



Curved leading edge of new Master Airscrew scimitar profile props lowers sound and seems to pull better. Fingernail clippers work great to lighten the heavy tip!

and near their Lake Baikal which holds about 1/6th of the world's fresh water. The Irkutsk airport is where the Sukhoi Su-27 twin seat jet trainer called "Flanker" is built. We were getting close to success. When we learned one of the Sukhoi factories was there, further detective work revealed that model airplane **were** known to be there and that people saw Sukhoi employees flying U-control models (described as tiny engine-powered models going around and around on strings) and that meant there was probably a hobby shop in the area. But Russia has no yellow page phone directories yet. Please remember that the fall of the Soviet "empire" opened the way for Russian "private commercial venture" businesses and the accompanying freedoms most of us enjoy, including visiting hobby shops. Detective work on Thursday and Friday finally yielded that we couldn't get into the Sukhoi factory and that there was a private commercial hobby shop on ul.Gor'kogo at Batora near downtown. Lynn

and I rushed to the hobby shop Saturday morning, only to find it closed! It seems such businesses are only allowed to be open 40 hours weekly Monday through Friday.. *c&\$%#@!#%c&* ... nuts!

The Russians still don't like pictures taken at their airports so I set up Lynn with an RCM, focused further back, and got a shot of our departing Tupelov 154b-2 with a fuel truck filling it, along with an Aeroflot flight attendant on the left. Lotsa fun, and more coming.

They Did It!

Our last column showed you two R/C modelers and asked you to figure out what they were doing. If you draw a line eastward from Perth in Australia you'll be about on the course that a group of modelers flew to set a new FAI R/C world distance record of 493 kilometers; they wrested the record from America and could have easily flown farther. The photo of the truck in motion and the model in flight pretty well shows and tells what's happening. Australia's team

leader was Peter Geroni who's only been in R/C about 3 years. Team members were Geoff Tuck, Michael Bear, John Bently and George P. Burdell. Peter designed the 7' span model which carried 2-1/2 liters of model diesel fuel. The engine was an O.S. Max 46SF with a diesel converter head and swung a 14 x 8 prop near 4800 rpm for about 6-1/4 hours. R/C equipment was Hitec's Prism system with the tiny HS-80 microserves. Three vehicles plus a trailer were in the effort; the required FAI observers followed the entire flight from start to finish and the distance was verified using GPS (ground position satellite) data for accuracy. This was a major program involving lots of dedicated time, money, effort, and sponsorship. The O.S. engines and Hitec gear came from Model Engines, LTD. who's a major Australian hobby wholesaler.

The big threat to success came as the model flew straight through areas inhabited by territorial eagles several times. Eagles would fly high and watch, then fold their wings and swoop down to fly just behind the model to observe. Tony Farnan wrote me that the team reasoned that because the model was flying **straight** and passing **through** the eagle's area (with no turns) they did not attack. If you'd like a free metric-dimensioned 3-view of Peter's world record model, simply send me a #10 SASE at RCM, Box 487, Sierra Madre, California 91025. Peter, we congratulate you and your team!

New Stuff

Master Airscrew has a new series of grey scimitar-profile props that are just pennies more expensive than the black ones. The blades are thinner and the undercamber is more pronounced to aid efficiency. The curved leading edge diminishes straightline sound propagation and my empirical test flying indicates they **are** quieter in flight. Size-for-size, the new props, seem to load the engine a bit less so I'm using 1" more **diameter** on slow flying models and 1" more **pitch** on faster models. Regular fingernail clippers work great to nip a bit off the heavy blade for balancing ... simple. The scimitar profile safety figure is 15,500 which means 155,000 divided by diameter equals the suggested maximum rpm. 10" diameter = 15,500 rpm. 11" = 14,000. 9" = 17,200. These new Airscrew props should be in your hobby shop now.

Hobbico's new Digital Voltmeter Mk II is also in the stores. It now has a switch that can leave the load in for testing to simulate electrical drain, or you can switch the load out to use the meter as a precision voltmeter to monitor peak detection charging or trouble shooting around the shop. I'm using mine to take a reading before and after charging a model as a safety check. Nice item.

I'm also test-flying for evaluation a new R/C system with the name "Flash 5" on it ... also nice, watch for it.



A single 9 volt battery (left, inside the black case) powers the new Hobbico Digital Voltmeter Mk II. Sophisticated internals ... works great.