


The Transmitter

Suburban RC Barnstormers - P.O. Box 524, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

AMA CHAPTER 640

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February, 2004

<http://www.suburbanrcbarnstormers.com>

Coming in February and March

February 7th, Tri-Village Swap, Dupage Fairgrounds

February 9th, Regular Member Meeting, 7:30pm, Bloomingdale Library

February 23rd, Board Meeting, 7:30pm, Bloomingdale Library

March 8th, Regular Member Meeting, 7:30pm, Bloomingdale Library

March 22nd, Board Meeting, 7:30pm, Bloomingdale Library

Suburban RC Barnstormers

Proposed Schedule of Events For 2004

Jan. 1st Noon Fun-Fly
Jan. 12th Club Meeting
Jan. 26th Board Meeting
Feb. 9th Club Meeting
Feb. 23rd Board Meeting
March 8th Club Meeting
March 22nd Board Meeting
April 10th Swap Shop
April 12th Club Meeting
April 26th Board Meeting
May 2nd Giant Scale Fun-Fly
May 10th Club Meeting
May 16th Fun-Fly # 1
June 13th Fun-Fly # 2
June 14th Club Meeting
July 12th Club Meeting
July 18th Fun-Fly # 3
Aug. 8th Giant Scale Fun-Fly

Aug. 9th Club Meeting
Aug. 22nd Fun-Fly # 4
Sept. 12th Lisle Fun-Fly
Sept. 13th Club Meeting
Sept. 26th Fun-Fly # 5
Sept. 27th Board Meeting
Oct. 11th Club Meeting
Oct. 25th Board Meeting
Nov. 8th Club Meeting/Election
Nov. 22nd Board Meeting
Dec. 13th Christmas Meeting
Dec. 20th Board Meeting

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.
Bloomingdale Public Library
Bensonville Golf Dome Flying Nov.-April
Thurs. & Sat. 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Thurs. is Barnstormers only.

Tri-Village RCers Swap Shop This Weekend

02/07/04 -Wheaton, IL (E) Tri-Village RCers Swap Shop. Site: Dupage County Fair Grounds, 2015 Manchester Ln. For info: Ken Graham, 575 Lakeview Ct Roselle IL 60172 PH: 630-529-1857 after 6PM. Vendor doors open at 7:30AM, door open 9AM for public. \$20 per table, \$18 for 3 or more tables. General admission \$5. Sponsor: TRI-VILLAGE RCERS

NOTES OF BARNSTORMERS MEETING of January 12, 2004

ATTENDANCE

Thirty-one regular members were in attendance. We had several guest and new members. We welcome **David and Eric Osuna** as new members to our club. **Sean Reeves** and **Dan Rubino** were visiting.

OFFICER REPORTS

President: John Howe said flyers were available for our April swap shop. Please take and distribute these where ever possible.

John also said there is an upcoming swap at the Dupage Fairgrounds on Saturday February 7th put on by the Tri-Village club and another swap March 28th in Elk Grove village.

Treasurer: Bob Elsner reported the club had a balance of \$1236 in the bank. Bob will be soon be making a roughly \$600 payment to the Forest Preserve for this seasons events. The schedule for this year can be found in the newsletter.

Vice President: Scott Hurley said that entertainment for tonight would be a "builder's night". We will be making a blue foam version of the classic "Stick" aircraft. This will be a park flyer electric version. The cost is \$3.00.

The door prize for the evening was a battery quick charge and the rollover raffle was an Almost Ready to Fly (ARF) Corsair.

Scott Also mentioned that the Dome flying was extremely well attended and they are hoping to be able to support three nights of flying, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The plan is to keep attendance to a manageable 20 participants. The Thursday event is for Barnstormer members, only.

Secretary: Scott Taylor said it was time for members to renew. For those who have renewed, please look for your membership card attached to the next newsletter. Your

last newsletter will be the March issue if you have not renewed by then.

COMMITTEES

Fun Fly: Dave West reported on the January 1st "Polar" fly. This was a very well attended event with 20 members lining up for a photo at Noon. Several prizes were raffled off. We plan to have a similar get together during the Summer.

Steve Dietrich said he was still looking for new ideas for next year's fun flies. Please pass along your ideas. Steve promises to publish events to be flown in advance.

John Howe also read an open letter that was published in the Propmaster's newsletter. It has been more than a decade since they have won the annual Fun Fly competition between our two clubs. The letter was basically a solicitation for ideas on how to beat the Barnstormers. They said they would like to see what this elusive plaque actually looks like.

ENTERTAINMENT

This meeting was a "Builder's Night" featuring a blue foam "Stick" park flyer. About 20 kits were assembled from scratch. The wings and tail feathers were all cut and assembled during this one evening. The cost of the parts for the planes was \$3.00. This is a wonderful demonstration proving models do not need to be expensive to be fun and fly! Thanks to Scott Hurley and helpers for pulling this together.

RAFFLES

The lucky winners this night were **Alex Kowalski** who took home the battery charger door prize and **Steve Dietrich** who took home the ARF Corsair. Both of these members can be classified as "regularly lucky". Congratulations!

PLANES

There were 20 members and guests that showed off their brand new Park Flyer "Sticks"!!!

