

JAYHAWK MODEL MASTERS NEWSLETTER

Jayhawk Model Masters | AMA Club #2013 | April 2025

jayhawkmodelmasters.com

Club Meeting April 19th

Six-Mile Chop House

4931 W 6th Street

Lawrence, KS 66049

11:00 a.m.: Lunch & socializing

Noon: Business meeting

Club meetings—normally on the
3rd Saturday of the month

2025 Local Flying Events

May 3 – FAE low key fly in (Topeka)

May 24 – *Rocketman Rally**

June 7 Riley County Flyers

June 21 - Blue Sky Fly-In

June 28 – *Jayhawk Float Fly I***

July 26 – *Jayhawk Fun Fly**

Aug. 23 – *J-hawk Float Fly II***

Sept. 6 – FAE Main Fly-In

Sept. 13 – Smokey Hills (Salina) Fly-In

Sept. 13 – FAE night Fly-In 8 pm

Sept. 20 – Blue Sky Fly-In

Sept. 27 – *Jayhawk Big Bird**

*At Clinton International Model Airport

**At Clinton Lake Bloomington Boat Ramp #7

Newsletter Committee: Dave Alexander
(Ed. In Chief), Scott Stordahl and Glenn
Minor

2025 Club Officers

President Patrick Deuser
(785) 596-3035

Vice Pres. Vernon Nelson

Sec./Treas. Scott Stordahl

Field Safety Dan Reid

Board 3yr Greg Inkman

Board 2yr Mike Brown

Board 1yr George Jones

THIS MONTH'S MEETING RAFFLE PRIZE OPTIONS



**ROC Hobby Critical Mass High
Speed PNP 43.3" WS**

OR

RealFlight Evolution RC Simulator



with “transmitter” controller

March Meeting Report

By Dave Alexander

The club met Mar. 15 at 6 Mile Chophouse, Pres. Patrick Deuser called to order at 12:20. There were 20 in attendance, including new members Sam McCall and Bill Holloway, both from Oskaloosa. Sam flies at Cap City and had been a JMM member long ago. Bill just turned 80 and wants to learn to fly!



Treasurer Scott Stordahl reported a beginning bank balance last month of \$6,101.72, and income of \$110.00 from raffles and \$520.18 dues. Expenses included web site fees (\$366.48), event sanctions (\$225.00), raffle prizes (\$568.32) and AMA renewal fees (\$130.00). The ending bank balance was \$5,442.10. With our CD and cash on hand, we had a net worth of \$7,924.08.



Jim Morris and Dan Reid were absent, so we had no Webmaster's or Safety Officer's reports.

Field Manager Scott Stordahl reported on maintenance work on the mower, and that he plans to put out pre-emergent and fertilizer soon. He also discussed rolling the field and mentioned that we need to contact Kent Kumar, who rolled it a couple years ago. Scott also asked members to look for field maintenance items needing attention, and send suggestions to Scott for a work day to be held before our first Spring event. George Jones suggested doing trimming a bit more often than just before events to improve the field's appearance.



A KU student has contacted the club about bringing a group of Peasley Tech students to the field and would like our help for demonstrations. He is hoping to get an Aviation Club started there. More details to come.

Night Flying: Patrick has purchased new strings of "runway" lights and said we are all ready for night flying for the season. Night Fly sessions

will be held the first Saturday of the month, weather permitting.

Other clubs, such as KCRC, get our newsletter and many of their members come to our events. We should try to reciprocate and attend their events. The more we go to events at other clubs, the more they hear about our events and help ours succeed. The event in Salina was mentioned as an unusual one, with 40% scale planes and good food.

The treasurer reminded us that we can now use credit cards to pay for raffles and fly-ins, etc.



Our property insurance expires in June, and the premium is \$1,880. The deductibles have gone so high that we probably would not get any benefit unless the shed and shelter were completely wiped out. Scott suggests self-insuring by putting an amount similar to the premium into a CD every year, and setting that aside for emergencies. This is separate from our liability coverage, which we get through AMA and will continue.

Old School Model Works has just come out with a pylon racing model designed to follow British rules, which are more basic than the U.S. "Quickie" class. The planes are hand-launched and the pylons are closer together. The officers would like to aim to have a demonstration of

this kind of pylon racing at the Rocketman Rally, and potentially add it to all future fly-ins.



Mike Randel won the raffle, and chose the Uproar kit.



My Vanessa balancing rig

After talking to Scott Stordahl and Wayne Donovan I decided to make a Vanessa balancing rig. It is a fairly simple balancing tool and costs very little to make. There are lots of videos about how to make and use one on the internet. I watched a few videos and went to work and built one.



