



ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS CHARTERED CLUB #1255

# SERVO CHATTER

A PUBLICATION OF:

ANOKA COUNTY RADIO CONTROL CLUB, INC.

APRIL 2011

***THE MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, APRIL 21, AT RIVERWIND!!***

## PRESIDENT'S CHATTER

On Sunday April 17, weather permitting, we will be having our annual spring clean up at the field at 1:00 PM. Basically it involves getting the benches out of the shelter and moving the start up benches to their appropriate spots, checking the fence to see if we need to replace or repair it, and putting up our club sign by the highway. And of course any trash needs to be picked up. We are getting closer to our first events. Combat will be starting April 17 at 10:00 AM and on April 23 at 10:00 AM will be the first Fun Fly of the year for points. Hopefully we will have some decent weather to tune up our equipment and our thumbs before the start of the events for the year. As always your help with maintenance of the field and help at our events is always needed and appreciated.

See you at the meeting

Erik Castrodale

## ACRC EVENTS

I'm so excited, next month we will began our club's busy event schedule! We are very fortunate to have wide range of events so there is bound to be something for everyone. Sunday April 17 kicks off the 2011 flying season with the field cleanup. We need to get the starter stands put out, the picnic tables moved out of the shelter and painted. We also need a few people to help

get the sign out on the main road. If you can help, please come out and give a hand and bring some yard tools.

Combat will be the first flying event this year. If you have not seen 5 planes in the air at once all trying to cut the trailing ribbon of the other planes (I thought the idea was to takeout the other planes) you are in for a treat. This is a great spectator sport and it's even more fun to fly! I hope to see a big crowd this year. Just a remainder, if you plan to fly you will need a hard hat. If you're interested in seeing the planes that everyone is flying visit [www.treffe.com](http://www.treffe.com). Currently everyone that has been flying has been using the Battle-Axe SSC plane that uses a .15 cu.in. engine or a comparable electric setup.

The 2011 fun fly season is only a month away! Last year we had a great time and drew in visitors from several different clubs. While we do keep track of points throughout flying season, it's all about having fun, and I think last year was a great success. If you haven't attended a fun fly at our club before the format is three events. Events range from taxi events, timed basic flight maneuvers, to spot landings. The all time favorite event for spectators has to be the limbo contest. Don't worry flyers; the limbo will not be in the first month's events! We will also start off easy with the 2nd annual kickoff of a taxi event to loosen up everyone's thumbs. During the fun fly the field will be closed to general flying.

ACRC Forum - <http://anoka-rc.com/forums>



Dates for upcoming events

### April

Combat Fly:	Apr 17, 10:00 AM
Field Cleanup:	Apr 17, 1:00 PM
Club Meeting:	Apr 21, 2011
April Fun Fly:	Apr 23, 2011

### May

Combat Fly:	May 1, 2011
Spring Fly-In:	May 14, 2011
Club Meeting:	May 19, 2011
May Fun Fly:	May 21, 2011
Big Sky Swap Meet:	May 22, 2011

Marc Davis

## MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

26 members present.

### Board Reports:

Vice President: Jeff Flander reviewed the prizes for the evening's raffle.

Safety: Andy Thunstrom reminded the members to exercise caution when flying indoors. Andy also reminded those that will be participating in combat this season that they must wear hard hats. This includes pilots and helpers. Also, this year we will be using the flight stations which will put the pilots back another 30 feet from where we were flying last year. This will put a little more distance between the pilots and the planes. Points will be tracked this year so come for each event. The first combat event is April 17 at 10:00 AM.

Membership: Stan Zdon reports that there are now 90 renewals.

Events: Marc Davis reminded everyone that the first Fun Fly will be April 23. We also have another Fun Fly trophy for 2011.

Treasurer: Roger Jeffrey gave us a detailed financial report. The club is in good shape. The charges for the porta-potty will start April 1.

### Old Business:

On behalf of the club, Eric Castrodale presented a certificate of appreciation to Jack Groetsch for all the years he handled the club finances. Thank you Jake!!

### New business:

Andy Noll mentioned that the first 900 MHz radio will soon be released by Extreme Power Solutions.

Roger Jeffery noted that he received an e-mail from Michelle Bachman in response to a letter that had been sent to her regarding FAA regulations.

