Team Rocket Newsletter July 30, 2022

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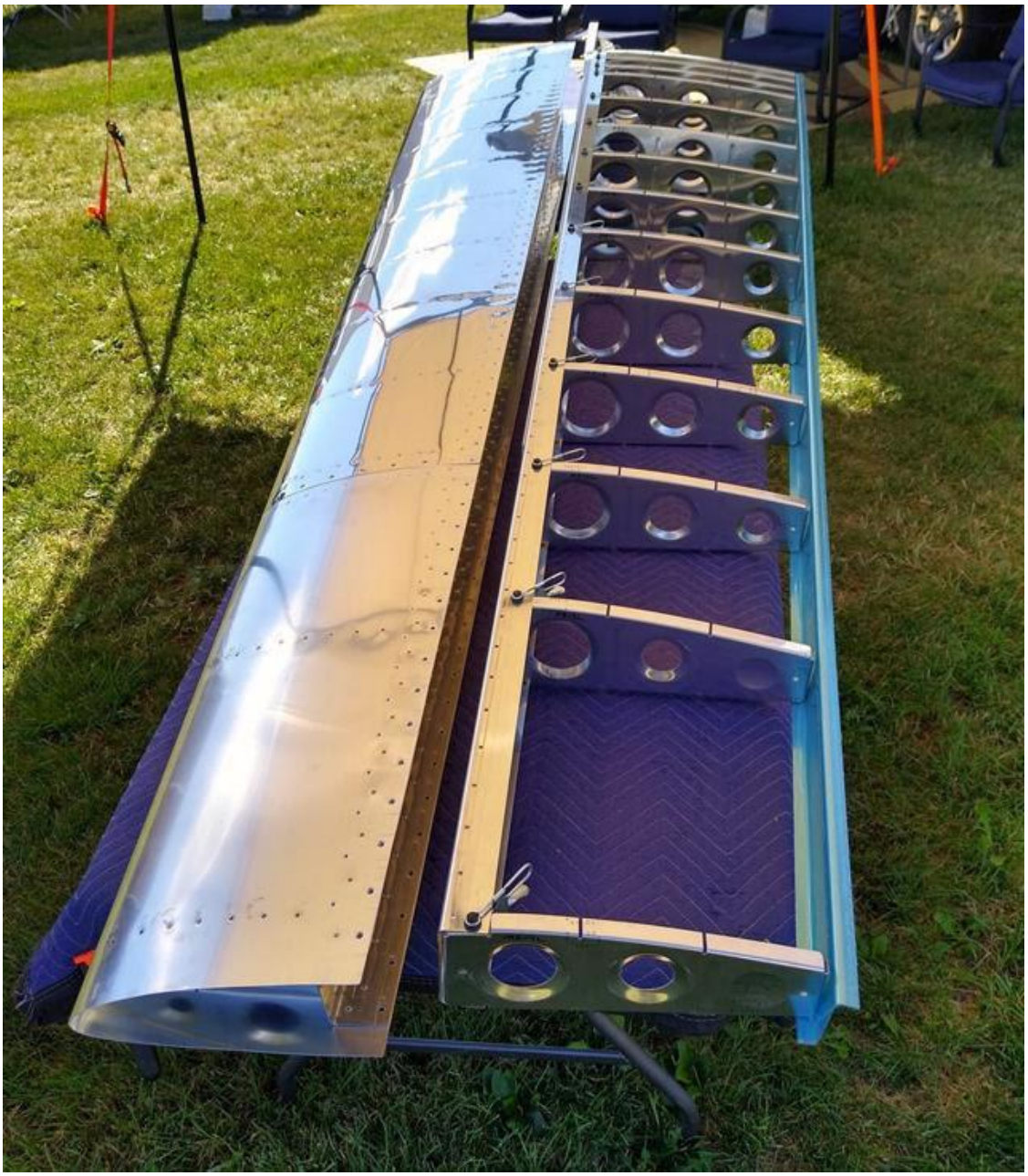
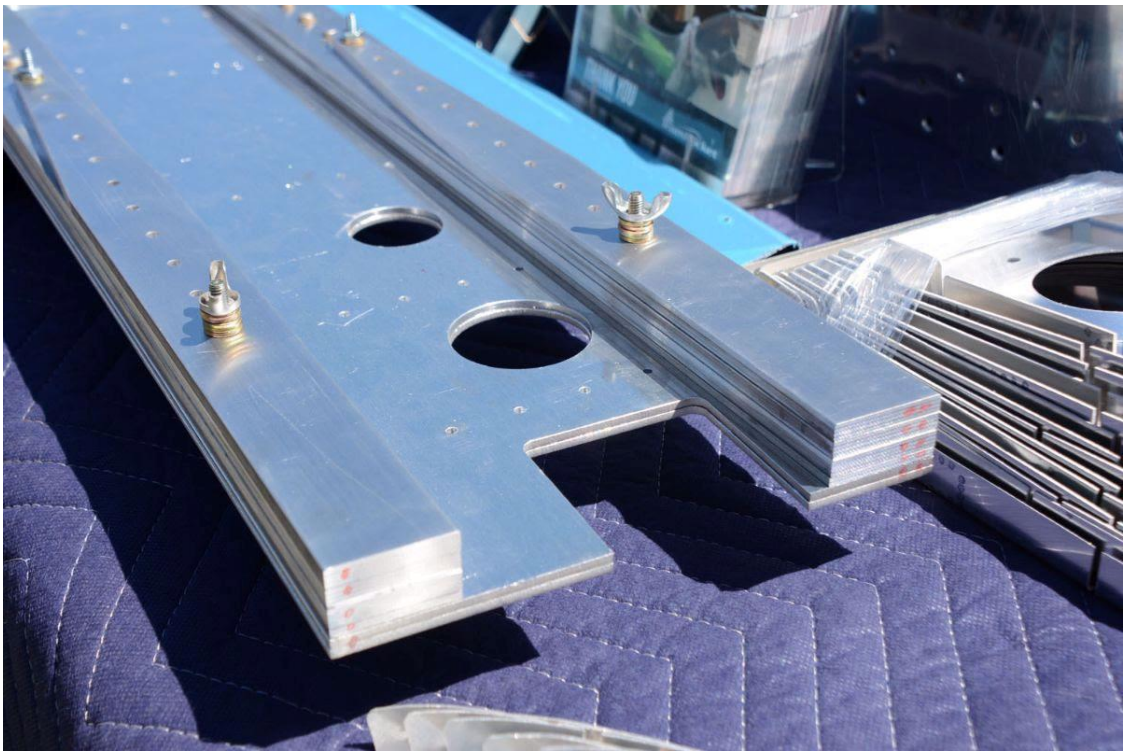
Here's our 2022 Airventure display, which was definitely toned down a bit this year due to the construction going on at the new house and shop. Nonetheless, it was good to see a lot of friendly faces while watching all the airplane activity in the skies above. By Oshkosh 2023 we should be back to normal and hope to have a couple of new completions, or maybe more, on site for folks to see.

