



www.alvinrc.org

Newsletter of Alvin RC Model Airplane Association

March – April 2014

Spring is Here (well almost)

Well at least I heard a rumor that sooner or later it was going to start getting warmer and flying conditions will improve. The last few weeks it has warmed up and flying conditions have improved. With the start of the flying season some of us will probably have new airplanes to maiden, repaired airplanes to maiden or planes that were put up and have been sitting since last year. As part of the season start I would suggest that you take the time to check your planes over to insure everything is where or what it should be and the plane is ready to fly. If you are like me sometimes (more often as I get older) I forget some of the things that I wanted to do when I put the plane up so now is a good time to revisit what needs to be done. Some of the things I do when I finish an airplane (new or rebuilt) or getting a plane ready for the next year is make up a check list and go through each plane with the list. Some of the generic items that can be on your list (can always be checked off if not applicable):

- When I have completed an airplane or completed major repairs I always put the airplane aside when finished then in a few days I come back to it and go through my check list a second time.
- Check your batteries – if they are NiCd or NiMh cycle them - yes I know NiMh's don't develop memories – IMO not true. Maybe not as fast as NiCd's but they do develop a memory and will benefit from cycling.
- Check servos for mounting, movement, screws tight in servos and arms, linkage connections tight and locked
- Inspect for structural damage especially in the landing gear area, wing saddle/connection areas and motor/engine box. Inspect closely and repair – I help other members repair their airplanes and in many cases I have found damaged areas that were not visible without some detailed inspection.
- Make sure all connections/bolts/nuts are tight with thread lock and/or lock nuts/washers. Don't assume nothing changed since you put it up because it may have needed help when you put it up and you didn't know it.
- Check props for damage, balance and tightness.
- Check all control horns and connections.
- Range check – you can do this at home but also I do it at the field with the engine running as well as static.

These are just the thoughts that came to me based on what I do and I am sure you can add to this list and refine it based on your unique circumstances. Take the time to get ready and start the season off right – one of my sayings related to safety is **THE STUPID WILL BE PUNISHED** – if you need an example I am living proof!

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What's happening at the field?

- Flying conditions are improving
- Field remains in good shape but with the warmer weather maintenance efforts will be picking up
- No serious safety issues or flying conflicts
- Membership is increasing and activities at the field are getting into full swing.
- Grass runway parallel to the paved runway has been rolled once and will be rolled again as needed in the ongoing efforts to bring it closer to a definable and useable grass runway
- For information AMA has issued the latest version of their Safety Code which is effective January 1, 2014. The latest version will be posted at the field but members can find copies of it at AMA's website and in the AMA magazine.
- In the last newsletter I stated that the Alvin RC Club was awarded the Gold Level Leader Club status by AMA. In recognition of this award there are lapel pins at the clubhouse. If you have not received yours you can obtain one from Grady or myself while the supplies last. We received enough to cover the membership in 2013 so please only ask for one so everyone can receive theirs. They were free with the award but in the future they are \$3 each from AMA.

Crash Reports

The following pictures tell the whole story – crash was on February 20 – straight into the ground about 100 yards straight out from the side of the runway – pilot was Guy Downing. All of the airplane missing except for the landing gear and canopy is buried in the field. Took a shovel to recover the engine. Look at fuel tank with the wing dowel through it like a spear.



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Facebook Group - Alvin RC Flight Line

Around a month ago Larry Goodwin setup a Facebook group for our club called Alvin RC Flight Line <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1008524842621885/> It is a closed group which means it is limited to club members only. It is a great informal communication tool and we encourage our members to give it a try. Just go to the group page and there is a “button” that says Join. Click the button and it will send Larry and me your request and one of us will authorize you and you will be in – give it a try – even some of us old guys are doing it!!! We currently have 26 that have joined so we have a ways to go.

New Members:

Introduce yourself and welcome our new members – if you happen to introduce yourself and welcome an old member now you know them and if you do it twice you will know them better and be getting near my age!!!!!!!!!!

For Sale or Wanted:

Nothing submitted

Projects:

Big Stik 40 ARF Buildup and Electric Conversion –by Dick Hart

I purchased the Big Stik 40 ARF in December and finally got to start construction about mid-January. I decided to start with mounting the electric motor and ESC since they would require the most redesign and work around the firewall. I cut an access hatch on

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top of the nose behind the firewall to allow work behind the firewall. I also cut an access for an air scoop on one side. An air scoop was manufactured and glued on. A rear fuselage air passage relief hole was also created. I had lots of ideas on how to mount the electric motor until I discovered the motor I got was slightly larger in diameter than the gas engine motor mount holes that were already drilled and had blind nuts installed. The motor was just large enough to prevent screw heads from passing along the side of the motor and into the blind nuts. I decided to take out those blind nuts until I saw the sheer size of them behind the firewall. I decided that would tear up the firewall. I had to find another way to mount the electric motor. I toyed with several ideas but each one ran into some kind of impossible problem. I finally settled on using a sub firewall to hold the motor which is then bolted to the real firewall with 1" standoffs. This trial and error trying to find a reasonable motor mount cost a lot of time! The motor assembly on to the original firewall was completed this weekend (Feb 15, 16). The ESC was connected and installed. Electrical checkout of the power plant is all working OK. Now I can get on with the 'normal' buildup of the plane. The only question left is the battery position to be determined later in the buildup.

