

February 1994

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The News Letter of the *Manned Space Center Radio Control Club*

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## President's Corner

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Ed Copeland

Thanks go out to Ray and Rescha for bringing the refreshments to the last meeting. I went back about 3 times. Good choice of cookies. Also, thanks to our airplane of the month contestants and to Ray Randolph who brought one that he chose not to compete. Ray brought a beautiful Cherokee that I would like to see in the air. Wayne Green won with a Goldberg Extra 300 with a really nice finish and choice of colors. Both these planes will fly with flaperons mixed in the transmitter. That will also be interesting. I was particularly partial to the combat scale (1:12) Messerschmitt ME109 powered by a ST 15. I would like to see that one fly, as well.

The two new topics we discussed drew some good comments and ideas. The committee on fun fly activity has already met and I understand they will be ready to make a recommendation at the next meeting. We also had good ideas on how to arrange a special award for novice builders who bring in their planes. I think this is important and we should have some resolution at the next meeting.

The fun fly idea is something that we should all try to support. An effort will be made to insure that most any kind of plane, particularly a trainer, is adequate and not handicapped. I am finishing a GP Trainer  
*(continued on Page 2)*

## Words From The VP

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Ray Randolph

**Things in work** -- The January club meeting addressed and initiated some of what I think are important functions for the club.

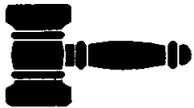
The novice class of builder for a Model-of-the-Month award is being defined and should give the younger or less experienced folks a chance to be recognized and rewarded for their efforts. Not having to go nose-to-nose with the "old salts" might be an added incentive to get more novice participation in displaying their projects. I hope we can enact a policy on this subject at the upcoming meeting.

**Next Meeting  
This Thursday  
February 10th  
7:30 PM  
Clear Lake Park Building**

There is a committee formed to define and plan the club events for '94. Yours truly is a committee member and I would like to see some fun fly events with handicap systems that allow all our members to participate. Also, some nice prizes should be offered to those individuals willing to "jump in the fray".  
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## Minutes from the January 1994 Meeting

Resha Hill - Secretary



Ed Copeland called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter.

### Old Business:

-Don Fisher promises to work on the Frequency Pin tree/box.

### New Business:

-A committee was formed to revive fun flies.

-Discussion was held on having two Model-of-the-Month awards, one for the Novice builder and the other for the Expert. Plans were made to bring definitions of Novice and Expert will to the February meeting so that voting can take place.

-Discussion were on the floor again regarding some type of "youth involvement program". Mike Laible will try to gather information and bring a report to our next meeting.

### Model of the Month:

Wayne Green took home the trophy for the Extra-300 he brought in. This plane is powered by a Webra 120 two-stroke engine. Wayne installed a smoke system and covered the plane with Ultracoat. He will be using a JR X-347 radio to fly his bird.

### Refreshments

Don Fisher volunteered to keep us fed at the February meeting. Thanks Don.

## The R/C Flyer

EDITOR

**Jerry Hajek**

ASSEMBLY AND POSTING

**Daniel Hamala**

Articles and want ads can be submitted to Jerry Hajek, 486-4722 or on 5.25" or 3.5" floppies in ASCII, Word Perfect, PFS, Word Star, Modem Xfer, or hard copy formats sent to: 1035 Bellgreen, Houston 77062. "Support Your R/C Flyer"

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60 for the activity simply because there happened to be one lying around that was almost ready. Actually, a 20 size sport or utility airplane should be adequate.

### Tall Tales from the Building Bench

Talking about the Trainer 60, I decided to convert it from a nose dragger to a tail dragger. I saw one like that at the field this weekend that seemed to point the way. But somehow I had forgotten how to do the hardwood gear attach block to accommodate 1/4x20 nylon bolts. I grabbed a scrap of ordinary 3/8 inch exterior ply rather than aircraft grade or solid birch. When I threaded the part all the threads crumbled and fell out of the hole. Oh well! live and re-learn. But when I did it the second time I finally remembered the trick of saturating the threads with thin CA to add strength. However, when I went back in to clean out the threads I discovered that I hadn't waited long enough for the CA to cure. My tap got stuck! Then when I finally got it out it took most of the threads with it. Oh well! live and re-learn the re-learn. Then I remembered that Charles had bought some pre-threaded hardwood blocks for just that purpose. All I had to do was find where he hid them and now I've got it! He can live and re-learn when he looks for his blocks. By the way I couldn't resist the temptation to design an enclosed cowl using AeroDraw. Looks weird though, the spinner is too small.

