From: National Control Line Racing Association
Bill Bischoff 1809 Melody Ln.
Garland, TX 75042

TO

Mr Edwin Charles Needham
8th March 1958 - 16th March 2026
See Inside for Obituary

INSIDE:
Edwin Needham Obituary
District Reports
Suppliers/Equipment
Updated Contest Calendar

Torque Roll Issue #184
April 2026

PRESIDENT – Bill Bischoff

For those who tend not to read all the way through, I will lead off with the NATS schedule. The control line racing events will be Monday, July 6 to Thursday, July 9. Monday will be Mouse I, and Vintage B team race. Tuesday will be AMA Slow Rat and combined AMA Goodyear/ Super Sport Goodyear. Wednesday will be Quickie Rat and Sportsman Goodyear. Sportsman Goodyear will have Gold, Silver, and Bronze finals. Thursday will be Super Slow Rat and Clown race.

If you've never attended a NATS, or haven't attended in a while, make this the year. This is the 100th NATS! All your racing buddies would love to see you (again). If you're attending but not flying all the events, considering running an event. It'd sure help me out. All you'll really need to do is run the actual races; I'll do all the preliminary stuff. If you think you might give it a go, just let me know.

I am happy to report that I have secured sponsorship for some of the unofficial events. Chuck Barnes is sponsoring the Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards for Sportsman Goodyear, Richard Kucejko is sponsoring Vintage B Team Race, I am sponsoring Super Sport Goodyear, and Clown Race will be sponsored by the Dallas Model Aircraft Association. Thank you to all of our sponsors. We are still seeking sponsors for Quickie Rat and Super Slow Rat. *I just found out that AMA is giving out medals this year instead of plaques. While the cost of less than $30 per set of three is attractive, in my opinion, the medals are not. We have been paying about $100 per set in recent years, and I am currently looking for better deals. I was hoping to order the same awards as AMA was giving out to save some money, but I just can't do it.*

Starting now, we are accepting nominations for NCLRA President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The current officers have all selflessly volunteered for another term, but nominations are welcome. If nominating someone besides yourself, please get their consent first. A ballot will be in the next newsletter. Technically, only current, paid members may vote. Current or not, please vote, and if you want to get current on your membership, that would be OK, too.

I would also request that people get their contest schedules submitted soon. It's already April, so hopefully they're figured out by now. The next newsletter doesn't come out until early June, and we don't want anyone to miss out!

FORA Junior .15 NEWS

The NCLRA has only four Fora Junior 15 engines for Sportsman Goodyear available. I don't know when more will be available, so if you want one, you'd better get it now!

They are $160 shipped in the US. Please contact me for international shipping costs. By Paypal, please send payment to *billbisch@hotmail.com*, and select the "send money to friends and family" option to save NCLRA the fees. By check, make payable to NCLRA, and send to Bill Bischoff, 1809 Melody Ln, Garland TX 75042.

These Foras come with 1/8" venturis, whereas all the others that I have seen have venturis with a nominal 4mm bore. We have been conducting most of our tests with a 4mm venturi, and at the 2025 NATS, we told people they could drill their venturis out to 4mm (5/32") diameter if they were smaller. This will be the rule for 2026. I will drill the venturi for you if you request it.

For experimenters, we also have 4 Nelson head buttons available for $5 each. They will **not** be legal for Sport Goodyear.

Theme Newsletters

It's been years since we've done a theme newsletter, focusing on a particular aspect of CL racing. I'm wondering if it's time to do it again. In the past, we've featured piloting, pitting, beginners, Goodyear, Mouse, and Slow Rat, but we're certainly not limited to just those topics. We could look at specific aspects of airplanes like tanks, control systems, shutoffs, landing gear, finishing, line wrapping, pitting equipment, or anything else you may be wondering about.

Shoot me an email with your request, and we'll do our best to beat the topic into submission.

These three Goodyear models are from Alan Stewart in Washington (or maybe Oregon). He has teamed up with F2A flier Will Naemura to fly some Sport GY. The Li'l Quickies are from Goran Olson plans.

