



# DCRC Club Newsletter

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AMA CHARTER CLUB No. 329

VOLUME 51

NUMBER 3

MARCH 2005

Ray Morton, Returning DCRC Member.  
Enjoys the field with his new No Limit 3d  
See Good News on Page 7



Regular Club Meeting  
Friday March 18th 2005 8 pm  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Raffle and Model Shop.

**PRESIDENT: Walt Gallagher**  
**V.P.:** Kevin Jackson  
**County Liaison:** Jim McDaniel

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*Did you know that any airplane brought in to the model shop will receive 3 free raffle tickets. Bring in your models each month for your free tickets, and to share ideas.*

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*On the Cover:*  
 Ray Morton, photo by Don Gray

**President's Corner**  
**By**  
**Walt Gallagher**



At this month's board of directors meeting, we discussed three issues that have recently been brought to our attention. First, the gate to the field has been left open over night on a number of occasions. I would like to remind all certified DCRC pilots, that it is their duty to open, close, and lock the gate to the field. Certified DCRC pilots are the only members who have the combination to the gate. If you are the last certified pilot to leave the field, please ensure the gate is closed and locked upon your departure. The board will post a large sign to remind members to lock the gate.

Second, beer cans have been found in the trash cans at the field. This may be related to the gate being left opened. In any case, I would like to remind our members that alcoholic beverages are prohibited by the county at the field. In addition, the AMA safety rules state: "I will not operate my model aircraft while under the influence of alcohol or within (8) hours of having consumed alcohol." Furthermore, the AMA rules state: "I will not operate my model aircraft while using any drug which could adversely affect my ability to safely control my model aircraft.". Many prescription drugs carry warnings about causing drowsiness or dizziness and precautions about not driving a car. Please heed these warning labels and use you best judgment in regards to the AMA safety rule.

Finally, the board had to make a decision on whether or not to allow R/C combat at the field. The board has decided to not allow any R/C combat flight at the field. The board examined a number related factors and consulted the AMA in coming up with this decision. The board also analyzed recommendation from several members who have flown combat at the field in the past. It was the consensus of the board that there are too many potential safety issues related to R/C combat and thus not in the best interest of the club and its members.

Regards, Walt

# Club Meeting Minutes

By Mike Peizer



The meeting was called to order by president Walt Gallaugh at 8:03 PM.

Walt opened the meeting by pointing out the article in the newsletter by Nir Schweizer. It was his first, as safety officer, and Walt congratulated him on behalf of the membership. Next, Walt complimented Don Gray on his excellent article about long time member Harry Grattan, which appeared in the last issue.

We have a new video CD of Maynard Hill's presentation on electrostatic stabilization and it is now in the library for anyone to check out. We will be recording many more presentations and making them available through the video library. Michele Adams has her interactive CD ROM of DCRC and she will demonstrate it for tonight's program.

There are three issues that the Board will be discussing when they meet next Wednesday. 1. The safety issues of RC combat at Walt Good Field will be discussed.

2. Someone has been leaving the gate open at night. The Board will discuss how to prevent this from happening in the future.

3. Some members have found evidence of alcohol being consumed at the field and this will be discussed as well.

Maynard Hill took the floor to announce that he considered himself a special guest tonight. He did not have to undergo serious heart surgery after all. They put him under a big machine and the machine said he didn't need surgery. The doctor put in a stent and he went home the next day. Congratulations, Maynard.

Guests: We had one mystery guest, whom we were glad to see. I believe he was the grandson of Al Diaz.

Community & Public Relations & County Liaison: Jim McDaniel reported that the AMA renewal charter has been sent in. The Board of Directors insurance has been renewed. March 19 is the date for the Northern VA swap meet. It costs \$15.00 for a table and \$2.00 entrance fee to the public. Jan 28<sup>th</sup> was the last formal managed deer hunt. The county is considering allowing public deer hunting in some of their parks, on Sundays, starting this fall. DCRC needs to follow this issue carefully.

