

# Silver Lining

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Flying Field GPS location N42 48.596 W83 34.642

[www.hollycloudhoppers.org](http://www.hollycloudhoppers.org)

*Be Safe, Have Fun and Don't Have Too Many Rules!*

# Behind The Flight Line

Scott Rhoades, *HCH* Editor  
*sdrhoades25@hotmail.com*



Now I'm certain some of you looked at the picture gracing the cover of this edition and thought to yourself, what the heck is that? Those of you that were at the 2009 Open House will recognize that as the airplane of yours truly, with a Sidewinder missile in hot pursuit. For those that didn't make it to that Open House... Darn right, I made a missile out of foam and towed it behind my plane. The question most of you may be asking is why? The only reason I have is; it sounded like fun. And guess what? I was right!

A few weeks prior to the Open House I was thinking about what I could do to help "entertain" the crowd during the club's biggest and most popular event. The best idea I came up with was, 3-D'ing the snot out of a several thousand dollar giant scale plane. I knew doing hovers, rolling harriers and knife edge flight mind boggling close to the deck would really make people go WOW!

There was however one slight problem with that plan. I lack the high dollar aircraft part of that equation. Plus I guess you could say too, when it comes to possessing the flying skills to pull it off, I lack the "extra" in extraordinary. So my aim was adjusted a wee bit... Ok a lot lower down the skill and equipment spectrum.

Then I thought about polishing up the best

tricks I do know and putting them together in a nice flowing sequence. However I pondered what does a few "semi-tricky" maneuvers really mean to our non-flying guest anyway? I had given this plenty of thought and concluded that, unless a plane is flying on the edge of destruction, right down on the deck with radical maneuvers: A guy isn't going to produce much more of a wow factor with fancy stuff like rolling loops and long slow rolls than he will a simple sloppy loop and a half arse roll.

Since the "edge of destruction" thing, at least intentionally, was out of the question for me; asked myself what else could I do to make people pause from shoving another bite of hotdog into their mouth? Or at least make them say "that's cool" with there mouth full.

That answer was delivered to me a couple weeks later when somebody emailed me the picture below.

## On the Cover:

**The Editor's Hangar 9 Showtime  
towing a mock missile at the 2009  
HCH Open House.**

*Photo by Mike Lanzetta*



I got a grin out of this guy's gag and obviously plenty of other people did too by spreading it around the net. Surely if I could do the same thing with a model airplane, it would be amusing to somebody, even if it was just me.

► **Flight Line, 3**

## ◀ 2 Flight Line

With my idea, I just had to figure out how to execute it. First area of concern was; what plane do I risk as the tow vehicle? I decided on my Hangar 9 Showtime because it had the highest power to weight ratio of any thing in my fleet. Therefore trouble would be handled with brute force instead of finesse.

Second factor of consideration was where do I get a missile light enough to pull behind a plane? Of course a helium balloon, like those in the picture, would be perfect, however I just don't ever recall seeing 'missile balloons' at places that sell balloons. It's probably a good idea they don't, because some idiot would do something foolish, like tie one to an R/C airplane.

So I pondered what other readily available materials that is both light and somewhat bounceable could I use to make a semi-realistic looking missile? Well that material ended up being some foam pipe insulation, that I had on hand, that is made for 1/2 inch for pipe .

With only a rough idea as a plan, the mock up went together fairly quick. Let's just say I was less than impressed with the results as it looked more like a bathtub toy for a three year old. It would have looked more like a part had come loose from the plane. Not the heat seeking, death and destruction, missile I was trying to imitate. Although I suppose it would have caught plenty of attention, just not the kind I wanted. People would have been saying: "Look, something has fallen off that plane... It's gonna crash for sure!"

