

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

April 2011

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Prez Sez

On the 21st of May we have Club Day and we can fly whatever we want with no entrance fee. Food will be provided and one of the club members will be making airplanes from plastic plates for the youth that show up for the day. At our coming meeting on the 20th of April the program will be how to make these little planes. If someone wants to (Tony Coberly?) put a radio and a motor on one of these it would be a hoot. Unfortunately, there is no rain date for the Club Day.

There will be a pylon race on June 25 with a spring picnic. Now is the time to get those racers ready. More information will follow soon.

Billy Mitchell has volunteered to be our Publicity Chairman so please filter information to him about coming events that need to be announced in the paper or on the radio. Thanks Billy!

The grass at the field is starting to grow and we have two individuals who are interested in the job of mowing. Hopefully the details will be settled by our April meeting. John Williams and his field crew have been hard at work over the winter to get the field in good shape. We have some new cracks in the asphalt that need to be filled. (Be careful in the pits by Gate 3 as there is a crack here that ripped the tail wheel off of my Funtana on the taxi out to fly.) Thanks to John and Gene. Their efforts make our sport more enjoyable.

At long last the weather is beginning to warm up and hopefully the rain and the winds will stop soon. I am anxious to see more pilots out at the field. Winter has lasted too long this year to suit me.

Peter

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Minutes for the March RCRC General Membership Meeting

Time called to order: 7:01pm

Quorum present? no

Guests present: none

Minutes to be approved from newsletter:

No quorum-approved-approved Feb 2011 minutes.

Program committee:

VP will accept any and all program ideas.

Field committee: Nothing to report

Safety Report: Nothing to report

Secretary

Old Business: Publicity committee : Bill Mitchell

Old business from floor: none

New Business: none

New Business from floor: none

Motion to adjourn 7:29PM

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Minutes for the April 2011 RCRC Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm, April 5, 2011. Bod members present: president, VP, Secretary, Newsletter editor and treasurer.

Guests present: None

The property insurance bill was received.

Wayne has ordered fuel to be delivered by 4/6/2011.

We are getting quotes for lawn service.

Club day plans with proposed youth building of plate foam aircraft.

Tony Coberly received request from Gary Courtney to propose to change date of BPA event to August 12-14, 2011.

April 2011 Program: Basil Cooper will demonstrate foam plate airplanes.

Meeting adjourned 6:48pm.

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Improve Your Flying Skills at Home: Part 1 By John Burdin

For years, most of our friends who have learned to fly RC aircraft did all their training at the local flying site. Each day was a new adventure, and if something happened to preclude them from flying on their selected day (weather, mechanical or otherwise), it was wait until next time. Not only is this frustrating, in today's world it's wasting time. Occasionally a new student won't connect with an instructor, and numerous other things can cause delays.

Regardless of each person's skill level, we are always learning, and to use an old adage, "the day you stop learning you are finished." One great thing in today's RC world is the availability of very high quality, computer-generated flight simulator flying.



Airplane from the 2006 Big Bird event

RC flight training has evolved over the years. From someone telling you what to buy, how to put it together, and some basic flight instruction and then wishing you luck, today one can literally go from the hobby shop (or UPS delivery) to the flightline with a brand new model in a matter of days, and in some cases, hours. So why not speed up the learning process as well?

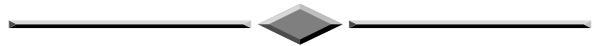
I remember discussing the RealFlight R/C Flight Simulator product with Bruce Holleck (founder of Tower Hobbies) many years ago as it was about to go to market. The goal was to produce a product that could dramatically shorten the learning curve for new RC pilots, get more people interested in RC, and save time and money with the process of learning to fly RC. His focus group consisted of all ages, and as he made clear at the time, it was working well. Think about the capacity and functionality of computers then versus now. I remember the early versions of RealFlight, and as well as they performed then, the latest version is spectacular. In the early days of RealFlight, many hobby shops kept one running so patrons of a particular shop could stop by and try it out. Not too many different airplanes to choose from in the menu back then, but it was fairly realistic. Other manufactures have come into the marketplace over the years with their versions of RC flight simulators, and some are really terrific. I am now on my third or fourth version of RealFlight combined with the upgrade/service packs there is an almost unlimited number of different aircraft and airframe types to choose from. Just about everything that is flying RC is in the menu: trainers, electrics, giant scale, multiengine, sailplanes, jets, helicopters—you name it, and it's available.

There are also many different flying sites to choose from. The operator/pilot can also change the weather at each flying site. If you don't like the wind, you can change the direction or eliminate it all together. If the sun is in the wrong place you can change that. You can even fly at night if you wish. There are also many variables on each aircraft that can be changed if you prefer a different setup.

As technology has improved so has the realism of each flight. Engine noise related to power settings, flaps and landing, retractable gear, canopies, and smoke are all part of the program. If you are offered

an RC flight simulator with an option to buy an interlink controller (transmitter) I strongly suggest that you take this route. You will be glad you did. For beginner, novice, or experienced pilots, there are added benefits. If you are trying to learn or perfect a maneuver such as a slow or four-point roll, an RC flight simulator is the place to do it. And, an RC flight simulator crash won't cost you a dime! If you are having trouble with your confidence during a specific maneuver, the "sim" is the place to practice. Sometimes we never learn some of the basic maneuvers needed to do such things as land properly. These may include doing a figure eight in both directions in front of you, or a left- and right-hand circle in front of you. Possibly something as common as a right- or left-hand traffic pattern approach is giving you a problem. The sim is the place to improve your skills, regardless of your level. A couple of additional things one can work on using the sim are learning to fly with your fingers instead of your thumbs, and using slightly longer stick settings. Both of these will greatly improve feel with each and every flight as you get comfortable with them and your confidence increases.

The use of an RC flight simulator won't guarantee anything, but my guess is that your confidence and skill level will increase. It's certainly great training and a lot of fun anytime.



This is another 2006 big bird



RCRC Newsletter Editor
 P O Box 2163
 Huntsville, AL 35804

To: _____

AMA chartered
club since 1964
 Number 715

April, 2011

2011 RCRC Event Schedule

RCRC membership meeting February 15th at 7:00 PM
Board meeting - March 1st 2011 at 6:00 PM

†	May 21 st , 2011	All day	Club day Fly whenever you want, eat when invited	Jim Fowler	256.882.1784
†‡	June 11 th & 12 th	All day	War bird	TBD	
†	June 25 th	All day	Pylon race, spring picnic	Alan Berard	256.776.9509
†‡	July 15 th	All day	BPA Pattern	Gary Courtney	256.881.7009
†‡	August 5 th & 6 th	All day	Big Bird	TBD	
†‡	Sept 9 th thru 11 th	All day	AMA Pattern	Tony Coberly	256.882.7193
†	November 5 th & 6 th	All day	Toys for tots	Bob walls	256.830.2352
†	November 19 th	All day	Pylon race, Chili cookoff	Alan Berard	256.776.9509

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