



# BARNSTORMERS NEWS

## MARCH 2010



Barnstormers News is a publication of the Vermont Modelers Club Inc. providing ideas, information and news about models, model building and Club activities.  
©3/1/10 President-Robert Doyon; Vice President-Michael Hickory; Treasurer-Alan Zaur; Safety Coordinator-Mike Pecue; Secretary/Newsletter Editor-Dennis Benjamin

To learn more about the VMC, see pictures of Club activities and find maps to our flying sites, visit [www.vtbarnstormers.org](http://www.vtbarnstormers.org) or call (802)595-2959

### MONTHLY MEETING NOTES


The February meeting of the VMC was held on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> in the gymnasium at Central Vermont Academy. President Bob Doyon called the meeting to order at approximately 1PM with 12 members and 3 guests in attendance. Reading of reports was waived. Bob introduced himself and opened the business meeting with a review of coming activities. The AMA Club Charter renewal package is expected very soon. As soon as the Charter renewal is processed and the insurance certificates are received we will be able to pay our annual rent for the Flying Field on Airport Road. Every member is reminded that individual AMA memberships must be renewed every January and your AMA membership must be current in order to fly an airplane at any VMC function. The Annual Banquet is tentatively scheduled for Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>. Reservation forms will be published in the April Newsletter. Bob asked the members if they have need of fuel for the coming summer. Treasurer Alan Zaur has arranged volume purchases in the past and might be able to do so again if there is need. The members in attendance advised that they are all adequately supplied so a fuel order may not be necessary this spring. If there is interest please advise Bob or Alan. Bob reopened discussion regarding our new website. The past and present officers have not been able to find the missing last color print of the club logo that was used to produce our embroidered club patches and baseball caps. Therefore a motion was made and passed to have Gregg Banse go ahead with the option of having a local

graphic artist recreate the design and make a computer graphics file of it for us. Gregg was present and gave a brief update on his progress. The website framework is in place and ready for content to be added. Gregg reminded the members that a good website needs to convey a clear sense of the purpose and

'personality' of the organization and it must be dynamic, with a fair amount of content that changes on a regular basis, so as to remain fresh and entice visitors to return. Alan and Matt Reed described their experience as webmasters of the GMRCers web site. They agreed that users quickly abandon websites that contain outdated information and do not show any signs of maintenance. The subject of 'privacy' and member access was raised. Gregg advised that all users need to be cautious about revealing private information when using the internet, including our website. Financial or legal details about Club business should not be published; also discussions about private or even sensitive situations should be avoided. For example: information about members, phone numbers, private property, travel plans, or even behavior should generally not be discussed. A 'private discussion board' is a feature that could be included for member access only but such a feature would require a daily activity 'moderator'. Alan and Matt advised that a 'fan page' could be provided for public input but such features also require frequent maintenance (especially if the site implies responses might be provided). The GMRCers use a Facebook page for general chat between members and with the public. Dave O'Donnell has created a Facebook page for the VMC under the name 'Barnstormers Vermont Modelers Club'.

Check it out at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). Alan and Matt also highly recommend using a link to You Tube as a site for downloading videos of interest to the members and the public. Alan informed the members that he had recently downloaded a video of some of our indoor flying from recent events ([www.greenmountainrc.org/videos](http://www.greenmountainrc.org/videos)). There are also several photo sharing sites available for members who might want to share large numbers of photographs

