Team Rocket
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Team Rocket - July 15, 2023 newsletter

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Oshkosh 2023 - Team Rocket display aircraft:

We're pleased to have one, or maybe two, display aircraft scheduled to be at the Team Rocket display space this year. Weather permitting, of course. Both are brand spanking new. Come see us to check out these beautiful machines.

Refer to the map below. Those tiny red numbers indicate the location of Team Rocket, Cleaveland Aircraft Tool, and Flyboy Accessories. We are located at the East end of Gallatin, just East of the workshop and forum buildings.

If you can't find us, just ask nearly anyone where the Van's Aircraft display is located. When you find Van's, simply turn west and you'll be able to throw a rock and hit any one of us.

Here is a link to the full size map.

Oshkosh 2023 - Rocket and Raider parking plan for the rest of us

If you're bringing your F1, F4, or Harmon Rocket, we have a group parking area designated for us this year, courtesy of Jeff Point, director of aircraft parking. Woot!

The parking area is shown by the large red dot on the map above. The procedure to get there is to take a piece of paper, or cardboard, write "HPB" in big, fat, thick letters, large enough for the parking volunteers to easily read. You can put a smaller "ROCKET" beneath the "HPB" if you like, but don't clutter the sign too much. Also, you can visit the EAA website and simply print off a parking paper. Either way will work.

The parking volunteers will direct Rockets and Raiders to the group parking area. If time allows, they may come to your cockpit to confirm where you're going. HOWEVER, if the parking volunteers are slammed, they may park you elsewhere. If that's OK with you, no worries, but if you'd prefer to park in the Team Rocket group parking, simply ask if they can help to move you.

NOTE: The earlier that you arrive, the more likely you'll be able to park with the group. Last year, it seemed that the field was full by Saturday afternoon. I'd plan to arrive Friday, if possible. Also, if your Rocket oil temperature doesn't like slow flight, coming in as early as possible can reduce the amount of time you spend grinding along at the slower speeds.

It's all controlled chaos and there's a lot going on, so be polite, be patient, and fly safely!

Cleaveland Aircraft Tool acquired by Flyboy Accessories

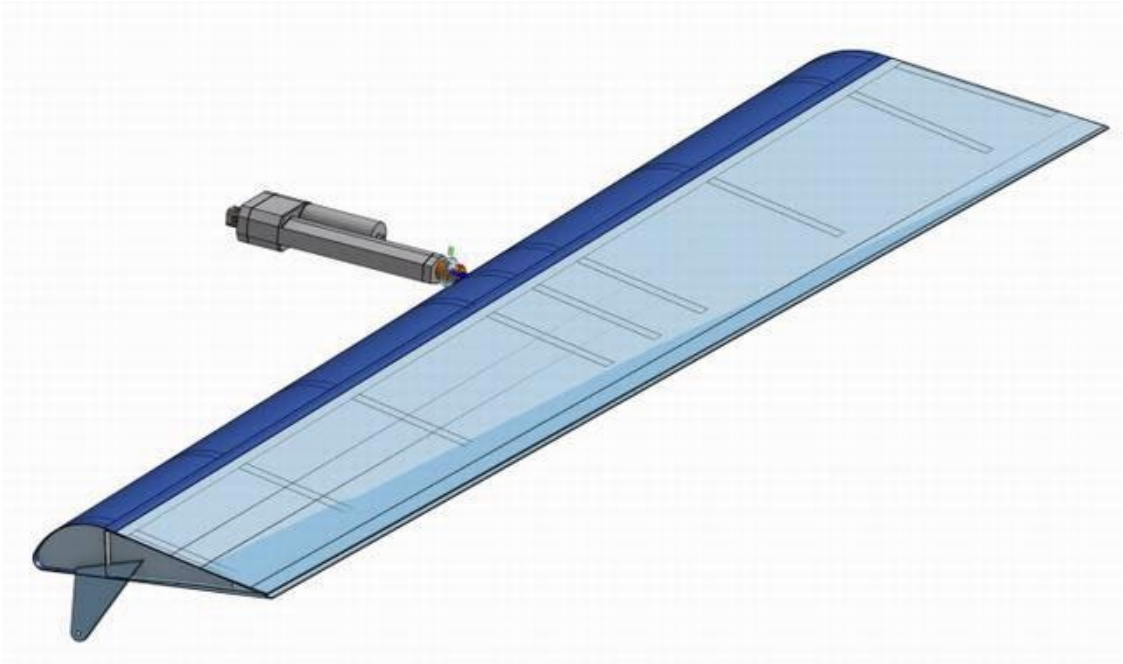
I'm super excited to announce that our son, Blake Frazier, of Flyboy Accessories fame, has acquired Cleaveland Aircraft Tool. www.cleavelandtool.com These two companies have always worked well together. When the time came for DJ, Mike, and Jensie to pursue other interests, they approached Blake and the rest is now history. We have known about the upcoming acquisition for several months, but due to an NDA, we couldn't

say anything. As a proud papa, it was killing me!