The weather was great this year, aside from a 60mph t-storm on the Saturday prior to the show. A few planes had some minor damage. And, as always, there were a few groundloops during the arrivals as the winds were from 270 at 15mph, gusting to 23 on Sunday.

Ray Ward's F4 was on display for the masses to see. My hat is off to Ray for the enormous help he's given me over the past several years. Without Ray, and others like him, I'd never have made it this far. I sincerely thank you all.





We had a partially assembled F-wing panel on display. This is a prototype assembly destined for destructive load testing. Many people noticed that the fuel tank is not sealed, nor is there any filler cap. Regardless, we are pleased with the fit of the parts. Modern CAD is an amazing tool... when used by knowledgeable operator.

While we are not taking any orders for the wing yet, we do have enough parts to assemble 3 sets of wings: 1 for load testing, and 2 for flight testing. We don't have the flaps or aileron parts made yet.

James Aircraft was recently acquired by Jimmy Cox of Extreme Composites. Jimmy, and company, have been a long-time supplier of fiberglass parts to Team Rocket. They do great work for a fair price. My only concern with having Jimmy share part of our display was that all of those other companies out there might find out about their excellent services. Doh!!

Shown in the photo is Max, a friend of Jimmy's. We decided that with a bit of work, the cowling would make a very suitable, and escape proof, time-out device. Max apparently wasn't too worried because he clam-shelled himself into several of them while playing at the display.

Garry Hewes just started s/n 227 and is already narrowing down the paint schemes. Here is the very fine, current favorite.

Trivia for those who are interested: We just shipped the tail kit for s/n 232 and expect to ship s/n 233 soon.

Mike, Jurgen, Tilo, and Ray just prior to Ray's departure on Friday morning.

A very nice Rocket seen on the field. According the FAA, probably owned by Everett Kevin.

There were several other F1s and HR2s on the field, but I didn't get photos of them. Dang it... always in a hurry!

Eric O'connor brought his freshly painted F1 down from Canada, and won the Stan Dzik Memorial Award for Outstanding Design Contribution.

A group of F1 friends enjoying Wendt's on the lake, known for their fish... of course.

Another view of the same group. It's great to have lots of good friends!

In the photos above, in no order: Brad Hood with Blake and Vince Frazier from Indiana, Jeff and Becky Rodgers with Bob from Airplane Plastics in Ohio, Extreme Composite's

Jimmy Cox with Chris Branham from Texas, Darryl Hudec from Georgia, Ray Ward from South Carolina, and FlyLEDs Paul McVitty from Melbourne Australia. Also shown are our German friends, Jurgen Fuchs, Mike, Tilo, and Lucas. Prost!

~~Darryl Hudec and Ray Ward report that Fibral Lite by Upol is a superior pinhole filler for cowlings and other fiberglass parts.~~ See the correction in the 8/2/2022 newsletter.

They also report that if you use a small drill bit to chamfer, or open up, the pinholes slightly it is much easier to get the filler to properly fill the hole. Otherwise air will be trapped in the pinhole which will cause the pinhole to reopen during sanding.

Ray Ward getting ready to depart Oshkosh 2022.

See you next time!!

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