



THE **ROCKET CITY RADIO CONTROLLERS, INC.** NEWSLETTER



... an AMA Award of Excellence Club!

Proudly serving the Huntsville community at the Captain Trey Wilbourn Model Airplane Field..

P. O. Box 2163

Huntsville, AL

February, 2009

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Mike Norton	By appointment	653-6632
Tony Coberly	By Appointment	882-7193
Rick Grim	By Appointment	503-5847
Pete Wick	By Appointment	883-7571
Bill Mitchell	By Appointment	650-5181

Prez Sez

Hello again everyone,

We have had a quite a bit of cold weather the past few weeks, so make sure to bundle up the field. Take advantage of the few warmer sunny days between the dreary ones.

I would like to thank everyone that came out to setup Swap Meet tables at the A&M Agribition center on Friday 1-30-2009. Alan Berard, Doug Burfitt, Skip Little and Mike Norton and several more helped to get tables set up and ready the building. On Saturday I have the same folks ready and willing to help and several more offered their services, and I took them up on their offers. Jerry Hagood manned the back door table to sign up people for their tables, where as Paul was at the front door keeping the crowd at bay and of course taking their money!! I did have to refuse help form a few folks (Sorry Bob I didn't want to be responsible for back issues!). Fun was had by all and everyone seemed to have a good time!

*Until next month!
Tony*



January 2009 General Membership Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 19:00. A quorum of the membership was present.

Board members present: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor

Guests: none

New members: none

Treasurer's report:

Presently we have:

\$2000.00 in the checking account

\$9275.01 in savings account

Expenses for December were \$201

The minutes for the December meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Old business:

A summary was given for the "Toys for Tots event. The result was that RCRC donated a total of \$1190.00. Nine hundred and twenty dollars was raised by the event, the clubs outright donation was \$ 270.00

New business:

The Field Committee Chair at the request of several members has looked into the replacement of the roof on the shelter. The cost of replacing the present roof with the same type of material but using 12 foot lengths instead of present 10 ft length allowing a larger overlap, this overlap would prevent the present leak problems where the pieces overlap in the middle of the shelter. The cost of the material is \$2200 and would require use of volunteer labor to install it.

A motion was made to make this change and discussion ensued. After some discussion another motion was made to table the initial motion due to the fact that several different ideas were presented which could lead to alternate solutions that . This motion passed and the alternate possible solutions presented will be investigated by the board and the proposal, possibly modified will be presented at later meeting.

A request was made by a club member that a weather station be installed at the field so that conditions at the field could be checked by use of the internet.

Tony Coberly, the president, looked into the cost and issues involved. He volunteered to donate the camera and equipment needed to set up the station. Three other members have offered to donate the money necessary to pay for the weather station. The cost to the club comes from the necessity to install a phone line and the internet connection. It was determined that the monthly fee would be in the 50 to 60 dollar range.

After his explanation of the equipment needed and the cost a motion was made to determine members' interest and direct the board into further pursuit of actual cost and details such as wi-fi capability at the field. The motion passed so firm details and cost will be determined.

The president mentioned the swap meet on Jan 31 and requested help in setup on the 30 and 31 of January.

Program: The program was presented by Gary Courtney.

He went over the details of the construction of his Phoenix 8 pattern plane.

The kit he used was last produced in 1978.

The radio system he is using is spread spectrum.

B&D retracts were used.

The engine is an .61 OS Hanno long stroke. This engine was first produced in the mid 80's and was a favorite of contestants.

The Fuselage is fiberglass and automotive single stage paint was used to finish it. The wings and empennage are covered with Monocote.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:50.



February 2009 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on February 3, 2009, at 1830.

Board members present: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor

Guests: William Burfitt, Gary Courtney.

Old Business:

Information on the Bellsouth DSL and a cable modem for the weather station will be presented at the general membership meeting by the president.

Information on the possible solutions to the roof replacement project will also be provided by the president at the general membership meeting.

New business:

Swap Meet Results:

The results will be presented by the president at the membership meeting.