Membership & Newsletter: Andy Kane reported we have 175 members so far. Andy has the password for the newsletter, and member who needs it can send him an email request. He will then email the password to you. Finally, if you have anything to contribute to the newsletter, send it to Andy and he'll do his best to publish it.

Awards & Field Development: Allan Hoffman said he is trying to expand the awards this year. If you have an idea please come to him and he will help to develop it into an award presentation.

The shed windows will be fixed soon. The Board discussed maintenance on the transmitter impound, improving the condition of the grass in the pit area, adding a large enclosed bulletin board, permanent aircraft hold downs for safety, redoing the pavers for the pilot stations and the addition of two taxiways at either end of the runway.

Events: Andy Finizio reported that Opening Day will be on April 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am. Greg Adams mentioned the Boy

Scouts want to come out and see what is going on at the field. Andy Finizio said it would be hard to accommodate them on Opening Day, but something could be arranged for them at another time.

Flight Instruction: Michael Peizer reported that the preliminary flight-training schedule has been completed, and the final schedule will be published soon.

New Business: Don Gray stated the new contractor for the portable toilet at the field is doing an excellent job maintaining it, and he would like to notify the powers that be how pleased many of the members are about this. The new contractor is Royal Flush. They have been maintaining the portable toilets since last August. Walt asked Don to draft a letter and give it to him to forward to the appropriate county functionary.

Raffle: Tonight's raffle prizes are a Ryan STA-M, contributed by Allan Hoffman. An electric powered BN2 by GWS, and a Pilatus Turbo Porter by Model Studio contributed by Hobby City in Burtonsville and A Hangar 9 Flight Box, contributed by Doug Harper. Justin Adams pulled the tickets. Maynard Hill won the Pilatus and gave it to Roy Day. Allan Hoffman won the Ryan STA-M and returned it to be to be raffled off again. This time, Greg Adams had the winning ticket for the Ryan STA-M. Paul Savage won the BN2. Tom Farr won the flight box.

Model Shop: Don Sassaman showed a Sig Lt 40 equipped with snow skis. The skis work really well as long as the snow conditions are reasonable. The plane has about 20 take offs and landings with the skis. He bent the edges of the skies down a bit to help them bite into the snow better.

Francis Person built a plane out of coroplast. The aircraft is fashioned out of folded sheets of the plastic material with rulers for the wing spar. It flies very well. There are a ton of plans out there on the Internet for planes built out of this material. A ThunderTiger glo engine converted to diesel powers it.

Maynard Hill showed a plane he plans to use to set a new duration record. It will be powered by an OS .48 engine that he had planned to use for the trans-Atlantic flight, but abandoned after he couldn't get it to run reliably. He has since figured out the problem and hopes to fly the plane for 50 or 60 hours over a closed course sometime in September. There are many holes drilled in the airframe, so its name is Swiss Cheese.

Dan Mintz showed a small electric helicopter ARF, by AirTech called the Blade Runner. It has two sets of counter rotating blades. He made a few slight modifications to make it fly better and be more stable. Dan demonstrated the little helicopter's stability by flying it in the meeting room. It flew very well.

Our mystery guest, whom I still believe is Al Diaz's grandson, helped his grandfather show a three channel, electric Piper Cub.

Justin Adams showed a biplane he built for Christmas. Program: Michele Adams demonstrated her interactive CD ROM. She thanked the club members for their generous support in the making of it. It covers many aspects of DCRC including our history, the field, the demonstration team and many interviews of members. Check this one out of the DCRC library. It's an amazing piece of work.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 PM.

## BUILDING THE SIG HOG-BIPE

By Ron Bozzonetti

I've always had an affinity for biplanes and have built a half dozen or so in my modeling experience. The last one was the Phaeton II which is kitted by Balsa USA and is powered by a .40 or .45 engine. Wanting to try something a little larger I selected the Sig Hog-bipe. I'd heard that Sig produces good quality kits and was eager to see if their reputation would be upheld.



