

# BALSA DUST

Newsletter of the  
Fergus Falls Regional R/C Flyers  
PO Box 224, Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56537



## WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy March!

Doesn't that sound nice. It does to me! For one thing, it means that some of our snowbirds will be coming back to fly with us, and for another, spring is right behind them.

At our last month's meeting, we talked about having a ski fly the last part of March and flying at the Mall. Those present were Tom Davis, Manfred Decker, Dennis Trudell, Shelby Haukos, Floyd Lee, Larry and Roger Simonson, Eric Lunos and son, Don Martinson, and myself.

We flew at the mall this past Thursday and had a great turn out. We are talking about doing it every other Thursday. Paul Johnson was there and informed us that the Detroit Lakes Mall Show will be March 27th from 10:00-4:00. I hope some of you will be able to go to it.

Let's plan on meeting this month at the Mall on March 11 at 7:00 p.m. **The room will open at 5:00 if you'd like to come early and fly.**

See you then! Michael

## Member Profile



**Tom Davis**

Tom Davis, as most of us know, is a UPS Delivery Man, working here in Fergus Falls since 1987.

Tom says that as long as he can remember he has had an interest in airplanes. When he was a young boy, 4 or 5 years of age, there was a TV show called Sky King. (You young guys will have to Google that one and see pictures of his Cessna T50 Song Bird and Cessna 310 SongBirdII.) As soon as Tom could ride a bike, if he heard an airplane fly over town, he would be on his way to the airport trying to get a ride.

Tom built his first control line plane at age 10 and had a hard time flying that. He says he had an impatient brother trying to teach him. He says he crashed one too many times and said that's it. Tom's brother had some of the early R/C planes on 27 Mhz. He can remember him out at a friend's farm losing control and chasing it, transmitter in hand. He lost control

because someone was talking on their CB radio which was also on 27Mhz.

Tom bought his first R/C plane while in college in 1977. It was a Goldberg Falcon 56. It had an OS Max 35 and the radio was a World Engines Expert priced at \$225.00. This radio had no dual rates, servo reversing or any other bells and whistles. Tom had help for 3 flights at the old West Fargo airport and was on his own after that. Nobody would show up to fly if there was more than a 5 mph breeze. (That is where the West Fargo High School and armory are now.)

Tom became a member of FFRC Flyers in the late 1980's and taught a couple of the club members how to fly. His favorite plane was a scratch built F7F Tigercat built by the late Jess Grobe of Moorhead. Unfortunately it was short-lived because of an engine failure.

Tom's interest in R/C was re-kindled again last year with the purchase of a TREX 450 helicopter. He says he wanted another challenge. He says he has rolled that into a ball at least a half dozen times. His first flight lasted less than 2 minutes and it cost him \$50 for repairs. At that rate he realized he was looking at \$1500 per hour to fly that little whirlygig!! He has built up 2 ARF's over the winter, a 42" Pitts Special and a 60 size You Can Do 3D.

Tom plans to make it out to the field on Thursday nights this summer and is looking forward to getting to know the new members and talk smart with old friends as well.

jlj ed

## Arizona Flying



It was a perfect flight and was great encouragement to both Lee & myself. You can find more pictures from our AZ flying site at-

<http://web.me.com/jdudeck>

Jerry L J

Lee Levenson and I have been out to our desert field several times this winter but during a Fun Fly on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lee made his first completely solo flight since his illness a year ago.

### Club Officers

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## MEETING

### March 11

This month the meeting will be at the Westridge Mall, the same room where we hold our Mall Show and fly electrics. Come any time after 5pm to do some electric flying. The meeting is at 7.

**Have you paid your Local club dues?**

**Is your AMA membership current for 2010?**

**Let's all be ready to fly this spring.**



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