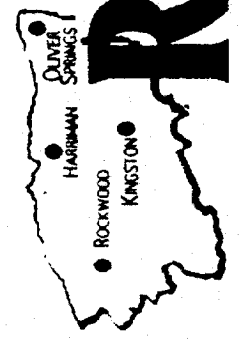


ROCKWOOD, HARRIMAN FOR TEAMS IN LOUDON JAMBORÉE • Page 10

# Roane County News



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NO Sections

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FOSSIL ENGRG  
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HLP File

## RR safety hot topic for cities

By RICK HOOPER  
*Roane Newspapers*

**HARRIMAN** — Local officials may have gained some steam in their efforts to improve certain railroad crossings in the county.

Meeting last week in Harriman's Temperance building Tuesday with state Sen. Lincoln Davis, state Rep. Dennis Ferguson and representatives of TVA and Norfolk Southern Railway, officials from Harriman and Rockwood received some commitments for assistance in trying to rectify problem railroad crossings in their respective cities.

Concerns for Harriman center around the two crossings on Highway 27 which lead to Kingston Fossil Plant, while Rockwood is looking for ways to make the Rockwood Street crossing safer.

**HARRIMAN**  
Sen. Davis, who conducted the meeting, started off with discussion of Harriman's problem.

"Railroad crossings sometimes create situations that

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# Crossings

Continued from Page 1

can be life-threatening and cause delays for emergency vehicles. First, let's look at the short term."

Davis then requested input from Harriman Mayor Harold Wester about the South Harriman crossing.

"Our concern is crossings are too rough and their blocking ambulances," said Wester. "They worked on them last year, trying to smooth it out."

"I was ashamed to say what I thought of the work. It was as rough afterward as it was before."

Ferguson said a discussion four years ago focused on the possibility of using rubberized track crossings, which traditionally are smoother. He asked if that is still an option.

"There would be some cost involved in doing that," said Jack Waters of Norfolk Southern's Transportation Department.

"Normally, those requesting it have to pay for the materials and the railroad will install it. But, really the labor and installation are a big part of the cost."

Estimates four years ago were that materials for the crossing would cost \$15,000.

Ferguson then asked for updated cost estimates and suggested he and Davis work with the state to see what funding is available.

Discussion then turned toward traffic delays at the crossings for emergency vehicles. Davis asked if there are any plans to close the tracks.

Lynn Petty of TVA said a new railway is being built from north of Harriman to Kingston Fossil Plant and should be completed by 1999. He said there is a possibility TVA would no longer need the South Harriman tracks, which are owned by Norfolk Southern, for transportation.

Norfolk Southern officials said the tracks were only used by TVA, and agreed the crossing may possibly be eliminated once TVA's new rail is finished.

Attention then returned to addressing the short term delay of emergency vehicles.

"This wasn't a problem until two years [ago]," said Roane Medical Center Administrator Jim Gann. "We had two hospitals in the

county. Now, it's a different story."

This has come up in our Emergency Room staff meeting several times — patients are being delayed. As you know, with heart attacks and things like that, minutes mean lives.

"We're seeing 2,000 patients a month in our emergency room, many coming from that direction. We need

to be able to get those people to the ER."

Petty suggested an exchange of phone numbers so that trains can be halted from blocking traffic at the crossing.

"We don't care to halt the trains if we know an emergency vehicle is going to be coming through," said Petty. "Also, maybe we could get the newspaper to publish some alternative routes."

"I feel comfortable with what I'm hearing," said Davis. "I think we can work this out."

## ROCKWOOD

Following the Harriman discussion, Rockwood resident Jane Wiseman and Council member Bert Pemberton then met with officials to discuss options for the Rockwood Street crossing.

"The idea of an overpass has been kicked around for 20 years," said Pemberton. "But, nothing ever seems to come of it."

"Because of some accidents, the overpass has received more serious attention over the last two years. The state Department of Transportation (DOT) did a study for two overpass sites, and the best site is north of town. It will cost an estimated \$980,000."

"We were hoping we could get some federal money, some from the railroad and some from the city to build it. If we could, we could probably close a couple of crossings in town."

After an inquiry about funding from Davis, Norfolk Southern Government Affairs Representative Susan Bickford explained the state received \$3 million this year for improvements to crossings.

"But, that money is distributed by priority," she said. "The state prioritizes which crossings need to be addressed first. The information about problem crossings in the state is up-

dated each year.

"However, the problem is they are still working with 1995 figures. The newest information will not be available until around October. Because of the rash of accidents, it might move Rockwood up. It's hard to say."

Wiseman and Pemberton also asked about getting crossing guards at the Rockwood Street crossing, which would reportedly cost between \$130,000 and \$145,000.

Wiseman asked if the railroad could possibly use gates from another crossing where service has been discontinued.

