

Raleigh Aero MasterS Newsletter



June, 2011

Hello everyone.

Club Meeting: Our next club meeting is Sunday, June 5th, 2011 at 3:00PM. Let's get together to discuss business and have a great afternoon of flying.

Work Day / Mowing: Saturday, June 4, we will meet at the field by 9:00AM. If you have a gas trimmer and or riding mower, bring it. The more, the sooner we get done.

FAA Regulations: Many of you are aware of the oncoming regulations from the FAA to the model airplane hobby. On the previous newsletter I gave you a chronological explanation of the events. The AMA website has up to date information on what is happening including government contacts being made and responses from senators and representatives regarding this issue. On May 24 and 25 the AMA provided these links to articles regarding the FAA regulation topic:

<http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20110525/NEWS01/105250315/Model-airplanes-hobbyists-under-attack-Muncie-s-Academy-Model-Aeronautics->

<http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20110526/OPINION01/105260327>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304066504576341780810193932.html>

Aeromodeling, AMA, and the FAA were subjects of a couple high profile international publications including a [front-page Wall Street Journal](#), and a more troubling article on FPV in the latest issue of the [Smithsonian Air & Space Magazine](#). See links below.

<http://www.airspacemag.com/flight-today/Pilot-Cam.html>

http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/airspace_letter_to_editor.pdf

RAMS: Remember guys. We have a club FunFly for the July 4 weekend and for Labor Day. On the June meeting, we will decide if the 4th of July FunFly at our field will be Sunday, July 3rd or Monday the 4th. 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.

Night Flying: Yeah, we have done it before but let's do it again. Grab your home made foamie, Trojan T-28 or whatever else you have and let's fly at night. For the past couple of weekends some of us have been going to the field on Saturday nights to fly at night. If you light up your airplane correctly and with the proper amount of lights, orientation while flying is quite easy. The goal is to have a good number of night flyers ready for the 4th of July weekend. We will decide later on which evening to do the night flying (either Sunday the 3rd or Monday the 4th). So get your night lights and start doing some testing. Hobby Lobby, HobbyKing, HobbyPartz and AfterDarkLEDS have LED strips and kits that are not that expensive and are very easy to install. If you are not sure how to go about it, talk to me or JT at the field or send us an e-mail.



J.Ts Cularis Glider all lighted up.



PkZone T-28 & Turnigy light strips on 11.1 volts.



T-28 getting a night lights makeover.



Adhesive LED strips are easy to apply.

First Person View (FPV) Operations as per AMA rules: The Academy of Model Aeronautics is working and following very closely the oncoming FAA regulations to our hobby. Unfortunately we know that there will be regulations but the goal has been to minimize the impact that it will have in RC modeling the way we do it. The threat to our hobby has come from the fact that misinformed policy makers lumped together our model airplanes with the military and commercial unmanned aircrafts capable of flying semi-autonomous beyond line of sight. Factors like aircraft weight, speed and where they can be flown are potential subjects to regulation. Other factors as well are of their interest like the use of cameras in model airplanes and the advanced technology available. This has made the government take a look at our hobby in a way that we may be considered a possible risk to security of property and people as well as to full scale aviation by misusing the National Air Space. I have been following the evolution of this issue for the past few years and I have been trying to keep you guys informed of what is happening. As I said in

the May Newsletter, the public notice containing the new regulations proposals seem now to be delayed to very late this year and possibly to next year. You may be aware of some “stunts” some people have pulled off like flying airplanes with video cameras beyond line of sight in some landmarks in different states including New York. These videos are available on You Tube. The New York “stunt” had almost a severe backlash of strict regulations for model airplane flying in that state. Unfortunately these people proved the government point that the technology has a potential for misuse. Video camera flying is not the only reason for regulations but is a significant one. So, let’s take a look at what the AMA says about **FPV or First Person View** Flying Operations.

From the AMA website

1. An FPV-equipped model must be flown by two AMA members utilizing a buddy-box system. The pilot in command must be on the primary transmitter, maintain visual contact, and be prepared to assume control in the event of a problem.
2. The operational range of the model is limited to the pilot in **command’s visual line of sight** as defined in the Official AMA National Model Aircraft Safety Code (see Radio Control, item 9).
3. The flight path of model operations shall be limited to the **designated flying site and approved overfly area**.
4. The model weight and speed shall be limited to a maximum of 10 pounds and 60 miles per hour.

So, when you look at what some of these guys have been doing, it is way far from the safe type of FPV operation that the AMA recognizes as safe. Even though small foamie type of airplanes were used on most of these situations, they were flown beyond what a hobbyist would safely do. Once again, remember that all these discussions about regulations are informed guesses since we do not know for sure what the regulations will be.

