

WAA-08 Pilots,

Below is our summer 2011 update. I hope this email finds you well and I apologize in the delay of getting this update out to you. I had hoped to send it out back in mid-July.

The WAA-08 adventure has had a very busy 2011 so far. We have had some great times but also have some sad news to share. Don Jiskra, our adventure's treasurer, collage and flight certificate maker passed away from pancreatic cancer on 23 June. He was 79 years young. As you know, Don was the backbone of our adventure and tirelessly donated his time to support it. He created our collages, which are wonderful works of art, and coordinated the sales and distribution of them. He coordinated the fabrication of the sew-on patches and distributed them out to those who purchased them. Don also created those wonderful flight certificates that I thought were suitable for framing using his excellent Photoshop skills. I felt these certificates was a special "thank you" to all those pilots who chose to volunteer their time and energy to help promote model aviation by participating in our adventure. And as treasurer, Don kept track of our donated emergency fund monies in a PayPal account set up just for our adventure and also kept track of the gas money and broken prop fund that travels with the SQuiRT. His efforts in our adventure will certainly be missed along with his energy, advice and of course his friendship.

January 1st 2011 found the SQuiRT being transferred to pilot #255, Charles D, of Shoreline, Washington. Charles had the opportunity to fly the SQuiRT on the first day of 2011 and shortly after that the SQuiRT started her travels east back home. Since the beginning of the year, the SQuiRT has been flown by 62 pilots, visited 24 chartered clubs, and has traveled approximately 3,000 miles. The SQuiRT has now traveled through 42 states so far meaning we only have six more to go! We have had some excellent press coverage so far this year having the adventure being reported in a number of newspapers and online articles. It's great to see the adventure getting such good press coverage as this is an excellent method to reach out to those that may not be familiar with model aviation and it might spark that interest in the young and old alike. The SQuiRT had the opportunity to attend the National Electric Fly In hosted by the AMA in Muncie, ID on 11 Jun. During the event, Don Jiskra, partnered with Bill Stevens, flew the SQuiRT for the first time in front of a very large audience. It was great to see Don finally get the chance to fly the SQuiRT especially since we knew time was short for him. I want to once again thank the pilots immediately before Don who helped expedite the SQuiRT's movement to him so Don could attend NEFI with the SQuiRT. Bill Stevens also flew the SQuiRT as a demo flight –this makes the third time Bill has flown the SQuiRT in three different states and at two major events.

Update:

The WAA-08 plane is now with pilot #295, Bill Foster of Gibbon, Nebraska. The route planned is to travel west along I-80, drop into Utah to Salt Lake City and then head north into Idaho and then make a right hand turn headed east and then eventually back to home base in Virginia. I was hoping that we could be in Ohio but the fall, but based on our current traveling speed that will not be possible. I am hoping we can be well past those cold western states before winter sets in. Speaking of I-80, I am still looking for some pilots in the Rawlins or Rock Springs, WY area. There is a large gap between pilots and I am hoping we can fill the gap in with a couple of more volunteer pilots. I am also hoping to get a volunteer in Casper, WY. I have emailed clubs and hobby shops in those three locations, but have not had any volunteers step forward. I think if I can get some volunteers in

those areas, I may have enough pilots to fill in the gaps until we get all the way to North Carolina. Then it looks like I may need one or two more pilots there to fill in those gaps there.

Current estimate, and this is really hard to predict, is for the SQuiRT to arrive back in Virginia in the summertime of 2013. This will have put the adventure at the 5 year mark. Can you believe it? 5 years of traveling around the United States promoting model aviation. How awesome is that?! I am hoping for a “gathering” of WAA-08 pilots at Kill Devil Hills, NC to fly the WAA-08 plane in the same place Orville and Wilbur flew their Wright Flyer back in 1903. Once those flights have been completed the remaining VA pilots will fly her at their club’s fields and then only one ceremonial flight at the SQuiRT’s home field in Gloucester, VA will remain.

The SQuiRT itself has been holding up very well overall. With over 400 flights on her, damages and repairs were to be expected. I am very impressed with how well she is holding up. None of my aircraft ever lasted 400 flights (embarrassingly enough to admit). The latest repair involved a broken elevator control horn and a loose vertical fin. Damages have been fixed and have proven flight worthy. Our charger donated by Jeff W of SuperFly RC way back in 2008 finally quit working. We replaced it with a FMA Cellpro 4s charger that was purchased for \$50.