### Raffle:

1st	Dale Anderson	Hanger 9 Twist ARF
2nd	Tim Karash	Robart stand
3rd	Steve Stroh	Digital Tachometer
4th	Darren Bitzer	Knee pad
5th	Joe Coleman	Prop drill guide
6th	Andy Noll	X-Acto saw & miter.
7th	Roy Harter	Razor plane
8th	Phil Vaughn	Sealing iron
9th	Jim Taylor	Set of wheels

Steve Ulrich

## FLIGHT TRAINING

Open training days this season will be on Thursdays from 4:00 to 7:00 PM starting April 28. Training is, of course, dependent on the weather.

We already have a new student ready to start. Please give Marlyn Steinberger a warm welcome and your encouragement.

Thanks to those pilots who have volunteered to continue training for another season. I appreciate the support and will check in with you shortly.

If you would like to receive training, call or e-mail me. Alternate schedules can also be arranged. Spectators are welcome.

I'm anxious to get out to the field and begin a new season. See you there.

Dale Anderson -- Instruction Coordinator  
612-481-6405

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

I hope you will take time to read the flying site rules and refresh your memory now that the flying season is close at hand. This is especially important because some changes were made to rule 10 and high-speed passes are now allowed over the runway in certain instances. The rules will be attached to the email you get with this newsletter. You should print a copy and keep it handy. If someone mentions to you that you are violating one of the safety rules please do whatever it takes to correct what you are doing. It is considered bad form to give them a hard time and then continue doing what you are doing. If it means that you have to stop flying and make repairs or go home to get something that you need, that is what the club expects you to do. The AMA insurance for you and the landowner provides coverage only if you are following the rules. It would be a shame to lose our field because of the ignorance and arrogance of a few fliers.

Part of Rule #2 states that members are to put their membership card on the frequency board and guests are supposed to use their AMA card. The reason for this is so that we can be sure that the fliers are either current ACRC members or guests with a current AMA. Fliers are not to use last year's cards, driver's licenses or business cards. If you lose your 2011 ACRC card and need a new one let me know. I will mail you a new card - FREE.

Don't forget that the first Fun Fly of 2011 is on Saturday, April 23 and the Spring Fly-In is on Saturday May 14. The Pattern Contest will be Saturday, June 4 and the Fun Scale Contest will be held on Saturday, July 9. The list of maneuvers and the descriptions of the maneuvers for Sportsman and Intermediate Pattern will be emailed along with this newsletter. Get out there and practice. You will have some purpose to your flying other than just boring holes in the sky. If you have any questions about the maneuvers for the pattern or scale contests call Stan Zdon at (763) 784-3121.

The next meeting will be at Riverwind on April 21 at 7:00 PM. This is the last indoor meeting until September. The summer meetings will be AT THE FIELD.

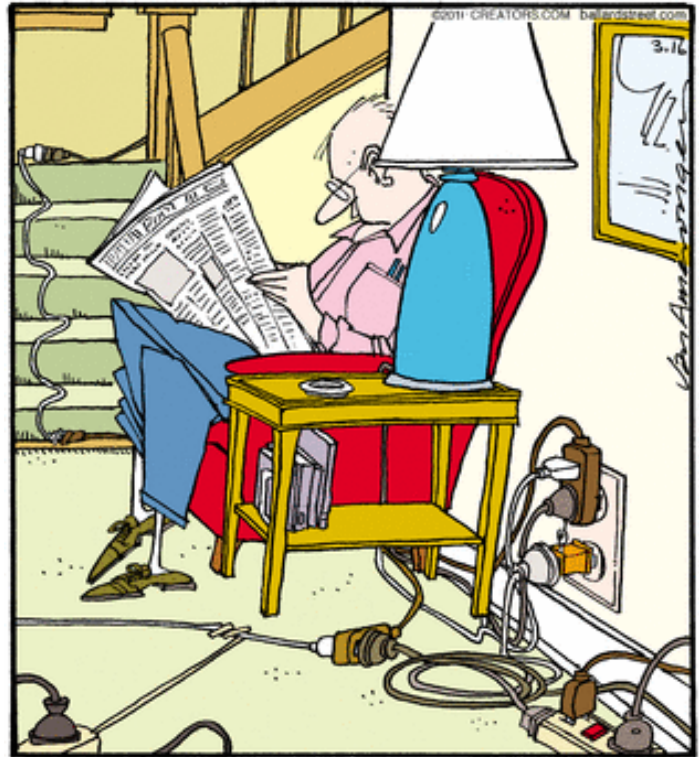
Stan Zdon

## COMBAT INFO

Combat is on April 17 at 10:00 AM. Make sure you have your hard hats. Make sure your planes are ready. We will be talking about Combat T-Shirts on this day.