Mike, Jensie, and DJ, along with the entire Cleaveland crew, have been amazing during the transition. You will see them at Oshkosh, just like always. And Blake will be there too, although he'll also be around the Flyboy Accessories display when he can.

Blake intends to "stay the course" with both Cleaveland and Flyboy Accessories, so most customers won't notice anything different. (Except for me, I'll be expecting a fat discount on all of my future Cleaveland purchases. I mean, we did raise him.)

Interestingly, Blake now has two vendor spaces to manage at Oshkosh. Our Team Rocket space is still adjacent to the Flyboy Accessories space, so if you don't see me there, just check next door. I may be helping Blake to cover his empire. I couldn't be more excited for him and his crew.



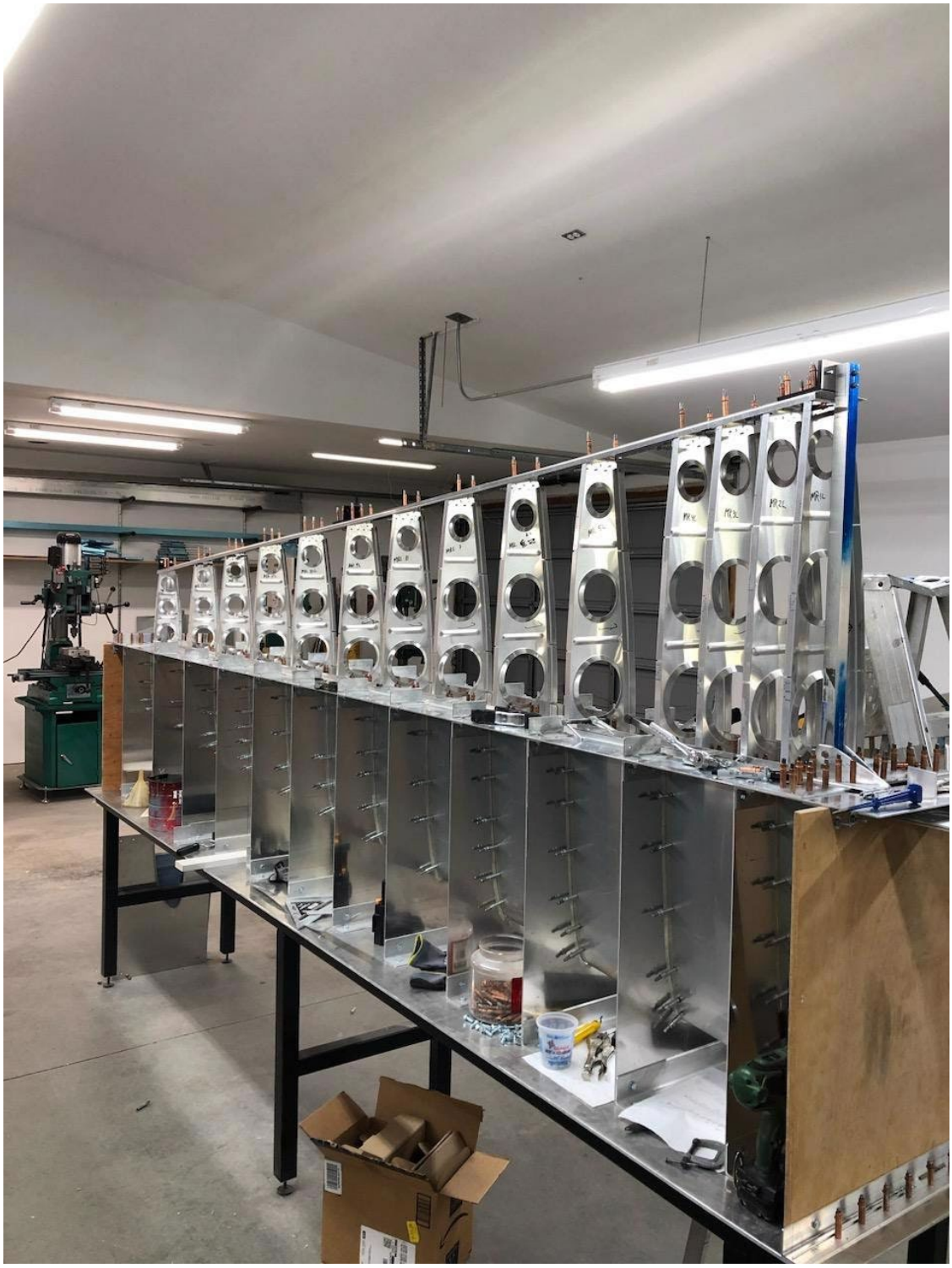
Informal discussion planned for Oshkosh

We'd like to have an informal discussion regarding the tapered wing, maintenance issues, and the future development of our aircraft. This will be happening at our display during Airventure this year.

