



S.W.A.P. FLYER

Southwest Area Park Modelers



Volume 2008, Issue 1

March 2008

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Tech-Tip (from masportaviator.com)

If your battery is involved in a minor to moderate crash, test it out, and it should be ok. When the aircraft hits hard and it ends up in the trash can, discharge the battery and discard it properly. A destroyed new aircraft is not worth the \$20 savings from using an old battery.

President's Corner

It seems just a short time ago that I wrote of the 2007 flying season coming to a close, and now it appears the 2008 season is nearly upon us! I hope you took the time to recharge—your self—and your airplanes—over the winter.

We've had a few—far too few, if you ask me—flying days so far this year. Each of the nice days brought out many pilots. That was a great sight indeed! If it is a sign of the popularity of the club and the hobby, spring and summer are sure to be busy at the airfield. Please remember to be courteous, especially when it is crowded. Don't make back-to-back to flights, even though you and your aircraft are

ready. Stand down, give others a chance. For me, enjoying the company and the spirited bantering is just as much a part of a fun day as the flying. Please take every opportunity to help one another, especially the newer pilots and the younger pilots. Every time we can get a kid enthusiastic about the hobby, we've taken a step to ensure the hobby will stay vibrant. I've had 2 offers of keeping a trainer in the shed for fun-flys. I hope we're able to put them to good use.

The ATV's have been out in force, and we've noticed some ruts in the field as a result. At the last Rec Council meeting I attended on behalf of the club, I

learned that the police caught at least one rider, and that the ATV was confiscated. Hopefully that will be sufficient deterrent for the others. Rodney has offered to get a roller for April 5th (see page 2), so hopefully we can cause most of them to go away. Thanks Rodney!

Finally, I'd like to make a shout-out to Dave Parkison. Art pointed out he donated money as a result of used printer cartridge collection. I suspect he does far more for the club, both for individuals and collectively, than any one of us will know. Thanks Dave, and we hope you recover quickly from your knee-replacement surgery.

Safety thoughts summarized from Jim Rice's article in the AMA Insider, January 2008 Issue (continued on page 3)

The closer an event comes, or the closer a plane is to completion, the faster you work, the later at night you work and maybe the more careless you become. Keep a notepad by the bench to write down the things you need to do to complete the plane as you think of them. Keep a notepad at work

so that while you are day-dreaming (you all do that!) you can write yourself reminders to take home and put on your list.

Keep a checklist to go through before every takeoff. If you get in a habit like that, you can head off problems before it is too late. Go

through the checklist before you take to the runway:

Controls: Check control direction and all transmitter switch positions. Check for dual rates properly set, mix switches and flap positions.

Antenna: Make sure the antenna is pulled out and com-

Notices/Upcoming Events (continued on page 3)

Field Work Party

On Saturday April 5 we will have a field work party. Starting at 9am we will spread new crush-n-run, pick up debris and perform whatever gardening is necessary. We will also construct 3 more safety tables, with one being for larger airplanes, and replace about 40' of fencing and install a top rail. Please come out April 5 and help maintain/improve our flying facility!

Open Membership required

At the February meeting the new AMA Park Flyer program was discussed. By a quorum vote, it was determined that that an AMA Open membership is required to fly at our field. The AMA Park Membership is not acceptable. The field safety rules posted on the web have already been modified. Since this is a by-law change, it will be discussed at the March and April meetings, then voted on

again in the April meeting. Please come make your opinion known if this is an important issue for you.

Fund Raiser—Hurry!

At the October meeting, Art Vail generously offered to use his P-51 as a fund-raising opportunity for the club. We will print 500 tickets, to be sold for \$5 each. When they are sold, the winner gets the plane, Art gets \$1500, and the club gets \$1000. Everyone wins!

Financial Matters and other miscellaneous information

As of February 15, 2008, our balance in the treasury is \$5823.37. Another round of invoicing was mailed at about the same time as this newsletter. If half of those members re-join, we should be in very good financial shape. Keep in mind you must pay your 2008 dues by April 30 in order to avoid the \$20 late fee.

If you are not on the club email list (you would know it if you are!) and you would like to be, please send a note to Art and Greg at

artvail@verizon.net and
gee@cablespeed.com

respectively. Please use a subject line that will not cause us to delete your note without reading it. Email has been an

effective, quick and inexpensive way to get information to you.