"There's too much liability in that," explained Waters. "Each crossing gate is engineered for the particular crossing where it will be installed. We could use some of the lights and the poles, but that's about it."

"There are a lot of factors, including how many crossings are near, the speed of the trains and other things that have to be considered when engineering something like this. If we're using second-hand equipment and it fails, it would really create a liability problem."

Waters said it would help if motorists would act more responsible.

"You are supposed to treat railroad crossings like stop signs," he said. "You're supposed to stop whether a train's coming or not."

"Maybe, with more education and enforcement in the area, we could help with the problem."

Ferguson agreed, suggesting more educational awareness through groups like Operation Lifesaver.

Davis said he and Ferguson will work with state to see if any funding can be obtained for installing crossing arms on Rockwood Street.

Officials will have to wait for the latest information is released to determine where the city will be prioritized for federal funding, which could be used for the arms or overpass.

"I really appreciate everyone meeting here today," concluded Davis. "I think we've made some progress. The main thing is we need to work together to make these areas as safe as possible."

WATERS

WATERS



If you like the East Tennessee Flyer and want to continue receiving it, but you're not an ETSF member, please request it by mail. Check it out on page two.



# East Tennessee Flyer

## Quarterly Newsletter of East Tennessee Sport Flyers

Directors:		Secretary/Treasurer:
Paul Reinhardt	Jerel Zarestky	Dwight Pearch
Bob Freels	Jack Willson	President:
Derrick Headrick	Scott Hall	Terry Webb

## Weather Forecast Dampens "Big Bird" Fun-Fly

CNN, throughout the week, had predicted seemingly everything except snow for the April 5th Fun-Fly. It was overcast, with winds gusting to maybe 30 miles per hour on occasion, but the rains held off, as did most of the out-of-town flyers. Only eight pilots registered.

## Sponsor Spotlight

### TVA On-board as Sponsor

The next time you're at the field, take note of the cross-ties defining the parking places, and Tennessee Valley Authority proudly added to the sponsors' billboard.

As you may know, TVA is negotiating buying land from the City of Harriman; land that the Harriman RC Park occupies. Their intention is to build a rail spur through the park, across the Emory River, and into the Kingston Steam Plant. They project savings of millions of dollars each year in rail switching fees by building this spur. Construction, I believe, is scheduled to begin next spring.

Anyway, as it turns out, the engineers and others at TVA approve of activities such as what ETSF is involved in, and want to support us in ways that they can. The donation of the cross-ties was one way. Another might be that they won't run us off when they buy the property.

If TVA doesn't buy the Harriman RC Park, someone else almost certainly will, and it's not very likely that they will want to leave us 30 or so acres on a hilltop for flying RC planes.

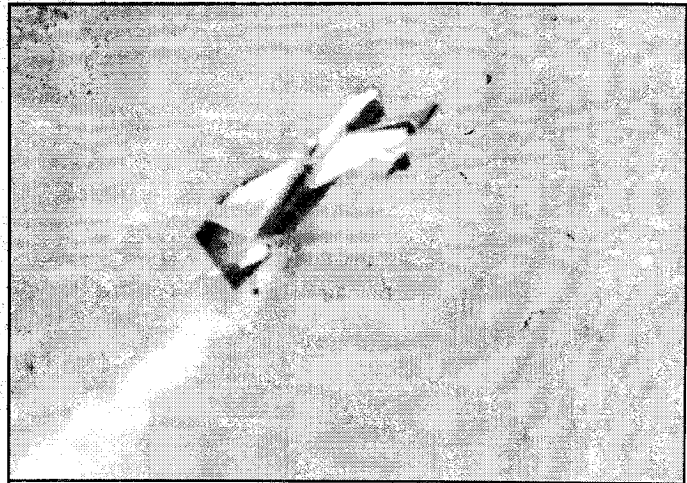
Welcome aboard TVA, we love you!

## TECH TIPS

Problem:

You've just stuck your airplane into the ground, full throttle, nose first. What a mess, but don't despair, it probably looks a lot worse than it is (right). The front half of the fuse is scattered fifteen feet in every direction, the engine and firewall are hanging by the throttle cable out of what's left of the fuselage, and the wing is.....over there.

(continued on page 3, Tech Tips)



James Barr's Lazer 200 pierces an overcast sky at the Harriman RC Park.

Although the weather was a little more like the Brave Heart fun-fly than we would have liked, everyone still had a great time. There was a few mishaps, but nothing very serious.

The local cable network (channel 7) was there, and put together about a 15 minute segment about the airshow and RC flying in general. I haven't seen it yet, but will try to get a copy. The Roane County News was there as well, and put a nice little piece in the paper about it. I keep all that stuff in the club scrapbook.