---------- Obituaries ----------

Mr. Edwin Charles Needham
8th March 1958 - 16th March 2026

It is with much regret that we recently heard of Ed Needhams passing. Ed had been battling cancer since just before the Covid 19 pandemic.
Whilst Ed was primarily known as a CL team racing competitor, he also took part in CL speed flying and most recently this involved competing in Sport Jet at Barton Club.
Ed was a larger-than-life character and was certainly good fun to be around, he had a dry wit and sense of humour.
Ed will be missed by the CL speed fliers at Barton and also his many team racing friends.
Our sympathy goes to Ed's wife Sue and the rest of his family.
Ed's funeral will be held at Treswithian Downs Crematorium, Cambourne, Cornwall TR14 0BL on Thursday April 16th at 2:30pm.
Barrie Lever

L-R, Team race pilot Mike Fitzgerald with Ed Needham.

NORTH CENTRAL – Paul Gibeault

I'll open this report on a bit of a sad note. I just heard that long time racer & friend Ed Needham from England recently passed away from cancer. The renowned Clarkson/Needham team performed very well in many different classes of racing.

Ed along with Dave Clarkson was a founder of the firm Russian Cyclon engines & accessories to the West. I remember my last conversation with Ed. Those who knew him will remember Ed's flying attire was a pair of rather worn-out jeans. Likely kept outside due to reeking of diesel fuel. I thought they made Ed look like a street rubby. So much so, I offered to buy Ed a new pair of jeans for the Nats since they were on sale cheap from Aldi's. Ed didn't take me up on my offer although I'm sure his wife Sue wouldn't have minded… We're all going to miss you Ed, RIP.

Ed & Sue Needham in Team Race at the 2014 BMFA Nats.

Ed's fleet of yellow models at the BMFA Nats.

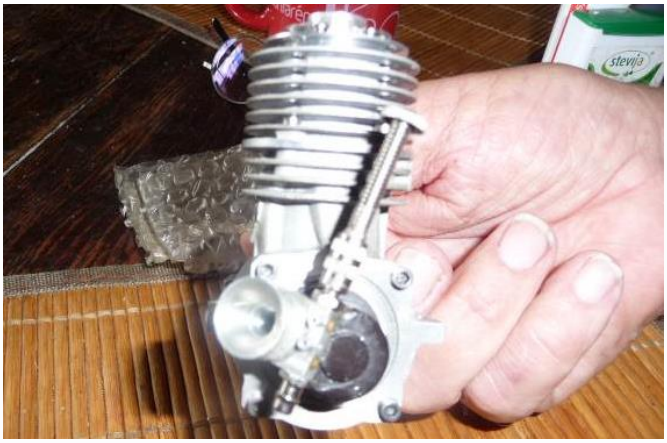
2014 Tournament of the Millenium in Portugal. Ed & teammate Brian Winstanley made a 3rd place podium finish.

I do share one Ed's characteristics though. Most all of Ed's models were painted yellow. I can only imagine Ed got a good deal on a gallon of that paint somewhere. ☺ (My models are usually black and red, the only two colors I possess.)

An FMV story in pictures

A close up of an original FMV team race engine. A cooperative effort by Enrico **F**lores, Robbie **M**etkemeijer and Hans **V**isser)

In 2014, I was invited to visit with Christina & the late Eep Buys in Portugal. Eep was a former European T/R champion. He was kind enough to show me his FMV ! For fun I posted these photos on the Internet & this motor was claimed to be built by everyone except Eep.



This rare version FMV from Hans Visser showed some continued improvements.

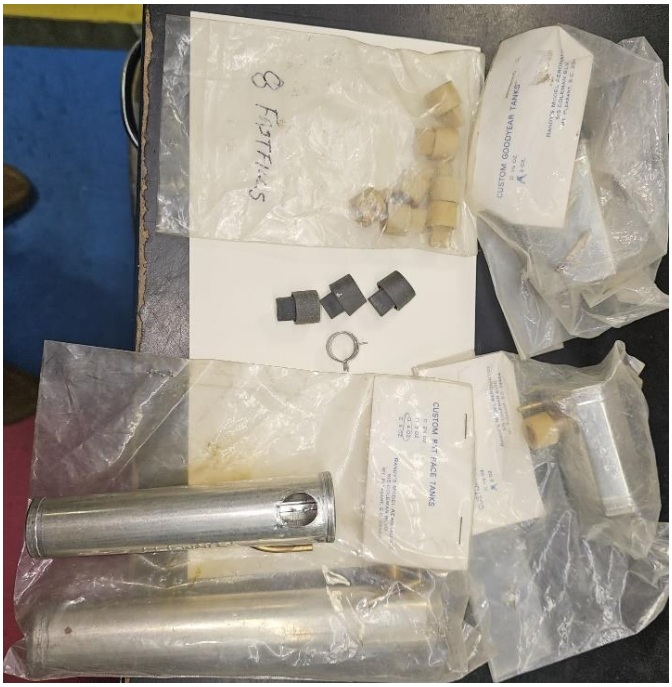
This later version featured an all-steel front end, for increased running stability.

