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May, 2004 ---- Knoxville, Tennessee --- AMA Chapter 594 Newsletter..jimscarbrough@charter.net --- Letter available online at www.rcpattern.com or at website [http:// home.earthlink.net/~intelstar1/](http://home.earthlink.net/~intelstar1/) I welcome all items to be placed in the newsletter. Send by the 20th of the month.

Safety Alert

Lithium Battery Fires

Lithium batteries are becoming very popular for powering the control and power systems in our models. This is true because of their very high energy density (amp-hrs/wt. ratio) compared to NiCads or other batteries. With high energy comes increased risk in their use. The principal risk is FIRE which can result from improper charging, crash damage, or shorting the batteries. All vendors of these batteries warn their customers of this danger and recommend extreme caution in their use.

In spite of this many fires have occurred as a result of the use of Lithium Polymer batteries, resulting in loss of models, automobiles, and other property. Homes and garages and workshops have also burned. A lithium battery fire is very hot (several thousand degrees) and is an excellent initiator for ancillary (resulting) fires.

Fire occurs due to contact between Lithium and oxygen in the air. It does not need any other source of ignition, or fuel to start, and burns almost explosively.

These batteries must be used in a manner that precludes ancillary fire. The following is recommended: Store, and charge, in a fireproof container; never in your model. Charge in a protected area devoid of combustibles. Always stand watch over the charging process. Never leave the charging process unattended. In the event of damage from crashes, etc, carefully remove to

a safe place for at least a half hour to observe. Physically damaged cells could erupt into flame, and, after sufficient time to ensure safety, should be discarded in accordance with the instructions which came with the batteries. Never attempt to charge a cell with physical damage, regardless of how slight. Always use chargers designed for the specific purpose, preferably having a fixed setting for your particular pack. Many fires occur in using selectable/adjustable chargers improperly set. Never attempt to charge Lithium cells with a charger which is not, specifically, designed for charging Lithium cells. Never use chargers designed for Nickel Cadmium batteries. Use charging systems that monitor and control the charge state of each cell in the pack. Unbalanced cells can lead to disaster if it permits overcharge of a single cell in the pack. If the batteries show any sign of swelling, discontinue charging, and remove them to a safe place outside as they could erupt into flames.

Most important: NEVER
 PLUG IN A BATTERY AND LEAVE IT
 TO CHARGE UNATTENDED
 OVERNIGHT. Serious fires have
 resulted from this practice.

Do not attempt to make your own battery packs from individual cells. These batteries CANNOT be handled and charged casually such as has been done in the past with nickel-cadmium type batteries.

**This warning is from the Safety
 Committee of the Academy of
 Model Aeronautics, Muncie, Ind**

**FOR SALE
 New engines & kits**

- Seamaster 120 (Ace Kit).....\$100
- Dalotel Q/Scale.....\$150
- Byron Cap 231.....\$350
- Cap 10 (Yellow Aircraft).....\$150
- Ultra Sport (GP).....\$80
- Fokker EIII (Procter)Scale...\$350
- Schnieder Sport (Stream)...\$150
- Clipped wing Cub (Sig).....\$100
- Spacewalker 1/3 (Sig).....\$125

Engines

- Quadra 42 (gas).....\$240
- Quadra 52 (gas).....\$325
- Quadra 75 (gas).....\$375
- Moki M-180RR Glow.....\$275
- SuperTiger 3000wMuff.....call
- Saito 4strokeFA-300twin.....\$590
- O.S. Gemini FT-160 twin\$550
- Saito FA-150 4Stroke.....\$300

If interested in these buys, call
 Otto Heithecker
 865-539-4091

For Sale

CG Extra EX Profile .40size, many ARF issues corrected.....\$120

Kyosho "Quality Series" Giles 202, .60 size, Excellent condition.....\$240

Hangar 9 1/3 scale Extra 330, Flys like a pattern ship, call
 Would consider selling above items with servos and possibly engines.Call Jerel Zarestky at
 865-482-7953
 or jerzee4@comcast.net

At the Field

Things can get pretty exciting around the safety fence and the pilots station at times on windy days. Especially if the angle of the breeze is about ninety degrees to the direction we aim the models to take off and it's blowing right at you. There's nothing quite like standing there with a transmitter in your hand watching your model laze around the sky and feel the noise from a model taking off just in front of you! I have ducked many times! It's not that they are all that close, it's just that you can hear but you can't see them till they roar past your nose! At least, sometimes it feels like that.

The weather has been good lately, except that we



have had wind pretty much the whole month of March. The electric flyers and the

underpowered floaters have had some tough days but I think that good times are almost here.

Speaking of electrics, here is a beauty that belongs to Jeff Procise. An electric DC-3 that does a very credible job of flying.

