



# Raleigh-Durham Radio Control

Volume 16, Issue 3

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

March 2007



**PRESIDENT  
LARRY LEWIS'**

Prop - Wash

**Club Meeting**

March 28th @7:30  
Millbrook Exchange Park

Yeee Hahhhhh

After a lonnnng winters wait, the 2007 flying season is about to get on the road. Several of us have been sporting our new winter projects at the field in recent weeks, and rumor has it that Dave Hockaday has FINALLY got that big ole TAXI giant scaler in the air! Haven't talked to him, but I hear all went well. I have a new 35%YAK 54 going now, and it's a total blast. Soon to be appearing, Robert Vess's new Python Bipe with DA 50, and Jay "Tootsie Roll" Benson's matching 35% Yak. Hmmmmmmm,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, seems to me we STILL have one Yak In The Box out there! I wonder what Bob and Matt will be dragging out this spring?

Speaking of the 2007 season, all is slated to start the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. For those in to giant scale, Fayetteville will be holding their annual spring meet March 30,31, and April 1<sup>st</sup>. I know lots of modelers are primed up and ready to go. They should have a really good turn out weather permitting.

Also on March 31<sup>st</sup>, will be the big static display at the Franklin Co Airport. This will be a joint effort put on by both the RAMS club, and RDRC. We highly encourage any and all interested club members to attend this event, and be sure to bring your plane/planes. For those wanting to fly small electrics, we will be set up in a great spot. We'll have a large grassy area right behind the tents, and they are expecting us to put on flight demos throughout the day. This a great chance to show off our hobby, and better yet, invite folks to come out April 21<sup>st</sup> to our RDRC Spring Fly In! I'm printing up plenty of flyers to pass out. This is looking to be a fun day out.

Things are really good for the 2007 season in our club. We have been looking in to possible field improvements for this year, and even plan on getting the runway professionally repaired. We recently signed a new mowing contract, and plan on growing the protective barriers in front of the flight stations again. Josh "Hot Dog" Bunn says he has some "Good Stuff" to sprinkle on the grass, and we should have it one foot tall, in no time at all! As for the rest of the field improvements, we'll discuss them at this month's upcoming meeting.

One thing I need to address again, and I hate to say this, but we have some real "Butt Heads" in the pits! Yes,,,,,, I mean **cigarette** butts! Another member and I were taking notice this past weekend of just how many were on the ground. It was a LOT, and we need to put a stop to it. Especially with grass mowing about to start up again. When a mower blade hits these things, it makes a heck of a mess folks. Please, if you smoke, keep your butt in your pants,,,,,, I mean,,,,,, your can! ;)

I'm really excited about this year folks. Already, people are talking about the Fly for Tots, and our first time hosting the Dist 4 mini fest. We have a wonderful group of people in RDRC , and the word continues to spread how much fun we have. Weather permitting, our spring meet promises to have a really good number of modelers attend, and should be a huge success. Just in case to you haven't heard, we're going to raffle off a new DX7 Spectrum radio! Thanks to Hobby Masters for making us such a good deal on it.

I hope to see you all at the field this week end. The weather looks to be perfect, and I'm die'n to burn some gas!  
See you all there



Visit the club website at [www.rd-rc.org](http://www.rd-rc.org)



## Minutes of RDRC meeting February 28, 2007

### Secretary's Report *Dave Hockaday*



- The meeting was called to order by President Larry Lewis at 7:30 p.m.
- President Larry Lewis had new members and guests introduce themselves. Present and new were Jim Steffens, Steve Snarski, Ken Wade, Ken Floyd, and guest Michael Pasternack.
- The minutes for the January meeting were read and approved as written
- Safety Officer Jay Benson was unable to attend, and there were no reports of safety violations at the field..
- Dustin Hedrick provided a Treasurer's report and described the checks and balances of the club dues deposit system. The budget was in good shape, especially for this early in the year.
- Jim Charbonneau reported that there were 111 members joined/renewed with RDRC at the time of the meeting.

