

WAA-08 Pilots,

Welcome to 2010! I hope this email finds you well. The WAA-08 adventure has had a great 2009 and I'm looking forward to an even better one in 2010. We have made excellent progress throughout 2009 and provided some excellent opportunities to promote model aviation in our local communities as the WAA-08 plane made her way through the Gulf States and America's heartland.

Update:

The WAA-08 plane is now with pilot #176, Bill Stevens of Colorado Springs, CO. As you know, Bill is the owner of Stevens AeroModel and it was through his generosity that provided the SQuiRT and DX6i radio, as well as assorted spares for our adventure. I have asked Bill to look over the SQuiRT and make any necessary repairs to her structure and covering and I'm sure Bill will also give her a good check flight to see if the trims are still correct and that everything is still in good working order. After all, she has been flown 225 times now and I'm sure she is ready for some TLC. Who more perfect to give her the once over than her designer?

Another notable person the SQuiRT will be stopping at shortly is Bruce A of Bailey, CO. Bruce built SQuiRT #2, our current SQuiRT, after SQuiRT #1 flew away on its 10th flight in Frederick, MD. Since we never retrieved the plane, we cannot determine the exact cause of the fly-away, but we suspect it was caused by a power fluctuation from the ESC which allowed the Rx to lose bind with the Tx.

From the Denver area, we head southwest over the continental divide and back into NM, then west into AZ. From AZ we'll jump north into UT, then head back south through Las Vegas and go all the way down to Tucson before we turn west again into the Golden State. CA has the most registered pilots so we should definitely be able to get some good publicity as we travel north through CA.

I hope we can get many more local papers to cover the adventure and get the word out on how fun and exciting this hobby can be; especially to the younger generation. I don't think there has ever been an easier time to get started in the hobby like there is today. With smaller and cheaper electric powered planes and all the information available on the World Wide Web 24/7, now is definitely a great time to get involved in model aviation. It seems like nowadays that too many kids today are only interested in TV and video games and I think if we can set the spark with this adventure, it may certainly lead to a lifelong interest and activity in model aviation. Wouldn't that be a fantastic "gift" to pass along to any child?

Route:

Our route has not changed. Please visit our website to see the current pilot's map.

Biography:

In my Fall WAA-08 update, I sent out a request and a sample bio to all. To date, only two biographies have been returned. As an ongoing project, a book of pilot biographies is not that important, but when the adventure comes to an end and the SQUIRT resides in its permanent home with all of its souvenirs, pilot's logs, photos, and the daily log book, it will be nice to see who were those 400 plus pilots that actually participated in our WAA-08 adventure. The backgrounds and experiences of our WAA-08 pilots are extremely diverse and I would love to be able to capture that for posterity. For example, did you know that one of our pilots is a helicopter pilot in the US Army who has flown combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan? Or another was the first person to fly an RC plane across Lake Ontario? Or that two of our pilots own their own RC businesses? Or that one of our pilots has made Eagle Scout at the age of 13? The list of exceptional and diverse people goes on and on. I would hate for the bios of our WAA-08 pilots not be known for all that will look back on this adventure with interest and wonder who were those people that volunteered their own time, money, motivation, and enthusiasm to make this adventure happen. With that said, I am making a plea for all WAA-08 pilots to send me their bios when they get the chance. If you need me to send another sample so you can follow the correct format, shoot me an email and I'll send you one.

Wikipedia:

We are now on Wikipedia! Thanks to Don Jiskra and his tireless efforts, the WAA-08 adventure is now posted on Wikipedia for the world to see. You can view it here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wings_Across_America_2008

Patches:

Don Jiskra (our treasurer) has 20 embroidered WAA-08 patches left. Please contact Don if you'd like a patch. Attached is how I used one of mine.

2009 Collage:

Don has put together a collage of all our 2009 WAA-08 pilots (sadly, minus the 7 that never sent photos) and club members. Attached is a small version of the collage. As you know, he did the same thing for 2008 and I think this one looks even better than last year's. Don provides ordering info and more details below. Please contact Don with questions and concerns about the 2009 Collage.

The 16x20 inch, non-fade semi-matte finish prints are now available to order. Each print cost \$8.00 plus \$4.00 for shipping in a mailing tube and will be shipped directly to your home from Winkflash. (same excellent quality and vendor as last year).

