Team Rocket Newsletter 5-19-2026

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Nifty new product from Cleaveland Tools,

Blake got fed up with high tungsten prices and unreliable supply chains. So, he asked his machinist to make a batch of hollow steel bucking bar shells. Next he filled them with lead (Pb for you chemists). The lead is expanded under pressure to make sure it stays a tight fit inside the shell.

Sure, it's not as dense as tungsten, but lead is significantly more dense than steel

alone (about 1.5x).... and the knurled body is actually comfortable to hold.

And it's MUCH cheaper than a tungsten bar. Cool!

See it at: https://www.cleavelandtool.com/shop/bbl1-lead-pb-core-bucking-bar-16853?search=bar&order=name+asc

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Nick Wills in *Australian Flying* magazine

NIck Wills was featured in *Australian Flying* magazine recently. You can view his article here:

http://f1aircraft.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Australian-Flying-Nick-Wills-F1-Rocket.pdf

Or to subscribe and get your very own copy, go here:

https://www.greatmagazines.com.au/magazine/fly

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George and Becky Orndorff videos

George and Becky Orndorff videos. Well, if you already know what that means, then you're probably gray haired and crusty.

George Orndorff was an early RV-6 builder who decided to share his knowledge with the masses using a VHS video camera.. or similar. It was so long ago that only us geezers even know what that means.

Regardless, those videos are available on YouTube. They may be old, but they are still a very useful training guide for new builders. View them here:

https://www.youtube.com/@Tailwind_Aviation_RV6

Note: A VHS player is not required.

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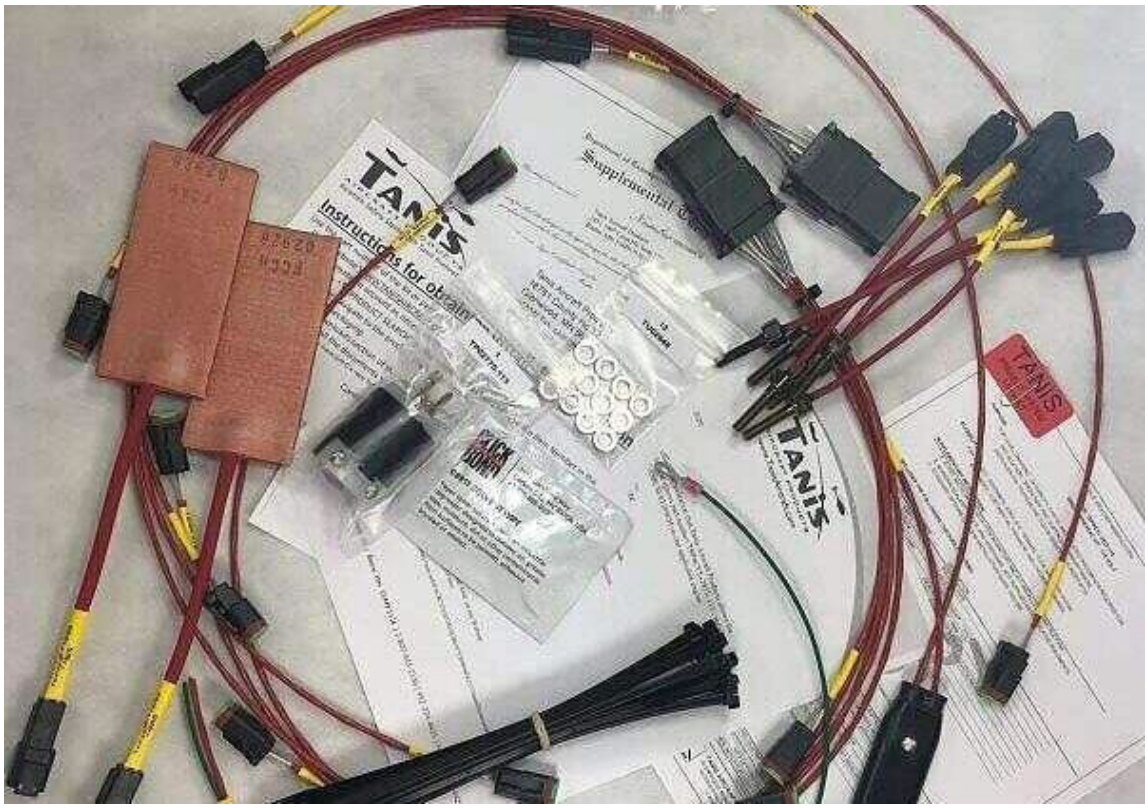
Things for next Winter



We have provided Hartzell propellers to our Rocket and Raider builders for many years, but that isn't all that we can provide for your dream plane. We can also provide most, if not all, of the other fine products that Hartzell offers.

For example https://hartzellpreheat.com/

offers Tanis, Reiff, and Switcheon engine heaters and controllers to make your cold weather flying more comfortable and convenient.

Sure, you could order these from any number of other vendors, but will they offer to beat their competitor's prices? We will.

So, shop at the other places and then give us the part numbers and let us see if we can save you enough to buy that next $100 hamburger!

