

DCRC



DCRC Club Meeting
Friday 2/19/10 7:30 PM
Montgomery County
Council building
100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD

Jan/Feb 2010

NEWSLETTER

Volume 56, Issue 1

Saturday December 19, 2009
snowfall records broken.

11 pm Update: As of 9 pm, Washington National reported 16.3" of snowfall from this storm. This brings the December total to 16.5", which is a new all-time December record, exceeding the 1962 amount of 16.2"

Unofficially 26.5 inches in my backyard. Man my back hurts already!



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County Liaison: Jim McDaniel

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www.dc-rc.org

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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Cover: Snow and cold record snow fall in DC Dec 19.

Photo by Andy Kane

**AMA Convention
Ontario, CA**

BY ANDY KANE



The AMA National Convention has always been held on the west coast and I never had the chance to visit this event, but this year it seemed I picked a good time to go. I flew from BWI thru Phoenix to Yuma, AZ to meet up with my friend Junior Lopez. The departure temp at BWI 12 degrees and the arrival temp in Yuma AZ 74 degrees.

Upon arriving in Yuma, we proceeded directly to the flying field, where some of Junior's club mates were waiting for us. The YUMA RC field hosts a 600 ft paved runway and a unique pit set up. The pits are on both sides of the north- south runway, thus you pit and fly on the east side in the morning and the west side in the afternoon making it so you are never looking into the sun (which by the way in southern AZ is very hot). I guess they are much closer to the sun than we are here in Maryland.



Ontario Convention Center, CA

The drive from Yuma to Ontario, CA is about 250 miles, so a 5 hour trip was very easy. 10 minutes west of Yuma you enter California and the time changes to Pacific Time (you gain an hour). Over the mountains and thru the desert until reaching Palm Springs, one of California's most exclusive areas, onto solid population all the way to the coast. Ontario, CA located about 30 miles east of LA, hosts a NASCAR race track, International airport and all the amenities of any large city. The hotel is walking distance to the convention center which made life very easy. We arrived at the show on Friday at about noon when it

opened, and people were lined up outside waiting to gain entry. The AMA Convention is hosted by the AMA, so



they sit center stage in the venue. All the AMA employees were there to man the kiosk and answer any questions about the organization. I had some nice conversations with AMA President Dave Matheson and AMA Safety Coordinator Jim Cherry as well as meeting with many of the other AMA district VP's.

During the show they had a wonderful lineup of speakers and presentations to help educate and entertain, from world



Junior Lopez with designer Bill Hempel

renowned air show pilot Matt Chapman, to record setting designer and innovator Burt Ruatan. Matt spoke of his experi-

(Continued on page 4)



Matt Chapman and Andy Kane

December and January Club Meeting Minutes

BY DOUG HARPER



The meeting was called to order at 7:43PM by President Dave McQueeney. Dave asked for introduction of visitors and new members. Visitor Dave Farnes learned about us online and decided to come to the meeting. Marcus Kroese and his Dad were present.

Raffle: Nir brought a BNF T-28D Trojan electric for tonight's raffle.

Treasurer's Report: Scott wrote five checks in excess of \$100.

Old Business: Don Gray announced that he is planning a "small fry" fun fly where various parameters like weight and size would be set. Dave acknowledged the Board for all the good things that have happened this year.

Dave thanked Jim McDaniel for arranging the weekly electric indoor fly every Wednesday. It has already been a great success.

Dave looked around the room and proclaimed that, in lieu of a meeting, we would just eat pizza instead. Since no one objected, that is exactly what we did. After everyone was adequately (over) fed, Jim McDaniel pulled the winning raffle ticket. The winner was Jay Stargel who was given a resounding hoot and holler.

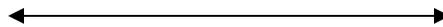
Many thanks to Walt Gallaughter for the pizza, Andy Kane for the baklava, and Andy Herold (who lives in Florida) for

the key lime pie.

We then moved into the gift exchange under the guidance of Mr. Kroese. He gave everyone the rules for tonight's exchange. As we did in previous years, he elected to use the "steal from your buddy" system for gifts. In other words, after selecting a gift, others could take your gift up to three times. With that in mind, we launched into a lively round of gift selection and opening. A good and lively time was had by all.

