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Newsletter of Alvin RC Model Airplane Association

January – February 2014

2013 In the Rear View Mirror

As we start a new year it would be worth taking a moment and looking back at 2013. I personally believe 2013 was a very successful year for our club. Some of the highlights or accomplishments:

- Year ending membership of 82 open members and including junior and family members total comes to 88.
- Clubhouse was expanded to almost twice the size with a large portion of the actual work performed by our club members lead by John Desmond.
- \$1,000 Grant was received from AMA as part of their Flying Site Development program to help defray some of the cost of expanding our clubhouse.
- March 30th we held our 23rd annual Big Bird Fly In which was a great success. The Houston Chronicle gave us very good coverage, local hobby shops donated some very nice raffle prizes and the spectator turnout really tested our parking areas and facilities. We had 32 pilots register and we were able to fly 3D and Conventional styles very successfully with no problems. RC equipment suppliers were very supportive with donations of products and gift certificates which we used for door prizes. On top of all of this we sold 130 of the “Best Hamburgers in Texas” (self-professed of course).
- In August we held a club Fun Fly open to public spectators from the local area. The event was in support of the first National Model Aviation Day with net receipts and contributions being donated to the Wounded Warrior Project. Again we received very beneficial support from the Houston Chronicle and our local hobby shops. Boy Scout Troop 452 of Friendswood, TX did a great job of directing parking and handling the concessions. As a result our club was able to send a total contribution of \$1,000 to the Wounded Warrior Project.
- Surfacing work and material installed on our entry drive and parking areas, metal roofing has been replaced in leaking areas of the canopy area and new wind socks have been installed.
- Areas damaged by the hogs and the 4 wheelers have been repaired. No Trespassing signs were installed along the Northwest property line (to warn the hogs of course)
- Entry sign has been redone and new club logo installed.
- Near the end of the year, based on information provided to AMA, we received notice from AMA that our club was awarded Leader Club – Gold Level status.
- And finally the best news is there were no serious safety issues or injuries.

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Thanks to everyone for your help and support in having made 2013 a great year. Now we need to decide what we can do for an encore in 2014.

Election Results

The following is the final results of our annual election of Officers and Board Members:

- President – Tim Haskin
- Vice President & Safety Coordinator – Mike Vawters
- Treasurer – Grady Owens
- Secretary – Benny Behrens
- Board Members:
 - Lewis Mack
 - Ken White
 - Bill Bley
- Current Trustees: (Lifetime position)
 - Phil Vance
 - Fred Daniels

Contact information on these individuals is posted in the clubhouse and is listed on our Roster which Grady distributes periodically.

George Harpole had been elected to the Vice President position at an interim election to replace Ted Dziedzic. We appreciate George's efforts and work during his time as VP and hope he will have the opportunity to serve on our Executive Committee again in the future.

What's happening at the field?

- **Good news:**
 - With the arrival of winter short sleeve shirts and shorts are not being worn very much but with more jackets and gloves being seen the smell of mothballs is in the air!!!!!!!
 - Field remains in great shape thanks to Carl and his crew.
 - No serious safety issues or flying conflicts
- **Bad news**
 - Mike Buckalew has taken up tree climbing and to start with he picked the tallest tree at the field! See Crash reports for more details on why he does things like this.

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Crash Reports: (remember there is no such thing as gravity – it is the sucking earth or in this case tree!)

- Mike Buckalew was taking off with his kit built Stinson Reliant with a 100.5” wingspan and during the attempted take off an east wind got under his wing. The airplane would not respond to the necessary aileron/rudder inputs and the plane was heading directly for the windows in the clubhouse causing occupants to start scrambling. Luckily Mike was able to get enough elevator in to cause the plane to climb and miss the clubhouse. Trouble was not enough distance to do anything but start tree trimming. As it turned out Mike climbed the tree and lowered his plane down and was able to nicely repair the damage. From now on Mike stay out of trees or at least limit climbing to ones not taller than you!!!!!!!

Don't you just love how nice that airplane looks with the green background and blue sky?



- I know there have been other crashes based on the amount of “re-kitted” stuff in the trash cans but seems no one wants to talk about them. If you have or know of a crash I would appreciate the information so we can recognize our member’s “accomplishments” and also learn from experiences.
- As somewhat of an aside – it would really help if members that crash their planes would take the large pieces of the remains home with them. This would cut down on the work our volunteers have to do to dispose of the waste in the cans...thanks

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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 or older!!!!!!!

