



PRESIDENT'S Prop-Wash

With fresh thoughts of this past weekend (March 10th – 11th) and how great the weather was for flying, I start to wonder what the rest of the season will be like. Hopefully warm with low winds.

As I just got back from Galway, Ireland... I tried to visit some of the local RC fields during my stays. Well needless to say, their fields are still under water from the winter rains and the winds average 15-30 daily. So if you want to start complaining about our weather.... Think twice.

The Cliffs of Moher, Ireland – Ok, you might get the wrong idea with the way the weather looked on this day... believe it or not, we traveled through a hail/snow storm no more than an hour before reaching this destination. Temps were around the 40F mark with winds in the upper 20s MPH. Weather sure turns quickly over there. After leaving the Cliffs it was nothing but rain the rest of the day.



Ok, back to the US and RDRC business!!!

“Crapper”: On Monday March 12th I talked with, in person, the wife of the Porta Potty owner. Seems like health issues and some fire damage has presented some setbacks for the company who has taken care of our “business” for many years. We hope things will improve for them as she did promise me that the facilities should be serviced later that week.

Dues: Jason was hard working on getting the next batch of cards ready. The roster is now current (3/10/2012). Visit the www.rd-rc.com website, log in, and select club roster from the menu at the bottom right to see the current active members. If you paid prior to March 10 and have not received your membership card, let a club officer know and we will track it down.

Events: RDRC's Spring "Big Jim Memorial" Flyin will be April 14th 2012. Don't forget the raffle prize of the Horizon Hobby RTF Icon Package (Plane, battery, charger, & Spektrum DX5e).

Check out the raffle promo video:

<http://youtu.be/OJJQbc75V7s>

Other events are starting to pop up now that the flying season is here. Please support other clubs by attending their events. To find out about these events, here are a few places I look to:

<http://www.coastalplanes.com/>

<http://modelaircraft.org/events/calendar.aspx>

Meeting: March 28st at the Pullman house location. We had a great session last month with Larry Lewis talking about the Dos and Don'ts of radio/servo installations. The bar has been set high for future presenters.

With positive feedback on the new meeting format we will continue to run with it.

7:30-8:00 : Show and tell... (this will allow time for people to funnel in)

8:00-8:30(ish) : club business

8:30 - Close : Special Event

This month's event presenter is Robert Vess. He will be doing a talk about radio setup, going beyond the basic setup, which continues on where Larry left off

On a side note, it has been brought to our attention by the Pullman house staff that they noticed ruts in the grass created by cars parking on it. Please DO NOT Park on the grass. If no parking is available you can either double park in the Pullman lot or park across the street at the hospital. If you do park across the street, be very careful crossing. It is great we are seeing a higher attendance at the meetings, but we must keep our vehicles on the pavement J

Club Myth Buster: If I fly electrics, do I have to park at the North end of the field?

No, there is no designated parking by aircraft type at RDRC. Some new members might get that vibe when they first come out to RDRC and look up/down the flight line. When you come to the field to fly, feel free to park in any of the parking areas on the North OR South end. Heck, mix it up from time to time. You never know who you might meet or what bits of wisdom you might acquire hanging around a different set of people. The key point is, if you are towing a trailer and are leaving it attached to your vehicle make sure your vehicle doesn't stick out into the driveway path. This is true mostly only for the north end parking area which has a little less room than on the south end.

Closing: Remember, supporting other clubs by attending fly-ins not only provides a new field to fly at and a chance to meet new people, but it also helps that club out with meeting their yearly budget goals. If you've never been to a field other than RDRC, maybe this might be the year to travel to a new field!

Safety Officers Report



Mark L. ofgren

SAFETY FIRST...

The new flying season is here and so are the responsibilities of club membership. Adhering to "Flight and Field Rules" is not a request of members but an obligation every member agrees to as one condition of membership. A recent, flagrant disregard for one of the club's most important safety mandates saw a member walking adjacent to his plane as he taxied INTO a crowded pit area from the flight line. The plane taxied into another member's plane severely damaging a wing requiring the purchase of replacement wings. The damage and its cost is a matter for the planes' owners to settle between themselves, but other club members have inquired as to what official action RDRRC should take against such a flagrant disregard of one of the most important safety rules. RDRRC does not have a procedure to sanction unacceptable regard for the rules, and the club should not need one unless the membership deems it necessary for any future problem. Anyone flying radio control aircraft will have an "oops moment". The distinction between "oops" and disregard of rules, respect and courtesy is clear.

