

Raleigh Aero MasterS Newsletter



July, 2011

Hello everyone.

Club Meeting: Our next club meeting is Sunday, August 7, 2011 at 3:00PM. Let's get together to discuss business and have a great afternoon of flying.

Work Days / Mowing: The crews are at it in force. Through the RAMS Update e-mail notifications we inform the membership of the work days for mowing and other maintenance needed around the field. Many thanks to the consistent help of Sam, the Schodts family, JT, Gary, Bruce, Larry (H), Charlie, Dave, John, Geoff, Lloyd and others. Great job guys. The field looks great! By the way, the weed killer that was applied has worked nicely to keep the weeds under better control. Thanks to all of you that send the money contributions.

Fourth of July Weekend: On Sunday, July 3, we had our RAMS FunFly. We started at 12:00PM by setting up the grill and other equipment. It was somewhat windy but we were able to fly. Later in the afternoon the wind died down and it was perfect. Even though the forecast was for 40% chance rain, it skipped us. Under the masterful direction of Chef Lloyd, hamburgers, hot dogs and ribs started coming out of the grill. We had all the needed trimmings. Everyone brought food and some to share. Some of the members had family come and spend time watching the activities. We were busy with general flying, rescuing airplanes from trees and due to the heat we decided not to do contests except for the night flying. Worked out nicely. As we went into the evening and nighttime, we started getting ready for fireworks and the night flying extravaganza. We had 5 nightfliers who did an excellent job. The light schemes were varied and quite festive. The winner of the night flying contest for best looks on the ground and in the air was Greg Koepke with his Allien Flying Saucer. Greg won bragging rights for a month. (that's it).



Greg Koepke (somewhere in the picture) holding his award winning Allien Flying Saucer.



The mess hall in action.



Sam, Gary, Paula, Greg, Ruth



The flight simulator was nice under the shade.



A canopy to keep us off the sun.



Families enjoying a great afternoon.



The young generation watching the airplanes.



Jose Zayas at the far end with his Extra 40%.



Some got to buddy box for their first try at RC Flying.



JT & Jose (guest pilot) flying their large scale airplanes together. A Yak 54 and an Extra 260.



Both airplanes flown together were quite a show.



U CAN DO it Sam. Nice smooth flyer.



By the end of the evening's night flying we decided to try sparklers on my T-28. It looked great with sparks coming out of the wings in flight.



To the left is JT's night flyer powered glider. A smooth, slow, nice flyer.

New projects and airplanes at the field:



Larry Harris shows his rebuilt T-28. Took advantage of the repairs needed and painted the airplane with Krylon Fusion paint. Made decals with his wife's decal making machine. He is deciding what motor to install. Also considering installing retracts. The airplane and the paint job looks really good. I can't wait to see this airplane flying.



Another new airplane at the field is the ParkZone F 27Q Stryker. This is the third Stryker that ParkZone develops. The first version had a brushed motor. The second one was brushless. This third version was developed by Quique Somenzini. Of course he wanted to make it be more 3D and aerobatic. That required a more powerful motor. They installed a 480 size, 2200KV motor that is much more powerful than the second version. Another innovation on this version is the addition of dual rudders. My intention was to try it and see if out of the box it could perform like an aerobatic airplane and not just a fast wing. Well, it does fly great and in a couple of days I was doing most of the maneuvers I see in the promotional videos. It uses a 2200 mah 3 cell battery that has to be at least 25 C and up. I find a 30-40C battery to deliver the best "juice" for this fast wing. Although this wing is not as fast as the one Steve flies, it seems to be more aerobatic. A club member asked me if it flies like a jet, I could say that it is intermediate as it flies like a propeller airplane but has to be flown carefully on slow speed because the propeller is a pusher, so it is not producing air over the control surfaces. When it flies fast, you need to be ahead of it. It is not a beginner's wing but a solid intermediate pilot should have no problem. So, if you are looking for something different and with enough power, it is worth considering.