Paul Romano and I are seeking feedback on various topics, including:

- the new F-wing project. Mostly the design is complete, but we would like feedback on desired fuel capacity and welcome other comments.
- control surface construction as related to materials, i.e. carbon fiber or aluminum.
- maintenance problems that the Rockets are having, i.e. some planes seem to develop cracks or smoking rivets more than others. We want to gather data to find out why.

Bring a lawn chair. We look forward to chatting with our fellow Rocketeers.



Tapered wing status

I know it seems like we're slower than molasses in January, but we ARE making progress on the wings. Most recently, the 3D printer has been making various fixturing pieces and various test parts for the control system.

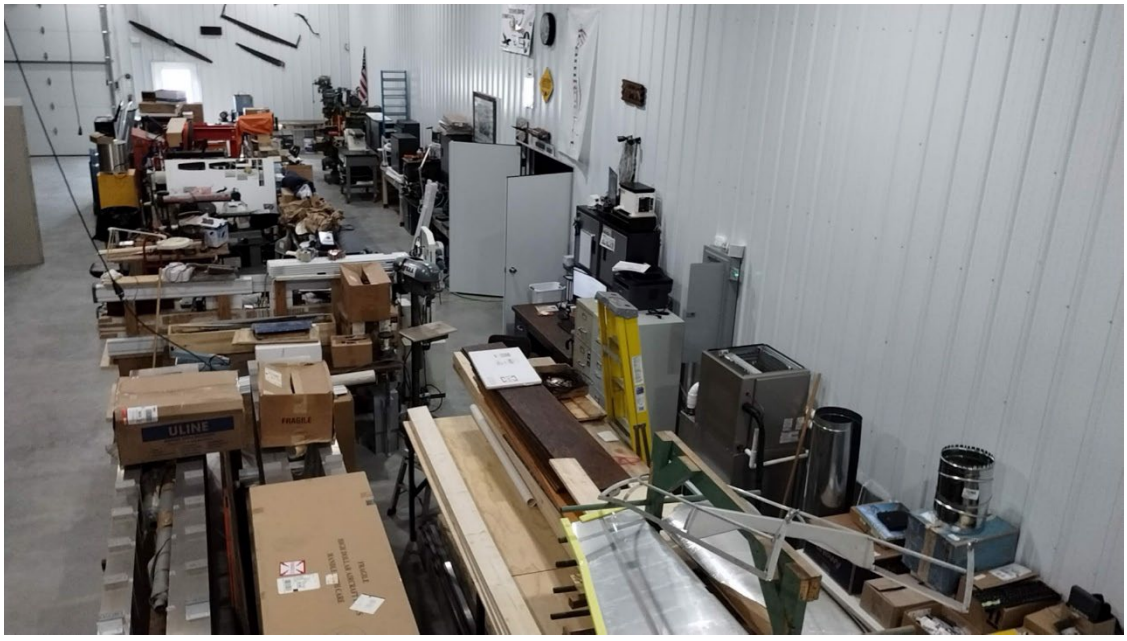
Shown in the photo above, taken a few weeks ago, are the wings intended for Paul Romano's F1. As much as we'd like to bring them to Oshkosh to show off, this year it's just not possible. Paul's wings are in the jig and it's impractical to bring them. Mine are here, but with our continuing construction, and the necessity to put Cleaveland Tool items in the trailer instead, it's also not practical to bring them to the show. Sorry.

Teaser photos - Bob Baker's IO-550 fire breather. You gotta come see it for yourself.

Teaser photos - Darryl Hudec's beautiful F1 Rocket, with his even more beautiful wife, Milanka.

This is Darryl's first homebuilt project and, dang, it is a knockout.

Come and see these beauties at our display this year, weather permitting of course.



Shop Status

Recently, very recently, we were able to move most of the non-Team Rocket clutter out of the new shop. We still have some ongoing construction (it never ends) but can finally see a light at the end of the tunnel.

