

Ornithopter Modeler Society Newsletter

Spring & Summer 1988

flapper facts

A good time flying was had by all at the ETSU contest in Johnson City, Tennessee. What an amazing flight Joe Krush put up. I was impressed with Al Rohrbaugh flight in 1984, but Joe's flight of 12:26 was delightful! The weight of the model was 1.6 grams. This seems a might too heavy to me, but the flapping wings must be efficient. Maybe we can get some comment from Joe for the next newsletter.

My best flight was 10:23. I was at the ceiling at 8:00, which is good, but then the bottom dropped out and it was down to the floor in 2½ minutes. I hung up one flight in the steel, but was able to balloon it down without any damage - lucky me! It took a lot of time, waiting for other flights to get by and working with it carefully; and that cut into my flying time. But, getting the plane back in good condition is worth a lot.

We had one national record set by Don Slusarczyk - 8:40. Good Work, Don. Ray Harlan was flying his own design Flapjack Tracker, with a 7:01. Warren Williams was flying his own design with a very small stab, also a canard, with 6:33. Larry Mzik did 6:43. Les Garber was flying his canard Dragon Fly, with a 4:39. Doug Barber was flying his monoflapping plane, with a 2:39. All the rest of us were flying Frank Kieser's design ornithopter. Frank set a new Category 1 record in May. We really missed Frank, who is out of the hospital and recuperating at home. A speedy recovery to you, Frank.

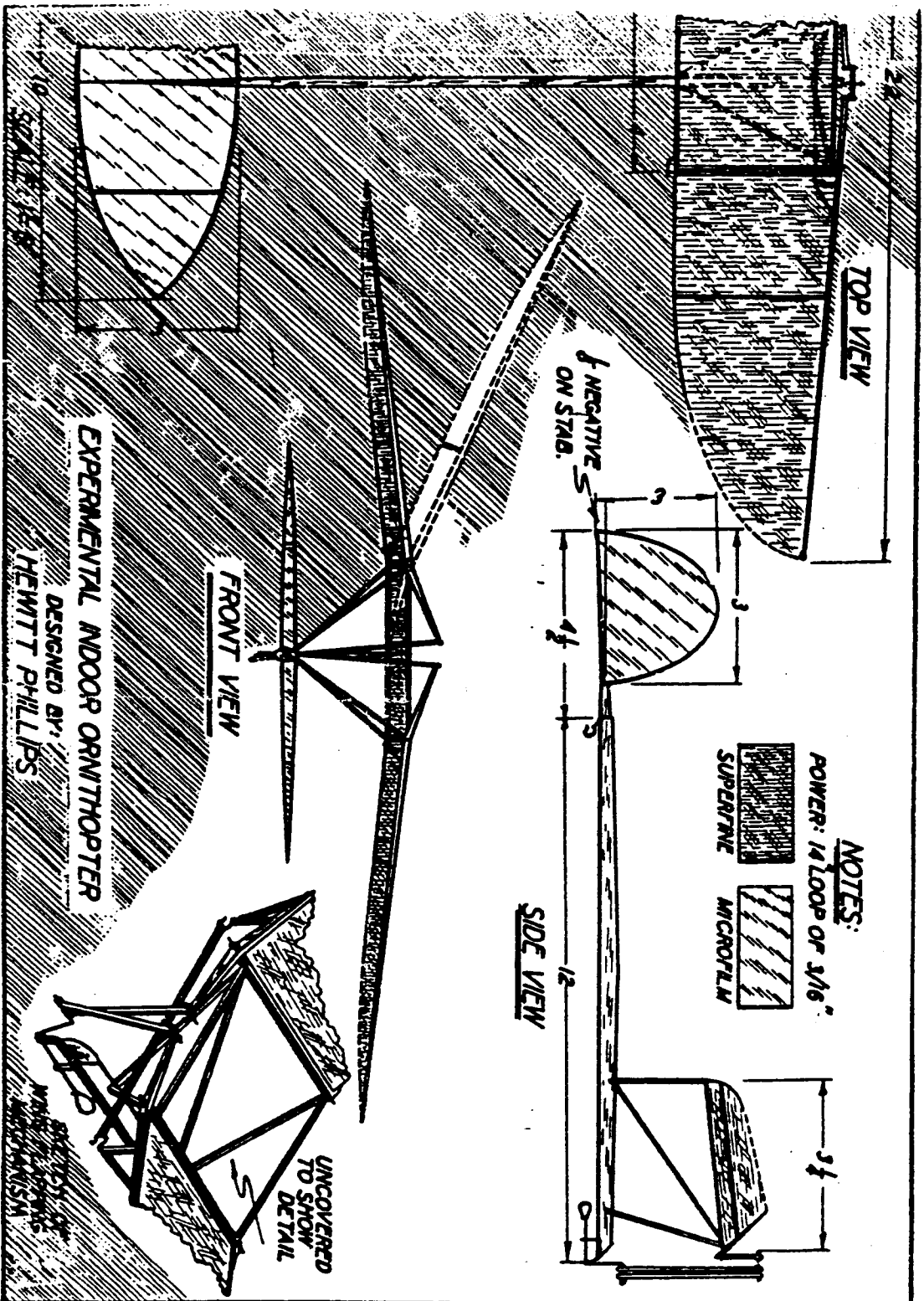
The banquet was a huge success. The food was good and plentiful. The entertainment was storytellers. Come to find out, we have some great storytellers, too! If the hour had not been late, we would have heard from virtually all members. What a riot they are! You know, that's the best thing about the banquet -- the people! During flying time, we are all too busy to talk. Socializing with all of you was so rewarding. What a great group of people we have! The evening went far too fast.

I will be going to Akron, Ohio to fly during the fourth of July weekend. I want to see if I can get the Cat IV record back. Al Rohrbaugh took it from me sometime in May. If I had known about the contest, you can bet I would have been there.

We still have a couple of bucks in the Treasury, so this newsletter is free. Please think about sending some news to include in the next issue. I look forward to flying with all of you in the near future. In the meantime - happy building!

Rog

Experimental:



Here is an ornithopter for the indoor experimenter that has won various honors in low ceilings. A different feature is a "leveling device" which assists the rubber motor to pull the wings downward when the linkage is in its most critical position, thus aiding in unwinding the motor completely.

The motor stick is conventional indoor type made from 1/32-inch sheet - medium hard stock, 7/8-inches wide. The four cabane struts are 1/16 - inch strips rounded. The main wing spar tapers from 1/8 x 1/16-inch (set on edge) to 1/32-inch sq. at tips. The connecting rods are rounded 1/16-inch square strips.

Trailing edge of the wing is 1/16-inch sq. at the center tapering to 1/32-inch sq. about two-thirds the way out to provide a flexible trailing edge. The superfine which has its grain running parallel to the path of flight is unsupported a portion of its length along the trailing edge.

Center section is built from 1/8 x 1/16-in. strips set on edge. The tail surfaces are standard indoor design, a bit stronger than usual to withstand the vibration.

The crank shaft, rear hook, hinges and "leveling device" hooks are of .020 music wire. A double dural thrust bearing is used. The "leveling device" is a rubber band of sufficient power to just balance the wing when the "ornery-flapper" is gliding. The size of the rubber is determined by its ability to make the mechanism function smoothly.

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