Andrew Thunstrom

### Ballard Street by Jerry Von Amerongen



Bob's electrical grid is hanging on by white knuckles.

## REAGAN QUOTES

"The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program." - Ronald Reagan

"Socialism only works in two places: Heaven where they don't need it and hell where they already have it." - Ronald Reagan

# ON THE SAFE SIDE

## RC Helicopter Safety

### Not Just for the Novice Pilot

By Bill Zydycryn

Learning to fly and build RC helicopters is very rewarding. Today more people are getting into the hobby either as first time helicopter pilots or fixed-wing pilots who have shown an interest in learning to fly RC helicopters. RC helicopters, electric or nitro need to be given the proper respect to keep your flying experience safe for you, the flightline, and observers at the field. Remember RC helicopters are not toys. You can get severely injured if you get careless!

So let's discuss safety. It begins at the building stage of your helicopter kit. Most kits today contain written instructions with illustrations for each component in the building sequence. Some assemblies may require Loctite to keep them from vibrating loose. Make sure you do not overlook this important step. Cleaning the cap head screws with alcohol before assembly removes the oil residue from the screws and helps the Loctite bond more effectively.

Generally speaking, blue Loctite is recommended throughout the building process. Red Loctite should only be used for permanent bonding. If the instructions call for using nylock nuts, you don't need Loctite. Also substitute CA instead of Loctite when inserting cap head screws, set screws, or ball links into plastic. Loctite tends to make the plastic brittle.

Servo wiring: Keep your servo wiring as neat as possible, check your servo wire clearances around bellcranks, control rod linkages, etc. Avoid routing servo wires close to anything that is going to generate a lot of heat. Also, carbon fiber frames look cool but be careful how you run your wires through the side frame holes. The edges are sharp and can cut your wiring. Use plastic spiral wire wrap or tape for added protection. When you have multiple servo wires to bundle, use soft

Velcro straps - avoid plastic tie wraps. Over time the vibration can create chafing on the servo wires directly beneath the tie wrap.

Gyros: If you are running a gyro or a 3G flybarless module, secure it (if you can) with a Velcro strap or a plastic tie wrap just in case the double-sided tape fails.

Receivers: Add a bead of clear silicone sealant across the top and bottom of all the servo wires that plug into the receiver. The silicone will help prevent any servo wire from backing out because of vibration.

Servo arms: If you are using metal gear servos, place a very small amount of Loctite on the machined screw that holds the servo arm onto the servo. You don't want these screws backing out from vibration.

Flight controls: Once all your electronics are installed, check the movement of your swash plate, throttle, ailerons, elevator, pitch, and tail rotor. Make sure they are moving in the right direction in response to your stick commands.

Final build double check: Start at the top, front, or tail of the helicopter. Thoroughly check all Phillip head screws, set screws, ball links, cap head screws, etc. Retighten and Loctite anything you missed during the initial building phase. Check your receiver, gyro, speed controllers, governors, batteries/li-polys, and muffler to ensure everything is secure. Fit your canopy and make sure it does not interfere with any control rods, bellcranks, or servo wires, etc. When you think you have completed your model following the manufactures instructions and it's your first build, don't run out to the flying field or your backyard to attempt to hover or fly it. Have an experienced helicopter pilot check it out. It could save you money in repair costs, but more importantly it avoids potential injury to yourself and others.

Fail safe: Most of the popular helicopter and airplane transmitters today have a "FAIL-SAFE" program built into the radio.

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The fail-safe is designed to return your throttle to the idle position if you lose the signal to the receiver. But keep in mind you must manually activate this program and set an idle for each model you have stored in your radio!

Before you head to the field, make sure your onboard NiCads or Li-Polys are fully charged as well as your transmitter. If you are thinking about flying that old helicopter that has been sitting around for a while, check it for loose/cracked ball links, servo arms, and linkages. Replace with new ones. Clean your blades and look for any stress cracks, chips, or ripped covering, etc. Do not fly until the damaged blade or blades are replaced and rebalanced.

At the field: Prior to starting your helicopter in the pits, users of non-2.4GHz transmitters should put up a frequency pin and make sure your channel is clear before you turn on your transmitter. Do a range check. I repeat, do a range check! Keep everything not needed to start your model a safe distance away. Avoid loose clothing. Take a look at your radio; make sure all switches are in the correct position for starting. Make sure you have selected the correct model you are about to start.