#### Old Business

- A discussion about rolling and/or leveling the field took place. It was agreed to talk to Randy Long about this.
- Filling the cracks in the paved runway was discussed. Jerry Pope agreed to talk to Charlie Thompson about this. Larry Lewis mentioned setting up a "Field Day" for doing this bit of field maintenance.
- Josh Bunn mentioned that IMAA would provide \$500 for this type of field maintenance, since we're hosting an IMAA Fly-In this coming fall.

#### New Business

- The Field Mowing Bid system was discussed. All bids for mowing and maintaining the field must be submitted to Dustin Hedrick by March 15th.
- A new possible alternative flying location at the field was discussed. It was agreed upon to set up a test for this possible location, at the southwest end of the field.
- No progress was reported on the new membership/pilot program by Josh Bunn.
- The officers' meeting time/dates were discussed. It was agreed that as much advance notice as possible would be posted on the internet forum, but the fact that it was an "Officer's Meeting" dictated that it would be held at the officers' convenience.
- Treasurer Dustin Hedrick brought up the possibility of various meeting locations to minimize meeting expenses. The use of a 50/50 drawing to help offset expenses at the current location was agreed upon.
- Roger Williams suggested that we install a flagpole at the field for the U.S. Flag, and it was agreed upon.
- Jim Charbonneau talked about moving the porta-potties to back up against the storage building to eliminate problems with wind blowing them over (like happened recently, and at least 3 times in the past year). It was agreed to relocate the RDRC sign and porta-potties to correct this problem.
- There was a discussion about the use of the frequency board for spread spectrum. It was agreed upon to modify the board for at least 8 SS users, and Jim Charbonneau said he would make the modifications.
- A discussion followed about the use of the transmitter impound, and it was agreed to police the use of the impound and make people aware that transmitters were to be placed in the impound when not in use, and to return pins to the board for other users when flying was not underway.
- A Show-n-Tell program was provided by Scott Howe on Electric Flight. Bill Birmingham displayed an inexpensive flight simulator for everyone to use.
- The meeting was closed at approximately 9:10 pm.

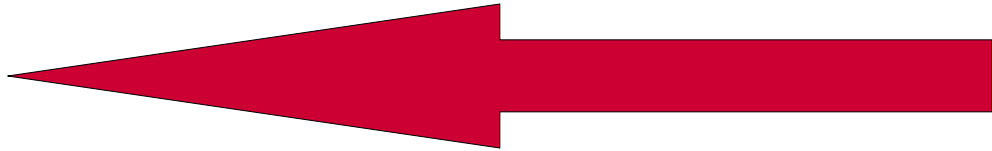




**FROM THE VICE  
PRESIDENT**

*Josh Bunn*

**See Larry's write-up! hehehehe**



**RDRC  
2007 Officers**

**President:**

Larry Lewis  
231-4983  
rclarry@aol.com

**Vice President & CD:**

Josh Bunn  
919-404-2332  
Josh@qualityplusautomotive.com

**Secretary:**

Dave Hockaday  
919-554-2154  
wb4iuy@teara.org

**Treasurer:**

Dustin Hedrick  
919-559-7153  
dust176@yahoo.com

**Safety Officer:**

Jay Benson  
919-217-8959  
jaybenson5@aol.com

**Newsletter**

**Editor:**

Jim Charbonneau  
4504 Lassiter Road  
Wake Forest, NC 27587  
919-554-3042  
Cell 919-280-7751  
jcharbonneau@nc.rr.com

**Submittals:**

All club members are urged to submit material to be published in the newsletter. The material must be received by the third Monday of each month. Text is easily submitted in the form of regular mail or e-mails sent to my address above, photos can be attachments in any format that your camera produces (or scanned photos).