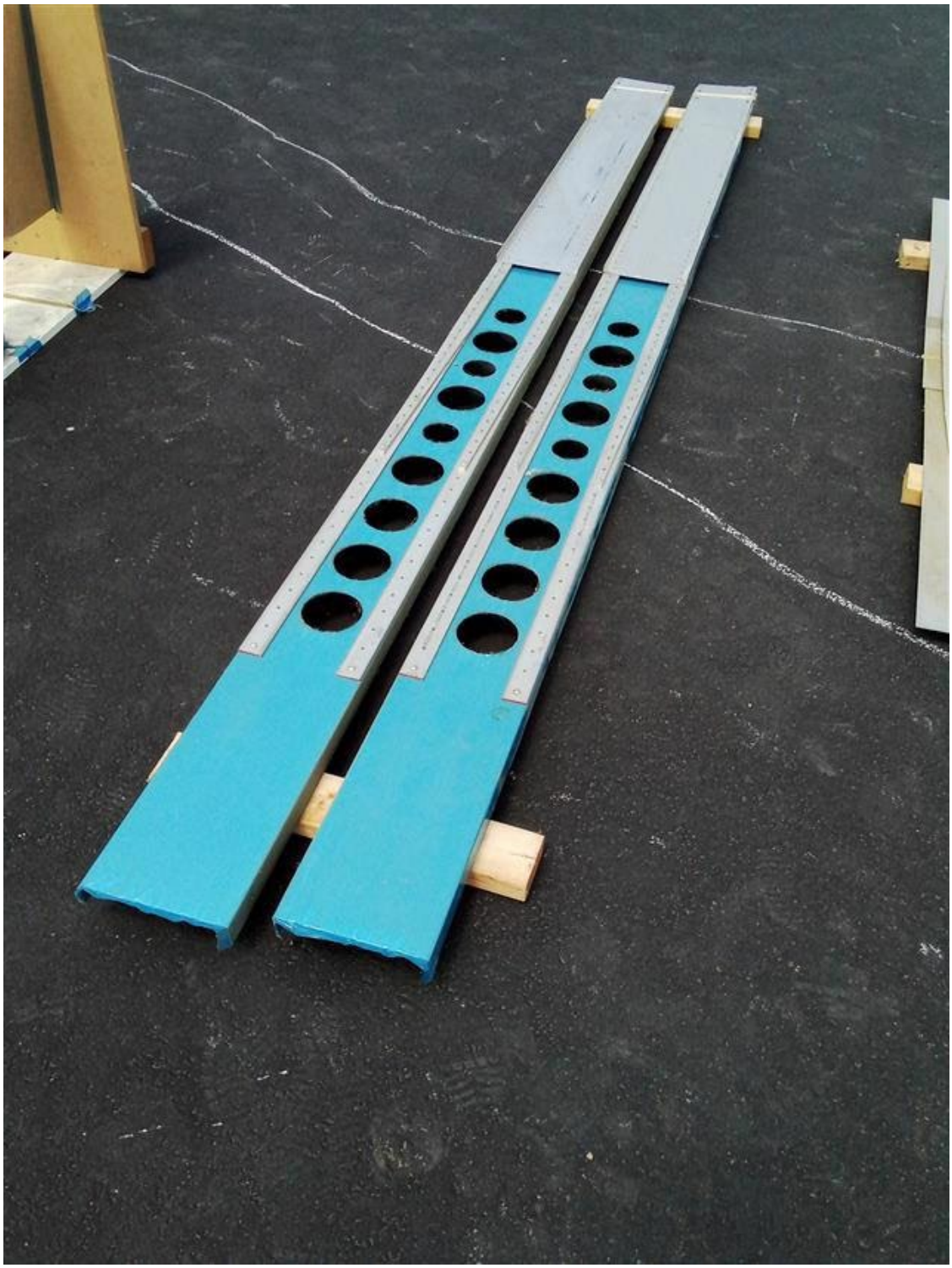
Much unpacking remains to be done. New guy, Toby Konnersman, who you may meet at Oshkosh this year, is planning to start setting up our new 12'x4' CNC router, which should be a huge step forward in our ability to produce parts. We just need to make some floor space in the NW corner of the shop.

Other benders, brakes, presses and so forth are still buried under some of these box piles. We're going as fast as we can, but we're the tortoise, not the hare! Thanks for your patience.

Also, we're interested in obtaining a reasonably affordable 4 post hydraulic press so we can expand our capabilities to stamping parts. Got a lead on one? Let us know.

Reno Races?

The last Reno races are coming up. I plan to be there from Wednesday, Sept. 13th thru Monday, Sept. 18th. I'd be interested in knowing which other Rocket builders will be there. If you plan to attend, drop me an email at vincefrazier@gmail.com Cheers! Vince



RV-4 wings and tail kit for sale

Vince Winstead, of Minnesota, has an untouched RV-4 wing kit and a partially completed RV-4 tail for sale. Price reduced to $6000 for the wing kit and $1000 for the tail kit.

Additional photos were in our last newsletter. Only the wing spars, untouched, are shown here.

You can reach him at 507-931-5669 or by email at cap_flyer@protonmail.com

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See you at Oshkosh!

Thanks,

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a Team Rocket authorized distributor

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