You can order additional prints for \$8.00, but the mailing charge for each print drops down to only \$1.00 each. They will come in the same mailing tube.

Cost for 1 print with mailing is \$12.00

Please send a PayPal payment to: waatreasurer2@gmail.com.

If you want more than 1 print add \$8.00 plus \$1.00 for mailing each additional print

Questions? Contact me: Don Jiskra waatreasurer2@gmail.com

Weekly Updates:

Wings Across America updates can be heard weekly from R/C FlightCast. Frank and Brian provide weekly updates on the happenings of the WAA-08 adventure. R/C FlightCast can be found at: <http://www.rcflightcast.com/>

T-shirts and Stickers

WAA-08 t-shirts and stickers are still available at:

<https://www.grumpymonkeydesigns.com/grumpy-monkey-store.html>

WAA-08 Statistics (Current as of 31 Dec 09)

10,624 miles traveled

233 pilots have flown the WAA-08 plane

106 AMA Chartered clubs visited

28 states visited

381 registered pilots

234 AMA Chartered clubs represented

41 registered pilots in California –the most; followed by NY with 22

1 registered pilot in Delaware and Vermont

17 degrees –Coldest temperature that the WAA-08 plane was flown: Chuck W (#84)

Gandeeville, WV

107 degrees –Hottest temperature that the WAA-08 plane was flown: Mike H (#127) Valley Mills, TX

5,750+ emails sent in support of the WAA-08 adventure

3,000+ thread posts on the online RC Forums in support of the WAA-08 adventure

76,951 hits on our WAA-08 Google Maps page

8,881 hits on our WAA-08 website

79 pages of notes taken recording my personal experiences and important events of the WAA-08 adventure

Major Events Attended:

Dallas Electric Aircraft Fliers (DEAF 23) 27-28 September 2009

Southeast Electric Flight Festival (SEFF) 1-3 May 2009

Northeast Electric Aircraft Technology (NEAT) 12-14 September 2008

The oldest and youngest pilots:

Youngest Female: Nicole Hansen 8

Youngest Male: Aydin Turkay 7

Oldest Female: Sherilyn Page 45 (yes, we asked and it was OK)

Oldest Male: Frank Johnson: 93

Club with the most WAA-08-pilots:

Hawks R/C Junior Aviators

News Coverage:

16 Online news stories

15 Local papers

6 nationally publicized magazines have run articles on the WAA-08 adventure

2 Local television news stories

1 Weekly RC Podcast that provides WAA-08 updates

Forum Members:

146 on RC Groups

46 on WattFlyer

3 on RC Universe

Plane statistics:

Plane: Simple Quiet Robust Trainer (SQuiRT)

Wingspan: 38"

Motor: GWS sp400

ESC: Castle Creations Pixie 20P and for a backup Spectrum 18 Amp from Medusa Research

Batteries: MaxAmps 1100 mAH 7.4V 25C LiPos

Props: GWS 7x3.5

Receiver: Spektrum AR6200

Servos: 2 Ea Hitec HS-55

Radio: Spektrum DX6i

Battery Charger: DBC-14 from Common Sense RC

AUW: 16 ounces

Built from: Balsa and vinyl covering

Manufacturer: Stevens AeroModel

Year Built: 2008

Sponsors:

Stevens AeroModel
Horizon Hobbies
Redneck RC
Jeff Williams (Tram)
Big Al's Hobby Supply
RC Pro Racing
MaxAmps
Hobby Hangar
Castle Creations
Grumpy Monkey Designs
E Cubed R/C
FliteLine Hobbies
R/C FlightCast
Vinyl For RC
Medusa Research Inc.
Steve Cranford (WAA-08.org Domain creator)
Desert Eagles Model Airplane Flying Club

That sums up the Winter/2009 update of the WAA-08 adventure. Thank you all for participating and helping to make this adventure a reality. It is with your time and effort that keeps the dream alive and I deeply appreciate that.

As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call or shoot me an email.

Thanks for your time.

Frank Geisler
804 693-6891
Promoting the Hobby
- One Pilot at a Time
www.WAA-08.org