Event Proposals;

Proposal for the War bird Fly-in was presented

Date: July 17 & 18

Contest Director: Alan Berard

Proposal for Youth Membership Drive Fly-in was presented

Date June 14 & 15

Contest Director Doug Burfitt

Proposal for Club Day was made

Date May 9, 2008

Contest Director: Jon Low

Proposal for the BPA Event was presented.

Date August 14,15 & 16

Contest Director G Courtney

Proposal for the Big Bird event was made.

Dates May 15, 16 Rain day May 17

Contest Director Mike Norton

The event proposals will be presented to the membership for acceptance or rejection at the February General Membership meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1915



Mary Long Found My Canopy!

I lost the canopy to my electric pattern plane Sunday, February 9th. On Monday, I spent quite a bit of time hunting for it, but could not find it. I talked to Mary about it, and she said that she would hunt for it Tuesday. About 9:00, I received a phone call from

Mary, telling me she had found it! At about noon, I went to the field and recovered the canopy.

Although it was possible to make another canopy, it would have been a real hassle, and the result would have been heavier than the original. I would have missed a lot of pattern practice.

Thank you, Mary!



From the January, 2009 AMA Insider
**From the Academy of Model
Aeronautics
TAG, AMA Has It**

Do you want to introduce model aviation to your friends and neighbors and receive local recognition and financial benefits in return? If you answered "yes," then you'll want to know more about AMA's Take off And Grow (TAG) program.

Developed to encourage our members and clubs to promote modeling as a positive recreational activity to those in their communities, TAG was the first of several new programs implemented by AMA in 2007. Intended primarily to indoctrinate and welcome the general public to our hobby, TAG basically provides a one-day extensive introduction of model aviation with the intent of drawing new people into our hobby. This is followed by a flight training program for new members gained from the opening-day activities.

Here's how TAG works: clubs applying to host a TAG Model Aviation Day will be provided with a complete program "requirements and guidelines" document to use as a guide. This document will include ideas on prepromoting and advertising your event as well as an outline of possible activities to take place during the actual day of the event. Clubs will be encouraged to preregister attendees to help them better prepare. Each attendee will also be entered into the AMA's newly revised Introductory Pilot Program (IPP). Although there is no cost to the nonmember, by becoming an IPP student, he or she will be covered under the AMA's liability protection as long as he or she is working under the supervision of an AMA Introductory Pilot (IP) Instructor.

On the actual day of the event, each attendee will be provided with brief "classroom instruction" to help familiarize them with model aviation and to give them

an idea of what to expect. Next, each attendee will receive hands-on training under the supervision of a club instructor that will help them become acclimated to the basics of flight and how it all works. If the training involves radio-controlled aircraft, each attendee will be given the opportunity to fly a trainer model on a buddy box under the guidance of an AMA IP Instructor. Time permitting, multiple flights are encouraged.

If your club is selected to host a TAG Model Aviation Day, the AMA will provide up to \$1,000 in advance to use to set up your program. At the end of the event, items purchased are your club's to keep as AMA's way of saying "thanks for helping out." Through TAG, individual AMA members can also take advantage of AMA's Ambassador Program. Sign up three new Open or Senior members with AMA, and a current member will earn next year's membership as another way of saying thanks.

Remember, too, the rewards are more than just the things listed above. Hosting a TAG Model Aviation Day is a great way to reach out to your community to give it a taste of a family-oriented recreational activity that we all enjoy so much. In addition, you'll be creating positive relationships with your neighbors that quite often can help when the time comes to keep or acquire new flying sites. As with all of our developing programs, the AMA wants to provide the tools local clubs need to ensure the popularity of their hobby. It will require the cooperation of many to make it a success. Achieving that success will make our already wonderful hobby even better.

Interested? AMA has a limited number of openings for 2009. If your club would like to partner with AMA to promote model aviation and open the door to growing your membership, contact us at (765) 287-1256, extension 516 and an application package will be sent to you promptly.

Or visit the TAG Links page to download a complete syllabus and application. Model aviation is a great hobby. Let's tell others about it!

