

# In The Air

Our modest role in making the world a better place.

[Terence C. Gannon](#)



An exciting launch into big air at an F3F event in Taiwan in September of 2008. (image: ©2008 Yusr Wang, all rights reserved, used with permission.)

An essential element of the re-launch of the NEW R/C Soaring Digest was to clearly articulate, through our *Community and Social Media Policy* statements, the ground rules for interaction with the RCSD readership and the aspirations for how the readership would interact with each other when using any of RCSD's platforms. In doing this, I more-or-less assumed there would be some push back of some sort at some point. The truth is, there has been virtually none. In fact, the opposite: feedback has been much more on the supportive side of the ledger. Anecdotally at least — and it's early days, I realize — it seems that there is an appetite for a community which simply focuses on its shared interests and, for a while at least, sets aside those things on which we undoubtedly differ in an increasingly fractious world.

That works for me. And I truly hope it works for you too because in my role as Managing Editor, I intend to actively stick at it.

I recently did some data analysis which approximated the breakdown of the RCSD readership by geographic location. Roughly half are based in North America, a third in Europe and about 7% are in Australia and New Zealand. The unfortunately small factor remaining are made up of readers in Africa, South America, Asia and the Middle East.

Going forward, my aspirational goal is twofold: to grow the audience everywhere at every opportunity, of course, but also to grow the audience so that the readership more closely reflects the populations of those various regions.

Growing a global audience is a truly Sisyphean task for a nascent online publication, but at the very least it provides a high level 'prime directive' for selecting the stories for each issue. To that end, I encourage **anybody** from **anywhere** here on this Big Blue Marble to submit *your* story. Everybody has at least one. These articles should focus primarily on any aspect of R/C soaring, of course, but if they can also help others better understand your particular roost on said Big Blue Marble, then you have accomplished something a bit more profound. We are all richer for that. I would even go so far that with a bit more shared understanding we have, indeed, a chance of leaving the world a slightly better place than how we found it.

It is in this spirit that I'm proud to welcome a new RCSD contributor: Mr. Norimichi Kawakami. For those for whom that seems familiar, it was likely in connection with his remarkable 1/3rd scale *Mita* project. The aircraft resulting from this work is magnificent as you will soon see — but in my experience, I don't recall having seen a project which was more meticulously documented. In this issue, we are presenting the first of a number of instalments of Mr. Kawakami's build log — **in the original Japanese**. English-only speakers please don't panic: the author also provides an excellent English translation which we present right along side. But if you **do**

happen to read Japanese, the original text is there for you to enjoy.

Furthermore, I encourage any potential contributor who may not be comfortable writing in English to consider submitting your article in whatever language is best for you. We'll figure out a way of getting it translated so we can present both versions to RCSD readers around the globe.

Also in this month's issue we welcome the return of Pierre Rondel who provides his thoughts on the *Orden* from RTGmodel. Like his *MicroMAX* article in the March issue it is lavishly illustrated and features some of the most beautiful flying sites in the world, bar none (one of which graces this month's cover). James Hammond also returns with the second of his four part design series. This time round, James' master class is dedicated to designing a slope 'allrounder': under his tutelage you, too, can realize that perfect design which can float away on virtually no lift at all and yet can give Spencer Lisenby a scare if you take it to the dark side of the slope. OK, I'm totally exaggerating, but that doesn't make James' article anything less than 'must read'.

Stéphane Ruelle writes entertainingly about the *Spring Soar for Fun Aerotow* in Cumberland, Maryland which he attended recently. One of our favourite photographers, Mike Shellim, contributes a great article on *OpenTX*. The affable Peter Scott has a true nugget that unexpectedly connects the Golden Age of Hollywood to the precious avionics on which we all depend. Tom Broeski also returns with another one of his tips each one of which triggers that highly desirable 'but of course!' response. There are a few other bits and pieces thrown in there, so without further ado, here's the April 2021 issue of RCSD. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. And thank you *so much* for reading.

Fair winds and blue skies!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tamy'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the top of the 'y'.

*One of the goals for every issue is to kick it off with a really eye-popping photo and this month's fit that bill to a tee. Joël Marin's composite photo features frequent contributor Pierre Rondel launching his Aerotec Shinto at Col des Faïsses in the French Alps during August of 2017. Pierre provides the following comments: "Conditions were windy and rather cold temperature for this season. We had very good flying afternoon with good wind and lift in a stunning place!" Yet another place we have **got** to go. Thanks Joël and Pierre. Now, please turn to the [first article](#) in this issue or go to the [table of contents](#).*