The Question Is; “Are We RC Flyers Actually Pilots”

A couple of months ago I read this question in an RCFlyer Magazine. It made me think about the times I fly in commercial airliners and from my seat, I find myself flying the airplane. I react to the airplane movements, movements of the control surfaces as I look out the window and thinking about what the pilots must be doing when landing and taking off. I even have thoughts that in an emergency and if my life and my family's life would depend on it I probably could fly the airplane if no one more qualified is available. I even think that if helped by a ground pilot giving me instructions I can probably land the airplane. It may not be pretty but probably I can do a controlled crash to the runway. At least I like to think I can. I do believe that as an RC flyer I have the basic concepts of flying and aerodynamics. Does this make a me a pilot? I do not believe for one second that I am a full scale pilot just because I fly RC. I know that I have a set of skills for RC flying that full scale pilots don't have. As an example, I fly the airplane outside the cabin. When the airplane comes toward me, the left and right functions get inverted. Then again, I don't have the skills to deal with every GIZMO in a full scale airplane and no training to deal with traffic control, flight plans and multitude other areas required for full pilots. Sam Goldfarb pointed out to me that the AMA refers to us in the Safety Code as RC Pilots. I can live with that!!.

Well, the question was e-mailed to the club members and some of you responded. The idea was to have some fun reading the different opinions and do something where club members can contribute to the newsletter. I thought about summarizing the responses and tabulate them as those in favor or against, etc. I decided that the responses should go in the newsletter as received. So, here they are and enjoy.

Responses:

I think I told you the story of when Carol bought me a pilot school demo class years ago.

The instructor pilot took me through the preflight checkout- fuel, wheels, control surface hinges, etc. He put a radio headset on my head, and we took off. He explained what I should do, and I literally took off, giving throttle, watching the air speed until it reach 70 MPH, a gently pulling up on the yoke, and we took off. I continued to fly on a course in level flight.

The plane was buffeted by some cross winds, and I instinctively (shocking, I know) turned the yoke, giving some counter aileron to straighten out the plane. This reaction happened instinctively quickly, just like riding a bicycle.

If I can do all this in a real plane, and still barely struggle to fly a model plane after four years, it's a no-brainer that the basic skill needed to fly the real thing is significantly less than flying our models. The obvious difference being the visual, and depth perception, and all the other "remote" skills we need to in order to fly our models onto and off the runway, and not into the trees.

Sure, the real thing has a lot more other complicated details- radio, additional plane controls than our models, etc. My vote is yes, we are pilots.

Regards,
Sam Goldfarb

I would suggest PARTIALLY! Otherwise, it would be like saying that just because you know how to drive a car, you're a race car driver. And that's just not the case!

Jack Hepting

There are all sorts of pilots, Tugboat pilots, Pilots who guide ships into the harbor, etc. I understand that the Air Force has a new class of pilot now. UAV Pilots. They sit in Arizona and pilot unmanned bombers over the battle field in the middle east. We stand on the ground and guide unmanned airplanes over our field. What's the diff?

John Geier
Aspiring RC Pilot

I'm sure everyone feels like they are or would at least like to think they are, coming from someone (me) who has flown over 30,000 miles so far this year from one coast to the other and back, I find myself thinking out loud on some flights telling the actual Pilot what I feel like he should be doing even though he does not listen, ha ha, I feel like in an emergency situation if I were on a plane and something happened I feel like I have enough of an understanding of how the basics of flight work that I would be able to fly the plane, now does that make me a pilot, that is the question that everyone wants an answer too, I would have to say no, there is a fair amount of training that we RC Flyers have to go through in order to Solo an RC plane, we are lucky enough to have such a learning curve that if we do crash one of our planes we usually only damage our plane and our pride and sometimes our wallets depending on the extent of the crash, I could not even imagine what the full scale Pilots must go through in there training, what is their learning curve, yes I know they probably spend thousands of hours on flight simulators but there is no second chance for them or for the people that trust them with their lives, I would have to disagree with anyone who says we RC Flyers are actual Pilots, I would not want to trust my life or a member of my families life to a cocky RC Pilot who thinks he can fly a real plane unless he has had extensive training on the subject.

