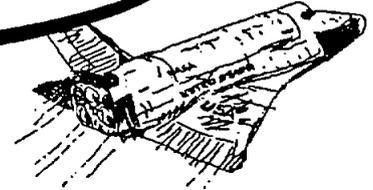


The **R** **C** Flyer



April 1990



The Newsletter of the *Manned Space Center Radio Control Club*

WHAT GOES UP ...

As you can tell by when the newsletter came out, it was determined that the field cleanup day be postponed. I postponed the event because the field did not look like it had been swept yet. There were still rocks everywhere, especially in the pits. Oh well maybe next month!

Charles Copeland will help ramrod the Scale Contest and Mrs. Stevens will continue to be the phone contact focal point. Jim Brock has finished and printed the contest flyers. He has even sent some of them out to manufacturers. He will attempt to bring some to the club meeting.

Speaking of Jim, I received a nice note from Jim and Mary thanking the club for sending some get well flowers to Mary. No thanks were really necessary; the club just wanted you both to know that we were thinking of you. Hope to see both of you real soon.

Well that's it for this month. See you at the club meeting or at the field. Keep'em flying!

Mike Goza

FUEL



-Jim Brock 334-1715
-John Campo 488-7748
-Tas Crowson 474-9531
-Don White 488-1024

NEXT MEETING
THIS THURSDAY
April 12th
at 7:30 PM
in the Clear Lake Park Building

INSTRUCTORS:

Dave Thomasson	471-0642
Dave Hoffman	479-1945
	476-5206
Dennis Smerz	482-9431
Mike Goza	554-4016
John Campo	488-7748
David Fennen	326-4719
Ken White	332-6898
Charles Copeland	532-1570

**THE ONLY PROBLEM WITH BEING
A GOOD SPORT IS THAT YOU
HAVE TO LOSE TO PROVE IT!**



MINUTES FOR THE MARCH MSC/RCC MEETING

On March 8, 1990 at 7:40 pm the MSCRCC monthly meeting was called to order by president Mike Goza. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Old Business:

Volunteers are needed to coordinate the joint scale contest, especially a "focal-point" coordinator. The following people volunteered; Mike Goza - Judge, K. White - Scoring, Marilyn Stevens - Central coordinator, Elvin - Judge, Scott - Judge, David Dale - Judge, Jesse Robinson - Static judge, Bob Porter - Scoring and possibly judging, John Simmons - odd jobs.

NASA has swept the rocks from the field

Saturday, April 7th, was designated Field Clean-up Day. The club will furnish refreshments. To announce this to the membership, the newsletter will be issued earlier than usual next month. People should come out with tools, paint rollers, etc. Clean-up should start at 9:30 am.

New Business:

Jim Brock brought fuel. Tass volunteered to be a "keeper" of the fuel.

The club will send "get-well" flowers to Mary Brock.

Bob Porter will order a new set of model-of-the-month trophies. The club may need to reimburse Bob.

Tim Platnen, a teacher from Webster Intermediate school, wanted a volunteer to visit the school and talk about RC modeling. Scott Smith volunteered.

Charley Stevens cautioned the membership about the following:

AMA insurance coverage is only good on a sanctioned field.

The Fly-In at Scobee Field wants to have trade exhibitors. Volunteers are needed. A couple of winches for gliders are also needed.

AMA recommends that we keep even numbered channels when buying transmitters.

Wayne Hughes will bring refreshments for the April meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

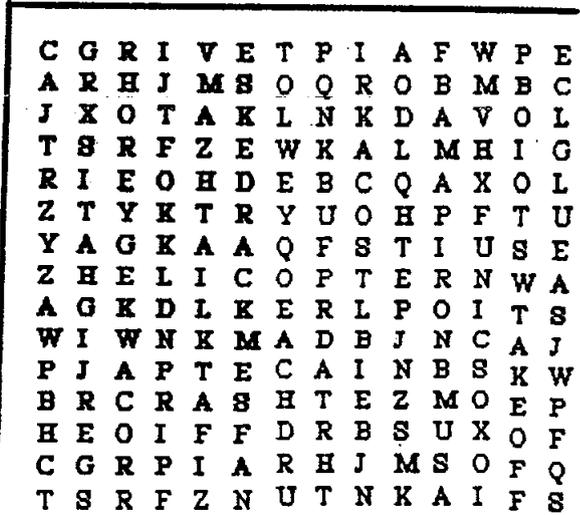
Treasurer Dave Hoffman reported for January/February:

income \$144.00
spending \$181.00
balance \$4064.00

Model of the Month

Model of the Month was won by David Dale for his Fokker A-3

Secretary
Sharon P. Goza



***** WORD FIND *****

- CLAMP GLUE SAFETY
CRASH HELICOPTER TAIL
FIELD NUT TAKEOFF
FOKKER PROP WACO
FOX RIVIT WINNER

PUZZLE BY
DAN HALAMA

Words may be found: down, up, forward, backwards, or diagonally.

