

Thrustline

Newsletter of the Sky Streakers R/C Club #1165
New Gloucester, Maine
February 2008 Edition

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From the President:

Congratulations to the prizewinners from the annual drawing. I thought it was pretty cool that Bob came to the meeting to renew his membership and won one of the grand prizes after having only attended one meeting the previous year. It certainly was worth his trip that night.

I have just finished my latest building project. It is a Gambler AG discus launch glider. I am anxious to try it out soon. I am not sure how it would hold up to the snow, crust, and ice. It's pretty delicate. I don't have a good scale to check it but it should weigh about 8 ounces all up ready to fly. The fuse is a built up balsa pod that I glassed for strength then covered with monocoat. It has a carbon fiber boom. The tail feathers are balsa reinforced with carbon fiber ribbon. The wing is polyhedral built up balsa with open bays and d tube design covered with light translucent covering. The wing is also reinforced with carbon fiber ribbon and has a carbon fiber rod at the right wingtip for launching discus style. The wing attaches to the pod with a single peg fore and a nylon bolt aft. With the carbon fiber ribbon along the top and bottom of the main spar and on along the bottom of the trailing edge, the wing is very stiff. The weak point is the covering. It is so light that stiff blades of grass or crusty snow could rip it up. I guess that's why glider pilots carry packing tape in their field box. I put the 6200 Spektrum receivers in it. Not too bad on weight, 10 grams published closer to 11 actual. The pod is so small that the radio just fits in. It balanced out well with a home made 110 ma pack I had in a previously flown hand launch glider that I retired. They say 80 to 100 foot plus launches are possible. That will be interesting. I could only get maybe 50 feet with my old hand launch that weighed maybe 3 to 4 times as much. I took pico size servos from a wrecked lite stick I had. They were the smallest servos I had and they barely fit inside the pod. It's fun going from 120 glow planes with big parts to tiny parts you can hardly see on planes that weigh as much as a banana.

If I loaned you the install discs for Office, please bring them to the meeting. I have a new computer and I need to install all my programs on it.

Thanks; see you at the next meeting.



Nelson.

Next meeting: Thursday February 14, 2008 at 7pm. Downstairs, AmVets hall, New Gloucester, Maine.

Send in your articles or pictures to be included in the Newsletter.

Bring along a project, finished or ongoing, to the meeting for show and tell. Building hints and tips are also welcome. Keep it short and sweet. Printed handouts of the information would be handy. Phil said we only have 6 more weeks of winter. Think Spring!