Send your parts list to vince@f1aircraft.com

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Ted Harrison's newly painted F4 Raider

Ted Harrison's relatively new F4 Raider was featured, after it received a nice new paint scheme, in the Chapter 168 newsletter. You can read all about it here: http://f1aircraft.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Hangar-Echoes-chapter-168.pdf

Ted added these comments:
"New empty weight came in a little high with paint and interior panels, installed at 1160lbs. Pre paint I was at 1125.

33TT on aircraft so far and planning to finish phase 1 in the next 2 weeks. Oil Temp is running between 185 and 205 with the 13 row oil cooler. I'm glad I put the 13 row on."

I hope that Ted can bring his new machine to Oshkosh in July. That would be super!

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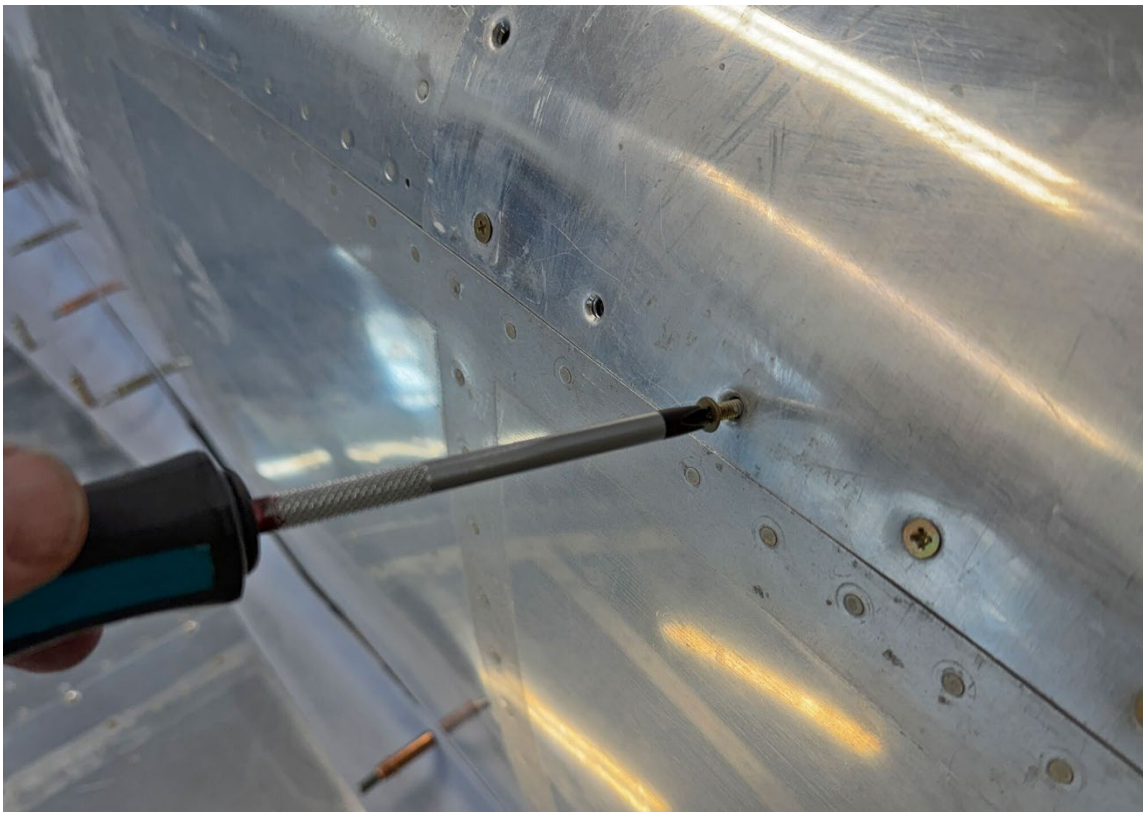
New Nut Plates? Lubricate Your Screws!



If you've reached the point in your build where you are attaching fairings, interior panels, or wheel pants, you probably have a lot of brand-new nut plates (often called plate nuts, but this is what I learned to call them many years ago, and early learning is hard to undo …) that have never seen a screw before. Nut plates, by design, have their threads squeezed slightly out of round to secure screws so they won't back out. But this makes it very easy—when the nut plates are new—to gall (or even break) the first screw inserted into the nut plate. For this reason, I recommend two things to the inexperienced builder. First, never install a stainless steel screw into a new nut plate. If you want to end up with all-stainless hardware on your airplane, buy some steel screws and insert them first to "season" the nut plate. Then remove the steel screw and insert your stainless hardware.

Second, lubricate your steel screws with a little wax before inserting them. You can use the best—BoeLube—or just get a block of paraffin wax used for canning fruits and vegetables from the grocery store. My block of paraffin has been with me for decades and has melted into a lumpy shape by being stored in a hot shop on occasion. Doesn't matter—just scrape the threads of the screw across the wax to load the threads up with a little paraffin, then insert it into the nut plate. The wax won't run like liquid lubricant, so it won't contaminate your soon-to-be-painted surfaces. A block of wax will last a lifetime, so use it generously!

by Paul Dye *https://ironflight.com*

used with permission from AvBrief.com

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An additional comment from the original AvBrief.com post:

- use beeswax, grease, or even a wax toilet ring (preferably a new one) if ordinary wax isn't available.

