



# THE R/C FLYER

Volume 24, Issue 9

September 2000

Next Meeting – September 14, 2000 at 7:00pm - Clear Lake Park Bldg.

## The President's Corner

By: Preston Hunt

Another month of cool weather has passed but unfortunately it was not here. But nonetheless it has not daunted us dedicated flyers who make it a point to fly every available day that time allows. I know there are several of us who are up for "All Season Flyer" patches from the AMA. I think my biggest problem is that I am just absolutely addicted to helicopters and cannot go a week without flying mine. What can I say I'm hooked! Lets see I own 3 helicopters and one working plane. I start worrying when my fuel stash gets below 8 gallons and my flying gear rides in my truck more than my family does. I need more helicopters so the plane has to go. I figure that I do not need any planes because I can always fly someone else's if the need arises. Ok Ok, You get my point I hope. I have found a part of the hobby that absolutely fulfills all my flying needs and it just happens to be with helicopters. Yours may be big birds or scale, maybe gliders. The point is that if it totally satisfies you in your hobby endeavors then stick with it and give it everything you can. If it does not then it's time to move on and try some other part of the hobby. If it is just sort of fun or sort of interesting, then you have not found it yet. Could be you are at a point where you just can't seem to make yourself take the next step with what your currently flying. Heck just because you've been signed off and have your pilot badge does not mean you cannot ask for a safety pilot to help you learn something new. If you want to learn to fly your plane upside down just a few feet off the ground then ask me to be your safety pilot, been there, done that, no brainier. If it helps you move on to the next level to where you have something new to learn or try, you will start having more fun. I have absolutely no problem asking another heli pilot who can do something I can't if they would help me learn how to do it. Well, enough of this and on to the next subject of this months rambling.

Ok, Nominations for officers to serve the 2001 session will be held at the September meeting and closed at the end of the meeting. Elections will be held at the October meeting. All ballots must be turned in by the break of the October meeting. The ballots will be counted after the break and the new officers will take office. I must say that it has been an honor to serve as the club president for the last 2 years but I feel it's time for me to move on and let someone else take the reins for a while.

I heard from the field committee and it seems they ran into a snag with their first layout proposal. Hopefully they will have it worked out so that we can have a presentation and possible vote to amend the bylaws in the September meeting.

If you can, please make the meeting this month. With nominations and a possible field layout vote, it could be a very important meeting.

## August 10, 2000 Meeting Minutes

By: Mike Goza

The meeting was started at ~7:10pm.

### NEW BUSINESS

Since Kellan our secretary has moved, a replacement was required. Mike Goza volunteered to fill the position for the rest of the term and was voted in by the members at large.

The club voted not to participate with a booth at the upcoming Balloon festival. Mike Goza and Randy Hammond have decided to do flight demos anyway with the help of some club members.

Discussed heli and plane flying problems and safety concerns with the members. A committee was formed by

Preston to look into the matter and bring forth a suggested resolution to the club ASAP for voting purposes. Club rules will be changed accordingly based on what gets voted in. The committee members are James Lemon, Randy Korenek, Dave Hoffman, Mike Goza. Alternates are Walker Mangum and Don Fisher. The members are split 50/50 heli/airplane to make things as fair as possible.

There were two entries for model of the month.

1. A Global "Tequila Sunrise" which was powered by a .26 MVVS motor and had a foam wing. It was built by Brian Warkentine.

2. A "Just for Fun" scratch built from RCM plans. It was powered by a .77 MVVS motor and had a hand molded fiberglass cowl. The model was built by Charlie Teixeira.

Also present, but not in the competition was a 1/3 scale 22 lb Lanier Laser 200. Power was by a Zenoah G62 and was brought in by Don Fisher.



Model of the month was won by Charlie Teixeira

### OLD BUSINESS

Reviewed the NASA grass fire warning with the members. We are trying to get the recommended restrictions lifted due to the recent amounts of rain seen every weekend.

Fun Fly will be held the weekend after the August club meeting.

Model of the Month trophy was presented for June and July.

