



OMAHA NEBRASKA
AMA 857

TAILSPIN NEWSLETTER

October 2015 Issue

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A Word from the President



Plenty of time to go fly yet folks, and the field never looked better. I have received many compliments on our field lately. What has become a repeated comment is: "It looks like a carpet". Thanks again to all of those who help with our field.

This year has been very busy for me and my family. It looks like it may be slacking off a little for the rest of the year and next year, I hope. See you all at the field.

Thanks!

~ Rick Miller

Next Meeting:

7:00PM Tuesday November 3, 2015

Papio-Missouri River NRD Building



Vice-President's Corner



Seems like everyone has had a good time flying this summer. Fall is here and the meetings are at the NRD starting in October. The wind is blowing hard today, just like yesterday. Hopefully it settles down and we get some flying in before the snow starts.

Ron Brandt wanted to let you all know that due to medical reasons he won't be participating any longer and would like to let everyone know he has RC building supplies and tools, planes that are not assembled, for sale. If you are interested in his collection give him a call, (402-840-2687). See you at the meeting.....

See you on the Field!

~ Richard Jonas



October Treasurer's Notes



Not much to say this month, have been dealing with lower back pain and it sure does slow one down.

I have been flying my practice jet and recently bought another ARF for the second engine that I got with the first one. Sure have learned a lot about what is involved in building, setting up and flying jets. Because of the higher speeds that can be achieved it is necessary to be very vigilant about how all parts of the plane are assembled and dealt with. Speed and high G forces are neat but not at the same time. The major concern is the awareness required when needing power; there is a 2 to 4 second delay when advancing the throttle. So if it looks like you are going to have a bad landing and you have not allowed time for thrust to develop you will have a bad landing and you can't do much about it.

Now for the treasurer's report; our major expense for each month is of course the OUT HOUSE, but we all know we can't get along without it. Nuff said. Otherwise we are solvent; no bankruptcy in sight at least for this year. (*Editor's note: that's a joke folks..*)

Your Treasurer **- Dean Copeland**

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.

October 2015 Meeting Notes



Western RC Flyers meeting minutes, Tuesday, October 6, 2015 7 PM. (Chalco Hills NRD) (4) Members present.

The meeting was called to order by WRCF President **Rick Miller** 7:20 PM.

Treasurer **Dean Copeland** was unable to attend the meeting. There was informal talk about the overall health of the treasury. Access to the *Chalco Hills* meeting location was discussed. At this time access to Giles is limited to 144th St. **Rick Miller** has contacted the Chalco Hills staff about future access. He indicated that for the November meeting access to Giles will be via 156th St. and there will be no access from 144th.

Old Business:

The *HobbyTown* relationship with WRCF was reviewed. Members making purchases at *HobbyTown* are reminded to let the staff know that you are affiliated with the club; a portion (1% of sale) of the transaction is credited to WRCF.

The Porta-Potty is to be removed by November 1. Rick Miller to contact the vendor.

New Business:

Members should begin thinking about events for 2016. The club wants to know what should be supported. It was mentioned that proceeds from food donations at club events has helped the club's budget this year.

Upcoming WRCF Events:

Old Timers/Gliders Fun Fly scheduled for Saturday, October 17. This will be the last club event for 2015.

The club mower was discussed. Rick indicates that it will be maintained over the winter and should be in good shape for 2016. It was asked whether UNL will hold another equipment auction in early 2016. (*In the past, the auctions have been held on the runway at the WRCF Mead flying site.*) It is not certain whether an auction will take place.

Rick and the other 'local' club members from *Mead* and *Wahoo* were recognized for their service in maintaining good relations with the local contacts at the University and the community. The relationship that they have built for the club benefits all the members. The club officers have heard many complements about the condition of the WRCF Mead flying site this season.

Nominations for 2016 WRCF officers will be proposed at the November meeting. Elections take place at the December meeting.

It was moved/seconded/approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.

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October 2015 Meeting Notes Cont.

Show-and-Tell:

Those present talked about their recent flying experiences. **Tim Peters** discussed a recent purchase from *Tower Hobbies* that had been damaged during shipment. Tower was very responsive and 'went the extra mile' to provide good customer service. Tim also showed the 'Skunkworks' quadcopter he has assembled over the last few weeks. Rather than purchasing a ready-to-fly unit, he chose to buy the individual components and assemble them himself. He mentioned the challenges that were encountered during the project. The quad has a 550mm diameter and uses the same APM autopilot unit that has been used in the airplane drone he assembled in 2012. Initial flight tests have been successful. Look for an article about the quadcopter in the *WRCF Tailspin* newsletter.

