

“Prop Kicks”

January, 2001



EST. 1975

Editor - Leif Thomson

166 Pusey Mill Road, Cochranville, PA 19330

The Newsletter of the Cloud Kings Radio Control Club - Oxford, PA.

Renew and Vote

Christmas Dinner

The Christmas Dinner at the Red Rose Inn was a great success. Attendance was good, and the food was excellent. Everyone had a good time. We even had our table decorations catch fire.

Everyone left with a small prize, for which they had to answer some trivia question. We proved that most of us are terrible at trivia, but it was fun anyway.

Dick Plyler presented an award to Alvin Johnson in recognition of the many years served as the club newsletter editor. Congratulations Alvin!



Dick Plyler recognizing Alvin's years of service

Membership News

Welcome to our newest full members Robert Schmoyer and Ralph Senter of West Grove, who were voted into our club in December. We would also like to welcome Louis Kinney Jr. as a prospective member. Louis was a member many years ago and plans to return to the hobby.

We are now accepting membership renewal for the Cloud Kings. The yearly membership fee is \$35 for full members. Send your payment to Leif Thomson or Brian Swarts, or you may renew in person at the next meeting. Remember that proof of AMA membership is required to be a member of the Cloud Kings.

You must renew your membership with the Cloud Kings by April 1st in order to maintain your membership status. If you fail to renew you will be required to go through the new member process again.

February Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13th at 7:30 PM at the West Grove Fire Hall.

Please plan to attend as we will be voting for the club officers for the 2001 season.

Nomination of Officers

The nominating committee has proposed the following nominees for officer in 2001:

President - Richard Plyler
Vice President - Mark McQuaide
Treasurer - Brian Swarts
Secretary - Leif Thomson

These nominees have been contacted and are willing to accept the responsibility of carrying out the duties of office. Of course, any other qualified candidates may be nominated before we vote for the officers at the next meeting.

Field News

A new field schedule has been prepared and is included in this month's newsletter mailing. Please keep this schedule in a handy place so that you can plan your flying activities.

At our last meeting the club decided to have the landing strip at West Field rolled this year. We usually try to do this in the April time-frame.

Field Safety Reminder

Spotters required at Harris Field

As per the AMA regulations, when flying at Harris field, make sure that you have a spotter to notify you of any full-scale aircraft activity. The spotter is responsible for warning the R/C pilot if a full-scale aircraft is approaching to allow time to clear the field.

President's Corner

The new year is upon us and soon we will be out there doing our thing -- FLYING!

As we prepare for our new season, I hope you all will attend our Feb. 13th meeting to select the officers for 2001 and give your inputs on the activities that we will plan to have this year.

My comments are short but I am including some "Million Dollar Advice" taken from RC Report Magazine which you might find interesting.

See you at the meeting in West Grove.

Dick Plyler

Million Dollar Advice

(reprinted from RC Report - Feb 2001)

At a recent club meeting, the wise old owner of a local hobby shop was showing off a new kit that had just come to his shop. Every experienced modeler knows how difficult it is to put everything back into the box, so we were shocked when he completely emptied the kit box onto the display table. He then briefly lifted and explained some of the more interesting parts of the kit, but most of us were preoccupied in wondering how he was going to get all the pieces back into the box!

When his demonstration was over, he looked up and asked, "Does anyone here know how to get everything back into the box?" Despite a few muffled giggles, no one raised their hand, and no one volunteered a word. "Well then I'll show you", he continued. "It's a lot like planning and living your life, you know."

(Million Dollar Advice - Continued)

First he inserted all the larger pieces, such as the bundle of sticks, the bundle of sheeting, the cowl, wheelpants, etc. Once these were back in the box, there appeared to be no room left. He looked up and asked, "Is the box full now?"

Everyone laughed and said, "It sure is!"

"Really?", he replied. Then he started fitting the smaller pieces back into the box, and one by one, they all went, until there was nothing left on the display table but the smallest pieces of the kit, hardware, etc. Again he looked up and asked, "Now is the box full?"

By this time we were on to him, "No, obviously not," someone answered.

"Good!" he replied. Then he scooped up the remaining little pieces and somehow found room for them in the box. And once more he asked, "Now is it full?"

This time there were mixed replies, with some saying it was, and others suggesting that it wasn't.

Once again he said, "Good!" Then he grabbed up the unnoticed decal sheet and instruction booklet, and placed them neatly into the box.

Now everything that had come from the box was back inside, but before fitting the cover in place, he looked up and asked, "Now who can tell me the point of this demonstration, and why I said it applies to how we should plan and live our lives?"

One eager beaver quickly raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule, if you try really hard you can always fit more in."