Enough said!



Safety in your club should not be an issue, it should be an attitude.

— Jim Tiller "On the Safe Side"

Notices - Upcoming Events

Please remember that the next Monthly Meeting will be held at The Pullen House on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 starting at 7:30 PM

If you have not paid your 2012 RD-RC membership dues yet, then you are still late. Remember, everyone gets to fly for free (with AMA card) in January, but you have to pay for February through December. Remember that the annual dues are now \$125 Open / \$50 Associate / \$10 Family Membership. Please mail your dues to Dustin Hedrick, 7212 Stuart Drive, Raleigh, NC 27615. Also, remember to renew your AMA insurance for the year 2012.

Folks, here are the local Fly-**In's for the next few weeks.**
Please join in the fun.

March 24, 2012 — Hanover RC Flying Club's 10th annual Swap Meet and 4th annual Indoor Electric Fun Fly. Join us for an opportunity to find a new home for some of your R/C stuff cluttering up your hangar. Tables are reserved on a first paid basis. Enjoy some indoor flying regardless of the weather. A guaranteed opportunity to fly regardless of the weather

March 31, 2012 — Fayetteville, NC (C-Restricted) PIEDMONT AEROMODELERS IMAA SPRING FUN FLY. Site: Club Field. Kent Porter CD PH: 919-639-3481
Email: kent@porterscales.com. Visit: www.piedmontaeromodelers.com. Please come enjoy our site for a weekend of fun and flying. IMAA Saturday only. Concessions on site Sat for lunch. Pilot prizes by random drawings. Event raffle to be announced. 90x800' grass runway w 200 acre fly over, no trees.
Sponsor: PIEDMONT AEROMODELERS

April 7, 2012 — EDRC 2nd Annual Spring Fly-In. Fly anything. Includes a 50-50 raffle.

April 14, 2012 — RDRC Big Jim Memorial Fly-in (aka. RDRC Spring Fly-In). Site: Club Field. Lawrence Lewis CD PH: 919-215-3946 Email: rclarry@aol.com. Visit: <http://www.rd-rc.com>. This is a flying anything event. Food on site. Primitive camping allowed, power for charging available. 300' of paved runway, 600' grass runway. \$10 pilot fee. Sponsor: RALEIGH DURHAM RADIO CONTROL

April 21, 2012 — Kinston, NC (C) 2ND ANNUAL KAM FLY IN. Site: Club Field. David Jones CD PH: 252-727-4750 Email: rcflyer@coastalplanes.com. Visit: www.coastalplanes.com. Food and beverages on site. \$10 landing fee, fly what you bring, AMA required. Sponsor: KINSTON AERO-MODELERS

April 28, 2012 — Rocky Mount, NC (C-Restricted) TAD DIETRICH MEMORIAL FLY IN. Site: Town Creek Field. A Gentry CD PH: 252-343-3961
Email: wn4z462@centurylink.net. Visit: www.tarheelrcflyers.org.
Sponsor: TARHEEL R/C FLYERS

Notices - Upcoming Events

On the Safe Side

Odds and Ends

by Jim Tiller, *On the Safe Side* Author

Disposing of Batteries

You can't be in this hobby without using batteries. With the proliferation of electric flying, even more batteries entered our lives. These batteries eventually go bad, so we are faced with how to dispose of them. For many years it was the trash can. Now, with all the exotic combinations, it is more of a hassle. "Green" environmental laws and regulations are also a consideration. In some states, it is illegal to dispose of any kind of battery—even alkaline cells, in the trash.

The easiest and most environmentally friendly way to dispose of all your batteries is to put them in a plastic bag, and when you've collected enough, take them to a battery recycler. Many hardware stores or homes centers have boxes or bins that will take batteries. There are also battery retailers such as Batteries Plus or Interstate Batteries that will take them. There is even a website that will send you a box to put your batteries and other hard-to-dispose-of items such as fluorescent bulbs. When it's full, you just drop it in the nearest FedEx box. (www.lamprecycling.com/)

LiPo cells are the ones that are the biggest concern for most fliers. There is plenty of Internet information about the care and feeding of LiPo batteries. You simply *cannot* charge LiPo batteries without a proper peak charger and a fireproof container. If they overcharge, they build up gases. If those gases produce enough pressure, the cells will rupture energetically (notice I did not write explode), releasing those gases that then combust mixing with air. Most have read and heard the horror stories associated with LiPo batteries.