That's it!

- Tim Peters



**LAST OLD TIMERS/GLIDERS FUN FLY
FOR SEASON
SATURDAY OCT 17TH 2015**

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

RC NEWS from LAS VEGAS

(Rantings from the Hobby Shop)



Sitting at the hobby shop I often here, "how fast does that RC car go?" or "Do you think I can make money with the Camera on my Quad Copter?" These are the times I want to offer up *Swamp Land* in Nevada to those people. Their cousins come in the shop with swollen Lipo batteries left in the car/ truck out in the sun (*auto temps can be 140 degrees when it is 112 in Vegas.*) Yep, we have them all at the shop.

Then you get people coming in with the real "How dumb can I really be stories?" Sir, your tires are mounted on that RC truck wrong, two facing forward, two facing rearward. Yes, RC Crawlers are meant for crawling up and down rocks or trailing, they go slow on purpose. Yes, when the electronic ESC lets out a puff of smoke it is done, you need a new one. Soldering the plug on the battery end is preferable to duct tape. The warranty is from the manufacturer on most RC stuff, however when a person brings in a crashed RC car / truck it amazes me to think that we would be covered, but they ask. Oh! Would it be too much to ask to clean off your car/ truck before requesting service?

Lastly I would hope that most people would know that prior to disposing of a swollen Lipo battery, placing it in a bucket filled with salt water will discharge or naturalize the battery. Safety is a prime concern.

Bob

Best Regards

- Bob Boumstein



Whirling

By Tim Peters



Just when you thought it was safe outside.....

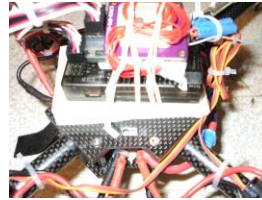
Let's start with a confession. I'm not much of a craftsman. If I'm at the WRCF Mead field and the real craftsmen of the club are within earshot, they always smirk when they hear someone ask me "What have you been (or are you) building, Tim?" It's because they know that if the model I'm flying looks good, it must be an auction item or *Craigslist* purchase or some other *Ready-To-Fly* aircraft. There's no way a really-good looking aircraft ever came out of my workshop. Why? Because, sadly, I am not much of a craftsman. ☹

Where am I headed with this? If you have read some of my other articles in the *Tailspin* newsletter, you know that I enjoy technical stuff. I've been like that since I was a kid; my dad was a ham-radio operator and we were always "working on electronic stuff" in the basement. After getting into radio control, I was one of the early r/c helicopter fliers back in the mid 70's. [For you young people, these were nitro-fuel powered helicopters. There were no electric helicopters, no lipo batteries and NO TAIL ROTOR GYROS. This was back in the dark ages of R/C helicopters.] But I digress. The point is that I like to tinker with technical stuff, especially if it involves mechanical things and electronics.

I've been watching the 'rise' (pun intended) of R/C quadcopters over the last few years. Part of the popularity comes from the short learning curve. It doesn't appear to take much practice to become proficient at flying a quadcopter. I see club members having a great time flying their machines in a responsible manner, but I have also seen quads flying at local gatherings that have nothing to do with R/C Models. My wife and I were at the recent 'ArtSarben', an outdoor art event in Omaha that attracts large crowds. While we were there many of us noticed a quad flying about 50 feet above the attendees. Not a safe way to demonstrate your 'drone-flying expertise' that took you MINUTES to cultivate. Back to the point (again...). Quadcopters are easy to fly, (i.e. maybe not much of a challenge). Ready-to-fly (no building skills required) and there are a small and often newsworthy group of people that are NOT operating quads responsibly. Those are several good reasons for the logical area of my brain to tell me to not get involved. But the tinker in me was 'sorta-kinda' interested in 'maybe, possibly, could-be' building a quadcopter. Tinker didn't want *Ready To Fly*; he wanted to 'get down' with the whole wiring thing of the motors and speed controllers and the adjusting and programming of the brains that make a quadcopter fly. But there don't seem to be many (if any) quadcopter 'kits' in the size the tinker was looking for.