That's my two cents.

Mickey

since I have a pilots license that I have not used in over 30 years I believe the we are all pilots, I don't know if someone in our ranks could fly a big plane or not as you fly by feel not sight. it is said that one that flies large planes has a hard time adjusting to sight from feel.

Dave

My opinion: from a females point of few.....Paula Koepke aka Greg's mom....

RC Flyers are not pilots, they are radio remote controlled operators who fly model airplanes built from ARFS, kits, etc....while it is true that RC Flyers do have a level of skill there is no comparison to trained certified pilots....Pilots are put through extreme rigorous training. Inside the cockpit of an airplane the pilot has to control all instrumentation, be able to communicate with air traffic controllers, insuring that his crew is doing their jobs properly... getting passengers safely to their destination...also it is his job of the pilot to make emergency decisions that affects the safety of his passengers, such as in the case of inclement weather....my opinion, RC Flyers are not Flight Engineers and have not attended flight school, therefore I would not consider RC Flyers pilots. Skills of a RC Flyers takes many hours of practice and take pride in that....so you guys just go out there and have fun flying whether you are a trained pilot or RC Flyerit is the love of flying (good friends) that makes this hobby enjoyable.....

Paula

No I do not believe that RC pilots are pilots. Yes the controls of RC planes and real planes are in many ways the same with some variations. Both normally have ailerons, elevators and rudder that operate in the same way. The real difference is one is flown from the ground and the other from on board. The training for each is very different. RC pilots do not have to know anything about airport procedures or how to navigate from one point to another. Even the way both are flown are not the same. Can a pilot with no RC training fly a RC plane? Yes but he most likely will crash. Ask a RC pilot to fly a real plane by himself and he will most likely crash. Will a RC pilot stand a better chance of succeeding than a pilot. I think so but I want get into that.

JT

I believe the answer to this question depends on one's point of view. The definition of "pilot" is "one who steers or controls the course of" RC pilots definitely fits this criteria. Pilots may include harbor pilots, airline pilots, or even car pilots. However, one may argue that the definition of pilot can only be categorized for controlling "vehicles" - devices used to transport person or persons. If that's the case, then RC pilots are not considered pilots because they can't transport anyone or anything including themselves.

-Geoff

Some random thoughts:

First, no real pilot would try many of the maneuvers that are regularly attempted at the field.

Second, I don't know of any skilled pilots that fly into trees; and then retrieve their plane with a bow and arrow. Next, we tend to learn by making mistakes - not sure real pilots learn that way.

On the other hand, we certainly do need to understand the basic concepts of flight, and eye/hand coordination is extremely important

Hope you get better ideas from others!

Bruce

If JT was a real pilot and flying his Senior on Sunday afternoon, we would be at his funeral tomorrow. Thankfully we only have repair work to do on his "RC" airplane.

Gary

Thank you guys for these comments and opinions. It was fun to receive them.

RAMS: Remember guys. We have a club FunFly for Labor Day. Also remember that we have an invitation to join our friends of the TRI COUNTY RC Club on September 11. More details will be available later.

Other dates to remember:

July 9&10 - Henderson club FlyIn

July 30 - Fun Fly of the TriCounty RC Club in Durham. Starts at 9:00AM.

Sept 11 - FunFly at TriCounty RC with RAMS members invited. More info coming later.

Sept 16-17-18 - RDRC Fly for Tots. A group from RAMS is planning to attend.

Well, I am done. Take care guys.

I will see you all at the field and have safe fun flying!!!

Dr. Joey

RAMS Secretary