With a better idea of the look I was aiming for, it was back to the drawing board to develop missile 2.0. This time I grabbed some much fatter pipe insulation that measures about 3" in diameter. It became immediately apparent, when completed, this size was not going to be scale to the plane. Although I wasn't doing this to make people say "that looks real". This was simply for grins and giggles. Plus there would be no doubt that a Sidewinder missile locked onto the tail of my plane *<insert manly grunt here>*.

The mockup of 2.0 went well and once I was happy with all the proportions, the cardboard bits were replaced with more durable and pliable foam bits. Then with everything hot glued together, the missile was ready for its maiden voyage.

I gave plenty of thought for the best way to get airplane and missile airborne. The only viable method was to simply set missile on the ground behind the plane, *<blank>*-can the throttle and hope for the best.

Getting this project airborne for the maiden didn't go very well. Several attempts started with the missile dragging, jumping, skipping, and tumbling along the ground and ended with the tow line breaking just before the plane could hoist it into the air for good. Now here's a "Duh" statement for you... This is where a helium balloon would have been real nice.

After a few tweaks, and help from my neighbor Pete, who was on hand to video the event "just in case for Youtube", we finally has success. With the plane and missile airborne, a few tense moments passed before I felt comfortable enough to start breathing again. It was a relief to see the missile wasn't going to bring my plane down in a fiery ball like a real sidewinder would. In fact I was surprised to find that a foam missile on 30 feet of line actually had little influence on the overall flight characteristics of the Showtime.

There was however one unforeseen circumstance did come up during the maiden flight that easily could have been fatal to the whole project, not to mention my plane. Let me just say if you ever decide to pull ANYTHING behind your plane for the very first time, make sure you have a helper on hand. Although it's a complete waste of valuable resources to have them help get the whole thing in the air like I did. Instead, have them stand right next to you and smack you on the back of the head frequently as a reminder to; "KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PLANE!"

### ◀ 3 Flight Line

Obviously I was very interested in how the missile was doing in flight and wanted to watch it. Never realized how difficult it can be to pilot a plane when your concentration is on an object 30 feet behind the plane. Yep that's right; I kept trying to fly the missile instead of the plane. Now I know what some of you are thinking; if I tried to get the missile to go up, pulling back on stick should have made the plane go up. Right? Well that only works if the plane remains upright while you're not looking.

Ok I really did have a reason for bringing up this whole foam missile undertaking, just got a little caught up in telling how it evolved. When the missile made a flight at the Open House I obviously was too busy concentrating on flying (and that would be the plane not the missile at this point) so I did not get to see the reaction of our guest to know if it was good, bad or indifferent. Various sources confirmed the missile did indeed complete its mission; Made people grin and utter words like; cool and check that out.

In my opinion the Open House sorely lacks attention-grabbing stuff. Year after year we invite people out for the day and proceed to simply poke holes in the sky with sameness that is only broken up with a candy drop, and

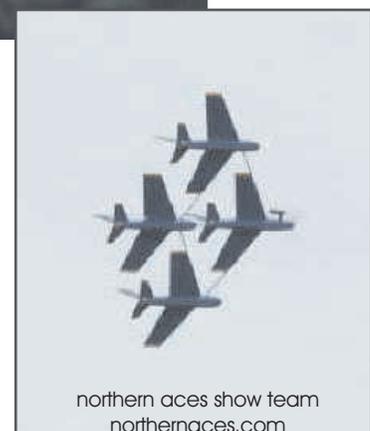
buddy box flights.

I know some of you have made it 'your thing' to add Open House excitement by putting a plane or two in the trees. That's fine; you guys can keep doing that. However I have a challenge to the rest of the membership... Come up with something that puts a twist on typical flying that will make people smile and give them something to remember! Some of you competitive types can consider it a challenge to be the number one act for 2010.

The Open House is a couple months away yet so there is plenty of time to come up with an idea and have the bugs worked out. *(Important note: Do not bring your contraption to the Open House untested)*

As I've proven it doesn't take much. Maybe you could drop a skydiver or get a partner and do some formation flying. For those of you with extra ambition and/or cash could build a unique aircraft that will have people talking for many Open Houses to come.