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Things I hate

Well, the list is long, but among the top things that I despise daily are:

- Quickbooks accounting software
- managing an online webstore (which is why we don't have one!)

Recently, I've been admiring Blake's two webstores, https://www.flyboyaccessories.com/ https://www.cleavelandtool.com/

and the software that runs everything.

Without going into a lot of details, later this year, we're going to do some work to see if we can upgrade our website, webstore, and all of the related "back end" stuff.

Man, it sure would be nice to get Team Rocket out of the stone age and into the information age. And it should be a much better experience for our builders too... after all, they won't have to talk to me for every little thing! :)

More as this develops....

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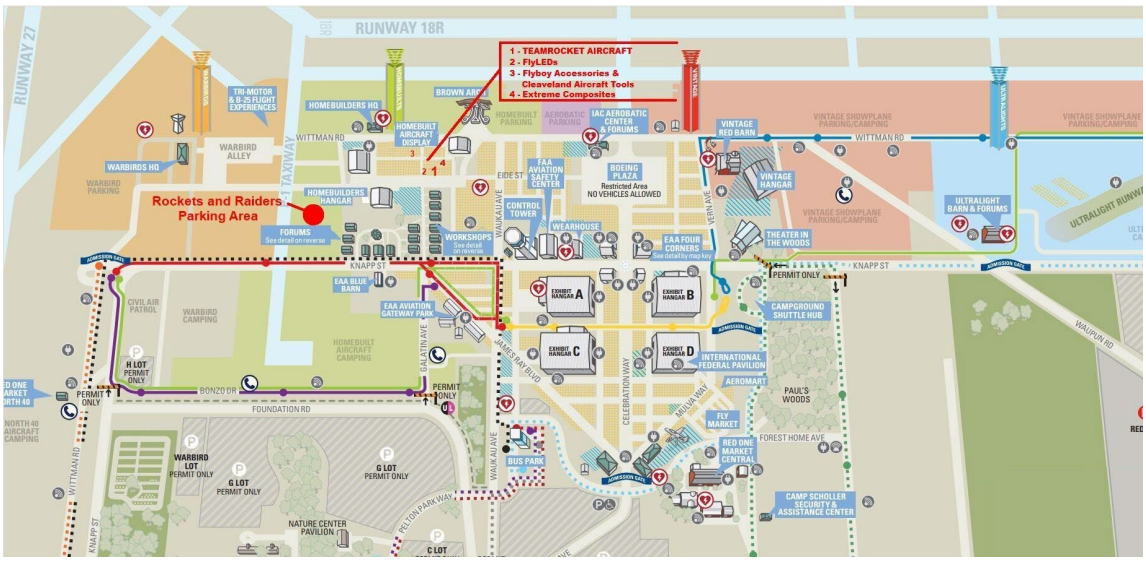
Rocket and Raider parking at Oshkosh '26



Airventure 2026 is fast approaching! Just a reminder that we'll have an official "Rocket" parking row at EAA Airventure again this year.

All F1 Rockets, Harmon Rockets, and F4 Raiders are welcome to park in this row. Just put a sign in your canopy for the parking personnel to see when you arrive.

If the parking volunteers aren't sure where the Rocket row is located, just tell them that it's immediately NE of the forum buildings and just N of the homebuilder's hangar.

See the map for the general location.

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Texas home, hangar, and airport for sale

Mark and Cheryl Frederick's former airport home and hangar.

1005 E Buttercup Rd, Taylor, TX 76574

- 43 acres
- 1548 sq ft ranch home
- 3350 sq ft hangar
- other out buildings
- 41XS airport identifier https://www.airnav.com/airport/41XS
- $2,300,000

For more information contact the realtor: https://kw.com/property/1005-E-Buttercup-Road-Taylor-TX-76574/2107807878024688

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Shawn McKay's Rocket for sale

F1
ROCKET
F1
ROCKET

C-FWFP

Shawn says:

Maiden flight 2020, has about 130 hrs, Dynon DT100 touch flight display with all Dynon electronics (radio, ELT, transponder mode C,) Auto pilot, 2-blade Hartzell, Lycoming IO-540, 260hp, primered with 2-part epoxy, then 2 coats of Pacific Endura Red and 2 coats of UV resistant clear. Checker board and letters are wraps. In excellent condition and flies great. Just finished the annual. Located near Vancouver British Columbia.

Contact Shawn McKay

604-329-9044

smckaycfwfn@shaw.ca

$180,000 USD

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Replying to this email... please start a new thread instead.

Please note: Do not hit "reply" to this newsletter.

I appreciate the emails, but replies to a newsletter add a copy of EVERYTHING ABOVE and every reply adds it to the same email. It gets to be very cumbersome, very quickly.

To send a reply, start a new email (without the above info)
please. vince@f1aircraft.com
Thanks,
Vince .

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