



OMAHA NEBRASKA  
AMA 857 - IMAA 284

## TAILSPIN NEWSLETTER

December 2012 Issue

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### A Word from the President



Season's Greetings Western RC Flyers!  
The building process is fast at work, for all of now. Getting ready for next year's new planes and the upcoming events. I hope you will share your projects by showing them to at the meetings. Let's see some of that work and share ideas.

The elections will be a big part of the upcoming meeting so let's all make an effort to be there. This has been a great year for RC, a little warm at times, but a lot of activity with our club and others. Hopefully this next year will be even better.

I would like to extend a "Thank You" to all who have helped with the events and the club activities this past year.

Thanks ~ Rick Miller

### Next Meeting:

7:00 PM Tuesday December 4, 2012  
Location: Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.  
(Bring something for Show N' Tell!)



### Vice-President's Corner



Don't have any flying pictures for this newsletter issue. Sorry, but I wasn't at Mead much in November and didn't get any photos from those who were. All I've got are a few photos from Tim Peters' Show n' Tell project at the November meeting.

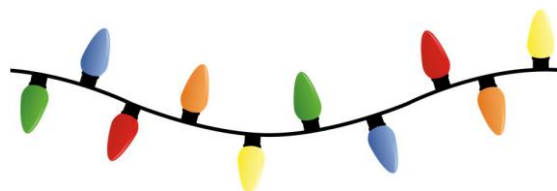
As you will read in the meeting minutes, I am stepping aside as vice president to give someone else an opportunity to be a club officer. Jim Henley has expressed interest in taking the office, and he will do a good job with plenty of energy.

I enjoy doing the newsletter, so will continue with it until I get burned out or lack material to put in it. So help me

out if you can, and send photos and/or write-ups for the newsletter. Thanks to those of you who have.

A project that Jim Henley has going for the winter is a good one! He will be doing a "building thread" for the newsletter. Sure to be entertaining.

Come out and fly! ~ Nelson Carpenter



## Treasurer's Report



A copy of the November 2012 Treasurer's Report will be passed out at the December 4th meeting.

Thank You!

- Dean Copeland

## November 2012 Meeting Notes



**Attendance:** 7 Members

### **Old Business:**

### **Events:**

**October:** October 28, 2012 – Omahawks RC Auction took place.

Details: Event was well attended and there was many items auctioned off, aprox 350 items.

There was a good amount of discussion about the auction and the great turnout it had.

**Other Events:** See the website for details.  
(<http://www.weflyrc.org/events.htm>).

### **Treasurer's Report:**

**Dean Copeland** gave the treasures report. We have 44 members for 2012 and several for 2013 already.

### **Field:**

**Mowers:** Mower batteries will be removed for storage during winter after one more mowing is done.

**Grass:** Seed will be put down before winter and snow comes.

### **Ed Paasch:**

Ed wrote up a great article for the AMA magazine for District 9. He did a wonderful job detailing our local clubs and the events that have occurred over the summer. Much appreciation goes out to Ed.

### **New Business:**

### **Gift Certification For Show-N-Tell:**

A motion was made and seconded to start the drawing for a *Hobby Town* \$25 Gift Certificate. A drawing will be held at every club meeting during the winter months for those who bring a show and tell item. It is a good way to fund your winter project.

### **Porta Potty:**

The Porta Potty has been removed from the field for the winter.

### **Table Stands:**

Several table stands will need some TLC and maintenance next Spring.

### **Club Officers:**

Elections for club officers will take place at the December meeting. Please be sure to attend to vote or to nominate someone or perhaps yourself. The offices and nominees are listed below:

President: **Rick Miller**

Vice-President: **Jim Henley**

Treasurer: **Dean Copeland**

Secretary: **Rick Johnson**

Publication Editor: **Nelson Carpenter**

### **Newsletter - Nelson Carpenter:**

We want to thank Nelson (*Editor's note: enough already. I enjoy it.*) for our club newsletters and his continued commitment and dedication to a world-class newsletter. Nelson has been creating outstanding newsletters for the Western Flyers for many years and his efforts are greatly appreciated by all who read and enjoy his work.

**Build Thread:** A motion was made and seconded that a new article will be added to the newsletter. It will be a build thread for those who want to document their build projects. **Jim Henley** has offered to start it while he builds his 1/3 scale *Sig Spacewalker*.