This multi-function valve had more features.

Both standard bush & roller bearing bottom ends.

Hans Visser himself did model processing at the 2023 world pylon champs in Drachen, Holland. "Come Paul, I show you something these guys won't understand…but I know you will". Thanks Hans!

For Sale Randy's racing tanks & Don's fastfills $20 + post



Used Glo-Bee Fireplug starting battery. US $40 + post. ** Contact Paul Gibeault pgibeault@shaw.ca **Can be delivered to the NW Regionals or the AMA Nats.

SOUTH CENTRAL – Bill Bischoff

Not much happening yet this year, but our first racing event is at the end of April. After a couple of false starts, here's our schedule.

DALLAS 2026 CONTEST SCHEDULE

***April 25-26 Spring Warm Up: Racing only**
Sat: Mouse, Sport GY, Super Slow Rat,
Sun: Quickie Rat, Clown, (AMA GY/ Super Sport GY)
***May 29-31 Spring Warm Up: Speed only**
***June 6-7 Bob Gieseke Memorial**
Mouse, SGY, TQR, SSR Saturday Carrier and Stunt Sunday
***September 5-6 Southwestern CL Championships**
Mouse, SGY, TQR, SSR Saturday
Carrier and Stunt Sunday
***October 2-4 Fall Finale: Speed /Racing**

Letters…

Hello again Bill
I thought I'd touch base with you and show my progress on the new Alley Cat Model.

Along the way I found a couple of areas on the drawing that needed work, so I sent a Rev. "B" of it to Bill Lee.
It's taking a little longer than I hoped, but then again, I think I'm getting quite a bit pickier in my workmanship! I've made my carbon gear legs smaller than last year's, and airfoiled them as well, hopefully they'll be robust enough to do the job, I've also added some fairings on the fuselage sides where they attach and turned some flush mounting hardware so we don't have nuts and bolts hanging out in the breeze. I've also made a carbon sheet horn, and inset it into the elevator, so we don't have the ugly nylon nut plate showing. I'm going to take a little more time on the finish as well, wet sanding the edge between colors and we'll finish with a clear coat that we didn't do on last year's models. This one will get the Fora Jr. engine.

Cheers, Gerry van Dyk

2K AEROSOL CLEAR PAINT
Bill Bischoff

I paint my race planes with Klass Kote two-part epoxy paint. It is durable, chemical proof, and not difficult to spray. My biggest complaint is that the clear isn't truly clear over white. I kept reading on Stunt Hangar about an aerosol clear paint that many of the stunt guys are using, that is supposed to be clear, stay clear, be ultra durable, and spray beautifully from a can. Most commonly, it is referred to as 2K. Ihave seen this paint under the "Eastwood" brand name and the "Spray Max" brand name, and all indications are that they are the same thing.

In this case, "2K" has nothing to do with the new millenium or number 2000, but means "two komponent" (it's made in Germany). It is a true 2 part catalyzed urethane paint in a spray can. Like the chemical glow sticks we are all familiar with, the can contains an isolated compartment of catalyst within the paint. A button on the bottom of the can is pushed to release the catalyst into the paint, which activates the chemical process that makes the paint cure. Left alone, any unused paint in the can will also cure, but the left-over portion *can* be kept in the freezer and used at a later date.

A word of caution is in order. This paint contains isocyanates, which can kill you if you breathe enough of them. Remember "Imron" paint from back in the day? Yeah, like that. As long as you spray outdoors facing downwind, and wear a good mask, you should be OK. A paper Covid mask WILL NOT be adequate.

Recently, I repainted an airplane with Klasskote. I wanted to wet sand the paint to get rid of the ridges along the color separation lines, and then follow up with a clear coat that was actually clear. I decided to try the 2K clear. I used a left over can of Spray Max 2K that had been in Bill Lee's freezer since last spring, and it worked fine.

Following the typical procedure of a light tack coat first, then a heavier wet coat, it flows and levels beautifully. If you've get good coverage and a smooth finish, leave your plane alone, because you're done. If you absolutely have to polish it afterwards, give it another coat just so you don't end up sanding or buffing through it.

