

Hi everyone,

Well, here we are, back again! Notwithstanding the fact that 2020's schedule got wiped out almost completely, 2021's was not quite as bad (but still far from great) and we had to cancel the GGG again, and now here we are far from "out of the woods" yet on this pandemic, on either side of the border. However, we are planning as if, by the time the 2022 flying season opens up here in the North East, everything will be at some semblance of whatever is going to become our new 'normal'.

You will probably have noticed by now that this announcement is largely 'recycled' from last year's - largely, but far from entirely. With that in mind, here is the schedule for the 2022 National Warplane Museum Series of model aircraft contests at the museum airfield in Geneseo, NY, sponsored by the Western NY FF Society:-

Spring Opener. May 14-16

Empire State Free Flight Championship (ESFFC). AMA, NFFS, SAM and FAC, 42 events in total. June 10-12 Contest director Ruth Ann Bane, 585-765-9363, [windwhip47@aol.com](mailto:windwhip47@aol.com)

In July there is the USOC NATS at Muncie, the "Greatest Show on Turf" (NWM airshow) in Geneseo, and the FAC NATS (or non-NATS) in Geneseo. None of these are WNYFFS-sponsored events, but they keep some of us busy in July.

The Pirates' Challenge. FAC events, 23 in total. August 19-21. Contact: Mark Rządca, [wnffs@gmail.com](mailto:wnffs@gmail.com)

The Great Grape Gathering (GGG) - co-sponsored with SAM 86. AMA, NFFS, SAM and FAC, 41 events in total. September 9-11, 2022. Contest Director: Ruth Ann Bane. Contest Manager and contact: Roy E. Smith, 613-389-9887, [aeronut@kos.net](mailto:aeronut@kos.net)

**CANADIAN FLYERS!!!** At this point I need to make sure that all Canadian flyers are aware of one major change. During the summer of 2021 MAAC's leadership saw fit to revoke the joint agreement between AMA and MAAC, effective immediately, the agreement that used to allow members of either Association to fly in the other's country. The AMA did not immediately retaliate but, towards the end of the year, they announced a change in policy and, starting on January 1st, 2022, Canadian fliers now have to have an AMA membership to fly in the USA. A special "Affiliate" membership exists for foreign visitors and Canadians now have to have that membership. The cost is \$36 for one year or \$68 for two years and comes with insurance coverage. AMA insurance is 'secondary' - which means that if you have MAAC insurance then the AMA insurance provides coverage in the event that your primary coverage is exhausted. This is the same coverage that USA fliers get because, unlike in Canada, most US citizen's homeowners policy provides primary coverage. { NB. I should add that this is a better deal than US fliers are getting when they come to Canada - where they have to pay Cdn\$40 for 3 months, or Cdn\$80 for one year. They then get MAAC's primary insurance - as well as their own (if they have it) and as well as AMA's secondary coverage.} I have contacted AMA's leadership with the question of whether the Canadian models will have to bear the flier's AMA number now, instead of the MAAC number, when flying in the USA. I am pleased to report that I have been told that the MAAC number can remain in place and a small identifying sticker, including the member's AMA number, is all that will be required for flights in the USA.

Please plan on attending these well-fought contests - which are great social events as well. And don't forget that the Can-Am Free Flight Trophy can only be won by those who compete at both the ESFFC and the GGG, so come to both and (just like with voting) fly often. This trophy wasn't contested in either 2020 or 2021 - I'm thinking of having nameplates added for those two years - engraved with "COVID" as the

winner! This trophy was introduced to get more people flying more aeroplanes, to fill the skies over Geneseo with models flying free. You don't have to win the events to win this trophy, just fly in a lot of them - we wanted to encourage people to fly in lots of different events. So, let's get more people with the program - keep the 'gabfest' for the evening shenanigans - and let's get lots of aeroplanes airborne and lots of competition for that trophy.

Event schedules for these contests are attached. There have been changes since the last ones that you saw, so please make sure you use the schedule with the right date. I urge everyone to study them carefully so as to understand the events that will be offered and any specific rules or restrictions that apply. Copies will not be available for distribution at the contests, but will be available for study at the HQ - if you want to have a copy of your own at the field please print it before you set out. That said, I will mention a few of the details here that might have changed since 2019.

As usual, there will be no planned contest events at the Spring Opener - it is an opportunity to blow the dust and cobwebs off the 'experienced' models and start trimming the new ones we built over the extended building season that we have all been 'enjoying'. There will also be plenty of opportunity for "chin-wagging", and plenty to "chin-wag" about, after our hiatus.