### **Reflection on 2012:**

**Rick Miller** commented and discussed the events that took place this year. We have had great attendance at all the events this year, especially the new events. The attendance at the Glider and Old-Timer events were notable as well.

There was discussion about growing the club membership. In considering the demographics of the hobby, it is usually the established adult men that are most interested in RC. Ideas to ponder to attract new members would be to put ads in smaller local publications and send flyers to VFW's and other men based organizations.

### **Events for 2013:**

We will continue with events we held during 2012.

**Days for Major Events:** A motion was made and seconded that major events will occur on one day only. They will be scheduled for Saturday's with Sunday as the rain out day.

### **Event Suggestions:**

**Suggestion 1:** There was discussion about adding a new event in 2013 like an IMAA Fun Fly and considering to allow planes of all sizes.

**Suggestion 2:** Events for Community Involvement: Extend an invitation to first responders from surrounding communities to on an open house with the Western Flyers open to the public. Encourage them to bring equipment and vehicles for the local community to see while enjoying a free RC air show and perhaps learning how to fly. We will provide food and drinks.

**Suggestion 3:** Participate in a parade or two displaying RC planes and our club banner. Maybe give out little balsa gliders to children if we can get them cheap.

### **Show and Tell:**

**Tim Peters** brought in a *Hobby King Bixler* glider. It is advertised as a good plane as a UAV or a camera plane.

Dimensions:

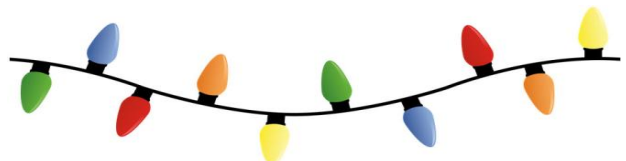
Wingspan: 59 1/2"

ESC: 25 Amp

Recommended Battery: 2200 3S 25C Lipos.

That's it!

- Rick Johnson



## Rumors, Gossip and other Signs of Decay



Hello from sunny Las Vegas! It seems the price of nitro fuel (20% used in RC cars) has topped \$34 a gallon. I haven't looked at 15% prices out here, but I am guessing the price to be mid \$20's. If fuel becomes overly expensive, the demise of nitro motors will certainly accelerate. I



don't believe there is a logical reason for the increases as I do not see methanol prices high. But I am not sure of the cost of nitro methane.



I heard from a couple of guys that the *Omahawks* auction had 385 items, and there were some bargains to be had. I was sorry to have missed it as I certainly could have used the inventory. Maybe I will be there next year for the auction!

If you're into electric, I found the *Thunder T-6 Multi Charger* on line for less than \$100. This charge will charge 4- lipo batteries at once; it is a DC charger, which means you need a Power Supply. On eBay there is a seller from Lincoln NE called *Hobby Soup*. These guys are great I got the *Venom PS 350* power supply, which is



considered to be one of the best from them for \$90. I think shipping was free too! I have several electric RC items that use multiple batteries; this will cut my charging time down and increase my usage. I

am really impressed with *Hobby Soup* and have made the a favorite seller.

I told **Nelson C.** that I was out in the desert last week racing my 1/5-scale trucks in the sand. One guy went jumping off the top of the dunes, these cars weigh in at 30 lbs or more, and of course he broke his stuff. The sand is hard enough on the cars; you must use pre-filters to keep the sand out of everything. Trust me the sand goes where it wants! I did great and suffered no damage, using paddle tires my *Baja 5T* was a beast in the sand I did some small conservative jumping too!

