# Prop Wash

**Prop Wash is a publication of the Piston Poppers Inc., an AMA U-control club**

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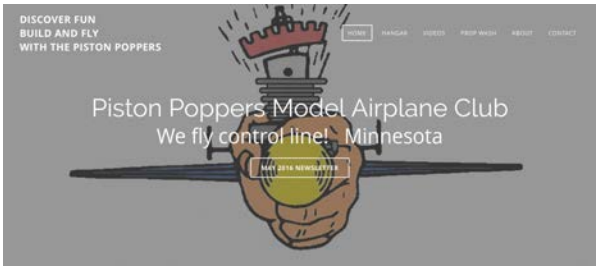
Any articles for the newsletter are greatly appreciated and will be published as soon as possible.

## February 2022




http://www.pistonpoppers.com

**Calendar of upcoming club events.**

* March 12th Building sessions continue, EAA hangar

* April 9th, last Building session for 2022, EAA hangar.

All Building sessions 9AM to ??

Thank you, Tony

Just a reminder the **Annual Swap Meeting** is coming up at next week's meeting on **Thursday, February 24th** at 7pm. The location is the EAA hangar at Anoka County Airport in Blaine. Some folks start arriving at 6pm to set up and get an early look.

Tom Sontag
651-283-8904

**FLYING DAYS**

Building session #2 Ivars and Tom had projects underway with Dave and Tony helping with advice and fingers.

Ivars is building a plane of his own design with a foam and balsa geodetic wing. He has also made a carbon fiber landing gear. As with all of Ivars creations this too is a piece of artwork.

Tom of course is rescuing, recycling or just simply rebuilding somebody else's wreckage and doing a fine job of it.

Keith and Jim Sandberg were spectating, sharing input and catching up on the latest news from the club.

Jim Gevay was visiting the group saying how he hopes the next time he joins us he'll be wearing short a sleeve shirt and cutoffs. *(Didn't have the heart to tell him this is Minnesota)*

My biggest reason for being there was the famous chili from the kitchen of Tony and Karen. Karen outdid herself this year as it didn't take long to get to the bottom of the pot. All of us had seconds and even thirds.

Thank you Karen


The helpers

Tom and Jim the social side

Ivars geodetic wing

Bob Cheney

## Airplane Package for Wishes & More

The Piston Poppers put together a nice airplane package as part of a large fund raiser for Wishes & More, and as a friend raiser for the club.

Wishes & More is a Minnesota-Based, Tax Deductible Children's Charity that enhances the life of a child fighting a terminal or life-threatening condition by providing extraordinary experiences including wishes, scholarships, memorials and more.

The fund-raising Gala was held on February 5th and attended by nearly 700 people. The gala included silent and online auction of a wide variety of items, hors d'oeuvres, program, dinner, live auction, fun activities, and dancing.

The flying package included a completely assembled Hangar 9 PT-19 ARF, complete with a brand new O.S. 46LA engine (donated by Jim Perry), 2022 membership in the Piston Poppers, training on smaller airplanes then on the PT-19, and a free year's membership in the AMA (donated by Tom Sontag).

Sean Emery provided QR links to his professional and fun videos on YouTube showing how control line airplanes work and fly. Anyone present could use their smart phone to scan the QR code and bring up the videos.

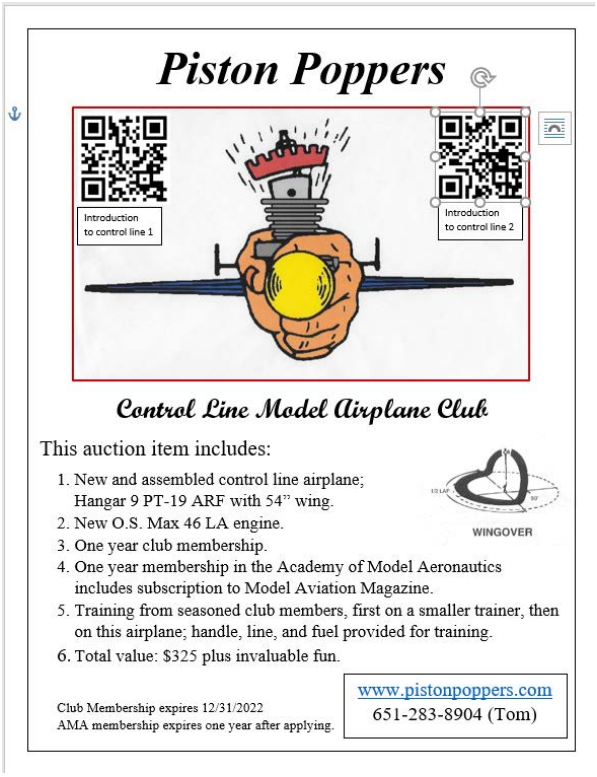
Here are the QR codes for you to try. Just point the camera of your smart phone at them, and the web link will pop up. Jim's rotary phone does not work for this.