I am currently looking for a better latch for the access cover in the nose. I have installed two strong magnets in the hatch area but I haven't found a good mountable mate for them. I also want to create a backup latch in case the air pressure flowing through the nose tries to push the hatch cover up off the magnets.

Dick Hart

Revive an old Drill/Driver by Benny Behrens



I have several good DeWalt variable speed drill/drivers that use 14.4V NiCad's. All the batteries I have for them (6) are dead or not feeling real good and with the ones in the stores at \$60+ each and so old they don't last a year, decided to try a 4A, 20C, 4S LiPo that cost me about \$30 including shipping. I used the connector that goes in the drill from an old battery pack that I disassembled and replaced the top battery in the pack that had the connector on it with a similar size wood dowel. Put two short wires on it with power pole

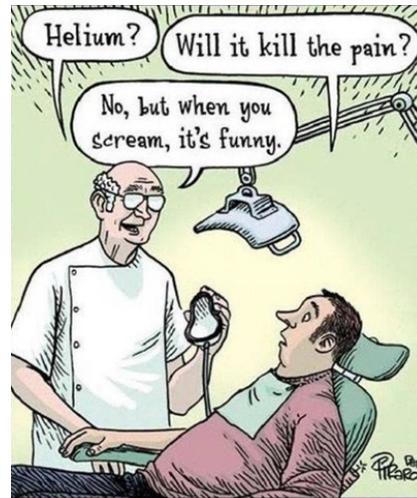
connectors, used hot glue and wire ties to connect to the base of the drill. This should make a great shop drill that stays charged and has way more torque than the NiCad's. Being serial number 1 it has room for improvements but it works. I have more drill/drivers to improve the design and looks (if that is important). Benny

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Lost and Found: If you have lost or found an item at the field that you do not know who it belongs to please let us know so we can post the description. Most items found at the field are placed on the counter by the row of windows in the clubhouse.

Smiles:



Barbie Joke!

As a trucker stops for a red light, a blonde catches up. She jumps out of her car, runs up to his truck, and knocks on the door. The trucker lowers the window, and she says "Hi,

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my name is Barbie and you are losing some of your load." The trucker ignores her and proceeds down the street. When the truck stops for another red light, the girl catches up again. She jumps out of her car, runs up and knocks on the door. Again, the trucker lowers the window. As if they've never spoken, the blonde says brightly, "Hi my name is Barbie, and you are losing some of your load!" Shaking his head, the trucker ignores her again and continues down the street. At the third red light, the same thing happens again. All out of breath, the blonde gets out of her car, runs up, and knocks on the truck door. The trucker lowers the window. Again she says "Hi, my name is Barbie, and you are losing some of your load!" When the light turns green the trucker revs up and races to the next light. When he stops this time, he hurriedly gets out of the truck, and runs back to the blonde. He knocks on her window, and as she lowers it, he says "Hi, my name is Ken, its winter in Michigan and I'm driving the SALT TRUCK!" **(And she drives Bill's airplanes?)**

Upcoming Events:

- Our Big Bird Fly-In is scheduled for April 19, 2014 and we are hoping for good weather with a dry field to allow adequate parking. We have been in the process of soliciting prize donations and thus far our loyal suppliers and some new are really showing their support:
 - Bucky with RC Hobbies has committed to 5 - \$20 Gift Certificates, 5 – shirts and one airplane (type to be determined)
 - Tru – Turn has sent 4 of their great ball caps and one of their 4” aluminum spinners.
 - Micro-Fasteners has committed to providing a prize(s).
 - B&E Graphics has provided a discount coupon to one of their airplane covers.
 - RC Jets World's Yong Li is sending two Fly Model ARF's – a 30cc MXRS and a 50cc Thunderbird
 - Servo City - \$25 gift certificate, flyers, decals, 10% off coupons and a Go Pro Mount.

These are the commitments made so far and as of this writing the requests have only been out for a little over 2 weeks. Plan to publish weekly updates in hopes of keeping interest up and giving our valuable sponsors the exposure they are due.

We can use volunteers to help with this event. Volunteers that commit to working most of the day will receive a free hamburger plate with one of Tom Stancliff's famous hamburgers. A volunteer list will be posted in the clubhouse if you would like to sign up.

- Events both flying and non-flying are listed on AMA's website under Competition/Calendar and also listed in AMA's magazine Model Aviation. Local

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club events are also listed on RC Hobby Shop's website and as I receive flyers from the clubs I will distribute to the membership.