But this essay is on disposing them. If you simply must dispose of them yourself, here are some simple instructions, but you can search the internet for a more complete set.

Before you dispose of a LiPo battery, you should discharge it. (Don't try to discharge a damaged pack. If it is damaged, skip down to soaking the cells in salt water.) Many LiPo chargers also discharge the same packs. If so, just discharge the battery to the lowest point allowed on your charger (less than 1 volt per cell). Follow the same safety instructions while discharging as you do for charging.

If your charger won't do it, a 12-volt light bulb wired between the poles will do the job for smaller packs of three cells or less. Let the pack discharge an hour or so after the light bulb goes out.

Soak the cells in salt water ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup of salt per gallon) for a few days. Soaked and discharged LiPos are safe to put in the trash or the recycling bag depending on local regulations.

The biggest environmental concern is the Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd) and Nickel Metal Hydrides (NiMH) batteries. First of all, the metallic residue can be recycled and reused. Second, they are toxic waste if they find their way into the landfill and/or our water supply.

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Notices - Upcoming Events

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Field Cleanup

Spring is when most clubs schedule time for cleanup and fix up. As you go through your routine field maintenance, remember that a great many of the insurance claims presented to the AMA are not for injuries directly associated with modeling activities, but are from injuries that occur to people while *on* your flying site. Frequently those injuries happen to young people who are guests at your field. Some claims have been filed by individuals who were injured long after normal flying hours or even illegally trespassing on a flying site.

On your maintenance check list should be a thorough inspection of your site for potential hazards that could cause injury. Think outside the box. Here's a (by no means complete) list that might stimulate your thinking.

- Are there any piles of boards, bricks, or branches someone could climb and fall from?
- Are there any posts or stakes that could impale someone who falls?
- Are there any low-hanging wires or chains that a person, of any height, at any time of day or night, might hit?
- Is the location of your site (you might include the GPS location) posted on the field so anyone who called 911 could direct emergency responders to your site?
- Are there any frayed electrical wires or uncovered electrical connections?
- Are there any potential poisonous or toxic substances that are not under lock and key? Children can find their way into almost anything.
- Are seats and tables used by the public substantial enough to handle a load and free of cracks and splinters?

None of us can totally free ourselves of liability, but one of the tenets of a negligence lawsuit is that you *must owe a duty of reasonable care to the person claiming an injury*. If you take the time to document your search for potential hazards, it may help you prove that your group is always attentive to issues of public safety and that you have a history of actions showing your concern for the safety of your members and those who visit your field.

I received some feedback on the last issue's column. Thank you all for sending that information. Many said they do have many safety-conscious fliers at their field, but there were a few who were a concern as well. Maybe there is enough there for another column in the future. Thanks, again, for the messages. I take them all to heart.

Picture Pages

In case you miss them, this is what the RD-RC monthly meetings look like at the Pullen House.



Picture Pages



“Show and Tell” at the last RD-RC Monthly Meeting



Larry Lewis “pointing” out the importance of having “at least one wing on your aircraft” with servos.

Picture Pages



Typical day at RD-RC



One of these is the Mother of all F - - kers

Picture Pages



RD-RC Pilots demonstrate the proper use of the Flight Stations



This team converts glow engines to run on gasoline



This is Tom. He thinks that this NexStar is parked too close to his Edge 540



This is Terry. He likes Fords



Picture Pages



RD-RC virtually always draws a crowd of Spectators



One of Pat's Winter Projects makes an appearance



We are proud to have Danny as a new RD-RC member. Here is his Extra 260...



...and here is how you usually see Danny flying it



Aircraft, RD-RC style



Aircraft, RD-RC Style



RDRC

2012 Officers

President :

Mike Hollowell
919-426-3434

mikeh@ipass.net

Vice President :

Dave Hedrick
919-696-2681

stringsof9@hotmail.com

Treasurer :

Dustin Hedrick
919-559-7153

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**Secretary &
Membership Secretary :**

Jason Jarvis
919-601-2394

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Safety Officer :