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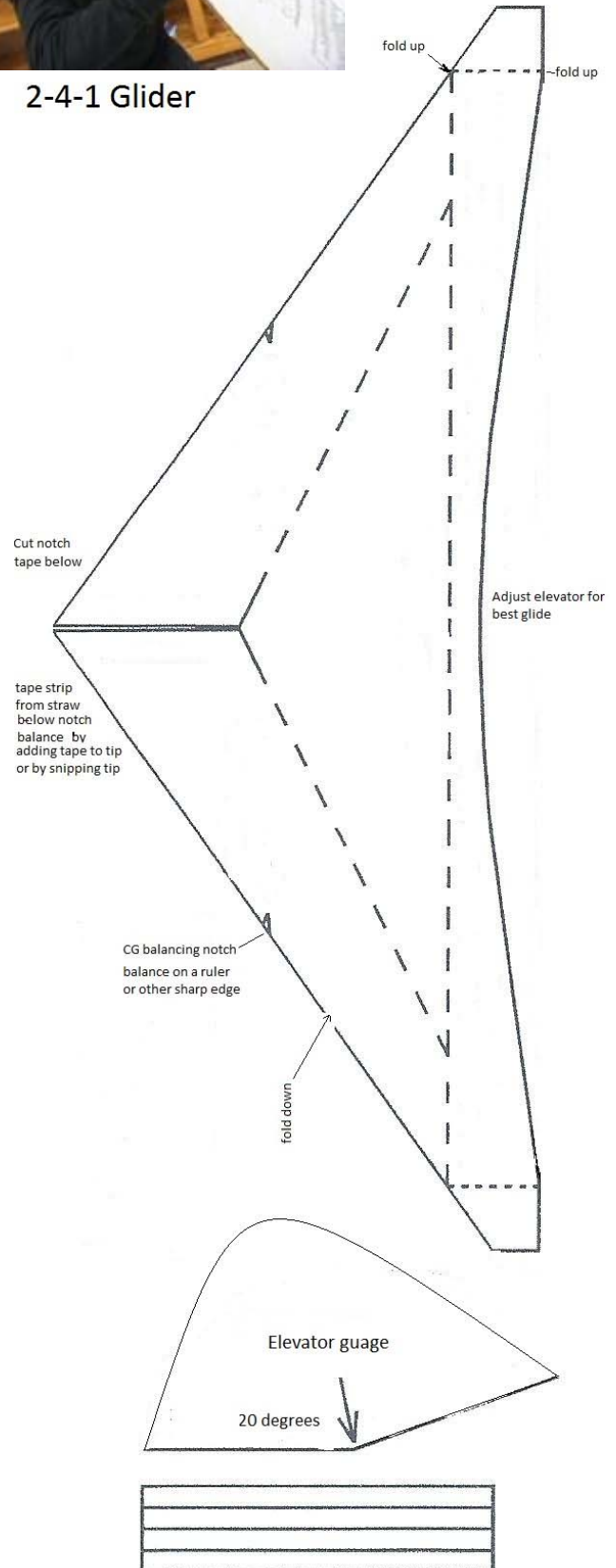
(our previous web site manager Sylvia used such a site to share her numerous excellent photos of club activities [www.pbase.com/sylviam/planes](http://www.pbase.com/sylviam/planes) ). Bob reminded the members that we have some very interesting history that might be fun to share on our website. He asked Mike Pecue to share the story of how the VMC and several of it's members were featured in an article in The Smithsonian magazine some years ago. Mike described the event and showed a copy of the July 1999 magazine; the newer members were pleasantly impressed; see for yourself ([www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/planes-abstract.html](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/planes-abstract.html) ). Bob advised everyone that providing content for the website (and the newsletter) would be a great goal for every member to add to his list of High Five accomplishments this year. Bob asked the members to share their plans and projects with the group. Everyone had at least one interesting project or goal to tell us about and several members had numerous projects underway or planned. The variety of projects was in fact very broad and inspiring (see Hobby News) and Bob observed that the Club is surely in excellent health with such enthusiastic members. There being no further business offered for discussion the meeting was adjourned at about 2PM and the members resumed flying their indoor models.

Richard discovered the model on [www.sciencetoy maker.org/hangGlider/index.htm](http://www.sciencetoy maker.org/hangGlider/index.htm).



The idea is deceptively simple, but does take a bit of careful building,

2-4-1 Glider



### CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

The **March Club Meeting** will be held on **Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>** at 1PM in the **Bryant & Dailey gymnasium at Central Vermont Academy** on Vine St. in **Berlin**. In addition to the club meeting the gym will be open for **Indoor Flying from Noon to 4PM**.

An **Indoor Fun Fly** will be held on **Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup>** from 6 to 9PM in the Drill Hall at the **National Guard Armory** on General Cramm Drive adjacent to **Norwich University** in **Northfield**.

An **Indoor Fun Fly** will be held on **Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>** from Noon to 4PM in the **Bryant & Dailey gymnasium at Central Vermont Academy** on Vine St. in **Berlin**.

The **April Club Meeting** will be held on **Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>** at 1PM in the **Bryant & Dailey gymnasium at Central Vermont Academy** on Vine St. in **Berlin**. In addition to the club meeting the gym will be open for **Indoor Flying from Noon to 4PM**.

### HOBBY NEWS

Every now and then a member brings a great new idea or technique or 'just plane fun' item to everyone's attention. That happened at the last club meeting when Richard Montague demonstrated a very cool origami paper glider that can fly and be controlled by a simple air pressure wave created by moving a piece of cardboard or even your bare hands under the aircraft.

Straw cutting pattern, wrap around straw and cut out strips, tape one under notch and balance

balancing, trimming and practice to fly well. Nevertheless the website is for school science teachers and if middle-schoolers can build and fly these then probably we can too. The principle of walk-along gliding has been discovered and rediscovered numerous times over the years and the website has a great article on the subject as well as other past and present paper airplane enthusiasts. Among them Tyler MacReady, who was featured in an episode of Scientific American Frontiers paying tribute to his father Paul. Dr. Paul MacReady was the father of practical human powered flying machines and numerous other ultra light aircraft of tremendous scientific significance. The 2-4-1 Glider evolved recently as a uniquely interesting tool for teaching students about aerodynamics and air currents. The name is based upon the original design having tape tabs that allowed cutting a copy paper body and a lighter phone book paper body simultaneously. The simplified version shown here has the tabs removed. The website has step by step video instructions for the original and links to several other great paper airplane sites.