I ended up with some runs and some dry spots on the bottom of the plane, so polishing was in order. First I wet sanded the bad areas with 600 grit, then followed up by wet sanding the entire airframe with 1000 grit. In hindsight, I should have

continued to 1500 or 2000 grit, as some sanding scratches were still visible after polishing.

For the actual polishing, I used a small pneumatic buffer from Harbor Freight, a couple of different textured foam buffing pads, and 3M Perfect-It Rubbing Compound followed by Perfect-It Machine Polish. All the tools and supplies were provided by Bill Lee. Bill courteously tried them all out a year ago on his new Red Miss San Bernardino, so if it went bad on me, it would be my own fault.

I started cautiously with the polish and a smooth texture foam pad, and made almost no progress. The rubbing compound and the egg-crate texture foam pad worked much better at taking the surface to a uniform hazy smoothness, and when some clarity was evident, I switched back to the polish and the smooth foam pad. Frequent wipe downs with a damp paper towel allowed me to monitor my progress. Once I was satisfied, a wash down with glass cleaner and a clean towel left me ready for a coat of regular automobile paste wax.

The whole polishing process was much less delicate and finicky than I had anticipated. In the future, I will be more careful when applying the clear so polishing shouldn't be necessary, but if is, I'll be up to the task. There is also a similar 2K white paint that I plan to try. I'll let you know how it turns out.

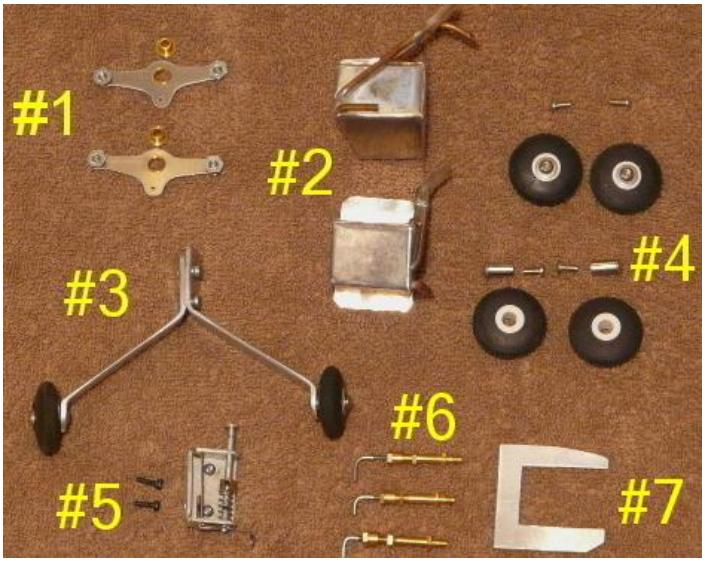
FROM THE ARCHIVES **Bill Bischoff**

Here are more photos from your President's album. The first picture is from the 1991 F2C team trials at Houston's Scobee Field. Tom Fluker, pilot for Bill Lee, is in the green smock. Doc Jackson, Henry Nelson's pilot, has his back to us in the red smock. Hiding in the back is John McCollum, who was teamed up with Chuck Rudner, who must have wandered away from the combat circle. Monitoring the action is Sandra Lee.

For those who may wonder, yes, Bill Lee can actually fly. At a contest in Dallas in the late 80's, he decided to see how Quickie Rat looked from *inside* the circle. As I recall he did fine, and no pilot-on-pilot violence was necessary. Judging by other photos from the same day, I suspect Bill's pit man was Frank Williams. Frank brought us the "Texas Quickie Rat" design and article in a 1986 issue of Model Aviation.

OK, your turn! How about sending an old photo and a paragraph or two to our newsletter editor Les Akre. Otherwise, you will see still more of *my* old pictures.

SPORT GOODYEAR HARDWARE SALE



#1) Perfect brand 2" aluminum bellcrank (each) **$5.00**
w/ brass bushing and installed button set, .050 thk.
#2) Sport GY fuel tank per Margaret June plans **$12.00**
dual vent style instead of overflow pincher (each)
#3) complete Sport GY landing gear **$12.00**
.090 aluminum struts, Williams 1 1/4" wheels, used
#4)Williams Bro's 1 1/4" wheels and axles (pair) **$5.00**
wheels drilled 1/4" for included axles
#5) SGY fuel shutoff fits Magnum/ASP/SH $10.00
backplates, also includes fuselage mounting bracket, used
#6) RSM needle valve assembly (each) sold out
needles have been cut shorter and rebent, new
#7) aluminum engine plate **$2.00**
per Margaret June plans, undrilled, .090 thick

SH 15 engine, set up for Dallas Sport Goodyear. $100.00

It has the legal venturi and needle assembly, and the head clamp has been turned down as allowed by the rules. It has only a couple of minutes of bench running. Also included are the stock muffler, carb, and blue anodized spinner nut, as well as some extra head shims, still in their packages. Comes in original box with SH stickers, but no instructions. Ready to install.