The following article was contributed by member Craig York:

FIVE CELL FLIGHT PACKS

by Ed Baggett

(Editor's Note: The following HOW TO is recommended only to modelers with good soldering skills. Do not attempt to make up the battery pack described here, or any other battery pack, unless you know and understand what you are doing.)

Ever since Gordon turned me on to 5-cell packs about three years ago, I've been using them in about half of my models larger than .40 size. As far as I'm concerned, it's a cheap alternative to high-performance servos.

The drawbacks are obvious but few:

1. 4-cell packs, regardless of cell size, will weigh 20% less than 5-cell packs using the same size cells.

2. 4-cell packs require less room in the fuselage.

3. You can buy new 4-cell packs ready to use. You'll probably have to custom order or make up your own 5-cell packs.

4. 4-cell packs cost less than 5-cell packs (assuming you make up your own 4-cell packs. Factory assembled 500 mah 4-cell packs, however, sometimes cost around \$30.00, whereas you can make up your own packs for under \$2.00 per cell, plus the price of the connector.)

5. 4-cell packs take less time to charge (assuming you're going to use the standard charger that came with your radio system, which you certainly can).

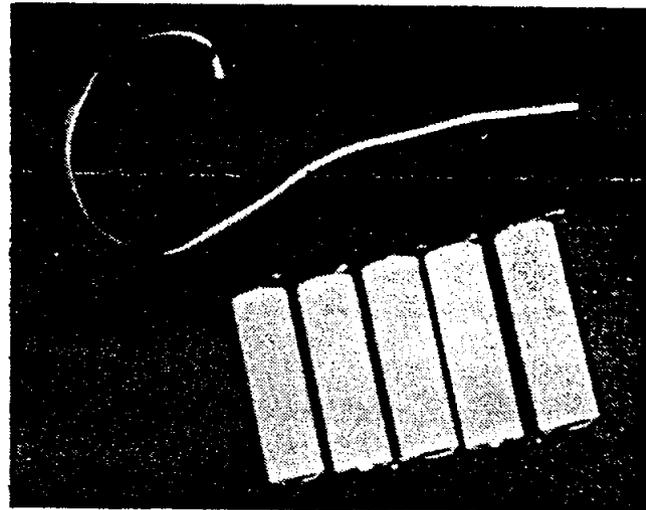
Okay, all of the above is true and correct. So why use 5-cell packs at all? Here's the good news.

1. 5-cell packs give a slightly longer flight time (although the significance of this is debatable).

2. 5-cell packs drive your servos faster.

3. 5-cell packs give your servos more torque.

4. The benefits of 2 & 3 above combine to give you an inexpensive alternative to the more expensive high-speed high-torque servos.



The five B&P Associates AA NiCd cells and Futaba connector lead about to become a new 5-cell flight pack battery.

5. 5-cell packs do not require special chargers (your standard charger will work just fine, given another hour or so to work.)

6. 5-cell packs can save you money by prompting you to make up your own packs instead of buying ready-made packs!!

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THE EXTRA VOLTAGE HARMING YOUR RECEIVER OR SERVOS. 4-cell NiCd packs have an average voltage of 4.8 volts. 5-cell NiCd packs average 6.0 volts, which is exactly the same voltage as four 1.5 volt dry cells! The extra voltage is the whole point of this endeavor, and is exactly where the benefits come from!

We do not recommend that you add a new cell to an existing 4-cell pack. It is always best to have the cells in a pack reasonably matched to each other. You can get carried away with this and go

FIVE CELL FLIGHT PACKS

- Continued from page 3 -

to great pains in cell matching, but I've had no problems over the years by simply ordering the necessary new cells at the same time from the same source. Always order the kind with soldering tabs already affixed. Soldering directly to the end of a NiCd without damaging it can be tricky, and is best avoided.

My first 5-cell pack actually came from the same source, sort of, as did Gordon's; from an 8-cell transmitter pack in which one or more cells had gone bad. When the Tx pack was replaced with a new pack, the old pack was checked out, cell by cell, until the bad cell was located and disposed of. The remaining seven cells were then fully charged and measured again, cell by cell. The five best were then soldered into a 5-cell pack, and I've been hooked on them since.

We ordered five 500mah NiCd cells, with soldering tabs, from B&P Associates. Each cell weighs approximately 0.9 oz., which means that a 5-cell 500mah pack will weigh about one ounce more than the equivalent 4-cell pack.