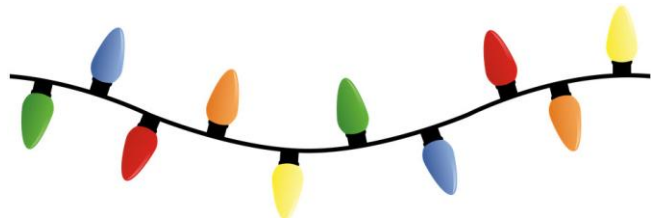


Meryl and I wish everyone a *Happy Holiday Season!*

**Happy Trails!**

**~ Bob Boumstein**

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS



# AUTOPILOT IN RC AIRPLANE

Installment 2 of 3  
by **Tim Peters**

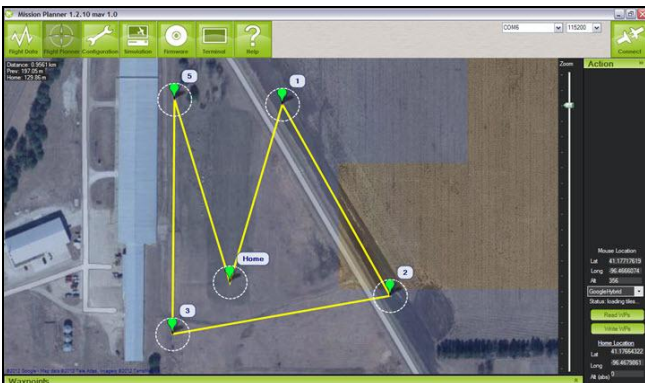


Some of the comments I hear about my APM drone are "OK...so the airplane flies by itself. What's the fun in that?" Part of the enjoyment I get from doing this is in the setup and planning. Especially fun is using the diydrones 'Mission Planner' (MP) tool that runs on your pc or laptop.

Using the internet, the MP lets you bring up a map of the area in which you want to fly. For me, that was Western Flyers' Mead, NE field. I enlarged the map (like a google map) on the screen so that the r/c runway is in the center of the display. I set the display to a size that allows me to see the immediate surroundings.



Using the mouse, I point and click at the waypoints for the mission. (You are allowed far more waypoints than you would ever use, like 200+; my missions usually have anywhere from two to 7 waypoints). The idea is that when the drone is airborne, switching into autopilot mode tells the drone to proceed to each waypoint according to the order in which they were created using MP. In addition to setting waypoints, there are also other commands you can insert into your missions. You can tell the drone to loiter at a waypoint by doing circles around the waypoint. You can change the altitude between waypoints. There are commands for returning to the launch point, setting a servo up to take pictures at a waypoint, even auto-takeoff and AUTO-LAND!



Right now my missions consist of following a series of waypoints staying at a fixed altitude, and upon completion, repeating that same mission a certain number of times. Those of you that have seen my *Stick-60* drone have probably witnessed that kind of a mission. It is very cool to get airborne and set the plane to autopilot mode. You can take your hands off the transmitter and let the airplane fly the mission. I have had the airplane fly hands-off for as long as 15 minutes before retaking control.

What else is fun about the drone project? I had to do a lot of troubleshooting to get everything to work. That is very similar to what I do for a living; it's something I enjoy. I'm also very interested in what others are doing with the diydrones technology; maybe I'll get an idea for another use of the APM from their website. Check out the webpage (<http://www.diydrones.com>) to see some of the unique uses.

There's also the 'pucker factor'. After all, you are turning over control of your airplane to the autopilot! It seems like my missions invariably take the airplane on a path directly through the sun -- and I have to trust that it's going to continue with its heading even when I can't see it through the sun.

The previous installment ended with the APM autopilot unit arriving in the mail. I received the APM about six weeks after ordering. At that time the demand was very high and there was a waiting list. (I think they have ramped up the inventory so there's not much of a delay now.) I downloaded the FREE software from the website and installed it to my laptop. The APM hooks to the laptop via a usb cable.



I uploaded the APM firmware from the laptop. The firmware gives the APM its 'personality' -- airplane, traditional helicopter, multi-rotor helicopter, etc. I left the APM attached to the laptop and brought up the Heads-Up display on the MP software. Very cool! It shows the typical HUD display as well as a map of the area with the APM centered in the map. The APM had locked onto GPS satellites and the map was showing me the area around 144th and Center St (Omaha, NE) which is where I live. I picked up the APM unit and tilted/banked/turned it in my hand as though it was flying. The HUD display showed the tilt and bank in the horizon just as you would see from the cockpit. This was proving that most of the APM was functioning as expected. I was tempted to put the whole setup inside my van and drive around just to see the map

Cont.

## AUTOPILOT cont.

changing... but I didn't :) Just a reminder, this is not a FPV, you don't use the HUD display while the airplane is flying.

In the mean time I had done all the trim flights on the *Great Planes Stick-60* that was going to get the APM. I set up a spot in the fuselage for the 2" by 3" APM board. I made a bed for it using half-inch foam at the bottom and sides. A couple of rubber bands across the top holds the APM in place. This keeps the APM in place but makes it easy to remove--I need to remove it whenever I attach it to the laptop. (*The laptop usb cable attaches to a port located on the side of the APM unit.*) As mentioned in the first installment, the receiver channels plug into one end of the APM and the servos plug into the other. The APM is powered from the receiver battery. Now it's time to configure the APM. The APM has a lot of user-adjustable parameters, however the firmware has a lot of the parameters pre-set for most uses.