Well, we'll do it again next year, if not sooner. Right now, we need to be preparing for the Melvin Ellis Fun-for-All.



Will Gene Waters EVER learn to build a decent airplane?  
Gene's scratch built Ducano.....immaculate!



**What's Up Doc?**

Bugs looks to the East, and appears ready for a test 'hop', but airshow coordinator Lynn Lawson thought not.

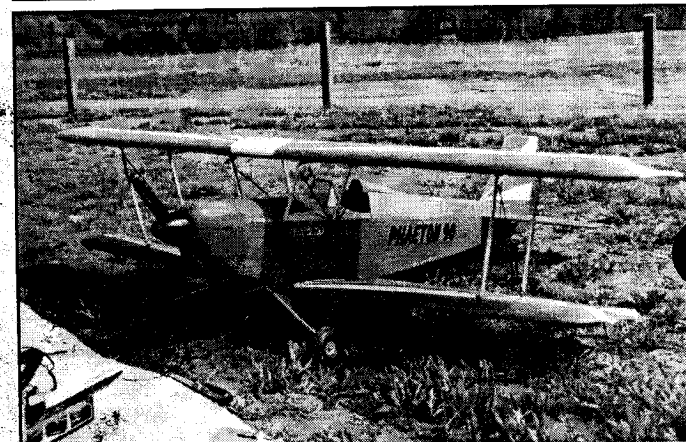
ETSF meetings have been rescheduled for the 2nd Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Harriman RC Park. We'll have a fun-fly after each meeting. Bring an airplane, attend a meeting, and find out first hand just how BORING our meetings are! Take a nap as we approve payment of the port-a-potty! Nod off while we talk about the grass! Then, FLY!

**East Tennessee Sport Flyers  
204 Trenton St.  
Harriman, Tn 37748**

### First Big Bird Fun-Fly Pulls In Some Pretty Birds



Bob Freels' 182 did things in the air that Cessnas just won't do. On the ground, it flipped. OK, it was a LITTLE windy.



Jim Henry's Phaeton 90 gets a charge between flights.

**Your '97 ETSF membership card is enclosed.**

## Safety First!

As the owner of a hobby shop, I'm in the somewhat unique position of seeing a great number of hobby products in service, and that gives me, as it would anyone, an idea of what works well and what doesn't; what might be safe to use and what might not.

After 26 years in business, one thing has become apparent, a manufacturer will NEVER admit having a problem with his products. That being the case, they can never announce that they have a problem solved.

It's never very pleasant to come out 'against' something. It's better, I believe, to either just state the facts or to endorse what you believe to be best. I hope the following facts will be taken as they are, completely un-biased. The ONLY reason I'm willing to make them at all is that I would consider myself negligent not to.

In the past three years, of all the failures that I've encountered with new and recently installed radios, Hitec has accounted for at least 90%. Hitec's share of radios sold was about 20%. The failures ranged from inop power meters to complete failure of one or more functions.

I spoke at length with the Hitec technicians about the failures, and wrote the president of Hitec in hopes of getting a satisfactory answer. They assured me they were not having a problem.

## Future Circulation of Newsletter To Be Limited

Article III of the ETSF Constitution states that the purpose of East Tennessee Sport Flyers (among other things) is to promote interest in the sport of model aviation.

Publishing the East Tennessee Flyer is one of a number of ways in which we fulfill that pleasurable obligation, but the expense of printing and mailing 150 newsletters each quarter is a financial burden, especially so, not knowing that a number of them aren't thrown in the trash along with the junk mail.

Up until, and including this edition, ETSF sponsor Gadgets Hobby Shop has borne the entire expense of getting the East Tennessee Flyer to ETSF members and other interested parties, but, regrettably, can no longer afford to do so.

To better utilize ETSF funds, and at the same time fulfill our constitutional obligations, we would like all non-ETSF members, who are presently receiving the newsletter, to confirm their desire to continue receiving it by dropping us a line by mail stating so.

Send your request for the newsletter to: ETSF, 204 Trenton, Harriman, Tn 37748. You will then receive the three remaining issues for '97. To continue receiving the Flyer in '98, you will have to request it sometime before the 1st quarter, issue is published, or you can request it anytime after that, you will miss issues.

We will continue sending the East Tennessee Flyer unso- cially. ETSF members, ETSF sponsors, and area RC club members.

Now, that wasn't so bad, was it?

WOW, Daddy—the pilot looks just like my favorite dolly!!



## At the Field

Nine ETSF members have logged a total of 103 hours so far this year working at the field.

Crossties are in place in the lower parking lot, the upper parking lot is graveled, and the road has been re-graveled. The netting is repaired, and hopefully will survive the season.