Starting the engine: Check to make sure your throttle stick is all the way down. Use your throttle trim to start your engine. Hold one blade grip firmly while you engage the starter and spin up the engine. Once you have a reliable idle you can head for the flight line, by either holding the throttle stick down with your thumb or engage the throttle-hold switch on the transmitter (preferred method). The throttle-hold switch is a flight mode that must be programmed by you (usually based on a % that corresponds to a specific engine idle setting for that model). The safety benefit of this feature is, should you accidentally bump your throttle stick to high throttle, your engine will remain at idle with no clutch engagement to the main shaft and rotor blades.

Getting ready to hover/fly: Keep a safe distance (25-30 feet) between you and the helicopter. Do not spool up your model at your feet. Avoid hovering at eye level for obvious safety reasons.

Other safety considerations: Do not fly alone. Keep a small first aid kit in your flight box. Never hold the helicopter by the skids with the blades spinning. Most of all use common sense!

Contributed by Stan Zdon

## SPRING CALENDAR

- Apr 17 ACRC Combat Fly - 10:00 AM
- Apr 17 ACRC Field Clean-Up - 1:00 PM
- Apr 21 ACRC Meeting @ Riverwind - 7:00 PM
- Apr 23 ACRC Fun Fly - 10:00 AM
- May 01 ACRC Combat Fly - 10:00 AM
- May 07 SPRC 3-Event Fun Fly - 10:00 AM
- May 11 SPRC Club Meeting @ EAA - 7:00 PM
- May 14 TCRC Spring Float Fly @ Bush Lake
- May 14 ACRC Spring Fly-In - 10:00 AM
- May 15 Hobby Warehouse Spring Swap Meet
- May 19 ACRC Meeting @ The Field - 7:00 PM
- May 21 ACRC Fun Fly - 10:00 AM
- May 21 Sodbusters Combat SSC FlyIn - 8:00AM
- May 22 Big Sky Hobby Spring Swap Meet
- May 22 Sodbusters Scale Sunday Fly-In
- May 21/22 Blaine Aviation Days  
Anoka County Airport Janes Field

### Anoka County R/C Instructor List

Please note that it is up to the new pilot to contact an instructor for flight lessons. It is good practice to get a hold of an instructor prior to a training session.

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Dale Anderson          | (612) 481-6405 |
| Lead Instructor        |                |
| Mike Flander           | (763) 439-6959 |
| Dan Thiede             | (763) 227-3173 |
| Jim Taylor             | (612) 868-0419 |
| Jim Wright             | (763) 786-7047 |
| Doug Lewis             | (763) 670-7678 |
| (Helicopter and Plane) |                |

## Survivors of the Last Flight

by *Dan Griffin*

I stood in my RC workshop the other day wondering what was going to happen to all my RC gear. Then it dawned on me—I will not have to deal with any of this stuff when I slip the surly bonds. Even though I plan to be around for a while longer, my family and friends will be left with the task. Not knowing when that last flight may take place, we owe them some guidance.

I have had the opportunity to assist many individuals in the disposal of their worldly possessions. There are always some sobering considerations for them. Who gets what? How much is this or that item worth? How is it all going to be distributed? When can it be distributed? Your survivors will be grateful if such questions are answered for them prior to your last flight.

### Make a List

The first task you need to address is making a list of your treasures. In fact, make several lists: one list for your ready-to-fly craft, another list of your unfinished projects and kits, another of your electronics, and a general items list with all your parts pieces and building materials. You don't need to list every nut, bolt, screw, and hinge. The goal of these lists is for a person unfamiliar with the RC hobby to take the list, go into your work shop, and identify each item on the list.

My longtime friend and fellow adventurer, George Sheffield, AMA #9460, came up with a novel way to make his list and keep his friends attentive. He will invite all his RC friends over to his house. They will assist him in inventorying and making his lists. As a reward, each helpful friend will be put on a list to be given to George's significant other. When, as George says, the big day comes, each of the friends on the list will be invited over to George's workshop. Numbers will be put into his old BAMS RC club hat. Each friend will draw a number. Then, in numerical order, each friend will be allowed to enter George's RC hangar and choose an item as a token of George's friendship and esteem.

### How Much is it Worth?

As you make the list, also give each item an estimated fair value you would use at your favorite swap meet. Be realistic. Don't give what you think is the fair market value, or the imagined future value, or ascribe any additional value to the item just because it has sentimental value to you. Your family will be very grateful that you have done this. They most likely will not have any idea what your stuff is worth or what to ask for it when the time comes to sell it.

