



The Transmitter

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

AMA CHAPTER 640

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July 2009

<http://www.suburbanrcbarnstormers.com>

Coming in July and August

July 13th, Member Meeting, Pratt's Wayne Woods, 6:30pm (due to Library being unavailable)

July 19th, Fun Fly #3, Pratt's Wayne Woods, 9:00am trim flights, 10:00am First Pilot

August 10th, Member Meeting, Bloomingdale Public Library, 7:00pm

August 16th, Fun Fly #4, Pratt's Wayne Woods, 9:00am trim flights, 10:00am First Pilot

PLEASE NOTE...

July Meeting Relocated to Pratt's Wayne

The meeting rooms at the Bloomingdale Library will be unavailable in July for our monthly membership meeting. But this will not stop us! Please plan to join us at the Pratt's Wayne Woods flying field where we will conduct our regular meeting. To take better advantage of the sunlight, we will hold our meeting a little earlier than usual, 6:30pm instead of 7:00pm. We hope to enjoy the

sunshine and warm weather of this early summer evening, but in case Mother Nature has precipitous plans for us, we will meet at the large shelter in the woods on the West side of Powis road.

Come early, bring your planes and get a few flights in! See you there...

Forth of July at the Top of the Heap!

Barnstormers tried something new this year, watching the Forth of July fireworks from atop one of the highest hills in the county. That being the landfill at the Green Valley Forest Preserve. Yes, it was a trash site for many years, but was converted to a methane-powered generator as well as the nicest overlook and slope-flying site in the area.



Normally the park would be closed after dusk, but by popular demand the Forest Preserve was issuing special parking permits for the evening for those that lined up to get them. Several of our members took advantage of the offer.

Expect to hear some rave reviews from our members of the fireworks from several surrounding communities on the 4th.

Flying to New Heights – Fun-Fly #2 Results

By Dave West

Great weather and a great turnout marked our second outdoor fun fly of the year. Thirty-one members attended with 19 flying in the event. The focus of the competition was altitude estimation. Winged Shadow Systems (Dave West's company) loaned us a few altimeters to install in or on the planes.

The first round task was to fly as close to 400 feet without going over. Orvil Fluharty took first place with a 396 foot flight. Second place was a tie with both Tom McAvoy and Scott Taylor reaching 377 feet. Stan Warden was next at 371 ft. Last place "honors" go to Steve Dietrich at 883 feet.

For the second round, pilots flew to any altitude they wished. Upon landing, the pilot's estimated altitude was compared to the altimeter reading, with the smallest percent error winning. Jeff Peca estimated 395, had a measured reading of 398, for an error of 0.8% and first place. Lino DiDonna (225, 218, 3.2%), Ron Hilger (241, 232, 3.9%), and Katie

Howe (500, 479, 4.4%), took 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, respectively. On the other hand, Katie's dad, John, in a bold attempt, finished last with an estimate of 5000, an actual altitude of 3066, and an error of 63%.

The winner of each round received an altimeter (or their choice of Winged Shadow product) as a prize. The last place pilots also received prizes -- since they were most in need of altimeters.

Ron Hilger handled the door prize duties. When their number was drawn, each attending member could select a prize from the table or choose to roll the dice for the big prize – a Tango ARF plane. Coincidentally, the Tango winner was – Ron Hilger!

Fun-fly chairman, and birthday boy, Scott Hurley brought the food. There was plenty of pizza and pop. Debbie Howe even brought birthday brownies. Thanks to everyone that came out for a fun day at the field!



Pictures from June 14th Fun Fly

Photos courtesy of Ed Wonnocot

Notes of the Suburban RC Barnstormers Membership Meeting

June 8, 2009

ATTENDANCE

There were 43 members and one visitor present. Among the 43 were two new members, Dale Myers and Tim Didier. Tom Nelson was visiting.

OFFICER REPORTS

President: Mert Mischnick presided over the meeting.

Mert mentioned he had heard about a field being constructed in St. Charles near Stearns and Route 25. It was rumored to be a Waste Management site. If anyone has any details, please pass them on to the club!

Mert also reminded everyone that because the Library will not be available, the next meeting will be at the Flying Field. We will meet a bit earlier than usual, 6:30p instead of 7:00p. In case of rain, we will meet at the shelter on the west side of Powis instead.

Vice President: Mike Maciejewski said the door prizes were a voltmeter and epoxy. The rollover prize was an electric Eagle from Scott Hurley along with a complete set of Winged Shadow products (How Fast, How High, See How, RC Reporter, On-board battery, and computer interface) valued at \$110 from Dave West. Both very talented members! Thanks!

Treasurer: Bob Elsner reported that all of the permits had been submitted and paid for the year. The interclub fun fly will be at the Spring Brook field this year.

Secretary: Scott Taylor said nametags had been ordered for members requesting them.