Those of you with history in the club more than 4 years that would like to contribute to a club history area on our web site, please let Greg know. He's considering building the club "family tree" and history, if there is enough interest and information.

More Tips and Tricks from RC Universe

Is it correct to balance a low-wing airplane upside-down? Usually, but not necessarily always. It is easiest to balance a plane when the center of weight is below the point from which you are balancing it. Most of the time, that means balancing a low wing plane upside-down. If a low wing plane has enough dihedral,

the center of weight will be below the wingtips. Therefore, on some models you can balance the plane right-side-up if you balance at the wingtips instead of next to the fuselage. See http://www.rcuniverse.com/magazine/article_display.cfm?article_id=601 for the complete article.

For those of you covering-challenged, see http://www.rcuniverse.com/magazine/article_display.cfm?article_id=726 for a 5-part series of videos on wing covering, including wingtips.

For a feel-good read on how RC Universe members helped a soldier in Iraq, read the thread titled "Operation RC"

Fun Fly Notes

In the December newsletter we used this space to ask for feedback regarding the 2007 fun-flies. Other than a few safety suggestions (always welcome!) there was little feedback provided. So, once again this year we have scheduled 5 fun-fly events. Please come out and support them. These fun-flies help in a major way to defray our on-going maintenance costs—grass cutting and the improvements we've enjoyed, especially over

the last 2 years. It's also great fun to see lots of pilots, family, and friends on these days.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the fun-flies. Folks are needed to help set-up, cook, accept money, run 50/50 raffles, run pilot events, and clean-up at the end of the day. For the September dates, it is especially important to have ample help, as it is a 2-day event during a hot and humid time of the year. If you'd like to see

specific events or themes (Warbirds, 3-D, Tijuana Taxi, etc) held, the best way to ensure it happens is to help organize it!

Contact any club officer to express your interest. Thanks in advance!

Here are the dates:

April 20 June 22
August 17
September 13-14 October 26

Notices/Upcoming Events (continued from page 2)

Here are some events that you might pencil in for spring and early summer:

April 5 2008:

Field work party

April 4-6 2008:

Weak Signals Toledo Show

April 20 2008:

First fun-fly!

April 21 2008

Club meeting @HobbyTown USA 7pm

May 19 2008:

Club meeting @SWAP Field 6:30pm

June 16 2008:

Club meeting @SWAP Field 6:30pm

June 22 2008:

Fun-fly!

July 10-13 2008:

Warbirds Over Delaware

July 21 2008:

Club meeting @SWAP Field 6:30pm

August 17 2008:

Fun-fly!

Safety Thoughts (continued from page 1)

pletely screwed in.

Wind: Check the wind direction so you know in which direction to take-off. If you are not sure ask! Use your antenna flag as a wind sock.

Timer: If using one, check or start it.

Traffic: Always call out your

intentions. After calling out "Taking off", do so quickly. This is not the time to run through your checklist!

If you get in the habit of doing a checklist like this before every single takeoff, not just the first one of the day, you will be safer.

There are 1000 things that

can kill a model aircraft. We have 750 of them covered. Every time you have an accident, or see an accident, do post mortem to see if you can isolate the problem so it won't attack another aircraft in the future.

SWAP Modelers

1327 Sulphur Spring Road

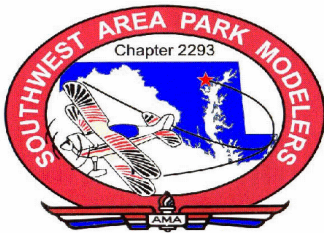
Arbutus. MD. 21227

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.SWAPRC.ORG

Check out the club calendar from the web site.
Fun-fly dates, club meetings, local and out-of-town events are all listed for your convenience.

Take a kid flying today!



President: Greg Gee 410-969-0659
Vice President: Bob Pollokoff 410-581-1400
Treasurer: Art Vail 410-247-4281
Secretary: Dale Ferguson 410-761-5935
Member-at-Large: Ralph Kriss 410-636-0838



Happy Spring! See us if you need fuel, fuel line, glow plugs, glow ignitors, new batteries, replacement or upgrade parts, or that new plane to showcase your flying skills!