Bidding started early and included multiple bidders. When the auction closed, the airplane package had sold for $240.

Thank you to the Piston Poppers for your support of Wishes & More.

Link:  wishesandmore.org

Here is what the certificate looked like:



**Piston Poppers**

Introduction to control line 1

Introduction to control line 2

*Control Line Model Airplane Club*

This auction item includes:

1. New and assembled control line airplane; Hangar 9 PT-19 ARF with 54" wing.
2. New O.S. Max 46 LA engine.
3. One year club membership.
4. One year membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics includes subscription to Model Aviation Magazine.
5. Training from seasoned club members, first on a smaller trainer, then on this airplane; handle, line, and fuel provided for training.
6. Total value: $325 plus invaluable fun.

WINGOVER

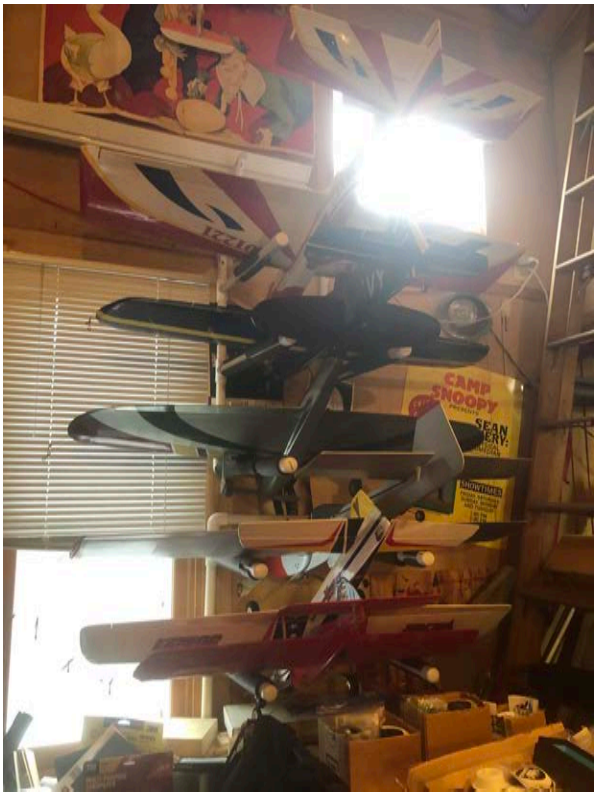
Club Membership expires 12/31/2022
AMA membership expires one year after applying.

www.pistonpoppers.com
651-283-8904 (Tom)

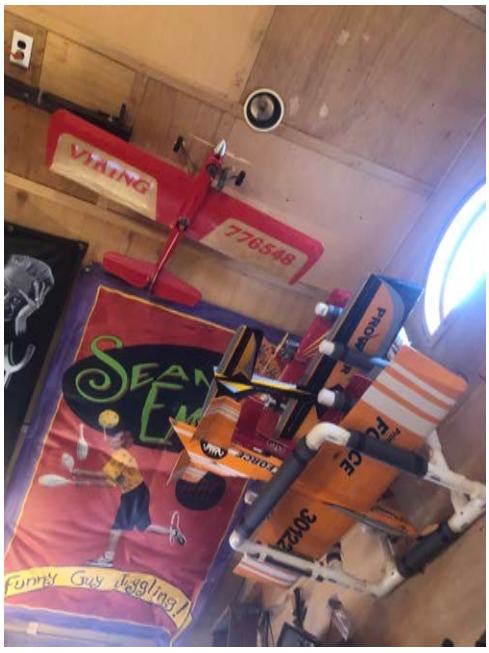
Tom Sontag

## Hanging Patiently

Here are a few photos on the planes hanging in my Nut-Hut awaiting Spring.
Sean Emery




## Restoring the 1/2A Skybaby

### About the SkyBaby:

A description from eBay: BRATCO SKY BABY Control Line Model Airplane (Brandebury Tool Co. Olney, MD 20832). Wing area:  160 sq. inch". Symmetrical Wing. Norvel .061 CLX 1cc Glow Engine w/snap start spring Beautiful Shiny Blue & White Model. Hard plastic Fuse w/28" built up wing w/MonoKote style covering."