The kit is very complete with all necessary hardware and very good quality wood and a very detailed building manual. The kit is a combination of laser cut parts for the fuselage, die cut wing ribs and shaped

wood for the wing leading edges, ailerons, rudder and elevator. One criticism is the use of die cutting for the ribs. I've never liked die cut parts and while the ones in this kit were not bad it still requires one to stack the ribs together and sand them to assure that they are all uniform. I'm puzzled why Sig chose to go this route as they have the capability to laser cut parts they could have also provided laser cut ribs which would make the kit a truly outstanding one.

The fuselage uses laser cut light ply for most of the construction and the parts fit together precisely which really speeded up the construction. The sides of the fuselage extend forward from the firewall leaving the top and bottom open. As I am going to mount the engine sideways I cut off the sides at the firewall and built up a cowl from balsa wood which now gives me a nicely faired in nose that will blend in with the spinner which can be seen in the photo. The kit has access to the fuel tank from the radio compartment area. I don't like this arrangement so I made a hatch on top of the fuselage



which, likewise, can be seen in the photo. The other criticism is the way the turtle deck area is treated. The turtle deck is created by using balsa formers that are rounded with balsa stringers running fore and aft. Sig has you cover the turtle deck with 1/16" balsa sheet. As the fuselage sides from the wing trailing edge to the rear are not straight but have a bow it's nearly impossible to bend balsa sheets to conform to this kind of double curvature. I opted to keep the stringers as called for and will cover the turtle deck with Koverall which will conform to the double curvature with no problem. Also, the

use of a fabric covering more closely resembles the treatment of the airplanes of the golden age.

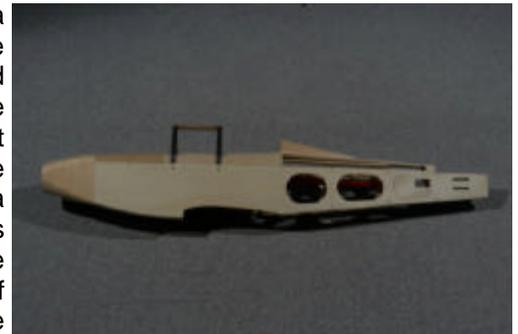
The wings are identical except for the span with the top wing being longer. Except for the matter of sanding the ribs



for uniformity the construction is straight and went forward very quickly with no problems. Sig gives you the option of using one servo in the wing center or two servos with one in each panel of the bottom wing. They do furnish the nec-

essary parts if you want to go with the two servo option which is the way I chose to go. Sig conveniently had die cut holes in each of the ribs which enabled me to fashion tubes out of paper that will fit through these holes to make it easy to snake the servo leads into the radio compartment.

The vertical stabilizer is made from solid balsa. The fin consists of three laser cut parts requiring you to glue them together. The rudder is furnished as tapered stock and cut to shape. The stabilizer is built up from balsa sticks and covered with laser cut balsa sheets. No problems here. The only modification I made to the elevator was to substitute the wire that connects the two halves with a connector made from a wood dowel. I don't like their arrangement of having the wire going into balsa wood. It seem as though in time the wire will work itself loose with the loads imposed on the elevator.



All in all, Sig has done a good job. High marks have to be awarded for the quality of the laser cutting, for the quality of the wood and for the very thorough building manual. The only negatives, for me, are the use of die cutting, the manner they would have you use to cover the turtle deck area and the wire connector for the elevator. These negative comments are reflections of my personal building preferences and are not meant to try and dissuade anyone from considering this kit. I'll be covering the model with Koverall and finishing it with aircraft dope, just like the planes of the golden age.

Flying probably won't be until sometime in early spring. I'll power the model with an OS 71 four stroke.

## Board Meeting Minutes

By Mike Peizer



The meeting, held at the home of Michael Peizer, was called to order by president Walt Gallagher at 7:12 PM. In attendance were Walt Gallagher, Scott Davies, Andy Finizio, Allan Hoffman, Nir Schweizer, Jim McDaniel, Kevin Jackson and Michael Peizer.

Walt opened the meeting by bringing up the three issues raised at the general meeting last Friday.