The ideas are endless guys. Look for your own way to have some extra fun by turning loose that kid inside you: Not the nerdy little one that likes to eat paste but the one that puts playing cards in the spokes of his bike. ✚



# GOING OLD SCHOOL

*Here's a peek at the past. Most of these photos were taken at the old HCH field, some even before the club was formed. Do you recognize any of these young guys?*



Photos provided by:  
Ken Kliewer  
Frank Robinson  
Scott Rhoades

# In The Know

By Scott Rhoades

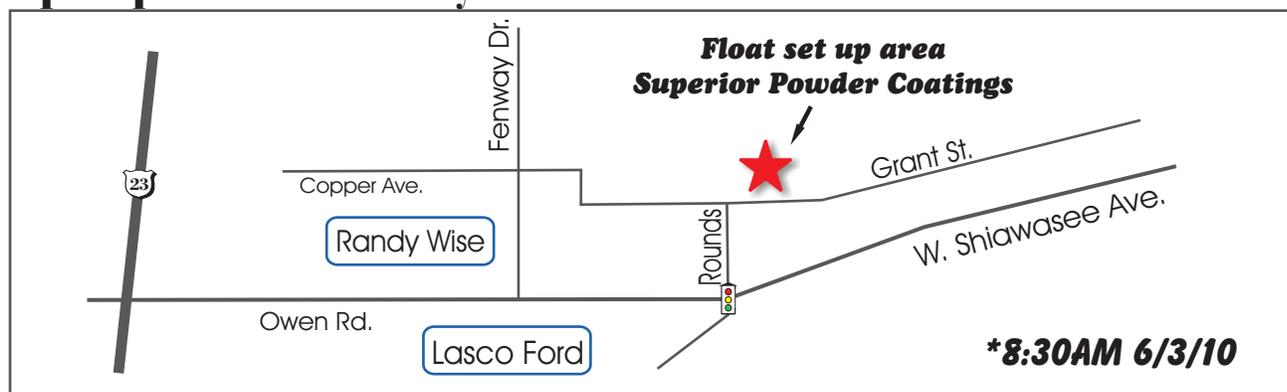


- During the annual Spring Cleanup on April 17th a meeting was held to vote on the bylaw change of adding the position of webmaster to the HCH board of officers. With approximately 20 members in attendance the motion passed unanimously. On behalf of the HCH officers I would like to welcome Larry Pittman aboard as the HCH's very first 'official' webmaster.
- As most of you know by now the HCH will again have a float in the **Fenton Freedom Festival Parade July 3rd**. Although a cool twist is being planned for this year. Since our float is to be towed with my jeep I've invited a few fellow jeep owners from the Michigan Flat Fender Club to join us. The combination is a huge plus for the HCH; it gives us the opportunity to put a second trailer in the parade, which another MFFC has agreed to pull. Plus it will be very possible for HCH members to occupy empty seats to ride in the parade.

By expanding the float to two trailers we will have room for MANY more planes and still be able to spread things out for much better R/C presentation. As it has been stressed in the past, participating DOES NOT mean being in the parade yourself, although the use of a couple of your aircraft for the morning would be greatly appreciated. Need to point out too that for the last couple parades we've done, airplane stands have gone unused... And that was using just ONE trailer. As you read this, even more stands are being constructed for heels and airplanes. Bring them out guys no plane is too big or too small.