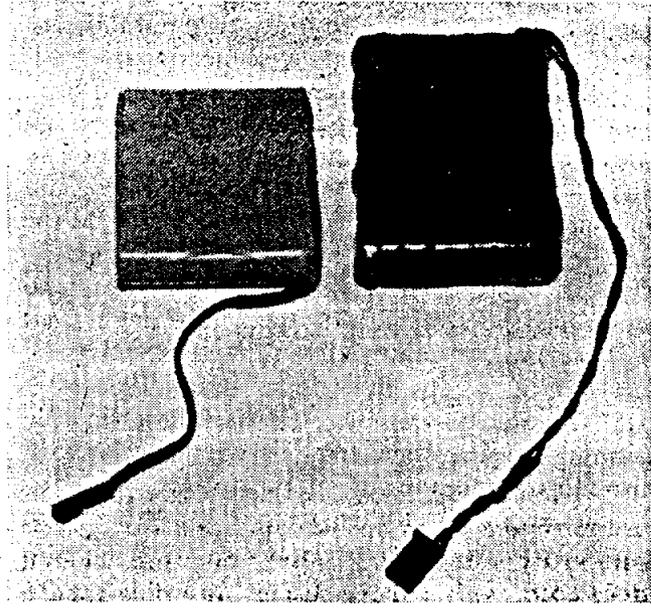
All you need is your soldering equipment, the five cells, a connector harness (I used an old aileron extension cord for my Futaba pack), and some strong sticky tape. Any good quality duct tape, electrical tape, or nylon reenforced strapping tape, will work fine.

Solder the cells together observing proper polarity. Make the three cell connections by soldering one cell's negative end to another cell's positive end. Be sure you join them in such a way that the cells will lie side by side in the square or flat configuration, whichever you wish, unless you're making up a special pack to fit into a special place.

Attach the connector lead by soldering the black wire to the negative end of the series of cells, and the red wire to the positive end.

Now hold the pack tightly in the desired configuration and apply a drop or two of ZAP between each pair of cells to hold them together.

Once the glue cures, it's a good idea to make another check of your work by using a volt meter to insure that all the cells, and the connector, were joined in the proper polarity. Then wrap the pack tightly with tape. Use enough tape to cover the entire pack - none of it should show through.



Factory 4-cell pack on left, homemade 5-cell pack on right.

Give an extra wrap or two around the sides where the ends of the cells are. This will insure that they do not come into contact with and short out against any metal surfaces.

And that's it - you're finished. From now on just use it like you would any other flight pack battery, and enjoy faster and more powerful servo action.

-Ed Baggett



April 1990

The R/C Flyer Page Five

HAMCI HIGHLITES

By Craig York

The following items are concerned with the upcoming 1990 National Rally which will be held June 1-3, 1990 at Scobee Field. The National Rally is sponsored by AMA and will be hosted by HAMCI.

- 1) Manpower: 10-12 people per day will be needed for the impound area and the flightlines. Our club needs 3 more volunteers for this duty.
- 2) HAMCI will need additional transmitter impound racks. Our club may want to consider the contribution of an impound rack.
- 3) Static displays: Does the club want a MSCRCC static display?
- 4) Concessions: Marilyn Stevens will handle; 15 people per day will be needed in two hour shifts. Needed are cooks, cashiers, servers.
- 5) Concession supplies: Cakes, Brownies, etc. will be needed.
- 6) Swap Shop: This option is being investigated for interest and legality.
- 7) Membership list: HAMCI would like a phone list of all club members.

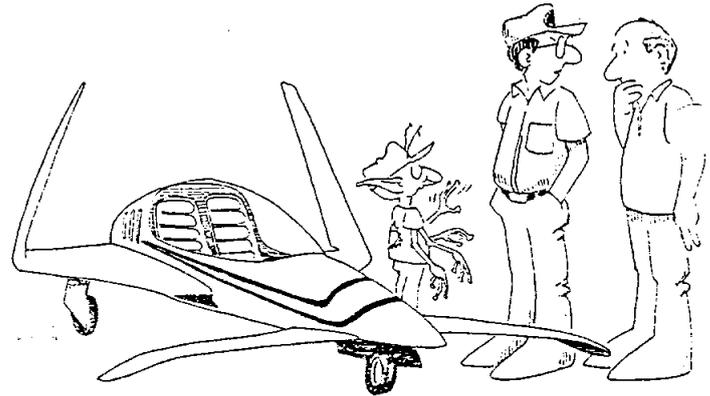
The following items are concerned with general HAMCI actions:

- 1) HAMCI Officers Election: All officers remain in office.
- 2) Bulk Mailing details:
 - a) Bulk mail is third-class mail, and will be delivered slower than first-class mail, but at a cheaper rate.
 - b) A mailing must be at least 200 pieces.
 - c) All pieces must be sorted by ZIP code.
 - d) Unless indicated otherwise, Bulk Mail is not forwarded or returned to sender if an incorrect address is specified. If these services are requested, the sender will be charged for each piece handled.
 - e) The price for each piece of a mailing is yet to be determined. The normal Bulk Mail rate for the type of mailing we will all probably do will be 16.7 cents per piece. In order to recoup the cost of the Bulk Mail permit to HAMCI, they will charge the member clubs something more than that amount. 20 cents per piece has been indicated.

LIFE IS SHORT! - EAT DESSERT FIRST

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SEE PHOTO BELOW

"I always thought there was something fishy about these new composite designers."

W. Warner

The **R/C** Flyer



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