

N.E. Kansas Blue Sky Squadron, Inc.

Smoke Screen

I.M.A.A Chapter #291

A.M.A. Charter #2826

<http://nekbssi.org/>

Pres: Vernon Nelson

VP: Mark Davidson

Secretary: Bud Park

Treasurer: Sam Brown

Safety: Don Regier

Editor: John Kauk

CD: John Dalton



President's Column

Greetings everyone,

As we are about to close up on another year, we want to wish you all a blessed Christmas. It has been a good year for the club with many new planes. We will be having our election of officers this meeting. I want to thank all the current officers for there time and efforts for our club. We will also have a new Contest Director (CD) next year, thank you Aaron Charest.

The next issue of the AMA magazine, *Model Aviation*, will have an article in it about our Big Bird Fly-in this year. If you don't get the printed copy and would like to have a copy, let me know. It should be out in a couple of weeks.

I think we will have several new planes and jets next year!!! So gear up for another good year of flying. Remember to send our editor, John Kauk some pictures and something to print in OUR newsletters.

See you at our next meeting at Forbes Museum in the library this Sunday at 2:00.

Remember to support your local hobby shop!!!
Vernon

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“My Journey to my Wings”

By: Sam Brown



This is a lesson in “not giving up”. Sixteen years ago I was suffering from the “empty nest syndrome”, and looking for something to distract me. I recalled that many years earlier I had seen R.C. aircraft flying somewhere near Montara. I was very impressed. I thought “what a cool hobby.” It incorporates so many disciplines. And I thought it would be neat also to know how to do something that a very small percentage of the population knows how to do.

So Beth and I went to Dee and Mee in White Lakes shopping center, and Robert Longyear proceeded to sell me a Sig Kadet LT-40 trainer, along with a whole bunch of other stuff that he thought any aspiring pilot should have.

Well, on one “windy” Sunday afternoon we went to a small country airport South of Topeka, and managed to knock the engine off of the plane. A gracious Mr Longyear offered to fix the plane, which he did a very nice job of.

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Then life got in the way. You know, things like jobs, building a new house, aging parents, etc. The LT-40 got hung from the basement ceiling for the next 12 years. Then 4 years ago I decided to drive out to the Longyear's to see if anyone was there. Among others, there was a nice and friendly person that approached me and asked if he could help. That happened to be Aaron Charest. I told him that I needed some help learning to fly. He texted Bill Miller. Bill wrote back and said he would train me. A few weeks into the training I managed to have a mid-air collision with the airplane that Bill had bought many years earlier to train his son on. I felt horrible. Bill assured me that all planes have an expiration date. Then I got a little gun shy going forward. During the next 4 years I only soloed 3 times. I got to where I could take off, fly around for a while, then hand the transmitter to whoever was beside me. That was typically Bill Miller or Vernon Nelson. After a period of time passed, I felt that I was wearing Bill out, because it seemed that I was never going to get there. Vernon said he would help me and I took him up on it.

A side note: The LT-40 got crashed again when we were hosting a Wednesday's Child event. It did a nose dive into the neighbor's yard South of our landing strip. I'm convinced that the transmitter lost contact with the plane. This time Bill Miller did a very nice job of rebuilding it.

This summer (2016) I saw an article in Model Aviation about a new plane that had just been introduced. It was the E-flite Timber, a foamy that came with wheels and floats (electric). I watched a video which showed it as a very gentle plane to fly. So I bought it. It didn't look scary to me. It didn't look like it might just fall out of the sky. I proceeded to solo off of the grass strip at the beautiful Blue Sky Aerodrome several times. Then I put the floats on it and soloed off of the water at Lake Shawnee several times. That gave me the courage to solo several times with my LT-40.

I was surprised at our November meeting when Bill Miller and Vernon Nelson awarded me "wings" that had been customized by John Dalton. Thank you guys for that. It was a long time coming. Point is, if you want something bad enough, and stick with it long enough, you will likely attain it.

The best part of the last four years is that I have met and enjoyed being around a lot of really nice people. And I have managed to accumulate five planes during that time.

Next spring I will debut a new 80.5" Taylorcraft that I bought over two years ago.

A great big THANK YOU to all of you who have helped me get this far.

Regards,

Sam Brown
(past Secretary/Treasurer, and almost past Treasurer)