ASP 15 engine, set up for Dallas Sport Goodyear. $125.00

Includes the correct venturi and needle assembly It only has a few minutes of bench time. Includes stock RC carb, but no muffler, box, or instructions. Ready to install.

Prices do not include shipping. I **will** ship outside of US. Please contact me for a total. Paypal is the easiest way to pay. I will provide account info when I provide the total. Contact Bill Bischoff, billbisch@hotmail.com.

CONTEST CALENDAR

NCLRA cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions! This calendar is compiled from data collected at the NCLRA website nclra.org. and other published sources. Members can log in to NCLRA.org and submit contest details.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

April 18-19

- **Updated! Jim Walker Memorial Spring Tune-up, Jim Walker Memorial Field, Delta Park, Portland, Ore., sponsored by Northwest Fireballs.**
  Sunday: Dallas Sport Goodyear race, Northwest Sport Race.
  Download a flyer with all the details or email for information.

May 22-23-24

- **Northwest Control-Line Regionals, Roseburg Regional Airport, Roseburg, Ore.**
  Friday: Racing, Dallas Sport Goodyear, N.W. Sport, N.W. Supersport, N.W. Sportsman Clown, N.W. Clown.
  Download a flyer with the full schedule and all the other details or Email for information.
  Download a discount entry form and save money. If you would like to sponsor a trophy or make a donation, download an award sponsorship form.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

None

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

None

MIDWEST DISTRICT

100th AMA Nats AMA Aeromodeling center.
July 6 to July 9.
Monday will be Mouse I, and Vintage B team race. Tuesday will be AMA Slow Rat and combined AMA Goodyear/ Super Sport Goodyear. Wednesday will be Quickie Rat and Sportsman Goodyear. Sportsman Goodyear will have Gold, Silver, and Bronze finals. Thursday will be Super Slow Rat and Clown race.
Contact Bill Bischoff for details billbisch@hotmail.com

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

None

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

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Mouse, SGY, TQR, SSR Saturday Carrier and Stunt Sunday

***September 5-6 Southwestern CL Championships**
Mouse, SGY, TQR, SSR Saturday
Carrier and Stunt Sunday

***October 2-4 Fall Finale: Speed /Racing**

Other racing events can be held on Saturday if there is interest. Please ask well in advance! We will have these same racing events in June and September. Contact Bill Bischoff for more information.
billbisch@hotmail.com

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

None

NATIONAL RECORDS

SLOW RAT (.25 engine)
Op (70 laps) 3:01.52 Jim Gall/ Les Akre 7/04/11
(140 laps) 6:17.59 Russ Green/ Bill Lee 7/07/09
(no Jr or Sr record)

½ A MOUSE 1
Jr (50 Laps) 2:37.57 Scott Matson 7/15/99
(100 Laps) 5:17.68 Scott Matson 7/17/99
Sr (50 Laps) 2:44.68 Dave Rolley Jr 7/15/99
(100 Laps) 5:20.11 D.J. Parr 7/16/98
Op (50 Laps) 2:12.3 Jim Holland 7/16/04
(100 Laps) 4:22 Ryan & Gibeault 7/15/99

½ A MOUSE 2
Op (70 Laps) 3:01.24 MacCarthy/Kerr 7/11/03
(140 Laps) 6:18.13 Whitney/Hallas 7/10/09

SCALE RACING
Jr (70 Laps) 2:50.65 Bob Fogg III 7/16/91
(140 Laps) 6:08.55 Bob Fogg III 6/23/92
Sr (70 Laps) 3:15.12 Doug Short 7/11/00
(140 Laps) 5:40.05 Bob Fogg III 7/11/95
Op (70 Laps) 2:39.38 Willoughby/Oge 7/15/97
(140 Laps) 5:33.04 Bob Fogg Sr 7/16/91

F2C TEAM RACING
Op (100 Laps) 3:42 Fisher/Wilk 7/13/15
(200 Laps) 6:43.32 Fisher/Wilk 7/16/12