"Good answer", replied the wise old store owner, "but not the one I was looking for. The lesson this demonstration teaches us is simply this: If you don't put the big pieces in first, you'll never get them in at all. You have to put the big pieces in while you have room for them, and then add the smaller pieces into whatever space remains." Then he sat down in a chair, faced his attentive audience and continued.

"What are the big pieces of your life? I hope you include your children, your spouse, your parents, grandparents, your closest friends, and all of your loved ones. Your education. Your dreams. Some worthy causes or charities. Teaching or mentoring others. Doing things that you love. Time for yourself. Your health. Naturally, you have to decide for yourself which are the big pieces in your own life. But once you decide that, be sure to put those pieces into your life first, or you may not get them in at all. If you worry about the little pieces first, you'll fill your life with little things that don't really matter as much, and you'll never have the quality time you need to devote to the big and more important pieces."

No one said a word. Then one person stood and began clapping his hands. Soon everyone was standing and applauding. The wise old hobby shop owner had just used a \$100 model airplane kit to teach us a million dollar lesson.

Winter Activities

With the winter months upon us, some might think that our hobby has to be put on the shelf until the weather improves. Nothing could be farther from the truth. While few of us will brave the cold to fly, there are many activities that we can still enjoy.

Simulator Practice

The advancement of computer simulators for flight practice allows those who can afford it the ability to practice those new maneuvers and keep fresh on the more simple flying skills without braving the elements or risking our models. This is an excellent way to learn, even for those who can fly. As the saying goes "You never stop learning", and with R/C flight there is always something new to try.

Building

Building models is a large part of the hobby. Many of us get the itch to start a new kit or dust off a previously un-finished project as cabin fever starts to kick in. Just remember to use adequate ventilation when sanding and using hazardous solvents or glues.

Online Discussions

For those with internet connections, there is a wealth of information on the online forums where R/C modelling activities are discussed. RC Online (www.rco.net) offers discussion forums and an online swapshop. Usenet forums also exist for those who prefer the usenet format. These can be accessed using Deja News (www.deja.com) for those who don't have a news reader application. The most active model forums are *Rec.Models.Rc.Air* and *Rec.Models.Rc.Heli*.

What's your Game Plan?

Learning to fly Radio Control models isn't easy, and many people who are initially attracted to the hobby become disenchanted with failure and abandon their quest to learn to fly.

What marks the successful R/C pilot is a level of discipline and planning in the approach to learning the sport. Even accomplished pilots will stagnate at a certain skill level unless they push themselves to try new maneuvers or techniques. The best formula for success is based on a game plan, which starts with a clear goal.

First, you need to decide on your goal. Don't be too ambitious or you will force yourself into failure. Reduce larger goals into a series of reasonable goals that you can more easily achieve.

Your goal needs to be specific enough to measure your success. For example "*I would like to be able to hover my helicopter*" is not specific enough, as anyone can hover a helicopter for two seconds. A better example would be "*I would like to be able to hover my helicopter for two minutes and then land it without crashing*".

Once you know the goal you are working toward, it is much easier to develop a practice schedule and track your progress. If you become bored or frustrated during practice, allow yourself some "play" time. This is especially important when using a computer simulator. Balance unstructured "fooling around" with structured practice sessions until you can achieve your goal.

When you reach your goal, make a note of it by either letting others know or giving yourself a little reward. This way you become motivated to set new goals and continue the process of improving yourself.

**CENTRAL PENN
AEROMODELERS ASSOC.**

**21st Annual Radio Control
FLEA MARKET**

PLACE: LEBANON FAIRGROUNDS
Intersection of Cornwall Road
and Rocherty Road,
Lebanon, PA

DATE: Saturday, **MARCH 10, 2001**
(Regardless of weather)

TIME: 9:00 A.M. for General Admission
7:00 A.M. for Table Renters Only
till 3:00 P.M.

PUBLIC INVITED !

Table Reservations Recommended !

To Pre-Register for tables, send table rent plus \$5 per person (payable to CPAA) with S.A.S.E. to:
CPAA
P.O. Box 1303
Carlisle, PA 17015-1303

For Info, Call:
(717) 960-8170

Admission: \$5.00 (Donation/Under 12 free)
Tables: \$10.00 (5 ft. long)
Wall Tables: \$15.00 each (5 ft. long)

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE Includes Computer R/C FM Radio !

**LARGEST R C FLEA MARKET
IN THE U.S.A. !**

34,000 Sq. Ft. Indoors. 540 Tables of Bargains

... featuring : Radio Controlled airplanes, sailplanes, cars, boats, control-line airplanes, and related accessories.