Happy Holidays to All!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57PM.



January Club meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM by President Dave McQueeney. Dave asked for introduction of guests or new members. Jim Fisher came as a guest and wanted to look into RC after a 27 year hiatus. He received a warm welcome. Ryan Farnes has now become an "official" member.

Old/New Business: Andy Kane has been approached regarding the hosting of the IMAA District IV Minifest at our Bealeton Fleeing. This would increase the attendance at Bealeton significantly.

Ed Chidakel announced an RC flea market in central PA in

March. There is also a smaller flea market in Westminster on Feb 13.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Jim McDaniel presented for Scott and announced that one check over \$100 was written since the last meeting.

Webmaster: No report.



Community & Public Relations & County Liaison: No report.



Membership & Newsletter: No report.

Sound & Safety: No Report

Events: Jim McDaniel reported that the indoor flying at the Soccerplex is going very well. Attendance continues to grow and everyone has a "blast". We welcome ten new members who joined DCRC to partake of this fun event. We will continue to do this thru March.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 2)

ences in modeling and full scale aerobatic competitions and air show ups and downs. Burt spoke about his trials and tribulations in the development of the Starship One and had a wonderful presentation on how modeling and RC models helped in the development and success of that project.



Past DCRC Member Jack Albright

Most of the major manufacturers were represented there as well as local clubs and local businesses. Some new and innovative items for the indoor foamy world were shown as well as a new mo-



Andy Kane, AMA President Dave Matheson, Rich Hanson

tor to be released this spring from DA, a new light weight DA-120. The big push this year was the proliferation of foamie's in all different sizes and



Mark Leseberg

shapes, as well as all the support items for them, from super powerful motors, newly designed variable pitched propellers, (VPP using a tail rotor swash plate), to lighting for all you indoor and outdoor night flying requirements.

The venue was also able to provide space for indoor flight area; there we saw indoor free flight, rubber powered, and RC indoor electrics. They had e-flite 4-sites, J-3s and Vapors all the way up to giant indoor planes and everything in between. Two of the most impressive demos were Mark Leseberg flying a fancy foam yak with a newly designed VPP. He was able to sustain nose down hover, we now call this 4-D the power and expertise to accomplish this type of flying is beyond the average modeler but to see it and to aspire towards it would be a great accomplishment. Nick (last name unknown) also did a mind blowing helicopter demo in



Bill Hamby IMAA President

the meeting room tight space high energy demo just made my eye balls spin around!

This event is very similar to Toledo but with some additional added bonuses, nice weather, top class aviation speak-



ers and indoor venue for flying during

the entire event. After 2 days in Southern California I could not stay inside any longer. Junior and I headed to Phoenix to visit the Sun Valley RC club



Ron Long, Phoenix AZ MiBo A-10

flying site. This field located just north of Phoenix sports an 800 by 100 paved runway, completely covered pit area, separate helicopter flying area and unobstructed flying for miles around, that makes this site very conducive for jets and there were plenty there. Of course we called all our friends to let them know we would be there and for them to bring out their big guns. We saw a new Skymaster F-16 and Mibo A-10 and well and many other jets. This club like all other clubs that I have been to have about the same make up 10 % does 90% of the work and then there is one guy, the Field Marshall, ex marine, Watch out). We really did have a nice time and the flying sites host many jet events as well as IMAC and war bird fly INS.

For football fans on the way to the field we passed right by the U of Phoenix Stadium where the Cardinals and Packers were getting ready to play the first round of the NFC playoffs, 6 hours before game time and the parking lot was full of tailgaters, in shorts, and tee shirts.

After a nice dinner in Phoenix we headed back to Yuma about 140 miles, the next morning I caught a flight home. All in all a wonderful and worthwhile trip. Departure temp from Yuma 74 degrees arrival temp in Baltimore 26 degrees. For more info on the AMA conventions with additional photos and videos please visit www.modelaircraft.org and click on AMA Convention.~

January Board Meeting Minutes

BY DOUG HARPER



The meeting, held at Café Mileto, was called to order by Dave McQueeney at 5:10 PM. In attendance were Dave McQueeney, Nir Schweizer, Eric Monnig, Scott Davies, Doug Harper, Andy Kane, Jim McDaniel, Mike Peizer, and Walt Galagher.