For Sale or Wanted:



89” Super Decathlon set up for a DLE 30 built from a Dynaflyte Kit. During my special Christmas sale I will sell it for the reduced price of \$350 without engine or radio. Call Benny Behrens 281-481-1431

Projects: (submitted by Ken White)

BERNIE’S WRIGHT FLYER

As many of the Alvin R/C club members may remember, sometime back Bernie Severino built a ¼ scale replica of the Wright Flyer. Bernie attempted to fly this model at the field. After Bernie’s passing, the model was donated for display at the 1940 Air Terminal Museum located near Hobby airport.

In late August, Benny Behrens received an e-mail from a Mr. Geoffrey Scripture, the Collection Manager for the museum. The model sits on top of an 8’ high display case and during a wedding reception at the museum; the model was inadvertently knocked off of the case damaging the model. Knowing that Bernie was a member of the Alvin R/C, Mr. Scripture contacted Benny with a request to repair the model. I volunteered along with Benny and we met Mr. Scripture sometime in late August. The plan was to

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possibly repair the model at the museum, but after examining the damages, it was apparent that it would need to be repaired in a shop. I made a trip back home to get my truck and met Benny and Geoff at the museum that same evening to load the Flyer. We found it to be quite heavy and with a wing span just under 9' feet it barely fit in the truck. I could see the concern on Mr. Scripture's face, but we used a lot of foam to protect it and managed to get it safely loaded. Once at my shop, Benny and I made a closer inspection. There was damage to the front canard, all of the front struts and canard control yokes were broken or loose, the rear rudder area was broken loose, a tear in the wing and many wing wires damaged. Also, both wing tips on one side were damaged so severely that it would require rebuilding. Benny decided he would repair the canards and after trying to figure out how to remove the canards it was decided, reluctantly, to cut the front canards off and reattach later.

The hardest part of the repair was the recovering of the wing tips. The model was covered with Sig Coverall and painted with a dope type paint. Trying to match this paint with a paint compatible with Coverall was going to be difficult. Instead, knowing that the model was for static display only, I opted to cover the tips with a clear laminate and paint it with Latex. I was able to take a piece of the original covering to a paint store and have them match it using their optical scanner. Additionally, once the canard assembly was spliced back together, I had to match the stain. After several trial and errors I was able to mix 3 different stains I had on hand and got a perfect match. The repairs were made over a couple of months working off and on and the model was returned to the museum in late October. Mr. Scripture and the museum staff were delighted. Below are a few photos.

I highly recommend a visit to this museum. It contains a lot of artifacts from older airlines that operated at the original Hobby terminal and contains a lot of history. It is located just off of Hwy 35, near Hobby airport. The actual address is 8325 Travelair Street and the web site is www.1940airterminal.org.

Ken White



Damaged wing tips



Flyer loaded to take back to museum



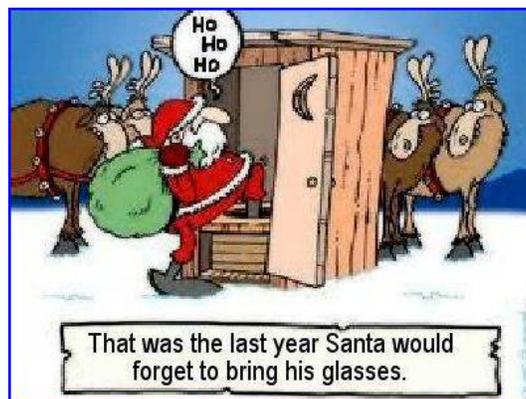
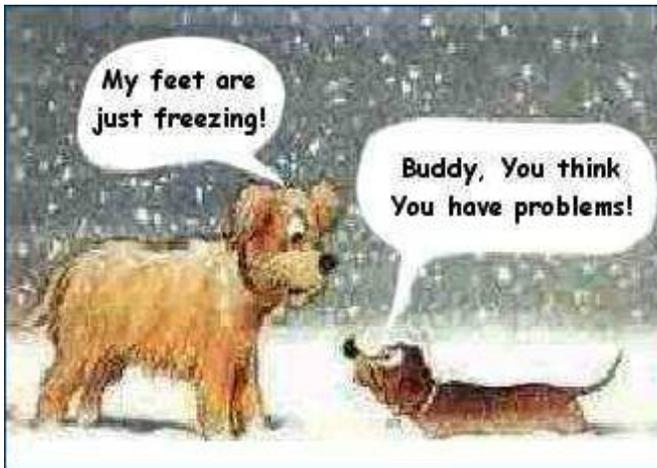
Wright Flyer back home

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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.

Smiles:



Upcoming Events:

- Our Big Bird Sanction has been approved for April 19, 2014. Flyer and additional information will be distributed after the first of the year.
- 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.

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 cbbehrens@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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