



ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS CHARTERED CLUB #1255

SERVO CHATTER

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ANOKA COUNTY RADIO CONTROL CLUB, INC.

AUGUST 2024

THE AUGUST 15TH MEETING IS AT THE FIELD!!

PRESIDENT'S CHATTER

FLYING EVENTS ARE HERE

Yes, it is summer and we have flying events for all to participate in. Coming soon is the first annual ACRC BIG BIRD FLY Aug. 17, 2024. There is a \$15.00 landing fee that includes the lunch. There is a great raffle after lunch. The raffle will include 4- \$50.00 cash prizes for you to spend as you wish, also a SKY WING 60 LASER 260 ARF with motor, a thunder power ACDC charger that balance charges and discharges all types of batteries up to 6s lipos, life, lion, A123, NiCad, and lead acid, also a Weller soldering kit, and other misc. R/C equipment. Definitely worth buying some raffle tickets. Bring all your friends and guests. This is a sanctioned event. A valid AMA is required to fly.

OUR MONTHLY FUN-FLY IS RE-SCHEDULED FOR THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY AUG. 24, 2024. Remember there is a drawing each month for participating in the fun-fly for \$50.00 so come out and join in the fun!!

We're not done yet. September 14, 2024 is our annual ELECTRIC FLY-IN. There is a \$10.00 landing fee that includes lunch. Then a raffle will be held after lunch.

Open flying for gas and glow will start after 3:00 PM or earlier if all pilots present agree.

Yep, there is a September fun-fly the third Saturday September 21, 2024.

Then if you haven't had enough fun, we are inviting all to our FALL FLY OUT that is scheduled for Oct. 5, 2024. This is an open event for all flyers with a current AMA and yes there will be lunch.

I am hoping to see many of you and your friends and guests at these events. We can always use volunteers to help with organizing and help at the events.

PA System

Through a generous donation from Virgil Okeson and a little networking ACRC now has a working PA system that is battery powered and has a built-in speaker and the ability to connect with our mounted speakers on the pavilion. It will be delivered the day of our Big Bird fly. I have heard a lot of interest in our next event so I am looking forward to having a great time.

Jeff Slater

FROM THE VEEP

I want to talk this month about battery safety. Note: I am not an expert on this topic, but I can speak from my personal experiences. There are many articles out there that talk about how to care for your batteries, although you will find differing opinions wherever you go. Your best bet is to do some research and figure out what



works for you and the type of batteries you keep. The batteries we use in our airplanes come in different chemistries, sizes and voltages. The photo below shows a pile of batteries that I've collected over the years. The problem with these particular ones is that I don't use them anymore. They all are many years old and some don't hold an adequate charge for flying a plane or powering a receiver. Most of them should probably be recycled at this point. Keep in mind, you should not simply throw them away in the trash. Batteries disposed of this way can start fires and put waste collection personnel in danger. My preferred way to dispose of them is to take them to Batteries Plus, because they told me they will take any battery in most any condition to be recycled.



An assortment of NiMH and LiPo batteries

Another part of battery safety is knowing when to retire a particular battery. We all know how expensive our batteries can be, so we keep them around as long as we can. Unfortunately, in the case of high-power concentration LiPos and others, overusing them can lead to dangerous failure and combustion. I came really close to experiencing this one time when I tried to charge a puffed LiPo. I was fortunate to check in on the battery and unplug it immediately and let it cool down. The next photo shows that the heat had melted the outer wrapping and one of the cells split open, exposing the chemicals inside. Any longer on the charger and I'm sure I would have had a fire in my basement. Keep this in mind: no old puffed battery is worth the risk of causing a fire in your house or garage.



This battery almost created a fire

Puffed batteries that tend to heat up after a flight usually need to be retired. You can also check the internal resistance of the cells with some chargers. If the cell resistances are unbalanced then it's probably near the end for that battery. These conditions can happen if you use a battery with a motor that operates beyond the battery's ratings, or over discharge a battery below the minimum voltage.

In my opinion it is best to discharge a battery before taking it in for recycling. I take care of this by hooking the battery up to a 12 VDC light that you can get from the hardware store. I soldered wires onto the pins, added shrink tubing and a common connector and place the contraption into a 5-gallon bucket of sand. This should contain any fire that might occur as you bring the voltage down to zero.



One way of discharging a spent battery

You can also choose to charge or discharge your batteries in a box that is meant to contain the fire and filter dangerous chemicals out of the smoke.



A Bat-Safe for safely charging/discharging batteries

Whatever you do, don't underestimate the danger of these batteries. It doesn't take a lengthy web search to find videos and stories of fires that started by a bad LiPo. This is not meant to scare you from using the batteries we need for our planes. If taken care of properly you can get many good flights out of them.

In addition to the usual sort of raffle prizes, I'm told there will be surprise case prizes for this month. Hope to see you there!