Parade officials want all floats in line by 9:30am, so assembly of ours will begin at 8:30am. The owner of Superior Powder Coatings located 922 Grant St. (see map) has given us permission to use his parking lot as our assembly area. For ANY member that would like to participate, all you need to do is show up at the assembly area at 8:30, put together your aircraft and secure it to the float. When the parade is over you will remove your plane(s) at St. John's Church on Adelaide. It's as easy as that! If you wish to be in the parade with your plane, we will make sure you can get your vehicle over to the St. John lot right after assembly and get you back to the starting point before things get going. Any questions/comments please contact me. [sdrhoades25@hotmail.com](mailto:sdrhoades25@hotmail.com)

## Map to parade assembly area



## ◀ 6 In the know

- Fun Fly events for this years contest on June 12th will remain the same as last year with just a minor tweak or two to make things go just a wee bit smoother. A flyer listing events along with rules has been posted on the web site. [HCH Fun Fly](#)
- On Saturday July 10th 2010 the HCH will host this year's Mid-Michigan Fun Fly. Unlike the club Fun Fly this is NOT a competition. This is simply a chance for members from seven local clubs to get together and do what we all do best... Fly, eat and tell lies about flying R/C. To do some setting up and making sure our field will in tip top shape for the event; HCH President Doug Pickett has scheduled a pre-event prep, the day before on Friday July 9th at 5:00pm.

The main event starts Saturday morning with a pilot meeting, at 10:00am. HCH members that are planning to attend are asked to arrive by 9:00am to help take care of the last minute preparations. Should be a lot of fun, hope to see you there and be sure to wear your HCH apparel. For more info here is a link to the event flyer. [Mid-Michigan Fun Fly](#)

- As a reminder plenty of airplane raffle tickets are still available so be sure to connect with President Doug Pickett to get tickets to sell on behalf of the club. Ticket stubs, money from the sale and any unsold tickets must absolutely be turned in prior to the start of the Open House August 7th, 2010.
- Don't forget that Larry added a classified section to the website a couple months ago. I know just about all of you have a engine, plane, radio or something you would like to turn into cash so you can go buy that plane you've been drooling over. Don't be shy put that stuff up on the web site and sell it. [Classifieds](#) †

## Links to key HCH web pages

### Home page

<http://hollycloudhoppers.org>

Officer contacts, Announcements, Weather, Club Dates, Etc

### Members Only (password protected) <http://hollycloudhoppers.org/members.html>

Financial report, Meeting minutes, Club roster, Gate code

### Classifieds

<http://hollycloudhoppers.org/classifieds.html>

### Field Operation Rules

<http://hollycloudhoppers.org/documents/Field%20Operational%20Rules.pdf>

### Newsletter Archives

<http://hollycloudhoppers.org/newsletters.html>

### Club Frequency Usage

<http://hollycloudhoppers.org/documents/clubfreq.pdf>

### Web page help

[http://hollycloudhoppers.org/help\\_faq.html](http://hollycloudhoppers.org/help_faq.html)

# Events Calendar



## June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	★ 5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	★ 19	
★ 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	★ 3
4	5	6	7	8	★ 9	★ 10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	★ 7
★ 8	9	10	11	12	13	★ 14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	★ 11
★ 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

*HCH dates*

Events around the area

Date	Event	Host Club/Link	Time
★ June 5	Warbird Fly-In	<a href="#">Pontiac Miniature Aircraft Club</a>	
★ June 19	<b>HCH Fun Fly</b>	<b>HCH Club field</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
★ June 20	Fathers Day Air Show	<a href="#">Flint Aero Club</a>	10:00am
★ July 3	<b>Fenton Freedom Festival Parade (see page 6 for info)</b>		<b>8:30am</b>
★ July 9	<b>Prep for Mid MI Fun Fly</b>	<b>HCH Club Field</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>
★ July 10	<b>Mid Michigan Fun Fly</b>	<b>HCH Club Field</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
★ Aug 7	<b>HCH Open House</b>	<b>HCH Club Field</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
★ Aug 7-8	Big Bird Fly-In	<a href="#">Flint Aero R/C Club</a>	10:00am
★ Aug 14	Grand Miniature Fly-In	<a href="#">Cheasaning Area Model Airplane Club</a>	
★ Sept 11-12	Midwest Float Fly	<a href="#">Skymaster's R/C Club</a>	8:30am

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