Issue Number One: Several members who fly regularly at the field have recently found empty beer cans in the trash. After a great deal of discussion the Board came to a few conclusions. The county absolutely and specifically prohibits the consumption of alcohol at any of its parks. The AMA prohibits the consumption of alcohol or any other substance that might alter one's perception or reaction time. The Board determined that although beer cans were found in the trash, it is not clear how they got there. Specific action to be taken includes posting a notice in the newsletter that the consumption of alcohol at the field is expressly forbidden and possibly erecting a sign to remind everyone of that fact when they drive in the entrance.

Issue Number Two: The gate has been left open after hours on a number of occasions. This may be part of the reason members are finding beer cans in the trash, as well as evidence of vandalism to the facility. It is impossible to police the field twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Therefore, we must lock the gate at night to prevent unauthorized individuals from gaining access to the field after hours. We will erect a sign at the exit reminding members to lock the gate if they are the last to leave. A reminder to lock the gate will appear in the newsletter as well.

Issue Number Three: Allowing combat flying at the field was discussed at length. The discussion ranged from the history of closing the field for certain special events on a regular basis, to safety issues regarding spectators and the physical layout of the field, to the request to close the field for combat flying during prime flying time on weekends. The Board finally determined that the layout of the field is wrong and distance rules for combat cannot be met. Simply stated, it is the consensus of the Board that the safety and liability issues prevent safe combat flying at the field.

Nir Schweizer, as the head of safety, spent a great deal of time researching combat flying rules, speaking with combat experts at the AMA headquarters and communicating with the combat pilots who want to fly in combat events at Walt Good Field. He was commended for taking on such a difficult task and coming up with a fair and equitable position on the issue.

Awards & Field Improvement: Allan Hoffman remarked

that it is getting close to awards time. Michael Peizer said he would be presenting a few awards for flight training at the April meeting.

Allan then donned his Field Improvement hat and reported that runway repair and paving estimates are hard to get because the job is so small. Once again, he is having trouble getting contractors to call him back. He asked the Board to bear with him and give him another month. The Board agreed.

The cost of constructing a decent message/bulletin board is much higher than expected. The design the county has installed in their parks, which DCRC was hoping to copy, cost about \$6,000.00 each. Obviously further study is needed to see if a workable design can be found that isn't so expensive. Jim said he would ask Park and Planning if they might consider building one of the message boards for DCRC.

Community & Public Relations & County Liaison: Jim McDaniel reported that the Board of Directors liability policy is renewed at the same rate as last year. The AMA charter renewal has been ready to send out, but Jim needs a check from DCRC to enclose with it.

Don Gray has drafted a letter to Royal Flush, the contractor responsible for the portable toilet at the field, complimenting them on their excellent maintenance. Jim will send it to Royal Flush with a copy going to the appropriate county department, as well.

Flight Instruction: Michael Peizer said the training schedule needs to be coordinated with the usual events at the field, and then it will be ready.

Events: Andy Finizio reported on the main events for 2005. Opening day is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>. County Appreciation Day will be on June 11<sup>th</sup>, and OctoberFest has yet to be scheduled.

Web Master: Kevin Jackson will get together with Michael Peizer and they will determine how to use the flight training section of the web site to the best advantage of the trainees.

Old Business: Kevin remarked that the Blue Crab Boat Club is having a meeting tomorrow night, and he plans to attend.

Lastly, Kevin mentioned that glo powered R/C cars are being run on the fields at SoccerPlex and no one is controlling frequency use. There are no signs posted prohibiting this activity and interference with our aircraft is a significant possibility. This issue must be addressed immediately.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

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# Calendar of Events

## March

- 3-6 JR Challenge, Punta Gorda FL
- 4-6 Florida Jets., Lakeland FL
- 11-13 Tucson, Jet Rally
- 12 Lebanon Flea Market, PA
- 17 St Patrick's day
- 18 DCRC Club Meeting Kevin Jackson
- 19-20 IMAC Judging Seminar, Winston Salem, NC Wayne Matthews
- 19-20 Gathering of the Giants, Cape Coral, FL
- 23 DCRC Board Meeting, Kevin Jackson