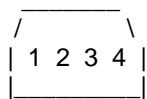
“HOWE TO” - Converting a PC power supply for use as a 12V DC power supply

Would you like to be able to use your 12V field charger from with 110V house current? If you answered yes then this is for you. The intent of the article is to assist you in using an old PC power supply to achieve this very task.

The first thing you will need of course is an old PC power supply. If you have an old PC lying around then this would be a great source. If you are not so lucky then I would talk with your IT department at work or your local computer repair shop. There are two basic types of power supplies used in most computers. The AT style and the ATX style. Fortunately for us the older AT style lends itself better for the conversion so this is the one I will discuss here. Both units will work but the newer ATX style must be hard wired to allow it to be turned on when not installed with a computer. AT power supplies date back to the original IBM PC. The older variety of these power supplies had the traditional red rocker switch on the side of the power supply, which would stick out the side of the computer. Newer version of their power supplies use a bundle of two or four wires which run to a switch mount inside the computer. (Use caution with the switch as they contain the raw 110V source power)

Power supplies are generally sold and rated in Watts with ranges from 200W through 450W are quite common. The watts are not as meaningful for this application as are the Amps for the 12 volt supply. Most power supplies are in 7 to 10 amp range. This seems to be enough for most field chargers. It is recommended you consult the owner's manual of your charger to verify its minimum required power input. (For my testing I used an old 9Amp unit).

After obtaining a power supply you need to verify which wires are used for the +12V. Your power supply should have three unique types of connectors. The smallest of the connectors is for the floppy drive. This one is not required. The next type of connector is for the motherboard and there are two that look identical and have six wires per connector. The last connector is the one I used which has four wires and is flat on one side with two bevels on the other side. (This is the connector which powers the hard drive or CD-ROM drives) It will generally contain two black wires, one red, and one yellow, which is the one we are interested in. (See diagram)



Pin Functions

- 1 +5 V (Red?)
- 2 Ground (Black)
- 3 Ground (Black)
- 4 +12 V (Yellow?)

With a volt meter test the connector to verify you have the correct voltage. Then clip the wires from two or more of

the drive connectors. I took the 12V wires to an automotive cigarette style adapter. Most power supplies require a load across the both the 5V and 12V side to supply the correct power. I used a 12V 4W light bulb from outdoor low voltage light set wired on the 5V side. This produces a load for the power supply and allows you to verify it is on. (Good thing the lights weren't buried by the snow yet!). Another approach would be to use an old hard drive and connect it to one of the spare connectors. I tried both approaches and found the power output with the charger to be the same. In the next article we will enclose everything in the power supply.



I would like to thank Bob Babyar who sent me the following email:

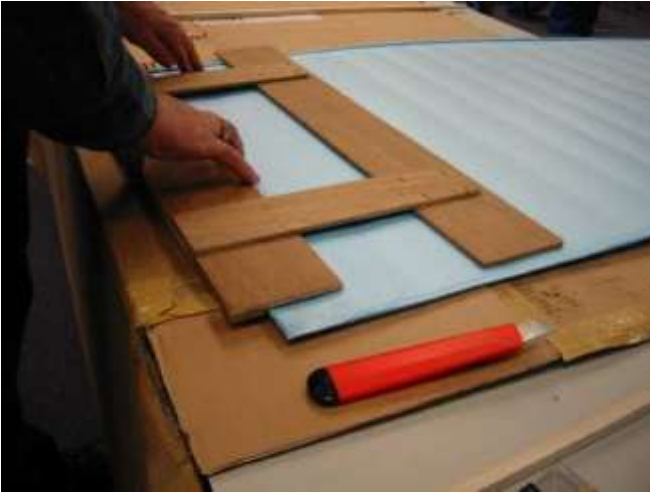
"I purchased a US Power Switching Power Supply from the American Scientific Store on Roosevelt Rd., about 4 miles W. of Rt. 59, for 20 bucks. It is rated 12 volts at 17 amps. Enough for my Triton Charger. This unit has yellow leads that are 12 volts. You need 2 of them connected together and 2 black (Gnd.) leads to supply the current for your charger. Before connecting the leads together, make sure they are 12 volts and gnd leads. I found that all yellow leads were not 12 volts and all black leads were not gnd. I read the article in model aviation re: load across the output but if you connect your charger across the output I see no need for an internal load. Any questions contact me at bandb83@juno.com"

As you can tell from Bob's email, not all power supplies are created equal and some will require a load on both the 5V and 12V side to supply full power. In my testing with the load my 12V soldering iron was getting just over 11.2V at 2.5A. When using a Hobicco field charger the voltage was 11V at just over 1A.

Good luck in your conversions and please send me pictures of your conversion so they can be featured in the next newsletter.

John Howe

Building the Blue Foam "Stick" January 8, 2004 Meeting



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This newsletter is published monthly by the Suburban RC Barnstormers, Inc.

We reserve the right to edit all information forwarded to us. Permission is hereby given to reprint any article that we publish as long as proper credit is given.

Material can be submitted for publication: (1) at a meeting, (2) by mailing to Suburban RC Barnstormers, Inc., P.O. Box 524, Bloomingdale, IL 60108, (3) sending it to the email of the editor, Scott Taylor, at taylorstr@megsinet.net

Articles must be received by the 4th Saturday of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

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