Hobby King came to the rescue. There was a full-page ad in one of the recent *Model Aviation* magazines that offered the raw components: Turnigy 550 mm frame, motor, speed controllers and the main control unit. From my reading I knew that breaking props was to be expected, so I got three sets of props and a 5000mah lipo to power the machine.

Hobby King delivered the items from the US East Coast distribution site in a few days. Assembling the frame and motor components was the easy part. Trying to figure out where all the electronics fit was challenging. I purchased a 'power distribution' board that basically ties all the



power +/- connections from the four speed controllers to the lipo. That board is sandwiched between the top and bottom frame. Above the frame stack is the APM 2.6 flight controller (same as what I have used in airplane drones), a Futaba 6-

channel 2.4 GHZ receiver, and the APM GPS/compass board. There is a true 'maze' of wires connecting everything as you will see in the photos. (Exactly what a techy guy expects!) Underneath the frame is where the lipo pack fits. Zip-ties see extensive use in this project.



The programming part of the APM takes some time. The software providers have taken a lot of the trial-and-error out of it. The challenges I had were with making sure that the correct motors are plugged into the right channels and that the motors spin in the correct direction. (Two spin clockwise, the other two counter-clockwise. This cancels torque.) I did a lot of reading online, especially the diydrone.com site. Portions of what I read suggested that scratch-building a quadcopter WILL NOT be successful, and that ready-built is the way to go.

Anyway, to finish the story and the project, the thing actually does fly. I'm just getting started with learning to control it. The quad hovers pretty well even in the limited space of my fenced back yard and is very stable. I did learn that you have to make absolutely certain that each motor is lined up vertically with the others. I had a hard landing that knocked one of the motor arms out of alignment with the others. (The mount wasn't tightened enough.) That simple (and nearly unnoticeable) alignment problem gave me all sorts of problems with stability and control. The quad would oscillate rapidly fore/aft and left/right; I had no yaw control at all. I was certain it was going to take a lot of software tuning adjustments and possibly balancing of propellers to fix it. Once I set it level on my worktable it was obvious that one of the 'talons' (feet) didn't sit square on the table. Once identified, the problem was easy to fix (twisted the arm of quadcopter so that it sits square again) and all the flying problems I had went away.

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Whirling Cont.

Right now the APM controller is set up for 'stability' mode, and the quad does fly pretty well hands-off. Next will be testing the 'Return to home' mode. That's important to me as I want it to return (*and possibly land itself*) in the event of radio loss-of-signal. The APM is also capable of programmed flight with waypoints. So there's still a lot of tinkering to be done. Check out the photos; there's a couple that show that it ACTUALLY DOES FLY.



In summation:

- Skilled Craftsman/Builder of Radio Controlled Aircraft: NO
- Tinker/Experimenter of Radio Controlled Aircraft: YES ☺

If you have questions or want more information, feel free to contact me, **Tim Peters** via email: tpetersrc@gmail.com.



Visit to Harris Hill, NY

By Nelson Carpenter



Few weeks ago my wife and I visited *New England* where I am originally from (*NH*). It was a road trip that rolled over 3,865 miles during a 3 week period. Passing through south-central *New York*, we came upon the town of *Elmira* which rang a bell. Sure enough, a sign appeared along the highway announcing the *National Soaring Museum* on nearby *Harris Hill*. We took the first exit, and within 10 minutes arrived in front of a large hanger and the museum.

There are over a dozen sailplanes exhibited inside the museum and many historical items of the sport. The airfield itself is sodded and sits high on a plateau overlooking the Elmira valley. Perfect for soaring. Below are some of the pictures I took of the place. This should be a must visit for soaring enthusiasts.



Visit to Harris Hill, NY Cont.



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Visit to Harris Hill, NY Cont.




EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Be calm & composed
Assess the situation

Non-Critical

Critical Or Don't know

Call 911
Use Cellphone



Coleman Physicians Clinic
402-443-3434

Describe Location: Turn East after 3.7 miles south of Highway 92 on 78F. Follow road, turn south at tank, field is east of the building.
Describe Emergency:
As succinct as possible but don't leave out important details. Answer all questions asked.

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.