## April

- 1-3 IMAA Fayetteville NC
- 2-3 Georgia Spring Fever IMAC Hobbies Andersonville, GA
- 3 Begin Daylight Savings Spring Ahead
- 8-10 IMAC Venice FL
- 15 DCRC Club Meeting Andy Finizio
- 16-17 Spring IMAC Augusta, GA
- 20 DCRC Board Meeting Andy Finizio
- 23-24 Spring IMAC Tampa, FL
- 23 HRRC Spring fly in Chesapeake VA
- 27-1 Top Gun Scale Contest Lakeland, FL
- 30 PGRC Quickie Races, Bowie, MD

## May

- 7 IMAA Sanford NC
- 7 IMAA PGRC Bowie MD
- 7-8 Charles County Aerobatic IMAC, Brandywine, MD
- 8 Mothers Day
- 11-14 Joe Nall Triple Tree SC
- 13-15 Armed forces day Air Show Andrews
- 20 DCRC Club Meeting Nir Schweizer
- 25 DCRC Board Meeting Nir Schweizer
- 28-30 Memorial day fly in South Carolina
- 30 Memorial Day

## June

- 3-5 PGRC JR Gold Cup Races Bowie, MD
- 3-5 TOC Of Maryland SWAP Baltimore, MD Art Vail 410-247-4281
- 4-5 WSRC IMAC Winston Salem, NC
- 17 DCRC Club Meeting Allan Hoffman
- 17-19 Ray Gordon IMAA Harrisonburg, VA
- 18-19 TCWS IMAA Lenhartsvielle, PA
- 18 PGRC Quickie Races, Bowie, MD
- 18-19 IMAA Buc Lee, Quakertown, PA
- 19 Fathers' Day
- 22 DCRC Board Meeting Allan Hoffman
- 25-26 Big Apple Jet Rally, Brooklyn, NY

## July

- 4 Independence Day
- 5-8 IMAC Nationals Muncie, IN
- 8-10 Warbirds over Delaware Lums Pund
- 15 DCRC Club Meeting, Mike Dooley
- 20 DCRC Board Meeting, Mike Dooley
- 23 Loudon County Electric Fly In, Leesburg, VA Brian Allen 703-430-5849
- 30-31 IMAC Fayetteville, NC

## August

- 6-7 NE IMAC Sizzle, Milford, PA Dan Ellsweig 845-926-5685
- 19 DCRC Club Meeting Andy Kane
- 24 DCRC Board Meeting, Andy Kane
- 25-28 IMAA Festival of the Giants, Danville VA

## September

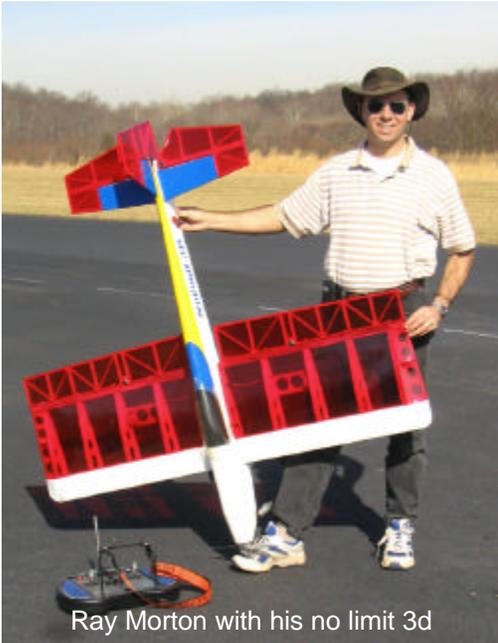
- 3 IMAA Rocky Mount NC AB Gentry 252-908-7229
- 5 Labor Day
- 10-11 PGRC Quickie Races

# THE GOOD STUFF

BY DON GRAY



In January I mentioned it would be nice to occasionally do a write up on a few of our club members who don't get out to fly that often. Well Harry Grattan was nice enough to be my test pilot last month and it turned out to be a lot of fun



Ray Morton with his no limit 3d

and informative for me, and hopefully for some of you as well. Somehow the last sentence of the article was truncated in the hard-copy version of the newsletter and therefore, for those of you who didn't download it online, here it is: At the close of our talk he made the comment: "Flying with the DCRC and Show Team members – good people, great times, wonderful hobby – PRICELESS!"

