



Newsletter for the Sentral Illinois Radio Society, Bloomington, IL

A.M.A. Chapter 621

April 2010

April 2010 Newsletter

Electrics

Flying an electric RC airplane is like having beginners luck every time you fly. The first remote control airplane I ever got was electrically powered, I had no flying skills whatsoever, and I still managed to fly it perfectly without even crashing. Why you ask? Because electric RC planes like the one I had are so simple, they only have two control options, power and steering. You go as fast, or slow as you want and just choose your direction.

Yes, there are electric RC planes that you can buy or build, that have many control channels and all the works, like flaps, ailerons, etc. Those types of electric airplanes are basically made for advanced flyers who don't like the mess that comes with the use of fuel. Most hobbyist start with an electrically powered plane, then move onto fuel powered ones once they have mastered it. But like I said, some people just don't like the mess and added expense that comes with a fuel powered engine, so they stick with electric motors. Fine, do whatever makes you happy, but I am just going to talk about getting a good electric RC plane for a beginner pilot.

First off you should note that electric airplanes can come in a few different types. Basically there are only park flyers, slow flyers, regular electric planes and advanced electrically powered RC airplanes. Park flyers are mainly for parks and small areas similar to that outdoors. Slow flyers are just the opposite, since they move slower they are for indoors. These can be great for the winter or when it is just plain to windy outside to fly.

A regular electric RC airplane is the best for beginners and is exactly what I flew as my first RC airplane. Usually these planes are priced around \$50 and they have just two controls, so it is ideal for beginners. This type of airplane is usually made of Styrofoam, and very little metal, so you need to be careful when flying it. Even if you do crash and damage something, usually a little duct tape will fix anything on it. I kid you not, I still have my first electric RC plane, which I broke the wing twice on, and it still fly's!

An advanced electric RC airplane is ideal for advanced pilots who don't like the mess of fuel, like I said before, but it is also great for areas where noise is a concern and you still want the full experience. Advanced electric R/C airplanes are more full bodied then regular ones, usually made of all plastic and balsa wood, plus they also have around 5 or 6 channels of control.

All in all, buy a park flyer if you just want a quick little flight every once in awhile, get a slow flyer if you want to fly indoors, purchase a regular electric RC plane if you want to get into the RC airplane hobby seriously, but are just a beginner. Last but not least, once you master an electric RC plane, move onto a more advanced nitro methane fuel powered one, or an advanced electrically powered plane.

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News and article submissions are encouraged

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Club Meetings

Club meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at the flying field. Meetings begin at 1900 (CST) and/or 2000 (CDT).

Classified and Advertising

For sale Zirolli Hellcat with detailed cockpit, Quadra 100 with spring starter, three blade 24 X 10 Mezjak prop,
Futaba JR mix servos, 3200 mah 6v bat, JR heavy duty charging switch, toggle engine kill switch,
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SIRS, Inc. Meeting Minutes - March, 13 2010

Meeting started at 7:09
12 members present and 0 guests

Approved minutes from last meeting

Treasurer report:

\$7259.14 in bank. Includes \$3000 in contingency fund.

Projected to have approx \$579.00 in bank at end of year after all expenses.
48 paid up members including 1 junior member.

Old business:

Swap Meet: There will be no swap meet this year having decided that it would not be a good idea to host one during the USO benefit. However if any club members want to sell something they can always do so for free on the SIRS forum or at meetings. Father Rick has a Funtana 90 for sale, obo.
Indoor flying: Tom decided that this is over for the year, however if he believes that at least 15 people will show up he will host one more. If interested there is a thread on the forum where this can be discussed.

USO calendar project: The calendar should be done very soon and ready for sale. Remember the calendar is for 2011 and would make a great gift to hang in ones workshop.

USO Event: Fred has sent out approximately 150 letters asking for donations. Only 3 positive responses have been received so far. Best Buy should be getting back to Fred real soon. We are trying to get a non-RC raffle together. The grand prize must be worth less than \$1000 and should not be hobby related. Tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and the winner wouldn't need be present to win. We will get a license to have this raffle. Fred has the details. For this to be a success, we need all the help we can get from SIRS members and friends. Contact a club officer if you would like to step up and volunteer a good cause.

424 Race: Pre-registration is available for the 424 races. 5 racers have registered so far. There will be a Thunder Tiger and Jet class. At least 12 volunteers will be needed to make these races run smoothly. Last year's races brought in approx \$800. The races are set for June 26-27 and Sept 18-19. Contact Jay for more info or if you would like to volunteer.

New Business:

Meeting times: Remember this was the last meeting to be held at 7pm. All meetings in the future will be held at 8 pm.

AMA Charter: The charter paperwork has been submitted.

Meeting Attendance: How to improve meeting attendance again came up. We are open to suggestions. One suggestion was to have a cookout before the meetings in addition to the second Saturday races. This sounds like fun. Everyone is welcome at meetings including wives, children, and family members. Come one come all, they are a good time to get together with friends and hang out. Once again remember that all future meetings will be held at 8pm. Warmer weather and the time change is here, and with it meeting attendance will hopefully go up.

Show and Tell: Jay brought in some Dawn Power Dissolver dish soap to try to clean up an engine. There was recently an article in the AMA magazine about using this to clean up old engines. Jay tested it on an old engine and it cleaned up pretty well, sadly no soap could fix the large crack in the crankcase.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm



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The Club Corner

by Jim Wallen, AMA Insider Club Editor

One of the things to keep in mind is that our hobby is all about having clean, wholesome, safe fun. Maintaining a positive, interesting atmosphere at our club meetings and at the flying field is what it's all about. Anything club officers or members can do to promote this atmosphere makes our hobby enjoyable for all our participants.

How can we best accomplish this?

Shake things up a bit. The same old routine at club meetings can get a little boring.

Add a new and different fun-fly at the field.

Bring in a guest speaker.

Conduct one of your club meetings in a new place that perhaps you have never thought about.

How about a senior citizens' center?

Our hobby thrives through diversity. We can focus on warbirds, Scale, helicopters, static displays, gliders; the list goes on. Bring some diversity into your club membership. Strive to recruit some females and youth. Initiate a fun-fly specifically for teams of spouses or "significant others." Think out of the box. Your club will grow and benefit from your efforts. -Q

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April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	In the coming months.... USO Calendars go on sale soon! Pre-order your copy! Sat, June 5th - USO Benefit Fly-In - Fred Logue Sat-Sun, June 26 & 27 - 424 Races - Jay Cappis				10
11	12					17
18	19					20
25	26	27	28	29	30	