The minutes of the 10/21/09 meeting were read and amended.

Committee Reports:

Field Operations: Dave suggested to Nir that we should have a position on safety for the Wednesday indoor flying. It turns out that Nir and Jim McDaniel had already developed a set of guidelines for indoor flying and, in fact, had reviewed them this afternoon at the last fly in. Dave asked Nir to amend our current Club safety rules to include indoor flying. We will submit these amended guidelines to AMA when we renew our charter.

Andy Kane will handle our charter renewal. In addition, we will publish our current safety rules in an upcoming newsletter.

Field Maintenance: Allan is planning a cleanup day for the field, before opening day, as we get closer to Spring. The date will be determined. Allan is also pursuing a roller to roll the field. Eric Monnig will get some prices on pest control treatment and report back to the Board. Eric suggested that we do this treatment in the March timeframe.

Flight Training: Mike made a plea for assistance as we get closer to the flying season. He is planning

to add two trainers for the coming year and he is looking at A123 batteries for our trainer planes. The first flight training date is April 10, 2010.

Events: IMAA has proposed that we host an IMAA Mini-fest in 2010. A likely candidate is to host this coincident with the Bealeton Fly In during September. This kind of event is a good way for DCRC to get positive publicity and this might be a good way to increase the attendance at this event. The IMAA magazine will give us a half page ad on this event. Andy Kane will alert the Flying Circus management to our plans to do this. Our thinking is they will view this positively. Andy will work on the specifics of this event and report back to the Board at a later date.

Heritage Day is scheduled for June 26 this year. The date for Opening Day will be determined by Andy Finizio as well as a schedule for other 2010 events which will be published in the newsletter. We need to determine what if any advertising we will do this year by the March Board meeting.

Membership: Andy Kane expects about 225 members again this year. We currently are at 147 members.

Newsletter: Andy continues to solicit material for the newsletter.

Awards: Allan will give the Board an estimate of cost for additional award medallions.

Webmaster: The names of the

Board members on the website should be updated for 2010.

New Business: Dave McQueeney will talk to Bliss Teague about the idea of commemorating DCRC as a historic club.

Andy Kane has received a request from Parkland Middle School to help with a "Flight Night" on Feb 3. Since Jim McDaniel is an alum of this esteemed institution he volunteered to look into this and respond.

Boy Scout Troop 773 has requested a visit to the field for a demo of RC flying. Mike Peizer will coordinate this activity.

There will be a flight restriction at the field on Wednesday, Jan 27, due to the State of the Union Address.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.

THINGS ELECTRIC

BY ROY DAY



THINGS ELECTRIC NO. 4

An Occasional Column on Topics of Interest to Electric Flyers

MORE ON BALANCING A123 CELLS

In my last article I discussed the experiments I had done trying to convince myself that I could get by without balancing the A123 battery packs that I was flying. This was a pack which I wired up using single cells. It's much easier without also wiring up a balance connector.

Well, the final result of the experiment which I had not reported in my last article is that you must balance the pack, at least every few charges. I will explain. After successive charges beyond the ones I reported last time, I got a surprise when I tried to charge the pack one time. My charger recognized it as a 3 cell pack instead of a 4 cell. This meant that one cell had dropped below the minimum voltage recognized by the charger. Rather than discard the pack, I took it apart and measured the voltage of each cell. I discovered the one cell with the low voltage. The next thing to do was to charge this one cell and try to save the pack.

Figure 1 shows the setup I used to charge a single cell with my modified Astro Flight charger. After charging the low cell, I re-assembled the pack with a balancing connector con-

nected to my Astro Flight "Blinky." The pack has performed well in a number of flights. Figure 2 shows the pack being charged with the Blinky. A number of chargers have built-in balancing provisions ; you just plug in your balancer connector when you charge. See Figure 3.

gets a number of pieces of equipment from different suppliers: battery packs, chargers, power suppliers, electronic speed controls (ESC) and etc. Chances are they all have different connectors. To make life simple, you should decide on one type of connector and convert all your equipment to that one connector. One exception is the brushless motor which has standardized on the bullet connector. I have used the Anderson Power Connectors (APC), also called Servo Connectors, for many years. You can buy them in bulk from electronic suppliers. Figure 4 shows some of my equipment, all with APC connectors.