The most important thing to set are the servo directions. This is exactly the same as the channel reversing that we have in our R/C transmitters. The APM also needs to have the servo directions checked as well, setting the transmitter reversing direction is not enough. Make sure that the servos move in the right direction when the autopilot is in normal flight mode. Having done the test-flying prior to installing the APM I knew this was ok. Once the APM is installed, you set the ATM to 'stabilize' mode (*that was one of the selections on the three-position transmitter switch*). Pick up the airplane (*motor is not running*) and bank the plane. You should see that the ailerons (*and rudder*) move in the direction to correct the bank; i.e. if you bank the plane right, the APM should cause the servos to give it a 'left' command. A left bank similarly causes a right-turn command. I also test the fore/aft tilting, making sure that the elevator gives the right corrections. It turned out that I had to reverse three of the channels using the MP software. You make the change on the laptop and upload the change to the APM board via the usb cable. Note that the APM remembers the changes even when the power to the APM is off...you don't have to program this every time you fly. At this point I want to mention that I had no way of telling whether the throttle was reversed or not.....this will come back to haunt me later on. Wait and see! All of the settings are saved in the APM and also can be saved to the laptop hard drive.

Missions can be planned and saved this way as well, but understand that the APM can only hold one mission at a time. If you want to change missions you need to land, attach the laptop to the APM, load the new mission (*saved on the laptop hard drive*) into the laptop memory, then upload the new mission to the APM. Same thing with any APM configuration settings. This means you have to have the laptop and usb cable with you at the flying site if you are going to make any changes at the field.

- TO BE CONTINUED -

## Proposed Sig 1/3 Scale Spacewalker Build Thread

By Jim Henley



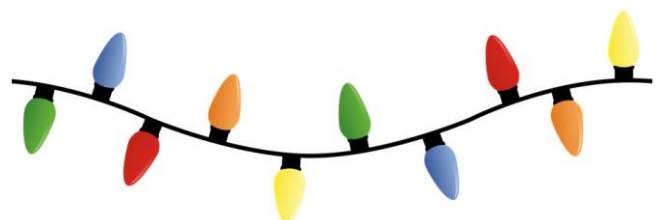
It is my intention to build Sig Manufacturing's 1/3 scale Spacewalker. I intend to start the build shortly after the holiday season. Also, I will do my best to provide a build thread for the newsletter.

**Why the Spacewalker?** In 2005 right after I started in the hobby, I read an article in the AMA web page about the *Great Planes Spacewalker ARF*. I instantly fell in love with the looks of the airplane as well as it's easy, scale like flight.

The *Sig Spacewalker* kit is based on **Jessie Anglin's** designed home built aircraft, the prototype of which was built in about 1986. When **Maxey Hester** saw Jessie's original plane, two things happened. First, two full size planes were built, one each for **Maxey** and **Hazel**. Maxey then built a prototype Spacewalker kit to showcase his new *O.S. Pegasus F.T. 320* four cylinder engine. The kit was put into production and remains a popular kit due to the easy build and great flying characteristics. (*according to all the build threads I have read*)

The aircraft I plan to model is the one that belongs to Hazel which is done in the red and yellow paint scheme and will be powered by an *O.S. FT 300 twin*.

So please stay tuned for my building thread which should start with the January 2013 newsletter. Your comments and questions will be appreciated. I can be contacted at "jhandmehenley@q.com" Thanks!



# November Show n' Tell



Tim Peters pulls the wings and other parts of the *Bixler II* out of the box. For shipping purposes, *Hobby King* turned the product box with its airplane display, inside out for a plain box.



The *Bixler II* is a foam ARF with a 59.5" wingspan. Electric motor is rear facing and Tim will use 2200 mAh battery packs.



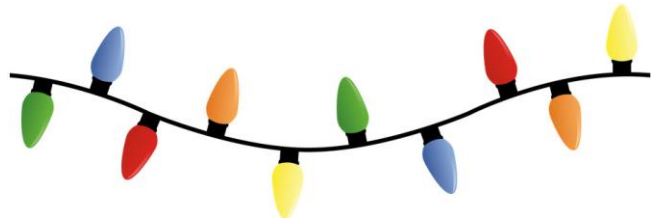
Quality of the *Hobby King* ARF was evident. Packaging of all the parts was done well too. Cost of the Bixler was \$70.00 plus shipping.