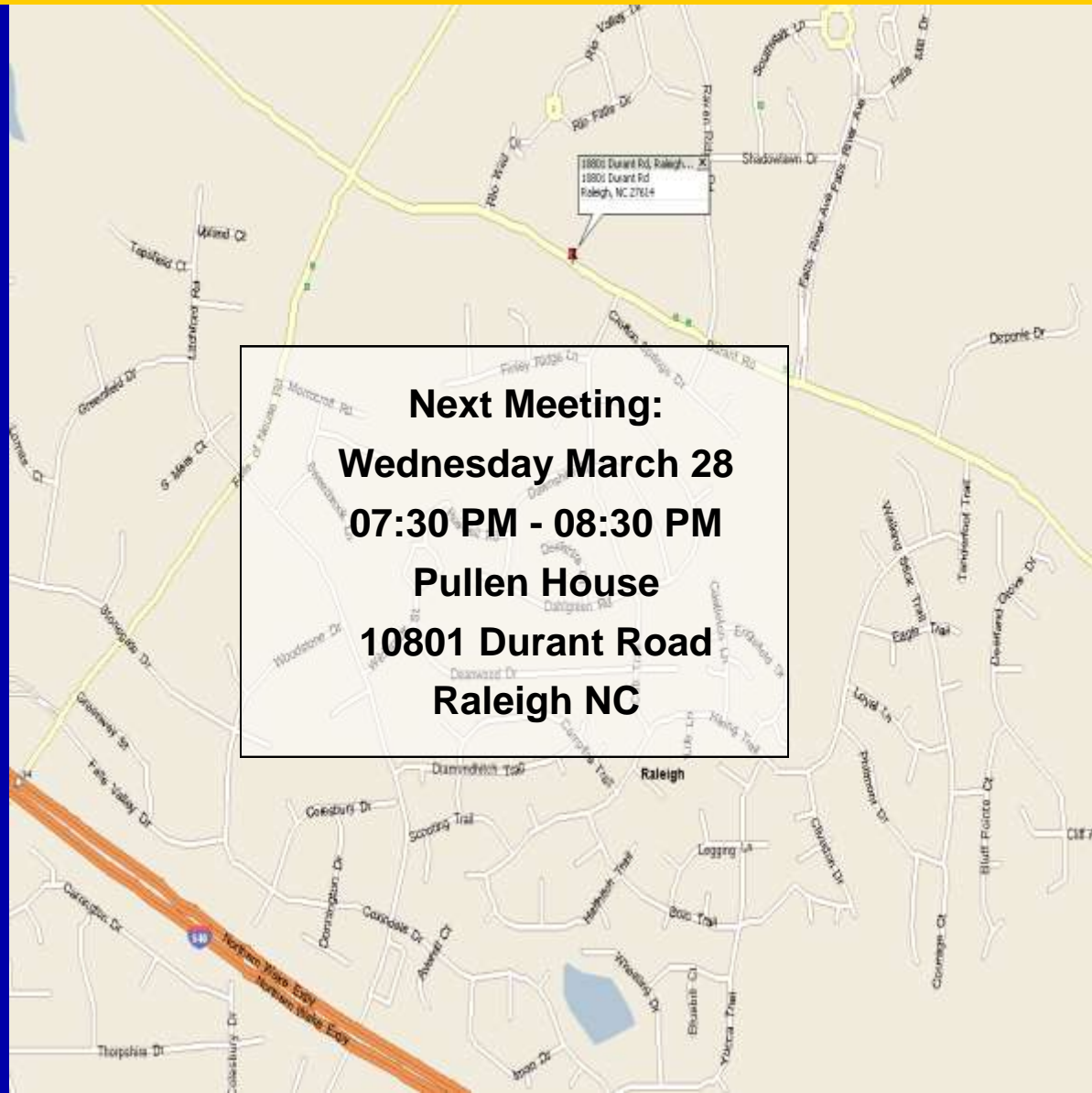
Mark Lofgren
919-368-2908

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Field Marshall:

John Kiesler
919-870-8459

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**Next Meeting:
Wednesday March 28
07:30 PM - 08:30 PM
Pullen House
10801 Durant Road
Raleigh NC**

Newsletter

Editor:

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Submittals:

All club members are urged to submit material to be published in the newsletter. The material should be received by the second Saturday 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).

Thoughts from the slipstream...

If you know anyone that is not receiving this newsletter, but should **be, then please forward that person's email address to me. That way, I** can get newsletters out to that person.

The weather is beginning to "spring" back to flying weather. I see a lot more flying going on at RD-RC. Many pilots are beginning to showcase and demonstrate their "Winter Projects". It's amazing to see what can actually fly. New for me is A123 technology for my receiver and servos and that is working out great!

The South Carolina get-together is getting closer. Make sure that you have your day-flyer and your night-flyer ready before the middle of May. Until then, please try to attend the local fly-in's.

My apologies for getting this Newsletter out **late. Let's get back on schedule for next month.**

The Ed