The TAG Program is available to Free Flight and Control Line clubs as well.

For more information contact:

April Hathaway at Aprilh@modelaircraft.org, (765) 287-1256, extension 516

or Jack Frost at education@modelaircraft.org, (765) 287-1256, extension 515.

Doug – does this sound like your event? It looks like the youth membership drive fly-in to me, and they give the club \$1,000 to run the event!

From the January, 2009 AMA Insider
From the 1995 Warped Wings Calendar

by Bob Zimmerman
Cartoons



A Crash-Proof Tail Wheel

by Mike Norton

When I started RC planes many moons ago, I had a perpetual problem. The ARFs and kits all used a wimpy tail wheel design. For a long time, I put up with the design, which usually either mounted the tail wheel to the rudder directly, or supported the tail wheel but used a bent wire into the rudder. However, when I began flying pattern events a couple of years ago, I got fed up with the design. So, I switched to the Sullivan design, which provides a spring fastened both to the rudder and to the tail wheel tiller. This causes a couple of problems. First, the steering provided by the tiller spring was “mushy”. If you used a wire instead of a spring, it damaged the rudder to which it was attached.

At about the same time, I became involved with electric planes. Many of these used magnets to fasten the canopy to the fuselage. After seeing how strong the magnets were, I invented the following design. It starts with a Sullivan tail wheel assembly (with 3/32 wire). The tiller is drilled out to 1/16 inch, and a piece of steel music wire about 2 inches long is soldered to the tiller. A piece of brass plate is soldered to the music wire as shown in the following illustrations. You now need two of the neodymium magnets, each 3/8 inch diameter and 1/16 inch thick. Using thick CA, glue one magnet to the brass plate. Swing the tiller around and note where the magnet meets the rudder. Cut out a notch and CA the second magnet into the notch. Caution – be certain that the magnet is “right side up” so that it will attract the magnet on the tiller wire. Let the CA harden, bend the tiller wire so the magnets match up, and you have Mike Norton’s tail wheel design.

Figure 1 shows the tiller bar engaged to the magnet, while figure 2 shows the disconnected state. As you push the tiller arm closer to the rudder, it repels it. However, when you get some overlap, it attracts the magnet with a loud “Clack”. If the tiller pulls loose from the rudder on landing, you can generally get it to re-engage by wiggling the rudder a bit. However, I have not had it disengage very often.

I have been flying this design on both of my electric pattern planes. It is a great improvement on the original design.



Figure 1



Figure 2

If any of my readers has an idea for an article, write it and send it to me at newsletter@rocketcityrc.com. Warning – it will be published!



RCRC NEWSLETTER EDITOR
 P. O. Box 2163
 Huntsville, AL 35804

To: _____

AMA chartered
 club since 1964
 Number 715

February, 2009

2009 RCRC Event Schedule

**February RCRC membership meeting – February 17th, 2009
 March board meeting - March 3rd, 2009**

†‡	April 25 th (If rain, Apr 26 th)	All day and night	Electric fun-fly	Tony Coberly	882-7193
	May 9 th	All day	Club day	Wayne Gladden	881-6048
†‡	May 16 th (Rain day, 17 th)	8am to 8 pm	RCRC Big bird event	Mike Norton	653-6632
†	June 13 th	8am to 4 pm	RCRC Youth membership drive fly-in	Doug Burfitt	722-8589
†‡	July 18 th	All Saturday and Sun	RCRC Warbird event	Alan Berard	776-9509
†‡	Aug. 8th and 9 th	All Saturday and Sunday	RCRC Ballistic pattern event	Gary Courtney	881-7009
†‡	Sept. 12 th and 13 th	All Saturday and Sunday	RCRC AMA Pattern event	Bryan Kennedy	(770)335-2228
†	November 1 st	All day	Toys for Tots fly-in	Bob Walls	830-2352

Events held at Wilbourn Field unless noted otherwise
 † Field closed to non-participants during this event
 ‡ Field closed to non-participants from noon onward the day before the event