 9:30 PM
Garry Middle School gymnasium

Monday March 1

Indoor Electric Powered Flying, 7:00 - 9:30 PM
Garry Middle School gymnasium



The Inland Empire Soaring Society is an organization dedicated to promoting the sport of flying radio control sailplanes and electric airplanes. We offer people the opportunity to get together and share their interests in this fascinating hobby.

Based in Spokane, Washington, our membership is spread out all over the Inland Northwest. Membership dues for new members are \$10; renewals are \$25 per calendar year. Please contact one of the club officers if you desire more information or to inquire about membership.

Meeting Minutes

January 1, 2004

81 Members present.

\$10052 In account.

Motion: Should we accept Java Hut punch cards in lieu of membership dues? Minimum of 8 punches required.

Passed.

Discussion: About 45 min. spent on trying to ascertain the proper way to construct a 'Z' bend in control wire. Do you make the Z or the bend first? Is it legitimate to use pliers instead of a wire bender? At which time do you cut the wire. Do you need insurance? Safety goggles?

Old Business: Someone offered to help water the field. (T his week only)

Motion: Should any new guy named "Bob" or "Ted" automatically become prez next year?

I hope that by now you have figured out that these are not the real meeting minutes. That is because:

- 1. This is the 1st Edition and I have no notes.*
- 2. There was no meeting for January.*

This does give me the opportunity to suggest that if you can - COME TO THE MEETINGS.

Especially if there is something about the IESS you want to change. Or something you want to know more about. At the meetings you can suggest better things, champion your idea, and make your vote count. And you can even volunteer to do something. And there is always lots of laughter and cool toys to look at.

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Visit our Web Site at:

<http://www.inlandempiresoaring.org/>