I want to remind all flyers about getting the frequency pin before unpacking your trannys. There's a lot of flying activity going on and we don't want to lose any models from absent mindedly turning on a transmitter and shooting someone down.

I had an experience recently that has me scratching my head. I had a good flight on my Morris the Knife and was making a short approach from the west end when suddenly everything went out on the model! I twisted sticks and watched as it neared the ground when all at once everything came back. I managed to land safely and checked everything out but found nothing wrong. A little later that morning, the same thing happened on an approach from the east end of the field. This time I decided not to tempt fate again and took things home in one piece.



This is a picture of my big PT-19 along with Bill Dodge's small PT-19. Mine flies with an Enya R-120 and Bill's flies with an Saito .30 4 stroke. Otherwise they look almost exactly alike. They even fly alike (well,I can see mine better).

Matt Conser was at the field the other day with his whirly bird. I was impressed with his expertise flying it. I've gotten used to seeing Jerel Zarestky tear up the sky with a helicopter, and there are a couple of other members working their way up the ranks in heli aerobicatic whoop-de-do, but



Matt is already pretty far up there! I still can't get used to seeing a wingless bird doing loops and rolls and flying upside down.

Don't forget that we have an AMA pattern contest at KCRC field on the last weekend in May. There will be a crying need for members turning out to make it a good event. The things that make a contest memorable is the way things move without a hassle. We'll need a bunch of guys for scribes (just sit there with a judge and write down the number he gives you), and guys to run a transmitter impound (keep the idle trannys off while others are flying), and just help out in other areas. There's not any hard work, and if enough guys show up, it gets to be pretty interesting. Besides, you'll get to see how the pattern contests work and you might want to try it yourself.....

Calendar of events that mat be of interest to KCRCers

- May 8th...Tennessee Eagles R/C Club Spring Swap & Fly-in. Open to the public. Swap meet 9 till 12, Fly-in Air Show 12 till ?. AMA card required to fly.
- May 15th...3rd Annual KCRC Spring Float Fly at upper ramp at Melton Hill Park. AMA card required to fly.
- May 15th & 16th... 3rd Rocket City SPA Championships. Trey Wilborn Field. Kenneth Nix CD, 3619 Hwy 69, Guntersville, Al, 35976 or d-n-rv@charter.net
- May 22nd.... Mayor's Day at the Parks.. RC Show and Tell at KCRC field and upper ramp at Melton Hill Lake. Mini Air Show s at 2 and 4. Static displays and flight..
- May 29th & 30th... AMA pattern meet at KCRC field. 401-404(O). Scott Anderson CD. 4221 Deer Run Dr, Knoxville, Tn, 37912 or i_fly_pattern@ hotmail.com
- July 12th... SAM Old Timer contest held at Rockwood Airport sponsored by KCRC. George Shacklett CD. See I letter on page 4 of newsletter for more information.

Minutes from April Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday April 13th at Deane Hills Rec Center with over thirty members present.

Minutes from March meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report was given by Joel Hebert, Treasurer, and was approved as given.

Officer's Report

No club officers had a report or comments to post.

A visitor from the Smoky Mountain RC club came with an invitation to participate in the Aircraft Modeling Expo to be held at Sevierville Airport on June 12th and 13th, 2004, and sponsored by the Smoky Mountain club. There will be static displays and probably Fun Fly events. Details are still in flux at this time.

Committee Reports

Chairman Ray LeBlanc reported that work is in progress by the Bylaws updating committee. Still too early and much work to be done.

Chairman Jordan Foley gave report for the Safety Committee. Work is in progress but Jordan did have suggestions for a couple of much needed things for field safety. One thing definitely needed is a new First Aid kit. The old one has disappeared. Another is the need for a fire extinguisher. There was talk of building a lock box to hold the items to maintain security so they would be available if needed. Larry Roberts volunteered to build one. John Heard was instructed to check on cost of a couple more combination locks (which would have our gate combination on it). Jordan will Chair the box construction committee.

Chairman David Dabbs gave report on the Instructor Training Program. The committee has agreed on a basic program to test instructor applicants and to test the level of accomplishment by the student pilot. The program is to establish a list of volunteer instructors that the club can recommend to help new members progress through the learning stage of flying safely. All new members will be asked to go through the training program up to the solo level unless they can demonstrate a level of proficiency as listed on the training form. There have been a couple of incidents where a new member indicated he could already fly, but proved that he really needed help after he got airborne. This is not to replace those members who are already actively instructing friends or family members. Unless there is a safety concern, they can continue as they are. There will be a list of instructors posted at the field, and new members can make their own arrangements.