On the topic of press coverage again, I hope that we can continue to get as much press coverage as possible with the remaining pilots we have to go. It’s great to see our pilots taking the time to contact their local media and help spread the word about this wonderful sport we are involved in. Believe it or not, I think there has been only two times that a WAA-08 pilot has been turned down by a newspaper when asked to run a story about the WAA-08 adventure. I hope we can get many more local papers to cover the adventure and get the word out on how fun and exciting this sport 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 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:

As I touched on above, the current route takes us west along I-80 into Utah, then north into Idaho, and then we turn back east again traveling through WY and into South Dakota. I have attached a screen print of our map to show the projected route. As always, the latest info about where the SQuiRT is and who is next to fly is posted on our pilot’s map ([the map](#)).

Patches:

Since Don Jiskra was spearheading this effort, no patches are available at this present time until I work out the details on how we are going to handle the patches from here on out. If you want to order a patch or two, please let me know and I’ll see what I can do. We have to order them in batches of 25 –that is the minimum order amount.

T-shirts and Stickers:

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

<https://www.grumpymonkeydesigns.com/grumpy-monkey-store.html> Call Warren directly if you want a t-shirt or decal as do not see them listed on his web site now.

2011 Collage:

Fortunately, Don's daughter Sharon has volunteered her time to create the 2011 WAA-08 collage for us. We are working out the details now, and she has accessed the previous year's collages at the Winkflash site. I know there have been requests for ordering them, and after we get all the details worked out, I'll keep you posted on how the order the 2008-2010 collages. Please don't forget to take your photo of yourself with the SQUIRT and photos of you with your friends/club mates are always a plus. These are the photos that are used for the collages.

WAA-08 Statistics (Current as of 3 Jul 11)

18,761 miles traveled

440 pilots have flown the WAA-08 plane

173 AMA Chartered clubs visited

41 states visited

356 registered pilots

247 AMA Chartered clubs represented

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

1 registered pilot in Delaware and Vermont

0 degrees –Coldest temperature that the WAA-08 plane was flown: Richard C (#263) Butte, MT.

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

8,500' – Highest altitude flown by the SQUIRT by pilots Rod B (180) & John C (180a) of Dillon, CO.

9,300+ emails sent in support of the WAA-08 adventure

3,900+ thread posts on the online RC Forums in support of the WAA-08 adventure

91,610 hits on our WAA-08 Google Maps page

14,192 hits on our WAA-08 website

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

Major Events Attended:

National Electric Fly In (NEFI) 11 Jun 2011

Western States Electric Fun Fly (WSEFF) 4-6 June 2010

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: Evan Holman **6**

Oldest Female: Carol Bershers **68** (yes, we asked and it was OK)

Oldest Male: Bill Baily: **97**

Club with the most WAA-08-pilots:

Hawks R/C Junior Aviators

News Coverage:

21 Online news stories

22 Local papers

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

3 Local television news broadcasts

1 Local radio show

1 Weekly RC Podcast that provides WAA-08 updates

Forum Members:

144 on RC Groups

36 on WattFlyer

2 on RC Universe

Plane statistics:

Plane: Simple Quiet Robust Trainer (SQuiRT)

Wingspan: 38"

Motor: GWS sp400 (1st one replaced after 215 flights)

ESC: Spectrum 18 Amp from Medusa Research

Batteries: MaxAmps 1100 mAH 7.4V 25C LiPos

Props: GWS 7x3.5

Receiver: Spektrum AR6100e

Servos: 2 Ea Hitec HS-55

Radio: Spektrum DX6i

Battery Charger: Cellpro 4s from FMA Direct

AUW: 16 ounces

Built from: Balsa and vinyl covering

Manufacturer: Stevens AeroModel

Year Built: 2008

Sponsors:

Stevens AeroModel

Horizon Hobbies

Redneck RC

SuperFly RC (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.

Nico Hobbies

Al's Bicycles and Hobbies

Steve Cranford (WAA-08.org Domain creator)

Desert Eagles Model Airplane Flying Club

That sums up the summer 2011 update of the WAA-08 adventure. I know I am forgetting something, since I usually remember something I wanted to add as soon as I hit the "send" button.

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 all that you have done or will do.

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

Thanks for your time.

Frank Geisler

www.WAA-08.org

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