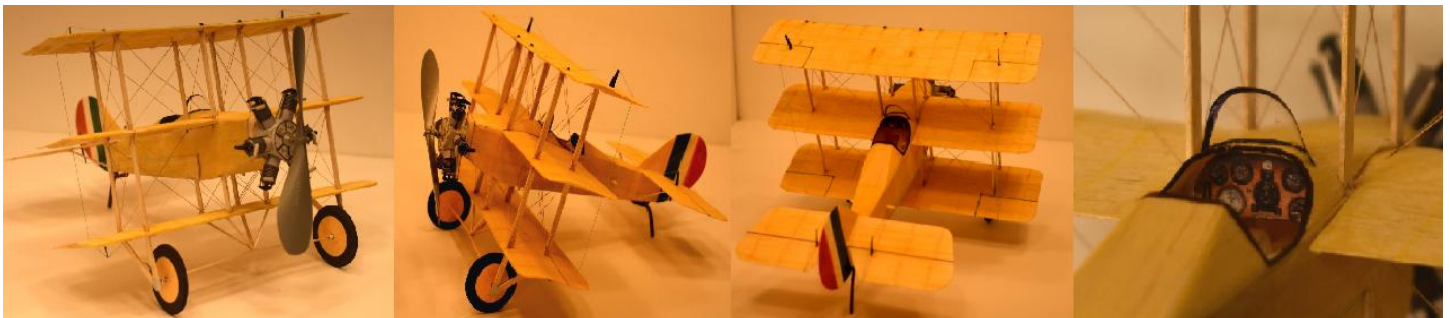


Angus: Peter, your little Caproni-Pensuti Triplane is an amazing model. Very stable with little or no dihedral... and it's an all-sheet balsa Pistachio to boot. Tell us some about what you were looking to accomplish with this model. Any interesting design considerations?. Anything you'd do different?

Peter: I have been fascinated by the Pensuti for ages but not quite sure how to do it or if it would work. I started playing with the idea of a DIME version. To look right, it needs to have as little dihedral as possible. Then, the idea of an all sheet pistachio occurred to me as a low risk approach. The balsa was given some chalk for color and "ribs", and weight was saved by omitting tissue and finish. It was a very fast build with the construction worked out on the fly.

The Pensuti has a very short nose, pinched in behind the exposed engine. The model's nose was extended and widened (for rubber access) and downthrust built in. The Anzani hides a bit of that fudging, and no additional balance weight was needed. The Anzani engine is a fun part of the build.

For stability, washout was added to all wingtips, the top two wings have a hint of dihedral visible eyeballing along the leading edge, not even one degree. The wings and stab are all at zero incidence. The fact that it is stable just tickles me.



AM: Clearly you're having a lot of fun with the little Pensuti, but then you've been having fun with lots of different model airplanes over the years – from autogiros and ornithopters, to Jimmy Allen's, low wing twin scale models, profile catapult jet gliders and more. That's quite a range of interest – is there any sort of aeromodelling philosophy that you subscribe to?

PK: Daydreaming, as in wouldn't a Pensuti be nice? Everyone should build a Jimmie Allen and an OTR job just to see how the old timers did things.

AM: The BLUR has been a crowd-pleasing FAC event for many years and you've been a leading proponent. You were instrumental in getting the Fibonacci Sequence adopted to run flyers evenly through the head to head racing heats and it's worked great. How did this idea come to you? Thoughts on the future for this event?

PK: Thanks, I had some complaints about how the event was run and scored, so I got tasked along with Ralph Kuenz with writing BLUR rules. The only thing I regret is calling the heat rotation FIBONACCI, which it isn't, and that scared a lot of people. It is really a round robin. I take credit for the scoring of 2, 1, or 0 for over first, finished, and did not finish, and not eliminating entries for dorking. I wouldn't change anything except possibly the course dimensions, and I always liked the idea of four contestants instead of 3, with four heats for each pilot instead of three.

AM: Well, we saved the best question for last...what's on your drawing/building board for the coming outdoor season... and why?

PK: I'm just sort of waiting for one to bubble up to the top of the build list. Maybe something off the pile of kits in the basement. Hmm, maybe an all-sheet short wing Piper. But dare I say it, I do want an electric RC Victory with rudder and elevator so I can fly it on the SILF field 20 minutes from home. Oh and I drew an updated version of the PONY twin Embryo.