Meeting ended around 9:20pm

## The Hoffman Report

*By Dave Hoffman, JSCRCC Treasurer*

Dues received: \$30.00

Expenses:

Refreshments 17.00

5 water jugs 48.66

Newsletter 85.00

Total 150.66

Net decrease 120.66

Cash on hand as of 7-13-00: \$4,451.45

Decrease 120.66

Cash on hand as of 8-10-00 \$4,330.79

## Grass Fire Alert Update

*By Mike Laible*

The following are excerpts from several e-mails from ROBINSON, JAMES E. (JSC-NT)  
[SMTP:james.e.robinson1@jsc.nasa.gov]

This is an update to the Grass Fire Alert issued about a month ago. As you know, we have had very little rain since then. I checked the area today and was surprised to find much of the grass (i.e.: weeds) still alive and green. There is some thatch underneath. Also, the airplane club has increased the standby water supply from 25 gallons to 40 gallons and have added a second 2-1/2 gallon water fire extinguisher. However, if we continue to have these daily temperatures approaching 100 degrees with no rain, we will have to terminate all use of the area until the conditions improve. I will look at the area again early next week and let you know how things look. You may continue your flying activities until then. However, please continue to be extremely careful and follow the restrictions given below.

Jim Robinson  
Muniz Engineering, Inc.  
(281) 483-6362

As a reminder to all, here are the existing restrictions:

1. There must be at least one operating cell phone in each group using the area. The RC club has posted the JSC emergency telephone number on their equipment cabinet.
2. RC flying is limited to in the morning till noon and in the evening after 5:00PM
3. Conduct all operations from the hard surface area. Do not allow any fuel, batteries, igniters, or other ignition sources to be in the grass.
4. A minimum of two persons must be in attendance at all times when flying is being conducted.



## **FUN FLY STATUS**

*By Michael Laible*

If we use the original schedule the next fun fly will be September 16<sup>th</sup>. This seems to be a busy weekend, Bomber field and the Boy Scout Rocket Launch. So if no one objects we could have it in October or another time. We can discuss this at the meeting. No matter when it is held the events scheduled are the Blind Flight Dice Roll and 2-Minute Touch and Go

If you had planned attending the Fun Fly and cannot make the meeting, please call me at 281-474-1255 or email at [milaible@orbitworld.net](mailto:milaible@orbitworld.net) for the scheduled date.

Remember, Gift certificate awards at every event. See Ya!!

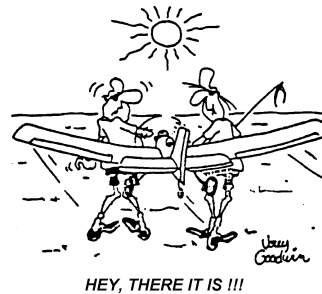


## **In The Pits**

*By Michael Laible*

It's been a couple of months since my last writing. To say the least I would like June and July back. It seems I started this year with four models and now have one flyable. It started early with having to rebuild my 1/4 scale Sukhoi wing, then loosing my pattern plane to dumb thumbs. It seems I tried a knife-edge right after take off and forgot which way was up. Finally a dead stick with the Bearcat got the best of me. I was flying at Prop-Nuts and landed in the sod field. It seems I hit the only sprinkler head in miles!!! It is repairable. So all and all I will be in the garage during the rest of the hot summer. Knock on wood but the model still flying is my converted SIG 4-Star 120 and Ryobi engine.

Speaking of the 4-Star. Has anyone checked out the webpage for Model of the Month winners? We do have some impressive models this year. In fact, one of the best years to date. We have Ron Madsen (F15), Holly Mathia (Space Walker), my SIG 4-Star, Ray Randolph (Fun Fly), James Lemon (P51), Clay Bare (Sudakoi), Dave Hoffman (Highly Modified SIG 4-Star 60) and Charlie Teixeira (RCM Plans). What a gaggle of planes, or is that fleet. Anyway, remember the Christmas Party and the vote for model of the year. What a showing!!!



Now on to something new. It seems the one or two Sunday evenings I have been to the field I noticed several students. I was thinking that if all the students of the club would want to contact me I could possible start a student list.

With a better understanding of who needs training, maybe people could be paired up. We could even talk some veteran members to become trainees. Who knows!!! Let's give it a try and see what happens. So contact me at 281-474-1255 or drop me an email at [milaible@orbitworld.net](mailto:milaible@orbitworld.net). Also, check out this website, [www.palosrc.com](http://www.palosrc.com) and search out the beginner's guide. One of the BEST!!!!