**FRANKLIN COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT  
FLY-IN, CRUZ-IN AND THE YOUNG EAGLES  
RALLY**

**MARCH 31, 2007  
10 AM TILL 4 PM**

**GENERAL PUBLIC FREE ADMISSION**

- **Free airplane rides for the kids, ages 7-17 beginning at 10 AM. (Parental permission required)**
- **All day Remote Control Airplane display and demonstrations by the Raleigh Aero Masters and Raleigh Durham RC (RDRC) Club.**
- **Classic Cars will be displayed by the Tar River Cruizers (and many extras)**
- **Lots and lots of neat airplanes—up close and personal!**
- **Bring the family for a day of new horizons and a ton of fun.**
- **Food Available by “Johnny’s BBQ” of Louisburg.**
- **Rain Date : April 1, 2007**

**See details at [WWW.flyfranklinnc.com](http://WWW.flyfranklinnc.com)**

# *It Happened at the Field*



Roger Williams with his new sweet flying OS powered "Tiger"  
Roger uses Futaba Radio equipment.



Shannon Wall with her Astro Hog which is powered by a Thunder Tiger 61 and her Hanger Nine Satio 100 powered P-51. Shannon uses both Futaba and JR Radio equipment. Hummmmm don't know how to deal with that, is that even allowed?



Ken Kiesler with one of his newer Warbirds.  
This one is equipped with a remote glow starter, and with the closed cowl sounds great when he backs off the throttle.



Shannon Wall Photo

Christopher Huysentruyt Huckin for the crowd.  
Funny we would have thought it would have been with a Warbird, but it didn't seem to be the case.  
(Sorry Manny)



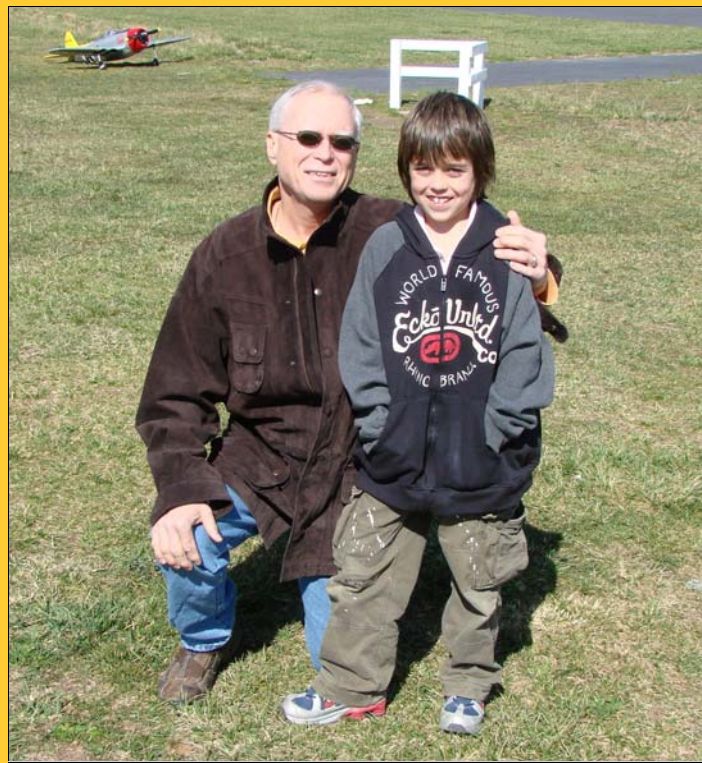
Shannon Wall Photo



**NOTICE**  
Vess Prop fans, Robert has just unveiled this new laminated prop.



Jerry Smith we're on to ya, we spotted these two Kentucky spies as soon as they walked on to the field.



New Member Steve Benson and his son Brandon. Meet-um and greet-um. If Brandon looks familiar it's because he's a model and has been photographed world wide. Now it's time for Brandon to take Modeling (RC) to a new level.

Welcome to Justin Jones who joined this month. Justin recently moved here from California, and is another great Heli Pilot in our ranks.



Welcome to new member Steve Snarski (Left) and welcome back to Ken Floyd who we're happy to have re-join.



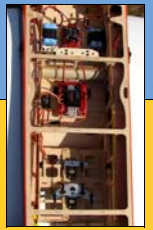
Though not pictured, we also want to welcome new member Michael Brown of Zebulon to the club.