A few months back, I met Ray Morton, a new face at the field who mentioned that



Don Sassaman and Snow Bonny

he had been a member of DCRC before

his tour of duty in Hawaii and is rejoining the club now that he's located back in this area. His models had not made it back east yet, so he was just stopping by to take a look around. A week or so later he showed up with one of his F3A pattern ships and put it



through some very smooth and impressive maneuvers. He flies using Mode III which has rudder and elevator control on the right stick and aileron and throttle on the left. Apparently many of the pattern pilots in Europe fly this mode because they feel it is easier to



Don and his Terrapin, Kaos

control the rudder-elevator mixing required in executing rolls and other axial-type maneuvers.

He showed up at the field more recently with his NO LIMIT 3D model. It's powered by a YS 63 4-stroke using Magnum #1 fuel and swinging either a 13x 6 or 14x4w APC prop. The model is equipped with six digital servos and a 2350 mAh LiPo battery pack. He's using a Multiplex Profi MC4000 radio system including their custom-fitted Tx Tray.

Don Sassaman, originally from

PA is adventurous and apparently likes to fly in the snow. Otherwise, why would he equip his LT-40 with skis? He refers to it as his Snow Bunny. The Snow Bonny is powered by an OS 52 Surpass 4-stroke swinging an 11x6 Master Airscrew. He is using a Hitec Eclipse Tx and FMA servos and Rx. The aluminum skis are Du-Bro. The nose ski is 2 1/4" wide by 8" long and the mains are 2 1/4" x 18". After a couple of test flights, Don modified the skis by turning down the side edges to act as keels for improved ground tracking. This did the trick and the next time out he enjoyed several uneventful flights on the snow-covered asphalt run way. I shot a short video of one of the initial test flights while both Don and Bert Matos handed the Tx back and forth. The clear blue sky provided a perfect background.

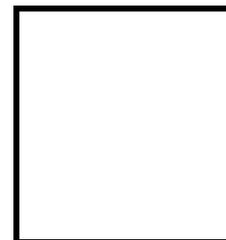


Don has also been actively flying his new Tower Kaos, which is powered by the new OS 46AX engine. The Kaos uses the same type of radio equipment used in the Snow Bird. Since the Kaos comes already covered in the Maryland of University colors of Black & Gold and Red & White, he felt it only fitting to use the Terrapin's mascot as it's pilot. After adding the pilot, he changed the name from Tower to "Terrapin" Kaos".

Great job Nir on your column last month. He offered all of us some "sound" advice on checking over our models to help make sure they will be airworthy when next flying season officially starts on Opening Day, April 16<sup>th</sup>; only four short weeks after this month's club meeting. Don't forget to finish (start) your taxes. Until next month.

Andy Kane  
305 Natick Court  
SILVER SPRING MD 20905-5875

FIRST CLASS MAIL



SEND TO:



March  
2005

**Northern Virginia  
Radio Control Club  
Auction**

**March 19, 2005**

**Vienna Community Center**

120 Cherry Street, Vienna, Virginia

Setup and Viewing 8-10 a.m. – Auction 10 a.m.

**R/C Airplanes, Helicopters,  
Cars, Boats, Supplies**

Buy and/or Sell Auction Tags Provided

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**Admission and Door Prize Entry- \$2**

\$15 Auction Minimum; Fixed Price Table No Minimum

10% of Sale Proceeds to Club

Computerized Accounting

For more information, contact Ken Bassett (703) 425-1392  
Or email [rcflyer132@aol.com](mailto:rcflyer132@aol.com)

More details available on our web page <http://www.1nvr.com>



**Doug's Hobby Shop 2935 Crain Hwy.**

**Waldorf, MD 20601**

**(301)843-7774**

Call and ask about their monthly specials for  
DCRC Club Members.