



# The R/C Flyer

Volume 38, Issue 03

March 2013

**Next Meeting – March 14, 2013, Clear Lake Park Building– 7:00 PM**



## **IN THE PITS**

by Michael Laible

I hope everybody is having a great first of the year. Sure seems like we have had some strange weather lately. I don't know about you guys, but everytime I get a chance to fly it seems like the wind speed is off the charts. Starting to get a little cranky from the lack of flying. Oh well, good quality building time.

I have been hoping Google would update the web site with the latest pic of the runway. Well, check it out. The JSC RC runway showing its true color and stripes. This is crazy, but if you blow it up I can tell who cars are there. Lets see who can identify all cars!!



Remember the swap meet on March 23 at the Gilruth Blue Bonnet Pavilion. More information is located in the article below.

Also note the article by Dave Bacque, JSCRC Safety Officer. Please review the safety rules, flight procedures, and by-laws of the club. All these can be found on the club website under club documents. Remember we must take off and fly on the far side of the closest solid white line. No matter what type of aircraft. Safety is everyone's concern.

As always, Godspeed and safe landings.

Mike L.

## **FEBRUARY MEETING**

by Mike Laible

Guest/Visitor: Larry Abbott - wants to do high quality aerial photography with "quad-copter" (I think that's what you call those 4 rotor helos?) - wanted to meet people familiar with electrics.

Ken White will bring refreshments for March

Swap meet - per Don White there will be craft show and sale the same day but inside? parking should be only issue; Blaine planning to cook

Herman says we have 72-75 members; new field passes should be required at field by end of month

Dave not there - no treasurer report

SAM event moved to March 2 - everyone welcome regardless of aircraft

Brian Campopiano and Larry Baley will build a starting stand similar to Texas City's (with two wheels so it can be moved) and see if the club likes it

Cecil S showed his styrofoam very scale electric P38

Phil E showed his styrofoam scale DeHaviland Beaver



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## **SWAP MEETS**

*by Mike McGraw*

Our swap meet will be Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9am to 2pm at one of the Pavilions at the Gilruth Center. \$5.00 admission fee for all sellers and buyers. Spouses and children are free. So far, a handful of volunteers have come forward, and if you would like to help, please call or email me and I will add you to the volunteer list. We will need admission booth workers, concessions workers, and clean-up crew. We also need two "R/C Swap Meet" signs which can be posted on both sides of Space Center showing the turn into the Gilruth Center. This inaugural outdoor swap meet will benchmark if we want to make this an annual event. The event has been listed in the non-flying section of the March AMA Model Aviation Magazine contest calendar as well as on R/C Universe, so I am hoping for a good turn out from flyers from the surrounding communities.

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## **AN OPEN LETTER ON SAFETY AND COURTESY**

*by Dave Bacque, JSC RC Safety Officer*

While I am the club Safety Officer, sometimes I feel I am the only person at the field who is speaking up about safety issues. We have gone from being a very lightly used field to being busy on weekends. And with that growth comes responsibility. We have many new fliers and we have the responsibility to teach them how to fly safely. We also have more experienced members who are used to our historically uncrowded conditions and occasionally need to be reminded that safety is more of a concern than it used to be.

Safety is not the sole responsibility of the Safety Officer, it's everybody's job. It used to be that I would gently walk up to a person after they landed and quietly remind them of the rules. So I've decided that a little reminder of the safety rules is a good thing. I suggest everybody should not only be willing, but should feel obligated to do the same thing. Try to think along the lines of your child or grandchild being at the field, you would definitely say something if you thought they were being endangered by careless or thoughtless flying. Well, please have the same consideration for your club mates. Please review all the safety rules that are located on the clubs website. One obvious one is no taxi or take off from the pits, inside the solid white line. Also, no flying inside the solid white line and follow the pattern.

On the topic of having gone from being a small group of mostly intermediate and advanced fliers to today being a large, diverse group with many new pilots, a wider range of aircraft types and larger numbers of fliers at the field, we also need to revisit field etiquette. Everybody at the field is there to fly. Everybody wants to fly just as you do. But not everybody feels as comfortable as

others about flying with multiple planes in the air and not every plane is made for that type of flight. We need to take mercy on the new pilot who is hesitant to take off because of heavy activity. We need to give large, complex, expensive or hand built models the room they deserve. And we need to let people of different flight disciplines have the space require for an occasional flight in the style they prefer. And face it, some folks just prefer to fly with fewer planes in the air just because it is more relaxing. Every single one of these people is a member, has paid their dues and deserves their chance to fly. I admit it, I'm one of those who prefers to fly solo. And I recognize that people who enjoy flying as a group have every right to do so and I realize that they will get more flight time than someone who is willing to wait for a break in the traffic. But those group fliers should recognize that the person who has just waited 2 hours for a little airspace should probably be allowed to get in a 6 – 8 minute flight without an interruption.

Is this really a safety issue? You bet it is! If a pilot is rattled by having a large airplane making a pass close to his plane, he has just lost concentration and is more at risk of losing control. Or if a swarm of small electrics take off behind him and he can't tell where they air, he may be a safety risk as he takes his eyes off his airplane to find out where the quiet ones are. But most of all it comes down to common courtesy and communication, something that is dreadfully lacking in society today. If you've made 3 or 4 flights while somebody has obviously been sitting and patiently waiting for hours to get in one flight, how about sitting out a few minutes, enjoying the company of your friends and letting somebody else fly. If you see a person standing next to their airplane on the flight line waiting for a break in the traffic, please be considerate and give them the elbow room they are obviously looking for. After all, they

sat out and allowed you to fly, don't you think they deserve the same consideration?

Safety (and etiquette) is YOUR responsibility!

## Upcoming Events

April 27-28 New Waverly Big Bird  
May 4-5 Kingsbury Spring fly in  
June 1 Monaville Warbird  
June 14-16 Warbirds over Texas  
Sept 19-21 B-17 Monaville  
Oct 5-6 Kingsbury Dist VIII Fly in  
Oct 11-12 Katy Warbirds  
Nov 2 Dayton Warbirds

## Club Officers

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## The R/C Flyer

Articles and Want Ads may be submitted to the Editor, Mike Laible at [mrlaible@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrlaible@sbcglobal.net)

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## Club Homepage

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<http://www.jsrcc.com>

## FOR SALE

Items for Sale by Terry Dunn

<http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=1834325#post24168699>

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Fitz Walker has a friend selling some heli Parts:

T-Rex 500 Helicopter and JR Radio. His name is Ron Cook and you can reach him at 713-823-9654 for details.