

President's Corner

Club Meeting

Last month's club meeting at the West Side Café was great. We had a great presentation by Charlie Powell, and the giveaway aroused everyone's interest. Eventually, the giveaway was won by Ricky Goode. Ricky also brought his projector and computer to run through a flight simulation demo.

As this particular giveaway was so popular last month, this month's club meeting will also feature the same package. Here is what you can win just for showing up and buying a \$1 ticket.

- GWS Picostik
- Speed Controller
- Flight Battery
- Receiver (with crystal)
- Motor, gearbox, and propellor
- 2 sub-micro servos

All you need to add is your transmitter to embark into the world of slow flying. Next month I'll change the giveaway to a park flyer of some kind; perhaps something along the lines of a "Crazy Sparrow" or "Terry."

This month's club meeting will feature Sparky and his foam techniques. If you have seen Sparky's work before, you will know that he is an expert builder. What he will show us this month should not be missed by anyone!

Christmas Party 2001

It looks like the Christmas party will be on Saturday 1st December at the Botanic Gardens. The club has decided that this will be a self catered event though all the tables and chairs and other fixtures are supplied by the Botanic Gardens.

Field Improvements

Neil Lyle, our Vice President, will be discussing the latest developments of the clubs proposed expansion. I'm quite positive about the prospect of expanding the shaded areas and improving the field in other ways. It will take a concerted effort on behalf of all club members to achieve our goals, not the least of which is raising the necessary capital and labor. Once a design and decision have been made, then a series of fund raising events will commence.

To promote the fund raising, I will propose that a small committee of club members be appointed to identify, organize, and introduce these activities to the membership at large. These activities could be in the form of pledges, raffles, events, cookouts, or whatever the

committee deems appropriate. I urge you to volunteer your time and effort to make our field better than it already is.

Lake Levels

It is either feast or famine for Benbrook lake, and right now it is filled to capacity. If the rain continues we may see the field closed for period as it was a few years ago. While out at the field this past weekend (in between showers), I noticed that the ground was completely saturated and incapable of absorbing more precipitation. Not so long ago we had a wager on when the field would reopen. You selected a date and donated a few dollars which went into a pool (no pun intended). The winner received a prize and the rest of the money went toward club improvements; the runway I think it was. Perhaps we will get to wager on it again this year as a way to raise money for the shaded areas.

Electric Power

If you have not tried out something electric, what about looking into it this year? There have been some incredible developments in the areas of aircraft, motors, controllers, radios, and batteries; enough to please any technophile while still engaging the average pilot.

I broke down and bought a 70" glider with a 480 motor and a reduction gearbox. The motor prop combination is putting out close to 1:1 thrust to weight ratio so I'm sure the performance will be impressive. On eight 600mAh capacity cells the motor will run for two minutes. This ought to be enough for three or four good climbs in search of a thermal. Later, I intend to build a "park flyer" much like the ones we are giving away at the club meeting, unless of course, I win the one we are giving away (6 tickets for \$5: I'm really trying!). Several other members have geared up for electric flight thereby joining Mr. GE himself, Fitz Walker. I will be relying on him heavily to optimize the motor and battery performance in the glider and teaching me some of the finer points.

While researching performance metrics for the glider, I came across a couple of simple formulae:

$$\text{Load} = \text{Prop Diameter}^4 * \text{Pitch}$$

$$\text{Speed} = \text{Pitch} * \text{rpm} * 0.000947$$

$$\text{Horse Power} = \text{Load} * \text{rpm}^3 / 1.4 * 10^{17}$$

This information came from the help file of a thrust calculation program by Barry Hobson. You can download it at: <http://freespace.virgin.net/barry.hobson/>

District VIII SouthWestern Aeromodeling Conference

Some information from our district Vice President, Dr. Sandy Frank.

May 18-19, 2001 the District VIII volunteer staff will be hard at work at the Arlington, Texas Convention Center (located on I-30 between Ft.Worth and Dallas and the Ballpark in Arlington). Everyone is invited to be part of one of the grandest gatherings of model aircraft enthusiasts in the country. In addition, there will be a continuous indoor flying demonstrations from 9 a.m.until 5 p.m.(both Friday and Saturday).

This year all general admission will be done "at the door" (an admission of five dollars each will be collected daily with those 12 years and younger admitted free).

Swap shop participants will set up the morning of May 18. There will be no preregistration for swap shop participants and spaces available will be on a first-come basis with a \$10 per table fee collected daily.

A tremendous lineup of guest speakers, seminars and workshops will include:

Grand Wing Servo Co. President and CEO, Mr.Houng Wen Lin of the Taiwan R.O.C. (Fri.) (He is the MFG. of the Litestick/PicoStick.)

Mr. Wes DeCou, AMA Western Regional flying site assistance coordinator, will present seminars both Friday and Saturday on the topic of "Getting and Keeping Flying Sites".

Ms. Elizabeth Helms, editor of the AMA national newsletter, will participate in a major workshop for club newsletter Editors (Saturday 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.).

Mrs. Joyce Hager, Executive Director of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, will attend and be available throughout the conference to discuss organizational concerns, programs and general AMA information.

There will be a registration free static display of model aircraft with "members choice voting" for the top 20 models.

Both Friday evening and Saturday evening after the close of the commercial exhibits we will host a commission-free public auction of model aircraft and components. Last year the Saturday evening auction was a highlight of the entire event with absolutely world-class purchases and transactions available.

The SouthWestern Aeromodeling Conference-2001 is scheduled to be an absolutely "Must Attend" event for anyone who desires to be "Where the Action IS" for aircraft modeling in the year 2001.

Please plan to attend this tremendous gathering. It is "Your Attendance" which will determine the longevity of this event.

Lost Keys

A set of keys were found at the field. A small LED type mini-flashlight is attached to the keyring. If these are yours, contact me and I'll get them to you.

Well, that is about it for this month, see you at the meeting and the field.