



The R/C Flyer

Volume 29, Issue 9

September 2005

Next Meeting – September 8, 2005, Clear Lake Park Building – 7:00 PM

August, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting were not available at the time this newsletter was put together. The minutes will be included in next month's newsletter.

Editor

Dave Hoffman:

Congratulations! You have been elected Chief Flight Instructor by a majority vote of the other flight instructors.

You have done yeoman's work for decades for the club, and the club has benefited from your untiring efforts in numerous venues. Thank you very much.

Herman Burton, President

Club Officer Nominations

As required by the club's by laws, nominations for each of the officer positions are to be determined no later than the September club meeting. The good news is that each of the current officers is willing to stay on for the coming year.

If you would like to run for one of the club's officer positions (President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer), have your name submitted at the September club meeting. A ballot will be distributed in the October newsletter with provisions for write in votes for those choosing to do so. The election will take place by members present at the October meeting.

(Editor: The following is from the latest AMA National Newsletter)

Being Safe Means Learning from Others' Mistakes

By Jack Frost

Merriam Webster's Dictionary defines safety as "the condition of being safe from undergoing or causing hurt, injury, or loss."

When I look at modeling safety from this point of view, it seems clear to me that we all have a responsibility to try to provide a state of being that would prevent ourselves and others from being hurt, injured, or killed. In addition, we should all endeavor to eliminate the loss of equipment and property damage.

What does this mean? I think it means that just because we can do something, doesn't mean we

should.

How many times have you thought or said or heard the following:

“I’m only going to start the engine once. I’m not going to set up the plane restraint.”

“Pull tests are silly. I’ve never had a line fail.”

“This propeller should be good for one more flight.”

“This battery should be okay. I’m going to make it a short flight.”

Do the actions associated with these statements help to establish a condition that would prevent hurt, injury, or loss? I think not. Who would say these things? I must admit that I’ve said a couple of them, and I’m reasonably sure that you have too.

Someone once said, “There are old pilots, and there are bold pilots, but not many old, bold pilots.” Simply stated, pilots whose actions repeatedly establish unsafe conditions are more likely to have some sort of mishap.

Unsafe conditions don’t only exist while airborne either. Take a look around your flying site. I’d be willing to bet that you can find a number of things that could be done better.

How about that chair with the almost broken leg? Or the fence with just a couple of nails sticking out to gouge someone? Or the hole that someone dug and then abandoned?

Many people genuinely concerned with safety have either been injured themselves or had someone close to them injured. Wouldn’t it be better to be able to learn a lesson from someone who has already been hurt than to be wounded yourself?

Years ago, my wife’s finger was cut by a propeller. It struck her finger with such force that it not only cut her to the bone, but it broke the bone. It took a long time to heal, and it still bothers her to this day. While I’m sorry that this happened, it doesn’t make her finger any better.

Fingers don’t grow back, eyes don’t repair easily, and accidents cost much more than money. It may seem cool to be able to tell your friends about how many stitches it took to sew your hand up, how much blood you lost, or how long it will take to heal; however, that cool factor quickly diminishes if you lost any fingers or any use of your hand.

Let’s face it, serious injuries change us physically and emotionally, but most importantly, they change us permanently.

Build straight, fly as often as you can, have fun, and be safe!

Editor: as a follow up to the previous article, read the note from Ron Madsen

The last time I was at the field was about three weeks ago. This day was notable since I dumped my Extra 300 into the grass on first take-off. Later, while starting up for a third attempt to get the 300 into the air, I almost let it get away from me. At the time, I wondered if there was something wrong with me. There was. The following Friday I was admitted to the hospital. I was sick, not just in the head but all over. In retrospect (done a lot of that) I realize that a fever, even one as low as 99.5, impeded my judgment. I should never have attempted to fly since that activity requires full attention.

I just went over the club safety rules and, while it addresses the issue of drunken pilots it doesn't say anything about diminished capability, like sick, or medication. It is something to discuss at a club

meeting and something I will review each time I go to the field. *Not up to par? Leave the planes at home.*

Ron Madsen

Upcoming Events

9/16-18/05 : 17th Annual B-17 Gathering and Scale Big Bird Fly-In, Bomber Field, Monaville TX. Contact Nick CD Stratos at 281-471-6762 for more information.

9/16-18/05 : Houston Heli Fun Fly sponsored by PropNuts RC Club, Crosby TX. Contact Lloyd Sullivan CD at 281-998-3377 for more information.

10/1-2/05 : Jetero RC Club Big Bird (C-Restricted), Huffman TX. Contact Horrace Cain CD at 281-399-5627.

10/7-9/05 : 2005 Best Electric Fun-Fly, BEST Site in New Waverly TX. Contact Kirk Jensen CD at 281-381-0473 for more information.

10/8/05 : Art Watson/Dave Thommason Memorial Fly in, Crosby TX. Sponsor is Propnuts. (Restricted to IMAA Members). CD is Charles Stevens at 713-473-4995.

10/8/05 : Houston Combat Classic for 328 (JSO) at Scobee Field. CD is Richard Stubblefield at 281-358-3522. Sponsored by Proptwisters.

10/15/05 : 21st Annual Big Bird Fly-In, New Waverly TX. Contact CD Yale Taylor at 936-760-2654 for more information.

10/29/05 : 6th Annual Fall Fun Fly at Elwood Field, Livingston TX. CD is Mike Muehr. Event is benefiting Empty Stockings of Livingston.

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The R/C Flyer

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