### How to Dispose of It

Many things will change from the time you make your lists to the time your family uses them. I do not generally recommend that you make changes or codicils to your Last Will and Testament to include your RC bequests. Those are costly and unnecessary. I do recommend that you sit down and write a letter of intent to be placed with your estate planning documents.

In this letter, give directions to the person administering your estate about what you want done with your possessions, and who you want to receive which items from your lists. This letter, in most states, is not legally binding, but it will provide invaluable guidance to your estate administrator about your wishes. One reality of any hobby is that most members of your family will not share your passion for the hobby. As a result, disposition of your RC gear should be as easy and expeditious as you can make it.

### Where to Dispose of It

Your disposal choices are pretty limited for your RC stuff. You can offer the items to your RC club members, send them to a swap meet, donate them to a worthy cause, sell them in classified ads, or just plain give them away to your friends. Each choice has its pros and cons. Remember that before you can give away or dispose of any estate property, either the Court has to give you permission to do so, or the estate administrator has to be empowered by the Court to do so.

The first items to go are the outright gifts to a person, organization, or institution. The individuals or institutions should be contacted prior to delivery to make arrangements. If you are giving items to museums, schools or other institutions, they sometimes require documentation before accepting the item and giving charitable contribution receipts.

I most often see RC estates offered first to the RCer's fellow club members. You will get a bit more value for each item this way because of the club members' attachment to the person and his family. This is where your lists and estimated values will really come in handy.

Next, there is the RC swap meet. This is where most estates go to dispose of the last items. However, you must bear in mind, most of us that go to swap meets are looking to snag an item at so low a price that it is considered a steal or a bargain too good to pass up. Practically, for your estate, that means you are not going to get anywhere near fair market price or hobby store prices for the items. For this reason, I suggested you add a fair value swap meet price to each item on your lists. Don't unrealistically build your loved ones expectations of the value of your RC gear.

Sometimes, classified ads, on-line auctions, and RC swap sites can be helpful. The big downside is that once the sale is made, someone has to pack up and ship the items to the purchasers. This can be costly and time consuming, so you may not want to put your family through it.

### Make a Plan

No one really wants to sit around and contemplate the inevitable, but a little PPP (proper prior preparation) will help your family and friends make the necessary closure. Contact one or two of your RC buddies. Be considerate and ask them if they would be willing to assist your family when the time comes. Talk through your wishes. Most importantly, talk to your significant other about your plan and where to locate the letter of intent and your lists.

### Update Your Lists

Every six months or so, sit down and review your letter of intent, lists, and valuations. Things change, friendships end or fade, and new priorities arise and need to be addressed.

*Dan Griffin, AMA #590996, has been involved in the legal profession as a practicing attorney and adjunct professor for more than 22 years. Now retired from active law practice, he is a member of District VIII's Boerne Area Model Society.*

### Donate to the National Model Aviation Museum

The AMA Museum does actively solicit donations to its collections. We are, however, selective in what we collect because of space and budget constraints.

If you have items that you would like to donate to the museum after your death, please contact the museum staff to learn if we need the items for the collection, and to discuss an Intent-to-Donate agreement. Before contacting the museum, please create a general list of what you have to donate.

A step-by-step guide to donating to the museum collection, as well as common questions and museum staff contact information, can be found at

[www.modelaircraft.org/museum/donations.aspx](http://www.modelaircraft.org/museum/donations.aspx)

Or, you can contact Museum Registrar Maria VanVreede at [mariav@modelaircraft.org](mailto:mariav@modelaircraft.org), (765) 287-1256, extension 508, and she would be happy to discuss it with you.



# SERVO CHATTER

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## ACRC BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT

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ACRC Forum - <http://anoka-rc.com/forums>

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## CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH

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*Marc Davis*

*Andy Thunstrom*

*Steve Ulrich*

*Stan Zdon*

## ACRC SPONSORS

King Kong Hobbies  
Abraham Technical  
Aerospace welding  
Cambridge State Bank  
T & G Hardwood

*Deadline for the  
next newsletter is:  
May 1, 2011*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday – April 21

- ACRC Club Meeting

Saturday – April 23

- ACRC Fun Fly

Saturday – May 14

- ACRC Spring Fly-In

Thursday – May 19

- ACRC Club Meeting