As always the judges are present and voicing their opinions



Manny Huysentruyt's new addition. This giant scale Thunderbolt (d) is powered by a 3W75, has Robart retracts and an awesome rivet job. Another warbird we can be proud of.



Larry Lewis introduced this long awaited 35% "YAK-54". Its powered by a DA-100 and swings a "Vess 27-C prop. Larry is using a Smart Fly regulator and power expander. The plane has a 118" WS, weighs in at 28 lbs, the inside is as remarkable as the outside, and flies like it's on rails. Naturally Larry uses all JR radio equipment, nice job!



Jeremy Greene brought this remarkable BIP out to the field that he's had for years. We all want to see this one fly and wonder what else he has stashed away.



Mark Lofgren shown here with his (and may it RIP) Lanier Extra 300, which was powered by a Satio 125. The nice thing about our hobby is *MARK* is still with us, even if the Lanier isn't.



And then there's Michael Hollowell who flies everything and anything, While Michael's at the field, I find myself glancing back at my truck to make sure he's not trying to fly that! Though this Outhouse was a *HOT* item on this day, when it caught the world on fire.



Lars Karlsson is an RC pilot from Sweden and while here on business paid us a visit.



RAMS Club Jose Zayas flying his giant scale "Smiley Face" impressed everyone with his fantastic pilot skills. We're looking forward to joining the RAMS Club at Franklin County Airport on the 31st of this month.





# “Drake’s Travels” Plus the “RDRC Traveling Circus”

*Drake and Dane Edwards*

## Jacksonville Giant Flyin

18th Annual Festival of Giants, Jacksonville FL. Feb 22-24. The weather was sunny, low 70s all three days. This flyin was restricted to giant scale airplanes. The pilot count went to 66. The Gateway RC Club welcomed out of town folks with open arms. They are truly a world class organization. Visit their website <http://www.gatewayrc.org/>, for club info and pictures. On Saturday, I had the pleasure of meeting 6 year old Jonathan Bryans of Port Orange FL. He might be a future TOC Champ. Jonathan's dad Donnie age 37, got Jonathan on the controls when he was only 2 years old. Donnie's father got Donnie on the controls when he was 8. That makes Jonathan a 3rd generation RC pilot. Jonathan has been flying on his own since he was 3 and now flies his dad's 96 inch wingspan Yak 54, powered by a 3W-100 and JR Radio. If your interested in learning more about Donnie's technique in teaching such young children learning to fly, contact me. *Dane*



## Perry Georgia Swap Meet

Perry Georgia Swap meet, Feb. 2-3. This is the largest swap meet of its kind in the United States. We dodged a tornado Thursday night driving through rural Georgia. We missed it by only 15 minutes. The swap meet started 8 AM Friday and ran until 9 PM that night. Started again at 8AM Saturday and ended that afternoon. There were 1,100 plus 8 foot tables, if you do the math, that's over a mile and a half of merchandise. This year they came from as far away as California. Literally thousands of people attended. Three large buildings, housed the swap meet. This is truly the biggest event in the south eastern United States. If you'd like to attend next year, let me know. For more info visit <http://www.gamarc.com/>.



Lt. to Rt. Drake Edwards, Jim Strothers, former club Secretary Frank Clay, Michael Vaughn and former club member Mike Wol

**JOE NALL** Silver Anniversary Celebration

May 16th-19th 2007  
Triple Tree Aerodrome  
Woodruff, SC

We Specialize in Fun, Fellowship and Hospitality!

**If you 're attending Joe Nall this year and planning on an extended stay, make you' re room reservations soon!**



## "My Wake Up Call" by Robert Vess

I consider myself to be a careful person and I'm quite methodical with the preparation and caring of my models and associated equipment. This even includes my "foamies", which I sure love to fly! These simple little airplanes are made possible by advances in electric motors and especially battery technology. Those compact little LiPo batteries sure have amazing energy density that allows me to aggressively fly my 12 ounce foamy for more than 10 minutes per charge. So I like to keep three or more batteries charged all the time so that I can fly whenever I want.