The above picture is of my Hanger 9 PA-18 (105" WS). I am in the process of getting it ready for the Float Fly. You can see the floats I have finished in the lower left of the above picture. I have had this airplane for a long time but I have not flown it for about 6 or seven years. The floats that Hanger 9 put out for this airplane did not work out very well. They were made out of a very thin fiberglass shell and very light weight bulkheads. The fiberglass shell was made in two pieces, a top and a bottom and then glued together. The idea was fine but they kept coming apart where they were glued together and leaking and I could not stop the leaks. The last time I flew the airplane was at one of our float fly's and on landing the bottom part of the right float peeled back about half-way and dunked the airplane. The floats that I am using to replace them with are foam core and planked with balsa. They have a piece of plywood 3/8" thick and 2 1/2" wide mounted just under the top balsa planking for strength and mounting hardware. I am hoping these floats will work out a lot better.

On the above picture the airplane is

hanging on the Vanessa balancing rig. It should be simple to use, and it is, but it kept going nose down when I tried to use it. After several hours of trying to use it, it would still go nose down. So I went on the internet to see if I could find out what I had done wrong. I could not find anything about my problem. Everything I read said to twist the dowel to level the airplane and see where the plumb bob was located in relation to where the CG should be, then add or subtract weight if needed to balance the airplane. After a lot of thinking I figured out there had to be a way to hold the airplane in a level position even though it was or was not in balance. There was a very simple answer: make the dowel fit really tight so it could not move without a lot of force.



If you are balancing a light airplane say about 10 pounds more or less then a loose fitting dowel would be ok. But on airplanes say 20 pounds or more it takes a really tight fitting dowel to hold the airplane level. So

after putting medium CA glue on the dowel and sanding down to a **really**, I mean really tight fit, everything worked fine.



The other thing I found out is the type of rope you use. A lot of the newer ropes made from synthetic materials stretch a lot and it makes it difficult to keep the airplane level laterally. I am also having trouble finding small diameter cotton rope that will not stretch so much.

I hope this information will help someone that might be having some trouble with their Vanessa balancing rig. All in all it is a simple and easy to use balancing rig especially on heavy airplanes and it costs very little to make. I have flown the PA-18 since I balanced it and the balance is very good. One last note from what I have seen so far I much prefer the plum bob to hang in the middle of the airplane. If you have any questions or need some help balancing your airplane text me or give me a call at 785-727-5970.

Article submitted by George W. Jones

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Mystery Plane: Who? What?

Chad Frazer recently discovered a downed model while flying his drone over the wetlands by the field. Scott S. and Jim M. saw the picture and went ahuntin'. Jim found it and discovered it now weighed "50 pounds" (according to Scott) due to being waterlogged & filled with mud and ants' nests.



Does anyone recognize this model or know who the OWNER is? Does anyone know what TYPE OF MODEL it is?

If so, please come to the club meeting or let an officer know!

Seen At the Field

By Dave Alexander

On a recent, rare not-very-windy day, your humble correspondent saw this



A group from KU was testing large drones for carrying radar to survey glacier thickness.



Come Fly With Us!
**JAYHAWK
MODEL MASTERS**
Lawrence, Kansas

presents the Gary Rauckman Memorial
ROCKETMAN
WARBIRD & JET RALLY! 2025
Saturday, May 24, 2025

Clinton International Model Airport
1205 E. 1000 Rd. Lawrence, KS

Pilot Registration 8:00a. Landing Fee \$10
Flight Time 9:00a - 3:00p



**Build and Fly
Your Own Free
Glider!**



Nexa Taipan ARF 62'' WS



**Look for us just east of
the Clinton Lake dam and
south of the golf course!**

**Unlimited RC SWAP Space
Only \$5 Per Seller!**

Contest Director: Scott Stordahl, scott_stordahl@yahoo.com, AMA Sanction #17976

2025 JMM BUILD CONTEST

WHEN

May 24th, 2025
Rocketman Rally

WHERE

**Clinton International
Model Airport**

1205 East 1000 Road, Lawrence, KS 66047

PRIZE

\$50



**OPEN TO
EVERYONE**

RULES

+ Build any aircraft you like from kit, plans, personal design or even ARF

+ Start a new project or complete one already under construction, just finish and show off at the 2025 Rocketman Rally

+ Contest aircraft are required to fly at or before the event

JUDGING

All registered pilots at the event will vote on their favorite model.