The concession stand/ radio impound/ judges tower may look a little like Spanky and "Our Gang" had a hand in it, but, by golly, it shore is purdy, and it's useable.

If you've not been able to log time working at the field, don't worry, there is plenty of time left before the drawing for the radio, and plenty to do.

The next project, aside from the on-going grass problem, will be picnic table construction and maybe bleachers. Permanent signs need to be placed at the entrance to the park as well.

Let's fly!

## Board Action

The ETSF board of directors has approved the following motions:

### Jan 21st

To designate the '97 Spring Air Show as a big bird fun-fly  
To appoint Lynn Lawson coordinator of the '97 Spring Air Show.

To purchase drawing prize to be given away a the Big Bird Fun-Fly (not to exceed \$150)  
26th April, 1997

To approve Scott Hall as the 6th Board member  
To impound \$187 collected for hats at Big Bird airshow

To use color-coded membership cards  
To include TVA on the sponsors' billboard

To purchase flowers for David Plemons Mothers' funeral

No motions were defeated during this quarter.

(Tech Tips, continued from page 1)

Solution:

Don't panic, you've already done that. Instead, turn the receiver off and remove the battery pack. Locate the fuel tank and empty it. Get a Glad Hangar (available at all grocery and department stores) and put ALL the pieces in it. Be sure to get everything, even very small pieces of balsa and plywood.

Take everything home and put it in your work area. Leave it un-touched for 15 days. This will allow time for you to gain objectivity.

After the waiting period, sort all the pieces into groups: engine and fuel system, battery and radio parts, fuselage pieces, wing, and landing gear.

Now, go to Wally World and check the price on those big 3-D puzzles. See, you got almost the same thing just by coincidence!

The point is, since the plane is already splattered, and if you're not inclined to buy a new one, it's a good time to test your engineering and design skills. Why not enjoy it?

Subsequent **TECH TIPS** will address ways by which you can reconstruct a crashed plane. Contributions are welcome.

## Flying Season Is Upon Us !!!

## Results of '97 ETSF Survey

The '97 ETSF survey has provided the following facts about the membership:

Experienced RC flyers	66%
Want RC ground school and flight training	19%
Do not own a plane	4%
In favor of more events	66%
In favor of special interest groups	71%
1. Quarter Scale Meets	26%
2. Scale Meets	26%
3. Fun-Fly	20%
4. Helicopters	20%
5. Pylon Racing	6%
6. Electric Planes	6%
7. Gliders	6%
8. Pattern	71%
Want to help at airshows & events	66%
Want to participate in airshows & events	85%
In favor of ETSF sponsored swap meet	76%
In favor of annual charity airshow	33%
Willing to teach beginner pilots	76%
Willing to help develop flying field	

## Treasury Report

The ETSF Treasurer reports that ETSF has funds totaling 1,336.47 in two accounts, as of April 15th, 1997  
1. \$649.12 in the Union Planters account  
2. \$687.35 in the HRCF account, City of Harriman

## Area Events

### AIRSHOW!



**May 17th**

Fun-fly/demonstration, Wartburg Outdoor Show, at Wartburg High School, Terry Webb 882-7528

**May 24th**

Fun-fly/hands-on for newcomers, Melvin Ellis Memorial Fun-for-All, instructors wanted, at Harriman RC Park, Terry Webb 882-7528

**May 31st**

Annual KCRC Pattern Contest, at KCRC Field, Dennis Hunt

**June 7th**

Fun-fly/swap meet, at Harriman RC Park, ETSF sponsored, Terry Webb 882-7528

**July 4th**

Airshow/Fun-Fly, at Deerlodge Independence Day Celebration, Jerry Jones

**July 20th**

Climb and Glide Contest, at Rockwood Airport, George Shacklett 525-1369

## Schedules Wanted

To area clubs and organizations: The East Tennessee Flyer wants your airshow schedules to publish in this newsletter. We feel that we better serve the model aviation community by informing as many people as possible of upcoming events.

Send your schedules or newsletters to: ETSF, 204 Trenton St., Harriman, Tn 37748.

## Melvin Ellis Memorial Stands To Be Big Ol' Good Time

There are few things more fun than introducing someone to RC model aviation, but that's what we'll get to do at the Melvin Ellis Fun-for-All. Club members are encouraged to bring someone who's never flown before so they can give it a try.

We should have lots of instructors, lots of planes, plenty of flying, and lots of food. The fun starts at 10 am and goes till no one wants to fly.

On the same date, May 24th, an unrelated event is taking place in downtown Harriman that you may be interested to know about.

Larry Raspberry, along with Gary Lewis and The Playboys, and Bad Finger will be hosting the "Summer of Dreams '97" rock and roll concert. The show starts at 7 pm. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the gate. The show will be held on Walden Street, behind the Temperance building. Bring a chair.