I think everyone has seen or heard the warnings about the care that needs to be exercised when charging LiPo batteries. They constantly tell us to "never leave your charging battery unattended" or "charge in a fire safe container". That's because these powerful little packs require special charge modes and, when they are not strictly adhered to by the operator or charger, they can overcharge and possibly catch fire! My first exposure to this battery technology was fortunately with "Duralite" packs, which had built-in circuitry that protected the battery from such perils. Later, this company removed the circuit board from the battery itself and put it into a separate balance/charge safety module in the interest of battery size and weight. But you could not charge their batteries without using this device, so the safety was still built into the system. I have used and charged these batteries since their inception

Then Jay Benson began using a great "Thunder Power" battery that had more capacity and less weight than the ones I was using. He could fly longer and with more power than I was experiencing! So I gave some of those a try and liked them allot. Although I could use my same "Orbit" digital charger, I could not use the Duralite balance/safety module, since it was designed for use with their batteries only. And, the Thunder Power pack was charged through the "power" lead instead of the multi-pin balance lead like the Duralite. My system had changed yet my mentality had not evolved with it. So now I did not have the "safety circuit" in the loop and foolishly convinced myself that was OK.....

WRONG! One day I was systematically charging my packs on my dining room floor (I told you I had a false sense of invulnerability!) and started a charge on a pack as I went upstairs to take a call.

Here's what I think happened. My charger is one of the so-called "smart:" chargers that checks the pack as you plug it in and determines how many cells it has. It shows the number of cells and the charge info on an LCD screen so you can monitor this process. Well, if you put a mostly charged pack on for a charge, it is possible for the charger to "think" it has more cells than it does and charge to the applicable peak voltage for that scenario. I usually check the charging mode when starting the sequence but had complacently skimmed past it on this day. And that was probably all it took to cause such devastating results! The accompanying pictures show what was left of my 3-cell pack. You can have a look in person at the field, where the battery remnants are displayed at the TX impound or in the shed.

So here's my advice to you, which I now follow to the letter. **MAKE SURE** you are charging a LiPo pack in the proper charge mode each and every time. Charge in a fire safe container. I have now adapted an old metal First Aid kit box for this purpose as seen in the photo. And use one of the many commercially available "charge safety" circuits. I am currently using an Astro-Flight "Blinky" for my Thunder Power packs and will probably even find something that is between the charger and the pack like the Duralite unit to make sure that it has the ability to limit the peak charge voltage.

I hope that my foolish situation with a LiPo and the fortunate outcome will help you avoid a similar circumstance. Enjoy these amazing packs but charge them with care! It CAN happen to you.

Regards,

Robert J. Vess  
rjvess@mindspring.com





# Raleigh-Durham Radio Control

Volume 16, Issue 3

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

March 2007

## Set Your Calendar For April 21



Raleigh-Durham Radio Control  
**Spring Fly-In & Swap Meet**



A general fly-in and public air show for all types of model aircraft

- Pilot / swap meet fee - \$5.00
- Concessions on site
- Raffles and prizes
- Camping on site - no hookups

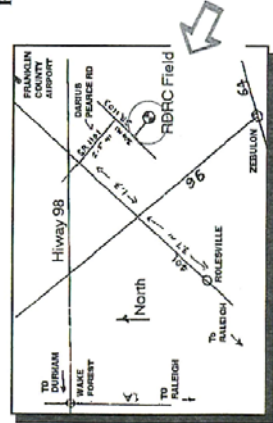


For More Information Contact:  
**CD: Larry Lewis**  
(919)231-4983  
rclarry@aol.com

**Club Website:**  
[www.rd-rc.org](http://www.rd-rc.org)

*Fly at one of N.C.'s premier sites:*  
- 300 foot asphalt runway  
- Adjacent grass runway

GPS Coordinates - N35°56.469', W078°21.148'



**PUBLIC INVITED - FREE ADMISSION**

c/o Jim Charbonneau, Editor  
4504 Lassiter Road  
Wake Forest, NC 27587

TO:

