



Troop 49 - The Pathfinders  
Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome Trip Report  
September 17 and 18, 2011

**Saturday, September 17, 2011**

Troop 49 gathered for our ritual OLPH lower parking lot kick off at 7:30 AM. It was a crisp, beautiful morning. We had a strong turnout for the trip: 21 scouts, 2 siblings, and 12 adults. Mr. Zakrzewski and Mr. Burns welcomed the scouts to the first trip of the fall season, reviewed safety practices including buddy system rules, and by 7:45, we were on our way to the campground to establish camp.

We reached the camp about 9:30, cleared check-in, and began to set up. We were cooking in 3 patrols - 2 scout/sibling patrols, and one adult patrol - and so we completed tasks necessary to make dinner preparation simpler upon our return.

By 10:30, we had departed for the [Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome](#). ORA is a delightfully simple, unassuming place full of rich aeronautic history. It consists of a grassy landing strip, hangers, and a few buildings with models, concessions and the like on one side of a wooded 2 lane country road. On the other side was parking, 4 hangers, and a gift shop. We parked, purchased tickets and broke into groups to tour the hangers and their magical contents of vintage aircraft dating from the early 1900s to about 1940.

There was much to see, from the familiar manufacturers such as Curtis and Fokker, to many more rare and obscure planes. What is truly remarkable here is the accessibility of everything. Many of these aircraft are one of a kind, or perhaps a "few of a kind", and yet nearly all were close enough to touch.

Following the hanger tour, we gathered for an impromptu tailgate lunch in the grassy parking area and enjoyed warm sunshine and terrific conversation as we watched vintage automobiles and motorcycles driving past on the road, and biplanes, floatplanes and a helicopter passing overhead.

Following lunch, the scouts crossed the road to the airstrip side, some taking seats in the warm afternoon sun, others exploring the model shop, the hangers and of course the snack stand.

The show kicked off about 2:00 PM with a period fashion show featuring visitors to Rhinebeck now dressed in authentic clothing from the early 1900s. The fashion show was followed by a procession of antique cars and motorcycles. Rhinebeck is unique in that there is some "pot luck" involved the day's displays. In addition to the resident equipment collection, shows include aircraft, cars and cycles of unique heritage that happen in for the day. So it was this day; a number of the classic cars and motorcycles featured belonged to people touring the countryside who stopped by for the fun.

The air show proper began around 3:00 with an exciting aerobatic display. That flight was then followed by a number of flights of early aircraft - the culmination of which was the flight of the 1909 Blériot XI - the oldest flying plane in the US and second oldest in the world! It was humbling and amazing to see these seemingly fragile aircraft in flight.

At 4 PM, the show concluded. We took role, pack up, and headed back to camp. Our patrols got to work immediately. Mark P. and Michael H. got busy heating sauce for meatball sandwiches for their patrol while Christopher and Matthew L. were busy cooking pasta to go with the meatballs for their patrol. Dave L. and a few adults fired up charcoal in the pit. The adults were having hanger steak and potatoes. Thanks Dave! A few of the adults set about gathering picnic tables and in what seemed like just a few minutes, we were saying evening grace and having a wonderful dinner!

Dishes were dispatched quickly after a refresher in the three pan system, and before long the scouts vanished leaving the adults to enjoy a gentle campfire. For the next hour or so, the scouts engaged in a rollicking game of capture the flag - or whatever it you call Man Hunt when you can't play Man Hunt ;o). About 8 PM, all returned to camp and campfire for conversation and camaraderie. By 10, evidence of a good and busy day was present as tent by tent, scout surrendered to the call of their pillows. All was quiet by 10:00 PM.

### **Sunday, September 18, 2011**

The camp began to stir Sunday about 6:45 - quite a late start for our crew. Perhaps it was the 42 degree air that kept everyone snuggled in their bags. As the sun poured in to our East-facing campsite, the dinner crew continued on the morning shift with pancakes - sausages or bacon accompanied, depending on which scout patrol you were in. Cooking pancakes on a camp grill is one of the more challenging meals one can prepare. After wrestling with heat settings and grill oil amounts, the cooks were soon turning out some pretty good looking cakes! The adults, meanwhile, were enjoying Dave Leymeister's sausage and egg English muffin sandwiches. Excellent!

By 9:30, camp was clean, the trailer was packed, and Will F., our Leave No Trace Coordinator was leading a sweep of camp. You can be sure the scouts left it better than they found it!

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Burns, ASM

### **Lessons Learned:**

- As with many museums, there is a great deal of knowledge to be gleaned from the exhibits, but it is seldom obvious. Such was the case here; without someone to interpret what they were seeing, the scouts struggled to maintain interest. If we repeated the trip, we would suggest breaking the scouts into small groups and pairing them with informed adults to view and interpret the exhibits. In addition, the Sunday show, with its more theatrical and adventuresome agenda, might be a preferred choice.
- The campground was quite nice, and we would stay again without hesitation.  
Interlake RV Park / [www.interlakervpark.com](http://www.interlakervpark.com)  
428 Lake Drive, Rhinebeck, NY 12572 / 845-266-5387

In addition, if there is room, there is a place for scouts to camp at Rhinebeck. It was in use when we visited, and we did not use it.