

BY Vincenzo Pedrielli

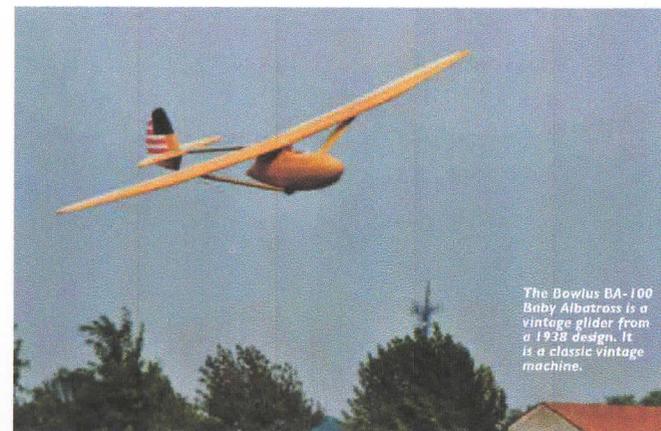
3RD ITALIAN SCALE VINTAGE GLIDER MEET

A GATHERING WHERE OLD IS NEW!

Interest in building and flying RC vintage gliders is exploding in Italy. Many modelers find that modern composite gliders look too similar to each other, but vintage sailplanes, on the other hand, are very distinctive. The full-scale aircraft the models copy were all designed and built differently because the designers were searching for better performance using the empirical method. Consequently, the fuselages, wings, empennages and even canopy always had a different design and look. Also, many of the vintage gliders were built at home or in small shops.

It is therefore not surprising that vintage gliders are challenging to replicate. Fortunately, though, many model glider designers are tackling

This 1930s vintage Libratore Bonomi BS.17 Allievo Canti is an excellent example of what vintage gliders represent.



The Bowlus BA-100 Baby Albatross is a vintage glider from a 1938 design. It is a classic vintage machine.

the challenge of drawing plans and building them head on. As a result, RC glider meets for these creations are starting to pop up all over Europe, with some in the U.S. as well.

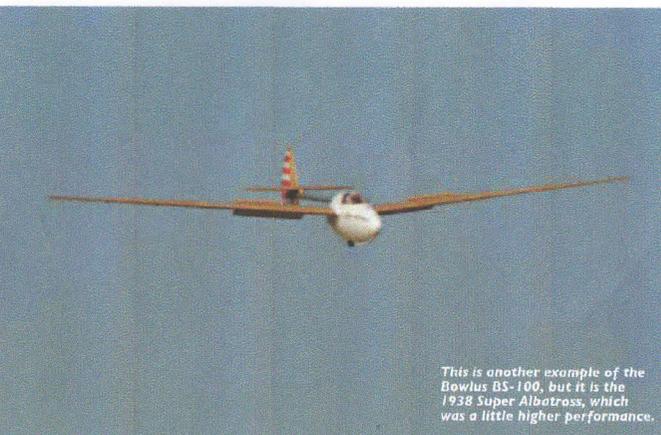
Most RC glider meets include both vintage and modern gliders, either for slope soaring or aerotowing. The model glider club in Cremona, the home of the famous violin maker Stradivarius, is called the Gruppo Aeromodellistico Cremonese. Many of their members fly vintage gliders. The club just held its third annual scale vintage glider aerotow meet. What made it distinctive was that only vintage gliders were allowed to be flown—a

change from most meets.

The club has 33 members with an average age of 50. However, the age range of the club members is 11 to 85. They are led by Marco Pattoni and Tullio Facchin.

The airfield consists of two parallel grass runways measuring 650 x 175 ft (200 x 25 m), an area for model flight preparation and a wide parking area 125 ft (40 m) from the runways. It is a near-perfect site for aerotowing gliders and sailplanes.

On Sunday, October 14, 2012, the third Scale Vintage Glider Meet took place at the airfield of Annicco, on the outskirts of Cremona. A total of 37 model builders/pilots, six tow



This is another example of the Bowlus BS-100, but it is the 1938 Super Albatross, which was a little higher performance.



This shows you just how enthusiastic the pilots and modelers are about vintage gliders and sailplanes.

pilots and about 50 scale vintage gliders took part.

There was a significant variety of sailplanes being displayed and flown. Pilots brought their aircraft from many parts of the world. Their

models were copied after famous gliders by prominent designers such as Hans Jakob, Slingsby, Schweizer, Wolf Hirth and George Mueller. As expected, almost a third of the scale models were of German designs,

such as the Minimoa, Kranich IIB, Rhönsperber, Wolf, Goppingen, Rhönbussard, Grunau Baby, Habicht, Reiher, Ka3, Ka6, Ka8 and Bergfalke. Polish designs included the Orlik II, SZD Bocian and SZD Foka. Three Italian sailplanes attended: the Sparviero, the Turbine of Teichfuss and the Allievo Cantu of Bonomi Silva. A Schweizer SGS I-26E, a Baby Albatross and a Super Albatross represented the United States designs. Other scale models rounded out the meet like the Harbinger, the Musger MG 19A, the Kirby Kite, the Macka and the Stakanovtz. Sorry if I forgot any!

Although the event had a cloudy beginning, the skies cleared in the afternoon, which offered excellent thermal conditions and long-lasting flights. Competition was not the goal of the meet. Rather, it was just a

Here is an example of the KBI-14 Macka aerobatic glider, which was a 1959 design that was built from plans.



gathering of pilots and aircraft where everyone could enjoy great flying and make new friendships.

Making a good event a great one, lunch was provided for the pilots at the RC airfield. Doing so gave everyone the opportunity to chat about the event and future building projects as they enjoyed some wonderful Italian food—after all this is Italy.

All the pilots/builders are looking forward to next year's meet. Come and join us if you can find the time. Italy is a wonderful country, and the soaring is good too. By the way, you can contact me for more information at vincenzopedrielli@gmail.com.

The Musger Mg 19a Steinadler is a 1951 design. It shows you just how different the design was from another at the time.

Our Scale Vintage Gliders flyer invites pilots from around the world to come and join in the fun we have in Italy.

My friend Stefano shows off his 1933 Rhönbussard, a German design that proved to be very successful and popular.

This Rhönsperber is modeled after a 1936 German design, which was flown in the Olympics.



**SCALE VINTAGE GLIDERS MEETING
OF CREMONA**

SCALE VINTAGE GLIDERS

3rd edition

GLIDER THE PATRONAGE OF FIAMM

ON SATURDAY 29th AND SUNDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2012,
ON THE GRUPPO AEROMODELLISTICO CREMONESE AIRFIELD IN
ARINGO, THE 3RD VINTAGE GLIDER AERO-TOW WILL TAKE PLACE.

The participants will fly with classically structured replica models that reproduce gliders designed before 1960. No ready-made models will be admitted.
Flights will start at 10:00 am and participants' tow pilots are welcome.
Music can be served on the spot and camping area is available near the airfield.

For directions to the Arinco (Cremona) gliding field, visit
www.gac-cremona.it

For further information and to ensure your attendance, please contact
vincenzopedrielli@gmail.com
or call Vincenzo +39 0362 630690

