

The R/C Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Manned Spacecraft Center Radio Control Club

January 1999

From the Editors Desk

By: Preston Hunt

Well, another year has come and gone and now it's time for the newly elected club officers to get down to work. I sincerely hope this will be a productive year. As you know we are now providing an electronic version of the newsletter. It is available to you in two ways. The first is simply picking it up on the home page at <http://www.pheonix.net/~mlaible/msc.html> and the second is to have it e-mailed directly to you. We are asking members to subscribe to the electronic version if at all possible. By subscribing to the electronic edition you will not only be helping the club save money on postage and production cost, but will also reap the benefits of faster delivery (you will get your copy the same day it is mailed to the publisher). You will also get additional benefits such as links to interesting rc related sites, links to club photos as they become available and more. •

December Christmas Party

By: Preston Hunt

The Christmas party was very nice again this year. We had a good variety of goodies brought by the attending members. The turnout was fair even though I did not get an exact count of the attendees. After everyone had gotten their fill, we took a silent vote on the Model of the Year. Faye Beth's (please forgive me if I misspelled your name) Lazy Bee won the vote for M.O.Y. out of the three contenders. Again please forgive me for not having all the contenders names and planes

listed, I was not taking notes and our secretary was not in attendance.

According to my records, it was decided in the October meeting that the model of the year winner would receive a \$100.00 gift certificate from Texas Model Trends at the Christmas party, as would the fun fly overall winner for the year who is Joseph Parlanti. Don Fisher had agreed to secure the gift certificates. Don was under the weather and did not attend the Christmas party so we did not have the certificates to give out. Hopefully we can get these to the recipients during the January meeting. •

To Rotor or Not Part 2

By: Preston Hunt

Having realized that my decision to fly model helicopters was in all counts the correct one, I soon figured out that unlike a fixed wing, the heli could always offer me a new challenge. What I mean by this is that a model heli can do just about anything that you can think of to try, all it takes is practice and enough guts to try it. So unlike a fixed wing where you start off with a trainer and then move to the next level/style of plane, a helicopter can be setup to be a docile trainer. Then with few changes in the setup, become a radical 3D performer capable of maneuvers that will keep even the experienced heli pilots on their toes.

This brings me to the Q&A area of model heli's. I am often asked "Are helicopters hard to learn to fly". In my opinion – NO. The main thing to consider here is that it takes patience, persistence & practice. If you envision yourself blazing around the skies or doing acrobatic feats within a few months of first taking the sticks, then save yourself the trouble, heartache & money. Another question that is normally asked is "Isn't it

more expensive". Well in Mike Goza's words, "It all relevant". To put it in perspective lets look at an example.

We will start our fixed wing student with a Tower Trainer 40 with an OS 40 LA and a Tower 4-channel radio for around \$241.93 shipped. The student then upgrades to a Hobbico Starfire 40 with a OS 46 FX for \$236.98 shipped. After a while we once again upgrade him to a Hobbico Extra 300 with a OS 61 FX and a Futaba 8UAFS radio for \$676.97 shipped.

For our heli student we will start with a X-Cell 60 sport, Webra 61 H, a duel rate gyro with heading lock and a Futaba 8UHFS radio for \$1215.89 shipped.

In the above examples, Our fixed wing pilot spent \$1155.88 to go from training equipment to full blown acrobatics with a quality radio. Our heli pilot spent \$1215.89 to go from training to virtually unlimited capabilities with the same equipment he started with. That's only about \$60.00 more. Like I said, it's a matter of perspective.

"What's a good helicopter to start with?" is another question that is frequently asked. There is no right answer to this question. I would suggest you first figure out what price range you want to be in. You can get into heli's for as little as \$620.00 including radio and go up from there. Then look to see how available parts are for the heli's you are interested in. Third, check with the local heli pilots and see what they are flying. (You will need their help so it's best to have a chopper that they are familiar with). At our club we fly a fair variety of brands which include X-Cell, JR Ergo, Kyosho Concept & Nexus, Shuttle and the Intrepid.

Myths and Facts about heli's.

Myth, "Helicopters require a tremendous amount of maintenance." My experience has shown that this is just not true. If you purchase a good helicopter and set it up correctly, then the maintenance is really not much more than you would do for a good fixed wing aircraft. All you really need to do is keep it clean, oil the bearings

and bushing surfaces occasionally and check for component wear.

Myth, "Helicopters are hard to fly." See above.

Myth, "Helicopters are expensive." It's a matter of your point of view. See examples above.

Fact, "Helicopters are easier to fly in higher winds than a fixed wing." With a heli, the rotor blades are at flying speed during the entire flight and are there for less subject to the effects of wind gust. You will experience an increase in lift when the heli is hit by a gust of wind due to transitional lift. It will not bank side to side like a fixed wing does. Upon landing, the heli encounters ground affect which tends to stabilize it just prior to touch down.

Fact, "Helicopters do not need a runway." Makes sense. Comes in real handy when the field is full of water puddles. Another benefit is that there is no such thing as a crosswind runway.

Fact, "Helicopters are not for everyone." If you do not have patience and a sincere desire to have fun while on an infinite learning curve then helicopters are not for you.



The bottom line is that in my opinion, you just can't compare the amount of fun and excitement that you can have with a model helicopter over that of a model plane. Like I said, heli's are not for everyone but for those of us who dare to take the challenge, it's a journey you won't regret.

If you're interested in helicopters, visit [HeliBuf's](http://HeliBuf.com) web site for a lot of good information for the beginners and experts alike. •

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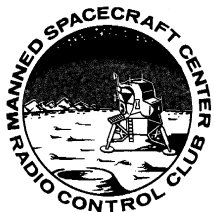
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Articles and want ads can be submitted to Preston Hunt at Rt.3 Box 685 Dickinson, TX 77539 in hardcopy, ASCII or Microsoft Word or emailed to preston.hunt@gte.net

Club Homepage <http://www.pheonix.net/~mlaible/msc.html>

Next Meeting January 14th 1999 at 7:30pm

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