It should be noted that Bucky (Matt Keller) does a great job of supporting our events and Bucky's efforts really help bring the Houston Area RC community together.

- The current copy of RC Hobby Shop's list of events is shown below:



WWW.RCHOUSTON.COM
2014 Houston Area Flying Events Schedule
For Updates and More Info go to www.RCHouston.com

2/22/14 -- Dayton, TX (A) JETERO FROZEN FINGER OF FATE COMPETITION FUN FLY
2/23/14 -- SUNDAY Texas City, TX TCRRC FREE FLY IN & LUNCH-all AMA aircraft welcome
3/1/14 -- NOF Freestyle \$Challenge\$ 1 of 3 Series Bomber Field Monavile By RCHS & MKS
3/15/14 -- Rosenberg, TX (C) FORT BEND RC CLUB SPRING SWAP MEET AND FUN FLY
3/22/14 -- Jetero RC 18th Anniversary Fly In Dayton TX
3/27/14 -- 3/29/2014 -- Rosenberg, TX (C) 2ND ANNUAL JETS OVER HOUSTON
4/5/14 -- Texas City, TX (C) TCRCC WARBIRD FLY IN AND SWAP MEET
4/12/14 -- Crosby, TX (C) PROP NUTS ANNUAL FLEA MARKET AND FLY IN
4/19/14 -- Alvin, TX (C) ALVIN RC 24TH ANNUAL BIG BIRD FLY IN
4/26/14 -- 4/27/2014 -- New Waverly, TX (C) 30TH ANNUAL BIG BIRD FLY IN
5/1/14 -- 5/4/2014 -- HoBro 2014 Bomber Field Profiles & 3d Event
5/2/14 -- 5/5/2014 -- Katy, TX (AA) SCRC 7TH ANNUAL SPRING PATTERN
5/10/14 -- Crosby TX Electric Fly In Day Propnuts RC Club
5/17/14 -- Spring, TX (C) SPRING FUN FLY. Site: Houston Sport Flyers
5/17/14 -- Orange, TX (C) BIG BIRDS OVER THE BAYOU. Site: Gloria Drive Flying Field
5/31/14 -- RCHOUSTON.com Flying Community Gathering By RCHS Scobee Field
6/7/14 -- Monaville, TX (C) WARBIRD EVENT ANY SIZE. Site: Bomber Field
6/13/14 -- 6/14/2014 -- Texas City, TX (C) BRADEN CLOUGH BIG BIRD /SWAP MEET
6/19-21/14 -- Hotter than Hell Jet Rally Bomber Field Monaville Tx
6/21/14 -- Spring, TX (C) 2ND ANNUAL BIG BIRD GATHERING
6/28/14 -- Rosenberg, TX (C) 8TH ANNUAL FORT BEND BIG BIRD FLY IN.
7/19/14 -- Texas City, TX (C) TCRCC OPEN FUN FLY #1 AND SWAP MEET
8/9/14 -- NOF Freestyle \$Challenge\$ 2 of 3 Series Bomber Field Monavile By RCHS & MKS
8/21-24/14 -- Rally of the Giants IMAA + AMA pilots welcome Bomber Field
9/18/14 -- 9/20/2014 -- Monaville, TX (C) B17 GATHERING. Site: Bomber Field
9/27/14 -- Spring, TX (C) CHOPPERAZZI. Site: Houston Sport Flyers.
10/10/14 -- 10/11/2014 -- Katy, TX (C) WARBIRDS OVER SPACE CITY
10/25/14 -- NOF Freestyle Final \$Challenge\$ Day 3 of 3 Bomber Field By RCHS & MKS
10/25/14 -- Dayton, TX (C) SOUTHEAST TEXAS WARBIRD RALLY. Site: Jetero Club
11/1/14 -- Wings Over Houston Ellington Field - Come check out the RC Pilots Demo Booth
11/8/14 -- Texas City, TX (C) TCRCC OPEN FUN FLY #2 AND SWAP MEET
11/15/14 -- Spring, TX (C) TOYS FOR TOTS. Site: Houston Sport Flyers.
11/16/14 -- SUNDAY Fort Bend RC Turkey Shoot

Want to Add your event ?
Email us @ :
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Find us on: facebook

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Club Officers and Board Members

President – Tim Haskins	Vice President & Safety Coordinator– Mike Vawters
Treasurer – Grady Owens	Secretary – Benny Behrens
Board Member – Lewis Mack	Board Member – Ken White
Board Member – Bill Bley	

Any comments, suggestions, corrections may be submitted to Benny Behrens at cbbahrens@comcast.net

Local Sponsors: The following local Hobby Shops are loyal supporters of our events and club and we hope you will support them and tell them thanks.



WWW.RCHOBBYSHOP.COM

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