This year the ESFFC will combine .020 Replica and  $\frac{1}{4}$ A Nostalgia Gas into one event, hitherto these have been run as separate events. The GGG has run these as a combined event for some time. During the discussion over this it was decided that the rules for the combined event that have been used at the GGG should be simplified. We have decided on a 10 second engine run and 2 minute maxes for all flights, and for both styles of model, in this event - at both contests. This means that the flights of

the 1/4A models in this event will not qualify for National Cup points - the flights in the standalone event at the ESFFC will.

The GGG was to have celebrated its 50th Anniversary (Quinquagenary) in 2020. On the premiss that we are just going to ignore that 2020 and 2021 ever happened, we have decided to redefine 2022 as the Quinquagenary Edition of the GGG - it is the fiftieth time of holding the contest, even if it isn't the fiftieth year. Its a bit like the 2020 Olympics - they were held in 2021 but the medals say 2020. We will be giving out the mementos in 2022 that we planned for 2020 - they have already been engraved with the year 2020 however, so the lucky first 30 entrants will receive a highly valuable forged stainless steel modelling knife handle that will be a treasured talking point on their workbenches for years to come - as well as being their 'go to' knives. These knives are made by Swann-Morton in Sheffield, England, a highly reputable manufacturer of surgical instruments who have also served craftsfolk for most of their very lo

ng existence. Swann-Morton very generously donated them to help us celebrate our Quinquagenary. The blades are similar to X-Acto blades but thinner. These blades are 0.015", the same as the scalpel blades



that so many of us are familiar with. X-Acto blades are 0.022". A sample blade will come with each handle - replacements can be bought online, in three different styles, very reasonably. A pack of 50 blades

can be obtained for ~Cdn\$25 but be careful - Swann-Morton also make scalpel blades and handles, you will want the craft knife blades - they are product #'s 1241, 1242, and 1243. Smaller packs are available, but the price per blade goes up, of course. Some have claimed that the groove at the front of the handle is for blood to escape when you nick yourself - I assure you that it is to allow the jaws to be pinched in by the thumbscrew to clamp the blade (but I suppose it could serve a secondary purpose). These knives do have the great advantage, besides having a great 'feel' in the hand, and high quality, that they will not roll off your bench and pin your foot to the floor. I find that a little wax on the threads and the face of the thumb-nut ensures the tightest grip on the blade - especially important for the 'hooked' style of blade.

I also have a scalpel type handle. This was given to me many years ago by my predecessor at the GGG - Jim Anderson - and thus is highly treasured. It is a very nice tool for extra fine work, cutting tissue, etc., but the blades do tend to snap suddenly if you put a little too much pressure on them, and the pieces can fly away at great speed. Safety glasses definitely recommended if you are tempted to obtain that style as well. The craft blades are significantly wider than the scalpel ones and so are much more resistant to sudden breakage, while retaining the ability to cope with fine work because of the equal thinness. The scalpel blades do not fit the craft handle.

Also at the GGG we will be holding a mass launch of Blue Ridge Specials in memory of Bob Langelius. We would have done this in 2020, had it been possible. You received plans for the BRS in the 2020 package - if you need another copy please let me know. The mass launch will not be a competitive event - it will be a memorial to Bob as we watch a flock of these little aeroplanes, that he was instrumental in producing, fly simultaneously. {Does anybody know the collective noun for model aeroplanes? I know that it is a 'parliament' of rooks, a 'wisdom' of owls,

and a 'murder' of crows, could it be a 'bench' of model aeroplanes? Or, how about a 'squad'? Maybe a 'buzzing' or a 'flutter'! Perhaps its a 'scream' of power models, a 'float' of gliders, a 'roar' of RC models, a 'buzzing' of electric models, and a 'flutter' of FAC models. I am puzzled by the 'parliament' of rooks - I wasn't aware that those particular birds were full of hot air.}

As always - please make sure that you mark these contests on your calendar and make your plans to attend. For those who haven't attended before - these are always great social occasions in the evenings as well as satisfying contests. The ESFFC and the GGG are AMA-sanctioned and National Cup-eligible contests. The FAC components at all three contests count towards Kanones, in the usual way.

Lastly, this would be a good time for each of you to let me know your intentions with respect to sponsoring events at the GGG. Our prizes of wine do not come out of the entry fees, they come from the generosity of sponsors - "just like you" (as they say on public TV). I have not simply transferred the offers of sponsorship from previous years as I did not think that it would be fair to assume anything. The sooner you let me know, the less acid-controlling medication I have to take.

Thermals to all. See you downwind (I hope).

Roy