

Radio Control Flyers Unlimited

Flight Plan

AMA Charter # 1442

President: Jim Scott - 209-985-0859

Vice President: Larry Maxfield - 209-404-0659

IMAA Charter# 623

Sec/Treasurer: Steven Howie - 209-847-0567

Membership Chairman: Mike Cummins - 209-985-1550

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www.rcflyersunlimited.com

Current News

We will be having a December Dinner party for club members and their guest. The date has been updated for December 11, 2009 at 6:30 pm. You must RSVP by December 7th, 2009 to Jim Scott by calling or emailing at fyinjimbo0816@gmail.com. You may also email me at rcfu@rcflyersunlimited.com. The dinner will be held at MIMI'S restaurant by Vintage Fair Mall. The price is \$20 per person, and you will have the choice of soup or salad and four great entrees to choose from. Also included is our choice of one Mimi's petite dessert plus coffee, iced tea, soda and lemonade. (tax and tip are also included in the price!!). No host beer and wine available. There will be a raffle and door prizes for the ladies.

Also as a reminder, the Toys for Tots event is scheduled for December 5, 2009. Please plan to attend, at the field, and bring a toy.

I have sent out the annual billing. When you get your billing statement, please take time and put your email address on the form. If you do not, then please put on the form that you do not have one. If you do not have access to the internet (no computer, access, etc) you must let me know on the billing form, or I will assume that you have online access.

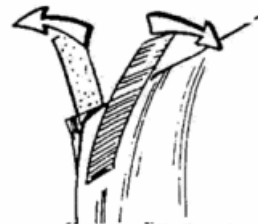
Also note, duck season for our area, at the lake is from October 24, 2009 through January 31, 2010. During that time, the

gates at the field will remain locked until 10:15 am. A sign is posted at the entrance gate stating the above information.

We have our new club officers for next year. Actually, the club officers from this year will be continuing on through 2009.

PLEASE NOTE:

We will not be having a formal December Club meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of December, instead we will have a small meeting at the Club Dinner Parting on December 11, 2009 (about 6:30 pm) at MIMI's restaurant (see beginning of the newsletter).



SEPARATE THOSE SHEETS

The protective backing on some covering films can be difficult to separate, initially. A strip of masking tape applied to each side creates a "handle" on which to pull—sheets then easily peel apart.

PILOTS CORNER

The Lighter Side of Safety

by Don Nix, Insider Safety Column Editor

My last column about self-appointed, rude, and dangerous hotdogs in RC drew more

mail than any previous one. With one exception, all the letters were not only in agreement, but most gave examples of similar incidents at their own fields and how they had dealt with it.

The lone dissenter was not only indignant (“Nobody is going to tell me what I can and can’t do”), but at the end of his e-mail stated he could tell I was probably pro gun control and a few other unspeakable sins, none of which were true or had anything to do with flying model airplanes. Oh, well.

As I was debating subject matter for this issue, it occurred to me that funny things related to safety do happen from time to time. They are only funny when no person is injured or no property is damaged. The following incidents took place years ago at a very popular RC flying field in Southern California.

Late one Saturday afternoon, one of our most regular and experienced pilots was flying an Ugly Stik and began yelling, “I don’t have it! I don’t have it! No control!” then watched open-mouthed as “his” model gracefully climbed into the pattern, turned downwind, turned again and passed in front of everyone, continuing on around again, seemingly on its own. This field was a very busy one with 12 pilot stations, and most had models in the air at the moment.

Gradually he realized what had happened. This particular fellow liked to fly low and in the weeds (literally), but was always careful to do so well past the far side of the runway, at least a hundred feet from the flightline. As he made one of his low and slow passes into the afternoon sun, an almost identical Stik was taking off at the far end of the pit area and starting to climb into the pattern. At that time of day, at that particular point and general altitude, models tended to become silhouettes briefly.

Ah, you can see it coming. Just as our friend was approximately abreast of the model tak-

ing off, his eyes picked up the other Stik as his own. In the meantime (as we discovered an hour or so later), his model had continued unhampered and uncontrolled straight ahead, crashing into a golf course several hundred yards to the west. I might mention the golfers were not amused.

On another occasion, one of my friends who did a lot of training of newbies was helping a beginner with his brand new trainer, checking everything, starting the engine, tuning it, and explaining what he was doing at every step. After getting the engine tuned and idling properly, he told the proud owner that he wanted to check the engine at full power with the nose up to be sure it wasn’t too lean. The owner, eager to please, held the airplane vertical while the engine test was made, and was still holding it in that position when the instructor reduced the power to idle.

Yes, the fellow was a beginner, but he had been at the park for a couple of hours, and certainly must have seen what others were doing all around him. No doubt nerves pickled his brain at that moment, because when the instructor nodded at him, assuming the fellow would put it down at the edge of the runway, the poor guy simply tossed it straight up into the air, nose pointed skyward, engine at idle.

Incredibly, the stunned instructor, having more skill and presence of mind than most of us, punched the throttle full forward, managed to get the thing wallowing into the air and flew it out into the pattern. Another fine example of what happens when we assume something.

Using Kitchen Appliances

From the Eugene Prop Spinners, Eugene, Oregon

I used to soak pieces of balsa in a pungent mix of ammonia and water in order to bend them around wing tip forms, or other compound curves, like a cowling form. Now I use the microwave.

Soak the balsa (or even plywood) in water for a few minutes, then zap it in the microwave. It comes out limp as a noodle, and ready to form into complex shapes.

Also, Kraft used to sell little plastic clamps with parallel faces. The tension was by a rubber band. These can be adjusted for any amount of pressure depending on your rubber band.

Don't overlook small spring-loaded electrical battery clamps available from Radio Shack. These make nice clamps to hold things in place while the glue dries.

Got a wing warp? A finished model is usually too big and cumbersome to hold over a steaming kettle on your stove. Soak a bath towel in water and put it in the microwave until it is steaming hot. Wrap this around the warped wing. Have some books handy to use as weights to stress the structure in the proper di-

rection a bit more than you would think; this is because the structure will spring back somewhat when it is all over. I hope you realize that even the finest and straightest building board is not much use if a warp creeps in after covering and painting. Butyrate dopes especially keep on shrinking and pulling at the structure.

If you don't have a MonoKote hot air gun, you can use an ordinary hair dryer. It might take a bit longer, but it is safer and you are not likely to melt the plastic film.

An easy way to cut large pieces of MonoKote is with a pizza cutter. You know, this is a wheel with a handle. This works well for irregular shapes of MonoKote.

The main gate combination is about to be changed. If you find that the old number does not work, contact any club officer to get the new combination.

Cash Flow Report

Income			Expenses	
Club Dues (including initiation fees, field assessment fees, and Donations)	\$3,485.00		Port-o-potty service	\$140.00
Event income	\$573.00		Newsletter	\$132.00
			Raffel Prize	\$124.98
			Field Ex- penses: Fuel	\$40.04
			Wind Sock	\$81.45
			Lease Pay- ments	\$115.00
Totals	\$4,058.00			\$633.47

Last Month's Total	\$1,136.67
Income	\$4,058.00
Expenses	(\$633.47)
Balance	\$4,561.20

**The December Club meeting is scheduled for:
Friday, December 11, 2009 at 6:30 pm
at MINI'S Restaurant, Modesto (The Club Dinner Party).**