F2CN (NCLRA RULES)
100 Laps 4:14.84 Bill Lee/ Russ Green 7/07/11
200 Laps 8:37:10 Wallick/Brozo 7/15/13

NCLRA 'B" TEAM RACING
Op (35 Laps) 1:24.34 Burke/Duly 7/12/05
(70 Laps) 3:05.73 Green/Lee 7/10/09
(35+70 Laps) 4:33.91 Green/Lee 7/10/09
(140 Laps) 6:08.80 Green/Lee 7/10/09

RAT RACING (.15 RULE)
Op (70 Laps) 2:44.6 Jim Holland 7/15/04
(140 Laps) 5:33.1 Jim Holland 7/15/04
Jr-Sr No record established

NCLRA FOX RACE
Jr (100 Laps) 5:57.11 Scott Matson 7/11/99
Sr (100 Laps) 5:28.09 Scott Matson 7/16/02
Op (100 Laps) 5:32.55 Tim Stone/Bob Oge 7/10/05

NCLRA CLOWN RACE
Op (7 ½ Min.) 150 Laps Bischoff/ Lee 7/15/15
Op (15 Min.) 284 Laps Bischoff/Lee 7/15/15

NCLRA TEXAS QUICKIE RAT
(70 Laps) 2:58:72 Bill Lee/Bill Bischoff 7/18/13
(140 Laps) 6:07.01 John McCollum/Bill Lee 7/14/05

NCLRA SUPER SLOW RAT
(100 Laps) 5:14.30 Bill Lee/Russ Green 7/05/0

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Custom T-shirts at good prices.
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Source for hardware and fasteners, metal sheets, rods, and bars,
and tons of stuff that can be repurposed for model use.
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MECOA
Fox bellcranks, CB Associates spinners in small sizes for Goodyear,
spinner nuts, Cox, Fox, K&B parts. http:///www.mecoa.com

MIKE GOES FLYING
Magnum and SH engines and parts. http://www.mikegoesflying.com

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Solid Wire Sets and other C/L needs Contact Melvin Schuette, 5322 NE Early Ct, Topeka KS 66617 email: mbschuette@cox.net or 785-221-7042.

ZALP ENGINES
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ZZ Props
Full line of quality Glass & Carbon Fiber props for CL Speed & Racing.
Contact Mike Hazel at: 503-871-1057 24 Hour Phone. Email:
zzclspeed@aol.com

NELSON COMPETITION ENGINES
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Manufacturer of NELSON Racing Engines and parts, Nelson Glow Plugs, many other specialty engine items. (Henry Nelson) Phone: (724) 538- 5282. e-mail: nelcomp101@gmail.com

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Low drag landing gear for Goodyear
complete set with wheels, hubs, aluminum struts and mounting hardware. **$22.00**

aluminum struts only (with screws)
bent, drillled, tapped, edges not rounded. **$10.00**

wheels only, 1 pr., 1 1/8" dia. Urethane. **$7.00**

brass hubs and screws only, pair. **$7.00**

fuselage mounted FUEL SHUTOFF
bottom pull, specify Goodyear (1 1/4")
or Quickie Rat (1 1/2"). **$20.00**

Sullivan medium fuel tubing
soft silicone, great for shutoffs. **$2.00/ft**
or $5.00/ 3 ft

ASP/ Magnum 15 VENTURI (blue)
1/4" ID, 4mm spraybar, fits 10mm hole. **$10.00**
Only 1 left!

Prop Drill for ASP, Magnum, SH 15
knurled 1/2" aluminum handle. **$5.00**

ENYA Supertigre style needle assembly. **$16.00**

replacement needle only
fits all Supertigre style spraybars. **$6.00**

OS aluminum spinner nut
5mm x0.8 thread fits SH, ASP, Magnum. **$10.00**

1 oz Sport Goodyear fuel tank
with pinch-off overflow. **$20.00**

5 oz. mouse fuel bottle. **$7.00**

8 oz. fuel bottle with fitting. **was $10.00**
Spring special $8.00

16 oz fuel bottle **for 1/8" fill tube** **$12.00**
for rubber quick fill **$15.00**

Shipping

$12.00 per order including fuel tanks, bottles.
$8.00 per order without fuel tanks, bottles.

I accept paypal or personal checks.
Paypal: billbisch@hotmail.com/ mail checks to William Bischoff, 1809 Melody Ln, Garland TX 75042. For questions, call (972) 840-2135 or email *billbisch@hotmail.com*

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321-726-2017
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