These are the type of airplanes that EAA used to give kids a taste of flying. My understanding is that they produced the most interest and longest lines at the airshow.


**How I Obtained the Airplanes:**

About two years ago, Dennis handed me a couple of Skybaby's. They were bereft of engines and damaged, possibly from early and unexpected landings. Because they looked really cool and I'd never seen one before, I accepted the challenge.

The airplanes generally were in good condition. However, each airplane had a broken nose, motor mounts were missing or barely attached, landing gear was gone, and there were various cracks in the plastic.

**Airplane #1:**

The first airplane had a missing firewall, cracks in the tail and punctures in the wing. To repair it, I cleaned up the leftover glue, snipped off its jagged nose, reinforced the nose with a ½" deep balsa plug, then added a plywood plate. The hook made handling easier.

I first repaired the wing with clear tape, but that didn't match the good condition of the rest of the plane, so I removed it and applied white Monokote,

I used Keith's technique for mounting 1/2a landing gear; first you cut a groove in the balsa former to countersink the wire of the gear, then you sandwich the gear between the former and the firewall when you glue on the firewall with epoxy.

In the finishing step, I masked off the fuselage, painted the firewall and exposed balsa with black nail polish, then coated it with thinned epoxy, also covering about 1/8" of the fuselage for a good seal.

**Airplane #2**

The second airplane had a badly damaged nose, lose plastic firewall, and it was missing about an inch of the the upper half of the cowling. Otherwise, it was in pretty good shape.

First, I removed the old glue and firewall, then trimmed the front edge with a scissors.

To repair the cowling, I slit a roll of paper lengthwise (actual the center of a toilet paper roll), cut around the cockpit so it could slide further


rearward, then glued it in with epoxy. Before the epoxy could dry, I expanded the tube to fit the fuselage by temporarily stuffing foam into the inside of the paper.

You can see I didn't center the slit very well, but was able to remove most of the foam.

After the epoxy dried the nose was solid, though a heavier than from the factory. In retrospect, an Estes rocket tube may have been a better choice.

Then I cut a balsa plug to fit the opening, sanded it, gooped it up with filler, sanded it again, then attached the landing gear and firewall.

I didn't like the way the control rod bound and had a permanent down elevator. So, I removed the bell crank, reamed the holes, cut the control rod and inserted a short carbon rod in the middle. Then, I attached new lead outs.

To finish it off, I again painted it with nail polish and coated it with thinned epoxy.

**Engines:**

The original model had a Norvel 0.061 engine spinning a 6x3 propeller. I didn't have one of those, but did have a nice Cox engine and a Cox tank/mount, and al Norvel Big Mig 0.049 engine also with a tank/mount.

Here they are in final trim. I look forward to taking them out for a spin.

Tom Sontag

## 1/2A Comparison

You might enjoy this comparison of some of the 1/2A airplanes hanging around the shop. Keith & Jeff's trainer is a fine flyer, as is the SkyRay. The SkyBaby, Sopwith Scout, and Wizard have a built-up wing.

You may recall that the Wizard is the one that had many calamities during construction, and currently possesses a twisted wing.

| Airplane | Company | Engine | Weight (Oz) | Wing Length | Wing Avg Chord | Wing Area (Sq.Inch) | Wing Loading (Oz/SqFt) | Landing Gear ? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SkyBaby | Bratco | Norvel 049 | 13.0 | 28.0 | | 160 | 11.7 | Yes |
| SkyRay | Sig | Cox 049 | 6.0 | 23.0 | 4.8 | 109 | 7.9 | No |
| Sopwith Scout | Tom | Cox 049 | 6.3 | 23.5 | 4.5 | 106 | 8.6 | Yes |
| StickStir I | Tom | Cox 049 | 5.8 | 20.0 | 4.5 | 90 | 9.3 | Yes |
| Student | Keith & Jeff | Cox 049 | 7.8 | 26.0 | 3.0 | 78 | 14.4 | Yes |
| Wizard | Blackhawk | Brodak 049 | 8.3 | 24.0 | 7.0 | 168 | 7.1 | Yes |

Tom Sontag


MEETING NOTICE:– **February 24**