Western RC Flyers Field Operations Charter

- **Mission and Vision Statements**

*To provide for the enjoyment of diverse types of RC Aircraft operations, for members and guests of the WRCF club.
To promote and extend RC Flying and RC Modeling Hobby via comradery and activities to all.*

- **Field Rules**

1. Flyers are required to be current members of the AMA & the WRCF Club. Or escorted by a WRCF member, or a qualified guest (such as: active serving military personnel with AMA membership).
2. Compliance with FAA, FCC, AMA, Federal, State, Local, Landowner, & Club codes & rules, both posted and non-posted is required.
3. Flyers and all Flight activities will be conducted in a courteous, responsible and safe manner.
4. Flyers WILL accommodate each others flying, so all participants may utilize the club resources. Including, but not limited to, the specific issues listed below:
 - a. Extended blocking or interference of conventional flight path operations, via activities dwelling on or above the runway or other conventional flight path, is prohibited.
 - b. Maneuvers that dwell extensively & block specific lines, areas or paths, may possibly be accommodated away from conventional routine flight pattern operations.
 - c. Activities that excessively affect other flyers or bystanders that are not necessary or appropriate are prohibited. This applies to all areas including the pits and flight areas.
5. Rotary wing operations are limited to conventional aircraft type flight patterns.
i.e. No blocking of any specific flight area, accommodation for hovering / stunts may be at an unused area. Possibly off the very south end of the pits, if available.

Emergency contacts, 911 or SAUNDERS COUNTY DISPATCH 402-443-1000

Field Location-

South by Southeast of Mead, East side of UNL ARDC Maintenance Buildings, nearest Intersection Co Rd 9 & i st. **41.177° N, 96.468° W**
In case of emergency events also contact WRCF Club President .

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



~ 2015 Western R/C Flyers Event Schedule ~

January 2015

- Wednesday, Jan 7th - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, 8901 S. 154th St.
- Saturday, Jan 17th - Strategic Air & Space Museum's Indoor Air Show 2015

February 2015

- Tuesday, Feb 3rd - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.

March 2015

- Wednesday, Mar 4th - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, 8901 S. 154th St.

April 2015

- Wednesday, Apr 8th - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, 8901 S. 154th St.
- Saturday, April 18th - Old Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly - Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.

May 2015

- Tuesday, May 5th - Club Meeting 7pm, at MEAD FIELD, bring a plane, open flying.
- Saturday, May 16th - Old Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly - Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.
- Saturday, May 30th - Scale Fun Fly and Swap Meet at Mead Field starting 9am.

June 2015

- Tuesday, Jun 2nd - Club Meeting 7pm, MEAD FIELD, bring a plane, open flying.
- Saturday, Jun 14th - Annual Spring Club Fun Fly at Mead Field starting at 10:00am. Open flying.
- Saturday, June 20th - Old Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly - Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.

July 2015

- Tuesday, Jul 7th - Club Meeting 7pm, MEAD FIELD bring a plane, open flying.
- Sunday Jul 12th - Western Flyers Open House Fun Fly. Starts at 9:00am with flying until dark.
- Saturday, Jul 18th - Old-Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly - Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.

August 2015

- Tuesday, Aug 4th - Club Meeting 7pm, MEAD FIELD a plane, open flying.
- Saturday, Aug 15th - Old Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly - Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.
- Saturday, Aug 22nd - Bud Hall Large Aircraft Fun Fly. Aircraft restricted to IMAA criteria. Landing fee \$10.00 provides lunch and flying. Rain date Aug 23rd.

September 2015

- Tuesday, Sep 1st - Club Meeting 7pm, MEAD FIELD - bring a plane, open flying.
- Saturday, Sep 19th - Old Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly - Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.

October 2015

- Tuesday, Oct 6th - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.
- Saturday, Oct 17th - Old Timers Fun Fly with Glider Fly - Starts at 9:00am with flying until 3:00pm.

November 2015

- Wednesday, Nov 3rd - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.
- Nominations taken for 2015 Officers

December 2015

- Thursday, Dec 1st - Club Meeting 7pm, NRC, Natural Resources Center, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, 8901 S. 154th St.
- 2015 Officer elections



Western R/C Flyers Inc. 2015 Membership Application

Please print clearly!

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Evening Phone: _____ Day Phone: _____

Email: _____

AMA Number: _____

Amount Paid: \$ _____

2015 Dues: \$35 (Renewals should be paid by **April 1**) New ___ Renewal ___ (Check One)

Sign Here: _____ Date _____

Membership subject to approval. AMA membership is required.

Make Checks Payable to: Western R/C Flyers

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