Ryan Kontak

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In the March 2024 newsletter, I addressed the AMA expiration date on our current club cards. In the past, the process was when you received your new AMA card during the flying season you would send a copy to the club, then you would receive a new club card with the updated AMA expiration date on it. I feel that process is more work and a waste of materials. I am tracking your AMA expiration date via Excel spreadsheet which will alert me via date range if your AMA is expiring or expired. I will tell you with 100% confidence that every club member is AMA current. The soonest I have anyone expiring is 8/31/24. Keep an eye on your AMA expiration date and if you are going to challenge a "club member" at the field, please be tactful and respectful. This is a club; we are here to have a good time.

If your AMA renewal date is at some point during the flying season, I will not be sending you an updated card. The board is discussing a new club card process for 2025, more details to come. If you are approached at the field with an expired AMA date on your club card, you as a member should be able to provide proof that you are a current AMA member. This is the same procedure for all our open events, flyers are expected to show a current AMA card. Keep your current AMA in your flight box, transmitter case, or someplace that it will make it to the flying field anytime you go. Current AMA is required to fly at ACRC per By-Laws Article 1 Section 6.

- Current 2024-member count: 75

The next meeting will be at the Flying Field on August 15th at 7:00pm.

Scott Oleson

A LOOK BACK

AUGUST 2006

18 YEARS AGO

ACRC Prez Al Spearbecker, place third in the Fun Scale portion of the recent Scale Masters event held at our field. Stan Zdon placed first in both the Fun Scale and Expert Scale.

14 Pilots participated in the July Fun-Fly

A large list of items "For Sale" by Greg Classen, included 7 airplanes with motors, several radios, and a "grocery list" of R/C related items. Looks like Greg is bailing out of the hobby.

Membership is up to 115

Spread Spectrum radios have arrived, causing confusion on the Frequency Control Board use.

AUGUST 1996

28 YEARS AGO

Newsletter editor, Tim Brockman, had multiple celebrations.

His wife gave birth to son, Thomas, on 8/4/96.

Tim also noted “10 years of doing the newsletter”. Nine and a half to go, Ryan.

The Fun Scale contest was held in July with 9 contests, 5 in Novice, 4 in Expert. Jeff Slater took first in the Novice Class, and Eric Malkerson taking first in Expert.

The 8th Annual ACRC Float Fly was held at Don McGillivray’s Long Lake cabin. 12 Pilots with another dozen spectators.

Prez Kevan Fager, planned a three-day trip to the Oshkosh EAA AirVenture, however it became a full week of “Ogling” and Drooling.

Tim Karash

ACRC MINUTES

Board members present:

Jeff Slater, Tim Karash, Ryan Kontak, Mike Reinert, Jeff Flander.

9 Members present plus board

Guest: None

Membership Report:

74 Members

Treasurer’s Report:

Not Available

Safety Officer Report:

No issues

Event Coordinator:

Monthly Fun-Flys

Big Bird Fly-In on August 17th

Electric Fly-In on September 14th

Fall Fly-Out October 5th

Mike Reinert has volunteered to step in as Event Coordinator and has passed the AMA Contest Director Certification.

Tom Hensh has graciously donated a 60-inch Laser 260 with electric motor. This will be used as an event raffle prize.

Training Report:

No report

Old Business:

The grass surrounding the runway, has gotten higher than the asphalt surface. A work crew cut the sod back and Jeff Flander used his truck to pack down the edges.

The runway has been resealed. Jeff Slater was able to get a discount for cash payment.

Weeds surrounding the ditches are overgrown. A date was set to trim them back; however, Bobby Hoffman will use his machinery to cut it back prior to the Big Bird Fly-In.

New Business:

The hobby hardware supplier, RTL, has offered a 60% discount on bolt kit purchases. Enter the code “Club60” as a discount code in step #2.

Show and Tell:

Ryan Kontak brought his Sweet ‘N Low project. Ryan has the wing fitted, motor mount 3D printed, and he has made a canopy from lite ply and balsa.

Tim Karash brought a relic from Ni-Cads past, a Futaba battery tester and discharge device.

Raffle:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1) Std hex wrench set | Jeff Slater |
| 2) Screw Driver | Tim Karash |
| 3) Snap Knife | Ryan Kontak |
| 4) Bag of Balsa | Tom Hensh |
| 5) Grab bag | Mike Spence |

Submitted by Tim Karash

ACRC Spring/Fall Jackets

Waiting to hear back from JF Graphics if the sample jacket will be done by the meeting.

I plan to start taking orders at the next meeting and through the end of the month.

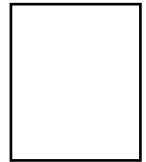
Jackets will be \$95.00 each, Plus tax.

That is our cost, the club does not make anything on the jackets. More information at the meeting and in future e-mails.

Marc Tellevik

SERVO CHATTER

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ACRC SPONSORS

King Kong Hobbies
Woodworking Plus
Blackjacks Asphalt
Rivard Companies

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday – August 15

- ACRC Meeting-At the Field

Saturday – August 17

- ACRC Big Bird Fly-In

Saturday – August 24

- ACRC Fun Fly #4

Saturday – September 14

- ACRC Electric Fly-In

Thursday – September 19

- ACRC Meeting-At the Field
- Saturday – September 21

- ACRC Fun Fly #5

CRCC - Coon Rapids Civic Center