## **REWARDS PROGRAM**

Remember Hobbytown's Reward Program. With every purchase by a WF member, the club receives a credit for an amount equal to 1 percent of your purchase. Be sure to mention your Western Flyers affiliation when making a purchase at either Hobbytown location.

Website: <http://www.weflyrc.org/>



# FLYING HIGHLIGHTS AT MEAD FIELD 2012

Here are some random photos of aircraft flown at Mead Field this past year.



Cont.....

# FLYING HIGHLIGHTS AT MEAD FIELD 2012 Cont.







## ~ 2012 Western R/C Flyers Event Schedule ~

### 2012 Tuesday Night Fun-Flys at Mead, Every Tuesday evening May 8th through September 6th! (Weather Permitting)

#### January 2012

- **Tuesday, Jan 3rd** - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.  
(CAP meeting room, basement, far left of entrance)

#### February 2012

- **Tuesday, Feb 7th** - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.  
(CAP meeting room, basement, far left of entrance)

#### March 2012

- **Tuesday, Mar 6th** - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.  
(Downstairs meeting room – north end bldg)

#### April 2012

- **Tuesday, Apr 3rd** - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.  
(Downstairs meeting room – north end bldg)

#### May 2012

- **Tuesday, May 8th** - Club Meeting 7pm, at MEAD FIELD, bring a plane, open flying & food.  
- **Saturday, May 19th** – Old Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly - Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.

#### June 2012

- **Sunday, Jun 3rd** – Annual Spring Club Fun Fly at Mead Field starting at 10:00am. Open flying.  
- **Tuesday, Jun 7th** - Club Meeting 7pm, MEAD FIELD, bring a plane, open flying & food.  
- **Saturday, June 16th** – Old Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly - Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.

#### July 2012

- **Tuesday, Jul 3rd** - Club Meeting 7pm, MEAD FIELD bring a plane, open flying.  
- **Saturday, Jul 21st** - Old-Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly - Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.

#### August 2012

- **Tuesday, Aug 7th** - Club Meeting 7pm, MEAD FIELD a plane, open flying.  
- **Saturday and Sunday, Aug 11 and/or 12th** – Bud Hall Large Aircraft Fun Fly. Aircraft restricted to IMAA criteria.. However, IMAA membership NOT required. Criteria 80" wingspan monoplane, 60" wingspan biplane, or a true 1/4 scale aircraft. Landing fee \$10.00 provides lunch both days and flying.  
- **Saturday, Aug 18th** – Old Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly - Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.  
- **Saturday, Aug 25th** - Don Neill Scale Contest. Multi-club Fun event hosted at Mead Field. Various classes. Rain date 26th.

#### September 2012

- **Sunday Sep 2nd** – The 5th Annual Fall Fun Fly and Swap Meet. //**CANCELLED**// members, \$5.00 for non-members. Swap meet setup after 9am. Open flying 10am through 3pm.  
- **Tuesday, Sep 6th** - Club Meeting 7pm, MEAD FIELD - bring a plane, open flying.  
- **Saturday, Sep 15th** – Old Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly – Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.

#### October 2012

- **Tuesday, Oct 2nd** - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.  
- **Saturday, Oct 6th** – Old Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly – Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.

#### November 2012

- **Tuesday, Nov 6th** - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.  
- Nominations taken for 2012 Officers

#### December 2012

- **Tuesday, Dec 4th** - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.  
- 2012 Officer elections



**Tailspin Newsletter**  
Western RC Flyers  
Omaha, Nebraska

**TO:**

***Western R/C Flyers Inc. 2013 Membership Application***

Please print clearly!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

AMA Number: \_\_\_\_\_ IMAA Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2013 Dues: \$35** (Renewals must be paid by **April 1**) New/Renewal: \_\_\_New\_\_\_Renewal\_\_\_(Check One)

Sign Here: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject to approval. AMA membership is required**

**Make Checks Payable to: Western R/C Flyers**

**Print this form and send check to WR/CF Treasurer:  
Dean Copeland 15668 Fountain Hills Dr.. Omaha, Nebraska 68118**