



# WHAM



Issue JE-91  
May 14, 2011

Official Publication of the Wichita Historical Aircraft Modelers, SAM 56,  
and the Kansas Sunflower Squadron, FAC Squadron #23

## NEWS, VIEWS and REVIEWS

### Free Flight Rules of Thumb

1. Rubber scale and sport models seem to perform best with 23- 25% of their total weight in the rubber motor.
2. If at one minute into its flight a P-30 doesn't look as if it has a good chance to max, it won't.
3. At least one out of 25 outdoor flights will end in a tree. Carry poles in your car.
4. A rubber model still unpredictable after 3 serious trim sessions is better off in the trash can.
5. If an Embryo model fails to climb over 100 feet in 15 seconds, it's not a winner.
6. One biplane a year is plenty for most of us.
7. An indoor scale model or a Bostonian will hit a wall or the floor head-on at least 3 times during trimming, and once every 10-12 flights thereafter.
9. If you are at all in doubt about the future availability of any highly useful free flight item, stock up on that item without delay.
10. On a good contest day with good air, and with good models well-flown, launching at random should produce a max 50% of the time.
11. To achieve a really good indoor time with a rubber scale model or a Bostonian, you must have at least 2,000 turns in the rubber motor.
12. Forty-five minutes a day at the workbench should produce 12 models of various kinds of free flight in a year's time.
13. A life without at least 25 flying sessions a year is being lived not quite right.
14. On average there are 10-12 truly perfect days for outdoor free flight per season in Kansas. Two of these days occur on Saturday or Sunday.
15. About 2% of the total time you devote to free flight will be spent watching one of your models fly.
16. Rubber motors for 200 good flights of a Pacific Ace will cost as much as a HiLine MINI-6 electric power train for the same airplane.
17. At current prices, a good aviation/aeromodeling library costs about \$350 a foot.
18. FAI rubber motors that are properly stored, correctly tied, well-lubed, properly broken in, correctly sized, well-handled, inspected for flaws, and not abused will break on winding less than 1% of the time, even under contest pressures.
19. If a rubber motor is not well-lubed, all bets are off.
20. It is "easier" to win prizes at an outdoor contest on a bad windy day than on a real nice day if you are willing to suffer.
21. In searching for a good design for scale rubber, look for a reasonable hook-to-peg distance of at least the wingspan.
22. You can never have too much (a) good rubber, (b) good balsa, or (c) good tissue. Buy what you can afford, and add 10%.