



# The Sunbeam

## RC SUMMER ROAD TRIPS 2017

Mark Taylor

Where do I start??

I must keep it simple for you provincial peasants of Ames.

The Midwest Summer Event season peaks in August, although depending on your willingness to travel, can be extended from June to September

Most of these events are a long weekend, starting Thursday with crescendo Saturday, Sundays optional, depending on weather, helpers' stamina, etc

This year we did 3: Owatonna always the 2nd weekend of August, Fond du Lac always the third weekend of August, and Radcliffe Invitational, usually the last weekend of August unless Dwayne's Gone Fishin' that day, then it's the first of September.

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## Club Calendar

**September 12 7:00 P.M.** Monthly meeting of the Central Iowa Aeromodelers. Meeting at the field.  
Come early and fly. Executive Council meets at 6:00.



Like us on FaceBook!

Join the group, make a reasonable comment,  
upload a photo!

Owatonna is really a hidden jewel in the idyllic farm country of Southern Minnesota. Field is 1,200 ft long WNW to ESE only two hours from Ames, so not a bad day trip if you only want to fly one day or just spectate. It's my favorite because it's a World-class event with over 100 pilots and 3 X that many planes, but organizers work hard to keep it friendly and humble and open to everyone.

This year half a dozen of us attended and weather was near perfect and some real beauties were flown

I keep promising myself I will go up there one year and just watch, instead of standing on my head tuning engines, then stressing out over flying in front of >100 pilots, >80% of whom are better than I am. But I never have.





2)Fond du Lac is like Owatonna on steroids. It's 6 hours away, but the field is a 1,600 X 1,200 ft putting green and about 150 pilots attend every year, with at least 500 planes. Some really big names with big jet planes and all the usual Thunderbolts and Mustangs, and yes, there are some arrogant attitudes that can be intimidating, but WHAT A SHOW! And if you dare to fly in front of guys who have won European championships with \$28,000 twin turbines, all you gotta do is grab your spotter and go stand in line like everybody else!

Instead of the standard rows of pop-up tents at Owatonna, they are now trending towards massive 60x20 ft circus tents that are set up and taken down for regional groups of flyers (for a fee). For example, 14 Minneapolis flyers paid \$75 each for a huge shared tent. Well worth it if it gets rainy.

This year was kind of a wash for me because Thursday rained and I set up the same three WWII beasties, then Friday and Saturday featured a pure west 10-15 mph crosswind that intimidated me into only flying the P-61 once, and I kinda biffed that landing, spent some more time standing on my head in the pits. It didn't intimidate the regional and national champions, who flew steadily all day, and CRASHED steadily all day! In all my 30 years of RC, I don't think I've seen anywhere close to that much carnage.







3) Radcliffe is Dwayne's private field, only 35 miles away and a very friendly intimate gathering to help you kind of unwind from the above intensity. Always attended by a World class aerobatic helicopter pilot and his equal son from Storm Lake, and of course Dwayne alone has a finer bomber collection than you will see at most airshows. Field is very well-groomed, 600 ft long N-S

The most common excuse I hear for not going to these events is: "I can't get off work," or "My wife has me assigned doing yard jobs," or "I'm getting married that weekend," or other such nonsense, and that's true. If you don't plan a long time ahead, something will always get in the way. Dave and I get motel reservations a year in advance, we let our loved ones know a year in advance. We are rewarded by a geek holiday that truly elevates the hobby to a new level and keeps you fired up and building all winter long.

Call me. Commit. Sign up now. Make suggestions for other events!

Mark Taylor



## The Central Iowa Aeromodelers

<http://centraliowaeromodelers.weebly.com/index.html>

This club has been established to promote all facets of the hobby/sport of model aviation and to provide assistance and fellowship for its members. AMA Charter 2091.

For information about modeling or this club contact:

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### 2017 Central Iowa Aeromodelers Membership Form

Annual Dues: Open Member \$85 - Any Open AMA member.  
 Student \$35 - Full time college undergrad/school student of any capability  
 Family Membership \$85 - Includes spouse and all in household 18 & under.  
 Newsletter Subscription \$10 - For non members only.

NO REFUNDS ON DUES PAID

THESE DUES ARE ADDITIONAL TO ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS MEMBERSHIP

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/joinrenew.aspx>

All except newsletter subscription require proof of current Academy of Model Aeronautics membership.

Make checks payable to Central Iowa Aeromodelers. Mail to: Kent Woods, 4709 Twain St., Ames IA 50014.

Please note reason for payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ AMA No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ R/C Channels You Use: \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_

CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY(S):

OPEN

STUDENT

FAMILY

NEWSLETTER

### Comments to the Editor

Any comments concerning this issue of the Sunbeam can be made via email to Denny Goodrich at [dennyginia@yahoo.com](mailto:dennyginia@yahoo.com). You can also call: (515) 292-6326.