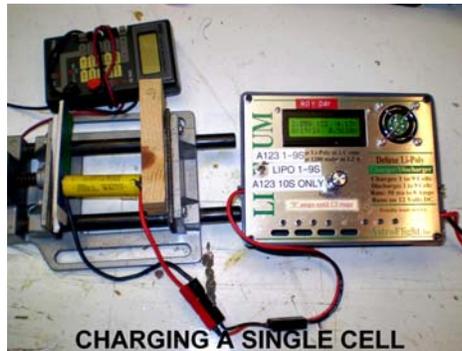


FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3
USE OF COMMON CONNECTORS

A person starting with electrics

FIGURE 4.



COMMON CONNECTORS (APC) ON ALL EQUIPMENT

(Continued from page 3)

Field Maintenance: No report.

Flight Instruction: Michael Peizer

Raffle: The raffle prize, an Eflite BNF Blade, was presented by Allan Hoffman. Ron Bozzonetti had the winning ticket and received much friendly cheering for the win.

Program: Tonight there are two topics: Dave Harris will discuss building his beautiful WWI models. Then, Andy Kane will discuss indoor flying.

Dave presented his Neuport 17 slow flyer which is a beautiful ARF biplane from Eflite. Dave couldn't leave well enough alone so he began by adding a fourth channel for ailerons. He then decided to change the cowl color to all silver. He removed the Louis machine gun from the top wing and replaced it with a Vickers. This was important since the markings on this aircraft were French and they didn't use the Louis gun. Some guys don't know when to quit. He was on such a roll that he then took the dihedral out of the top wing making it essentially flat. This greatly improved the looks of the model.

When he added the ailerons he used a similar control linkage much like the original one. He was able to install the servo in the fuse and then run pushrods up to the top wing. He put a small bell crank in the top wing and then to a torque tube out to the aileron. His final installa-

tion was beautiful and very functional.

He then beefed up the wing attachment point for the interplane struts to give the model more strength. He uses an Eflite 250 motor and a 2-cell 650 mah LiPo battery. Dave is very satisfied with the way it flies.

Andy Kane then presented a video which contained several indoor flying sites as well as the AMA convention in Ontario, CA. Of special interest was the "4G" indoor flying with variable pitch, reversible prop. Very impressive! The meeting was adjourned at 9:PM.~

Calendar of Events 2010

February

19 DCRC Club Meeting

March

4-7 Florida Jets, Lakeland FL

13-14 Venice FL IMAC

19 DCRC Club Meeting

20 Indoor Fly In Laurel Armory gym, Laurel, MD Freestate RC \$10.00

20-21 Cape Coral FL IMAA

20-21 Tarheel NC IMAC

24 DCRC Board Meeting
Walt Gallagher

April

10 DCRC Training begins

16 DCRC Club Meeting

30-2 Fredericksburg, VA Heli Fun Fly

May

9-15 JOE NALL Triple Tree SC

21 DCRC Club Meeting

26 DCRC Board Meeting
Nir Schweizer

June

4-6 IMAA Rally of the Giants
Monaville TX

12-13 IMAA Quakertown, PA

18 DCRC Club Meeting

25-26 IMAA Harrisonburg, VA

28 Heritage day. County Appreciation day

July

4-11 Jets over Kentucky

7-11 War Birds over Delaware

16 DCRC Club Meeting

21 DCRC Board Meeting
Dave McQueeney

23-25 Cincinnati Jets Oh

24 Electric fly in Loudoun Co.

24-25 Warbirds over PA Quakertown, PA

August

20 DCRC Club Meeting

September

3-5 D.O.G.S Show Dayton OH

9-11 IMAA Mini Fest, Bealeton, VA

17 DCRC Club Meeting (Nominations)

22 DCRC Board Meeting
Jim McDaniel

October

15 DCRC Club Meeting (Elections)

20 DCRC Board Meeting
Dave McQueeney

November

19 DCRC Club Meeting

December

17 DCRC Club Meeting

District of Columbia
Radio Control Club

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One of the oldest and largest RC
clubs in the US.
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January/February
2010



Composite Arf Flash by Charlie Case, Yuma AZ Check out those rocks!!!