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GAS vs ELECTRIC POWER

So far I'm a "Babe in the woods" on the subject of electric power verses gas power. Oh, I've fooled around with electric power and gas powered vehicles all of my life, but powering models is a different ball game. From the outside it seems that the biggest problem with electric power is the duration of flight time, and having to change batteries in order to "refuel": between flights. Charging takes too long for me. That means that one would have to have two and possibly three sets of batteries. Then there is the controllers, and chargers. The motors themselves are expensive enough as compared with internal combustion engines.

Electric motors are cleaner which is something going for them.

Well, I've taken the plunge, and have an electric now. Not a big one, but one I may be able to handle.

I was impressed by Larry's electric last summer. Enough so that I have set up my own set of parameters. One is to be able to replace the batteries quickly so that one set can be recharging while I use another set. Possibly a third set for standby.

My friend Tim, in Germany has been flying electric for some time. He recommends that I get a Hobby-Lobby catalog since it handles German products as well as other countries. In Germany electric's are preferred since they are quiet, and use inexpensive fuel.

KITES

Last summer two kite clubs put on demonstrations of "Combat kite flying" and giant kites. The combatants used two lines to control their kites with the idea of forcing down the opponents kite. In China I was told that they use sharp instruments to cut the controlling strings of their opponents.

The large kites attracted me since they were lifting their crews from the ground. Not too high, but high enough. The photo kites were the most interesting. I've done that, and still have one of my kite cameras. Now with Digital Cameras, it sounds like it could be fun. Especially since you can erase your mistakes and try again. Some of the little camcorders are small enough to fit into a 40 size airplane.

SMALL AND LIGHT

Have any of you ever thought of;

What's the lightest scale model plane that can be built and flown?

Your choice: _____ My choice is An Eindecker.

What is your favorite size wingspan: _____ >

What is your favorite engine? Size _____ Make: _____.

What is your favorite Radio: _____

Bring your answers to the next meeting. I'd like to know, and I'm sure others would also.

THE NEXT MEETING

This brings me to mention that our next meeting will be at the library on January 15 th.

I will be bringing a bunch of Flight Journal and Warbirds magazines for those of you to take home. Otherwise they will go into the recycle bin.

If you have any new projects that you wish to show us, bring them along also. We need to have an election of officers.

Does anyone know how to solder aluminum? I understand it can be done. It would be nice to be able to built a model aircraft from aluminum cans, and aluminum tubing. Any ideas anyone?

DUES ARE DUE

Your club dues are now due.

If you haven't sent in your national dues, now is the time. You have to have your National Dues paid first.

I'm sure you are aware that the national dues insures that you are covered by insurance in case of an accident.

PHOTO FILE

AMA headquarters is interested in photographs of our members and our activities. This next year I will be taking more pictures of our activities. My photo file is rather sparse on photos.