Just Hobbies: I just recently became aware of a new hobby store in Raleigh. It has been open since February of this year. It is located at 6909 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 102. Telephone is 919-449-0000. Joedy Pennington and Daisy Nieto are the owners. They are open from 10:00AM to 9:00PM Monday through Friday and 10:00AM to 4:00PM on Saturdays. When you get to the intersection of Millbrook with Glenwood, look for the Walgreen Pharmacy and it is behind it. I was there a few days ago to take a look at this hobby shop in hope that we have, once again, a close by hobby shop where to get parts and some of the things we need in a hurry. I will try to describe my experience objectively since I want to give any new hobby shop a chance to flourish. The store consists of a small show room and a larger back room with a small rock climbing course for RC Crawler cars and they are building a race track course for 1/10 size RC cars. There is a reasonable selection of RC cars and parts. RC cars are mostly Traxas with many of the needed spare parts. They have many helicopters of chinese brands in the 27 and 40 mhz frequencies. Very few 2.4 Ghz helicopters. There are a few micro airplanes and helicopters. A couple of e-flite helis. They do have a selection of parts for the e-flite small helis and es-ky helis. They had three small off brand airplanes of quality I am not aware of. There are no spare parts, propellers or support equipment for electric, nitro or gas airplanes of the kind we usually fly. They have a couple of Lipo batteries as large as 1800 milliamps and up to 3 cells. The prices are on the high end for the parts that I am familiar with. They do not carry airplane nitro fuel. They were very friendly. They know plenty about RC cars but they are not too knowledgeable about the RC airplane hobby. They did say that they would get any part that I may need. So if you are into the RC car hobby or looking for beginner helicopters they do have stuff worth looking into although I am not familiar with the quality of the brands they carry. Sometimes these hobby shops are specialized in just one aspect of the RC hobby but sometimes if we demonstrate interest on other items and they start bringing them, they may expand their inventory. I will leave to you guys deciding if this hobby shop will meet your needs. I will give it a few more months and see what else they have done and any new stock brought in.

A Parrot has invaded the RAMS Air Space: Rich surprised us with a new gadget. The AR Parrot is a quadcopter with video camera and sensors that allow it to fly quite stable. It is designed to be flown using the wireless signal from a I-Touch, I-Phone or i-Pad. There is also an android application that can be downloaded. You fly this quadcopter by moving the I-Pad (in Rich's case) in different positions and the copter responds to this. If no command is given or loses signals, the copter has a sensor that stabilizes the unit to hover at 4 feet of the ground. It can take some wind remarkably well. Rich got it from K/C Hobbies in Archdale but I am aware that Horizon Hobbies carries it. Very neat gadget Rich!!!



Rich is setting up the link to the Parrot.



The Parrot in flight.



Come on guys. You have enough planes already!! A very, very, very close up!!!



Foamie Cargo Plane: Well guys, Joe Schodt did it again. The builder of the RAMS Super Hero came up with another build. This time is a large cargo plane with twin electric motors. Flies great!!! If you are interested on the details, Joe can hook you up with where to get the plans and materials. It is a strong foamie with lock in type of build and made out of insulation foam.



Isn't that a neat foamie. Great job Joe!!!



Slow flyer and quite responsive.



No!!! JT, You can't hover this airplane.



Very stable flight characteristics.

Memorial Day Weekend: We had an informal get together at the field on May 29th. I brought some Hot Dogs and Hamburgers and Lloyd brought another substantial batch of Hot Dogs. There was enough for everyone that showed up. It was a good afternoon of flying and some of us stayed late in the evening to do some night flying. We are getting really good at this BBQ at the field thing. Practice makes perfect.



Lloyd, you are bringing this BBQ thing down to an art. Keep practicing Buddy. I like it!!!

Weed Killer Application at the Field: As reported on the last RAMS Update, the weed killer has been applied at the field. Thanks to those of you that sent the funds to purchase the weed killer. Thanks to Gary who did the application. We will now see if we can control these nasty weeds.

New member information: A couple of weeks ago I was asked that we should have application forms and new members information about the club and the hobby to give to people that show up to the field. This being a quick way to give them some information instead of depending on them taking the step of going to our website. I want everyone to remember that we do keep all forms at the field: AMA application, RAMS application with the membership fees, New members information and New to the Hobby information. These forms are kept in the bulletin board behind the cubicles for the 72 mhz radio impound. The right glass door is open and you can have access to the forms to provide to interested guests. I try to keep all the forms available but if you find that we are out of any of them, let me know at the field or send me an e-mail: acumed96@aol.com

Well, I am done. Take care guys.

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

Dr. Joey
RAMS Secretary