### ODDS and ENDS

-The annual Houston Rocket Club contest October 6 and 7.

-Alvin Big Bird October 21

-12<sup>th</sup> Annual B-17/Big Bird Fly-in, Sept 15-17, Monaville, TX

I always wondered how to test those 12 V Gel Cells. Well here is something off the internet from Red Scholefield, a self exclaimed Internet battery expert (He did work for Eveready). Simply measure the open circuit (unloaded) voltage. 12.0 V = empty, 13.0 V = full. For all practical purposes it is a straight line relationship between 12.0 and 13.0 so that a reading of 12.4 means you have 40% of the capacity remaining. Charging should be terminated when the voltage reaches 14.7 while on charge.



Don Fishers Big Bird.

## **Safety Corner**

By: Don White

### **Subject: Preflight Inspection**

We have had more than our share of crashes lately. Have you noticed?

How many of us are doing adequate preflight inspections of our models prior to flight?

Not 100%, I'll bet.

We must do better.

I have had my problems and have shared the recent take-off w/o ailerons story with some of you. I'll bet I won't do it again ever! It took about 3 hours to repair the damage done. The real damage is caused if we don't learn from our mistakes. Please take the time to perform an adequate Preflight check.

Here is the deal, give your transmitter to someone else in the pits and let them look over your airplane and perform the distance check the next time you are at the field. See if you don't learn something about your airplane and you know what? He will learn something too.

If you are the one inspecting, look over the horns and clevises, do they have keepers? Inspect the engine, is bolted in with 4 bolts. Has the prop been inspected for cracks? Is the CG right? Do the controls check? You know the drill. Point out things that you think may be problems. I'll thank you for it.

I might not look at my own airplane so carefully, but if I asked you to do it for me, I know you would.

Let's get the helicopter guys to show us how to inspect their aircraft!

Let's help each other. How bout a lesson Preston?

We have a lot of youngsters and newbies watching everything we do, let's take the month of September and make it our annual safety inspection month. Bring out all your airplanes and get them inspected by your friends in the pits. If you learn anything from the experience let's read about it here. I'll sponsor the best lesson learned story printed here, with a gallon of fuel, awarded at the December Christmas party.

***Hey folks, what a deal! Let's do it!***

## **Tournament of Champions**

By Tim White

The Tournament of Champions will be held in Las Vegas from 10/18-10/22. Twenty-one of the best aerobatic R/C pilots from 10 countries will be competing. The Sahara Hotel/Casino will host the event and has special rates of \$49 Sun-Thurs and \$69 Fri/Sat. A good package deal is Southwest Vacations that had two R/T air tickets and 3 nights at the Sahara for \$784. There will be free transportation from the Sahara to the flying site and return every 1/2 hour for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Call or Email Tim White ([twhite@orbitworld.net](mailto:twhite@orbitworld.net)) for more information.



Picture from a good day of flying.

Scanner .40 ARF, K&B .40. Good recommendations for this kit, very complete and a good flyer.

Alice & Roger Schwarz

## **For Sale**

Brand new Midwest Aerostar 40 trainer fully assembled and monokoted, no engine or radio. Pushrods have been installed. Just don't have room for this on the wall now that my Four Star 60 is vying for space--and it needs plenty. Built this a while back as a back-up to the maroon and yellow Aerostar 40 that I have been training students on for the past 13 years. Am willing to sell same. Make offer.  
Dave Hoffman

PS:

Someone sent me photos of RC helicopters in flight a month or so ago which I seem to have misplaced. Please resend them. Thanks!

*Editor*

## **CLUB OFFICERS**

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President	Preston Hunt	281-339-2525
Vice-President	Clay Bare	281-488-2992
Treasurer	Dave Hoffman	281-476-5206
Secretary	Mike Goza	281-554-4016(H) 281-483-4695(W)

## **INSTRUCTORS**

### **Fixed:**

Don Fisher	281-474-4942(H)	
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James Lemon	281-557-1602(H)	281-280-1267(W)
David Hoffman	281-476-5206(H)	281-479-1945(W)
Clay Bare	281-488-2992(H)	

### **Heli & Fixed:**

Mike Goza	281-554-4016(H)	281-483-4695(W)
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Charles Teixeira

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Bob Blaylock

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<http://www.orbitworld.net/mlaible/jsc/index.html>