Scott had a couple of leftover static prized to distribute. Thanks for the participation!

Scott also added that anyone that was hungry on Father's Day should head out to Schaumburg airport for the pancake breakfast. June 21st, 8:00am to 12:00pm.

COMMITTEES

Fun Fly – Dave West said the next event would be a “how high” event. The first round will be the “glass ceiling” where pilots try to get as close to 400 feet without going over. The second round would be a pick your own altitude event.

Safety – Tom Lyons said the flight box was in need of a new fire extinguisher since the old one was used. The first aid kit seems to be in good shape but members should keep an eye on it and let him know if items expire or need to be replaced.

There was also some discussion about the safety value of the Glass Ceiling event, since the AMA safety code does not allow RC aircraft to be flown above 400 feet when within 3 miles of an airport.

It was also commented that any incident between an aircraft and model would be sure to have an impact both general aviation and RC modeling.

Giant Scale Aircraft – John Howe gave a presentation on the basics of Giant Scale aircraft flying and building. Giants are defined as having a minimum 80-inch wingspan for single wing models and 60-inch for bi-planes. Planes might also be smaller than this if they are true 1/4 scale. They can be powered by four-stroke and two stroke glow engines but more typically, they are powered by gas engines. John had several types of engines to show. He also had different types of covering materials and talked about which are best for what situation.

John's philosophy on giant scale was, “Bigger just flies better!”

Flight Instruction – John Howe said he was interested in restarting a “flight instruction day” during the week. In the past, we have had an evening or two during the week for instruction. Unfortunately, John can't do it himself, but

would like to support the idea if others can instruct.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dome 2010 – Mert said he would soon be talking to the dome owner, Mike, about the 2010 season. He asked if members had any ideas they wanted him to present. Some of the suggestions were; 1) adding more diverters in front of the blowers, 2) Giving the grounds keepers helmets, and 3) washing the balls behind rather than in front (of the flight line?)

Forth of July Idea – Mert said there seemed to be some interest in viewing the fireworks from the slope hill at Green Valley. He reminded everyone that parking permits would be distributed at 8am on June 15th. The permits are per car, so if we can pack them in, many could participate with only a few permits.

Shelter – Mert also shared some information about how the Propmaster club obtained their shelter. It was a joint venture between the club

and Forest Preserve (FP). The club paid about \$4500 for the shelter (10' x 20') and the FP installed it.

Voice Saver – Mert suggested the club purchase a megaphone to help save the voices of those working the Fun Flies. The members agreed and Stan Warden offered to hunt one down.

ENTERTAINMENT

New Hobby Shop - The owner of a new hobby shop and track opening in Elk Grove Village at 2150 Touhy Road gave us the scoop on his grand opening, July 1st. In addition, he made \$10 coupons available to members. You can find out more at <http://www.RCHobbyAndTrack.com>

RAFFLES

Willie Cowgill was the winner of the Thanksgiving turkey. **Katie Howe** and **Tom Volpe** took home door prizes. And Lino DiDonna won the rollover. Congratulations!

A Note From the AMA Insider's Technical Editor

A short time ago, a modeler wrote Ed McCollough (your humble technical editor) the following:

“Noticed and noted on the foot of page 66 of March Model Aviation underneath the picture of the Spektrum/JR flight logger, it is recommended that six-volt battery packs be used on ALL 2.4GHz receivers. Called Horizon Hobby on the phone; they confirmed this statement. It was suggested the same six volt usage for other brands also. Would like to suggest the general membership be made aware of this when 2.4 GHz receivers are used in glow/gas airplanes/helis to preclude possible in-flight loss.”

When I read this, I agreed with him and wrote him I would get on the problem. Please, read what he wrote and consider it very, very carefully. Unfortunately, the answer to his question hasn't been that quick or easy, but for the time being, here it is:

If you are flying a 2.4 GHz system, follow the manufacturers' specifications for the voltage. If you

are using a separate voltage pack for the receiver, be absolutely sure it has enough voltage to run the receiver. A common 5.0-volt receiver pack may not have sufficient voltage to run your particular receiver. Actually, if you used a six-volt pack and it was adequately charged, it should be sufficient, regardless of the manufacturer.

There is one problem, when using a six-volt pack if it isn't required by the manufacturer of your system. That problem will likely happen if you are using digital servos. If you drive some digital servos with six volts, there is a high probability you will damage the servos because of the higher voltage. Remember, if the servos fail, it won't make much difference that your receiver is still working.

You always need to be flying with a functional receiver pack, one that is as close to fully charged as possible. Remember, insufficient volts to the receiver and you crash.

Lastly, as in all things, and in all cases, read the instructions.

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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.

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

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Visit the Club Forum at our web site: <http://www.rcbarnstormers.com>

Please Support The Following Hobby Shops

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