OLD BUSINESS

Scott Anderson gave report on the upcoming AMA Pattern Contest at KCRC field the last of May. All paper work has been done. The concession stand will be operated by Paul Funk and his wife and all profits will go to the Knoxville Hospice House. Scott expects a record turnout of contestants and is looking for help. Scribes especially are needed as well as registration, PA system, transmitter impound, and workers to help out in all areas. The quality of any area of competition is judged on how smoothly things moved along and the lack of aggravation experienced. Scott

also called for a photographer to take pictures for publication on websites and writeups on the contest.

The contest has been named The Ben Oliver Memorial Pattern Contest and plans are to make it an annual event.

Shelter committee reported that work on assembly is hanging fire and waiting on the permit from the county. As usual, any work done by bureaucrats takes an excess of effort by everybody but the bureaucrats. The steel has mostly been primed by Harry Hogan with a little help from his freinds. Most of the wood structure has been done but not painted. None of the concrete has been poured nor the holes dug. It doesn't sound like a lot of work has been done, but actually, there has been a lot done. Some of the names mentioned on work details are Phil Spelt, Paul Funk, Charley Wilson, Karl Gerth, Mark Humes, Denny and Jamie Evans, Gene Waters, and Harry Hogan. I'm sure there are others but I don't have their names. Much work to be done when the weather clears.

The Mayor's Day at the Parks on May 22nd effort is continuing. Volunteers will be needed for work as hosts and greeters, as well as models for static display along the fence. There will be flying displays in a couple of Mini airshows at 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. These will need to be coordinated by Phil Spelt. Contact Phil at chuenkan@comcast.net to volunteer or suggest any thing you think might improve the effort. Phil will send out an email reminding folks about the event.

Bill Lofgren, our resident KCRC and EAA member, gave a report on an upcoming event by the area EAA folks on April 29th (rain date May 6th). They are finishing up an effort on the Young Eagles Program by giving about fifty young people from the Knoxville School of the Deaf who didn't have an opportunity to fly when the EAA had the earlier date. Bill is asking for volunteers from KCRC to bring some models for static display and to demonstrate flying principles. Arrangements have been made for teachers to sign for communicating with the hearing impaired.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

Model of the Month

Jordan Foley entered his new Hangar 9 Super Cub. Powered by a Saito 1.50, seven servos, 1800 ma battery. A beauty.

Bill Lofgren entered his "Whatsis", powered by a Russian .25 engine. Looks like a real floater

Mark Humes entered his Magic Extra, powered by an OS .46 AX.

Mark Humes won the gallon of fuel.

Crash of the Month

Larry Roberts told of his Dave Patrick .40 size Ultimate which lost radio contact and crashed.

Jim Scarbrough told of his 1/4 scale Mr Mulligan which lost power when the engine quit and crash landed.

Glue won by jim Scarbrough

No Program this month because we ran out of time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Minutes by Jim Scarbrough for Mike Foley

This'n That

Received a note from Emeritus member George "Doc" Shacklett recently and thought you might be interested;

Hi Jim,

Glad to get to talk to you on the phone the other day. As I said, when the old timer contests are settled, I would let you know. The contests are as follows;

Rockwood Airport ... July 11 & 12...

sponsored by KCRC.

Harriman field.... July 12 & 13 ... sponsored by Tennessee Eagles RC Club.

Bedford, Indiana..... July 15 & 16-

(July 14th is a travel day)

You may not be interested in posting the Indiana contest. I put it in to show that we are collaborating with people all over to put these things on--here's 3 contests in one week--quite tiring for us old birds, but we enjoy it. Last year we had fliers from Tn, Ga, NC, Al, Fl, MI and Mass.

I keep hoping that some locals will become interested. These are old free flight airplanes which are very stable and easy to fly with RC assist---Come out and see us if you have the time in July. Most of our contests are on any old day since nearly all of our fliers are retired.

Thanks for your help
George Shacklett
tneureka@aol.com

These models are more like works of art than model airplanes. I flew free flight for a while back when there was still a lot of open land around here; back in the forties and fifties (There's sure not enough land now to turn a model loose and chase it down where ever it decides to land) and I have to say that modelers learn a lot more about what makes a model fly at this level. Some of you fellows should give it a look.

Here are the pictures from the Model of the Month contest from the April Meeting; Top picture is Bill Lofgren and his "Whatsis", Next is Jordan Foley and his Hangar 9 Super Cub, and the bottom picture is Mark Humes and his Magic Extra. All the models were very nicely done.



**MAY MEETING WILL BE HELD
AT KCRC FIELD. DON'T
FORGET!!**

**The next meeting of KCRC will be held at
KCRC field on Williams Bend Road. It will
start at 7:00 PM on May 11th, 2004. Please be
there as it will be the last meeting before
several KCRC events.**