Bring your ideas to the meeting on both the fun fly and the airplane awards. The more discussion the better.

*---See you at the field---*

(VP from Page 1)

There is a committee looking at approaches and affiliations to introduce some of the junior population to the wonders of model aviation. At the last meeting there were discussions that touched on hand-launch gliders or U-control planes as vehicles for introduction to the hobby. While not being against any approach that encourages young person involvement, this is a radio control club and the resources (planes, buddy boxes, etc.) are RC based. Maybe further discussion on philosophy is in order to clarify our intent.

**Mini-project report** -- Hobby Lobby International markets a small electronic module called an "acoustic glow plug switch". This unit is an onboard installation to provide reliable idle for 4-cycle engines (or any engine for that matter). The basic module is powered by a 1.2 volt Ni-Cad "C" cell and Radio Shack sells a battery holder with contact points and leads that works well for installation in a plane. The system consists of the electronic module (approx. 1 x 1/2 x 2 inches), the battery, a glow plug lead and attachment, a ground lead and an on-off switch and harness. Once activated, the unit uses acoustic input (via a small mic.) to power the glow plug on and off. The basic idea is to power the plug during low engine rpm and idle. When the engine accelerates above idle speed, the switch cuts off power to the glow plug. Also, the switch interrupts power should the engine quit. The sound generated by an electric starter is sufficient to activate the switch and power the plug for initial start-up.

I've mounted one of these units in my Cherokee to power the Enya 4-cycle engine. So far during break-in, the unit has operated very well. During a first time run of the engine, an idle of 2500 rpm was held with no tendency to quit. There is a "pot" adjustment to vary the on/off point to the desired engine speed. This is a neat gadget, although the \$39.95 price might be a little high. On the other hand, what's it worth to avoid "Dead Sticks."

**Cherokee Update** -- The plane is done and was shown at the January meeting as a show-n-tell. I've had one break-in run on the engine. It probably needs another twenty minutes of run-time and then - - away

we go! I hope to have flown the plane by the time this newsletter is issued.

**Meeting entertainment** -- The February meeting entertainment will be presented by Dean Umberger and Wylie Brown who are two of the faces behind "HI-G Promotions". HI-G is promoting the Galveston Unlimited and AT-6 Air Races which are scheduled to take place at the Galveston Airport from May 10 through May 15. For our meeting, there will be an Unlimited plane on display and Dean is bringing videos of last years Houston AT-6 Race and also the Madera event which took place in October. Most of the RC publications are giving a lot of coverage of the Madera races. It should be interesting to hear the eye-witness accounts (Ed - we need your VCR and monitor again, please).

Well, I think I'm about out of "gas" so I'll get on "Final" and taxi out of here. You guys out there, don't forget Valentines Day!

---See you at the next meeting---

From  
The  
Editor



Is anyone out there? Is anyone building? Is anyone flying? Is anyone thinking of building or flying? If so the R/C Flyer is waiting to hear from you.

The club officers have done a great job in keeping us informed and sharing their building and flying experiences. Now it's your turn to share with us your ideas and experiences. Whether it's informative or just a good story, we would like you to share it with us. You can send your thoughts to me in any form, sketches, CAD drawings, hardcopy, softcopy, scratch copy, or whatever I'll give it a good presentation.

---Support "Your" R/C Flyer---

jerry hajek - Editor

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**February 1994**

### ***Fuel for Sale***

Jim Brock 334-1715  
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Charles Copeland 532-1570  
Tas Crowson 474-9531  
Don Fisher 474-4942(H) 483-2157(W)  
Wayne Green 484-3151  
Don White 488-3151

### ***Instructors***

John Campo 488-7748  
Charles Copeland 326-2360  
Paul Ellis 480-3893(H) 488-9878(W)  
Don Fisher 474-4942(H) 483-2157(W)  
Mike Goza (Heli and Airplane)  
554-4016(H) 483-4696(W)  
Wayne Green (Heli) 484-3151  
Jerry Hajek 486-4722(H) 246-4312(W)  
David Hoffman 476-5206(H) 479-1945(W)  
David Tadlock (Glider) 481-5227