
THE R/C FLYER

Volume 23, Issue 10

October 1999

Next Meeting - October 14, 1999 at 7:00pm - Clear Lake Park Bldg.

From The Editors Desk

By: Preston Hunt.

Here we are again, another month come and gone. At least it seems the weather is finally cooling off but there is a something we need to keep in mind.

Mike laible received an email from James Robinson at Nasa. Subject: Fire Hazard

We inspected the field behind Building 14 at JSC to check how dry the grass is. Needless to say, it is very dry.

I'm not aware of any restrictions at this time to flying your RC's or rockets, but please remind all your members that until it rains the potential for a grass fire is very high. They need to use extreme caution when flying.

The restrictions implemented last summer still apply:

1. Have an operating Class ABC or water fire extinguisher readily available.
2. Have at least 20 gallons of extra water available to extinguish a grass fire.
3. Always have at least two people present when flying.
4. Always have a cell phone available in case emergency help is needed.

The JSC emergency number is (281) 483-3333.

Lets keep this in mind when flying. We need to make sure we are watchful of any condition that may cause a fire.

On another note. I cannot help but feel a little upset at times with the lack of participation we have in this club. It seems at times that we have a membership that consists of nothing but a bunch of bumps on a log. No one wants to get involved, no one wants to put out any effort. You ask for volunteers and the arms go so low that people almost fall out of their chair to keep from volunteering. Oh don't get me wrong, we have members who do get involved but appears

James Lemon.

(Photo by Brian Morris.)



it's always the same few. I can understand when they feel like they are always the one's carrying the load of the clubs activities. Believe me I know how it feels. If we keep going like we're going, the club will eventually wither up and die. Don't get me wrong; I applaud all of the members who put out the effort to make our club better. I know the effort you expend. I personally want to thank each and every one of you. You know who you are. But we cannot do it alone. We need the help of all the club members to keep the club from stagnating. I for one am not satisfied with just letting the club go its course as is. I want to see the membership grow. I want to see more new students learning to fly. I want to see our field improved. I want to see our meetings become more fun instead of being a bickering session. I want to see more helicopter pilots. (Thought I'd just slip that one in). I could go on and on about this, but I will get off the soapbox on this subject for now.

October Meeting Agenda

1. Show & Tell your Models & M.O.M.
2. Elections
3. Have Fun.

9/9/99 Meeting

Old Business

Ballunar Festival was long and hot. However, everyone made it. On Sunday things got kinda hairy with the winds and rain. Old Dave Hoffman was hangin on for dear life. Mike Laible and Preston Hunt thanked everyone involved

Canopy, the order for the new top has been returned. It was noted that the correct address is on the old canopy and will be verified.

New Business

The fun fly will be held on September the 11th that fell on a Saturday. Mike Laible could not make the event so Ray Randolph volunteered to be CD.

Just for future reference all fun fly's start at 9:00 am.

Nominations were discussed for year 2000 office positions. The nominations for President is Preston Hunt, vice-president - Clay Bare, Treasure - Dave Hoffman, and for Secretary Kellan Goertenmiller.

Treasures Report

The clubs new balance is \$3861.

Model of the Month

Dave Hoffman shows his Falcon Glider. The glider has many features such as fiber carbine spars, sheet body and wing and many, many more features. The model is controlled by the new Airtronics RD 6000. Dave says he loves all the neat features of the new radio. Wow, what a nice model Dave!

Walt Lueke shows his Hobbico Skyvista ARF. The beautiful model, I might add, is powered by a Super Tigre G.S. .45. The Skyvista has a 62inch wingspan and uses all four channels for flight. Looks like Dave's got some close competition! Nice model Walt!

Mike Laible shows one of his own designs; he calls it a Sorta Pattern. The model is nicely covered in Ultracoat, purple and yellow. The model is recommended for a .60 size engine and that's what he had on his last Sorta Pattern, until he lost that one due to radio failure, he's putting a Super Tigre .91 on this one! Hope he beefed up the construction, that engine will tear the wings off that plane. Judging from his last Sorta Pattern, I'm sure this one will fly just as good!

Congratulations, the model of the month goes to Dave Hoffman, with the Falcon Glider. Great job Dave!

Battery Charging

By Don White

In case I'm not the last guy on the earth to think of this, I'd like to pass along an idea I use to charge not only by airplane stuff but my chordless tools as well. So many of our tools and equipment is battery powered and each, it seems, needs different charge times. My memory is not so good on how long this or that tool requires for charge so I put a label on the charger e.g. "Craftsman 6-volt Chordless Drill- 5 hours". Be specific since you will have many tools, brands and charge voltages/times. Now here is the neat part. I use an inexpensive appliance timer by Intermatic to limit the charge time. I only use the off pin (red) in the timer, I set it to turn off at 10:00am, I set the timer for 5:00am and **set the manual override on the timer to on.** This turns on the charger, the timer automatically turns off the charger 5 hours later and never turns on again no matter how long I leave it plugged in, I removed all the on (green) pins. *You don't have to worry about over charging your equipment. I told you this was neat!*

A added refinement on my set up is that I use a 4-way multiplug in the timer. Into one of the ports, I plug in a small neon night light so I can see if the charger is turned on or not from across the garage, some of my chargers don't have the small LED power-on indicator. When the charger is on the night light is on. Night light off means charger is off never to cycle on again since I've removed all the on (green) pins. I store all the extra pins in the back of the timer.

Since the manufactures still refuse to remove the input diode in the TX charge circuit, I use the above setup for normal TX charging. I use my Hobbico Accu-Cycle for the RX, discharge/charge but I just charge the TX 5 hours every time I go out. I've read where some folks set the pins one hour apart to trickle charge with out problems. The key is the removal of the on pins and the override switch to turn on the charger.



Don Fisher pulling a banner at this years Ballunar Festival.

