

Prop Kicks



The Official Publication of the Cloud Kings R/C Club Charter Club # 579

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Presidents Message

This has been an interesting year so far. Having had cool weather, with plenty of wind and rain has hampered attendance at the Fields. We have had a couple of events by now and, of course, the weather kept attendance down there too. The season is still young, and coming into its' prime now though with "alleged" calm, warm evenings.- so it's time to get out and join us at the field. If you don't want to fly just come on out and watch and gab. We had been having hotdogs on Friday evenings since a small group of members had been coming out regularly, so we teamed up and took turns bringing hotdogs. Some how we got out of that routine and it just faded away. It was fun though while it lasted.

As I look ahead into the schedule we still have the picnic coming up in September, leaving July and August fairly clear. I have been working closely with a Boy Scout leader to get the Scouts out for a day at the field, but have not finalized that yet. I'm hoping for a Saturday in August. Bob Fling has offered to set up a few airplanes, in various stages of construction, to give the scouts an idea of the concept of building a plane. It would be nice to have a couple other things for them to do as well. Of course there will be lots of flying for them too. Last year when we had some Cub Scouts out for the day we set up a laptop computer with the simulator and gave the kids some time with that before letting them fly on the "buddy box" system, and that worked out great. Earlier in the spring a club member was approached about having their Girl Scouts out for a day but that has not worked out so far and hopefully we could work that in as well this year if they're still interested.

If you don't get out, then have a safe and enjoyable summer -but you're missing lots of fun!

Liberty Bell Jet Rally

July 30, 2009 thru August 2, 2009

Donegal Springs Airpark
Marietta, PA

www.libertybelljetrally.com

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New Members

Prospective members

Kevin Torok. - Sponsored by
Pete Jones

Matt Johnson - Sponsored by
Alvin Johnson

Next Meeting:

Aug. 11, 7:30 PM at West Field

Up Coming Events

Sept. 5 Summer Picnic
Oct. 10 Vintage October Fest
Nov 7 RC Sale
Dec 5 Christmas Luncheon

He Just Dropped in!

On a Monday evening while the usual frequent flyers were enjoying great flying conditions at West Field, a strange craft appeared in the sky and decided to drop in for a short visit. No, in case your wondering, it's wasn't a giant model practicing for this coming *War Birds over Delaware* event.

The plane is a single place Kolb Firefly (\$8,590 for the kit just in case your wondering), and was piloted by Terry Frantz from Quarryville, PA. Pictures are by Ray Crowley.



Electrifying News

By Sparky

Sparky has duly noted the alarm sounded by our Secretary in a special bulletin to all members regarding the possible failures of 2.4 GHz receivers do to low battery voltage (<4 volts) when using a 4 cell battery pack. A note from *The AMA Insider's Technical Editor, May 2009*, tells the story. In it, not only are we warned about receiver failures because of low flight pack battery voltage, but also about *digital* servo failures caused by over voltage. Now, it would seem that we're caught between a rock and a hard place. At first blush it would seem that a quick fix for the receiver under-voltage problem can be easily cured by using a 5 cell battery pack, but now we have introduced a potentially dangerous high voltage, though not harmful to our receiver, could damage our *digital* servos.

Can we crack this nut? I think so, what we need is a device that will reduce the higher pack voltage thus protecting our *digital* servos, and still providing adequate voltage for the receiver to operate satisfactorily. The electrical device that will solve our dilemma is called a *voltage regulator*.

Illustrated below is a 3 terminal voltage regulator that can be constructed using just 3 electronic components. The regulator output is fixed at +5v, and will clamp the output voltage to that target level, thus addressing both of our problems. This will allow both your receiver and *digital* servos to operate safely while using a 5 cell flight pack. The regulator should be inserted in a lead that connects between the charge switch harness and receiver battery input. **JP2** is connected to the receiver battery input. **JP1** is connects to switch harness output, this will disconnect the battery pack from the regulator when the switch is turned off. Radio Shack is always a good place to rustle up the needed part.

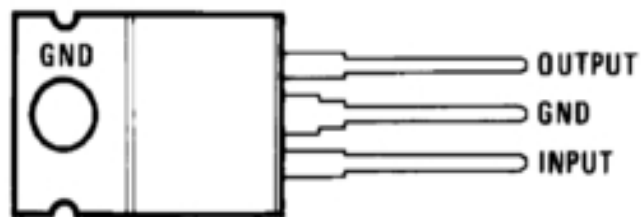
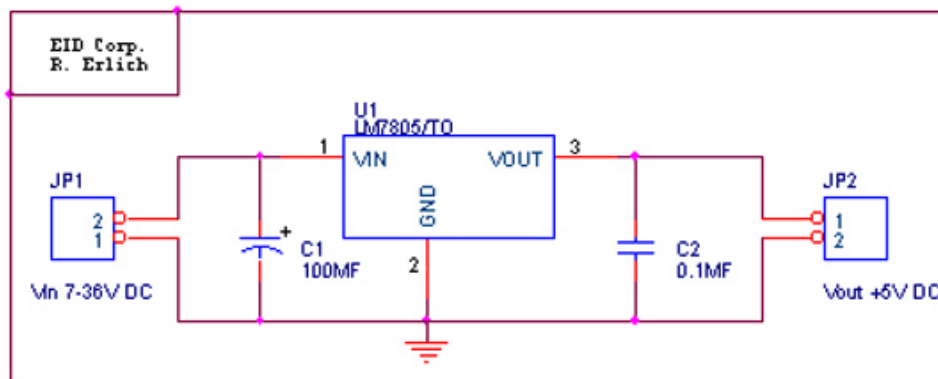
Parts List

Voltage Regulator - Radio Shack P#7805

Capacitor C1- Radio Shack P#272-1016 or P#272-1028

Capacitor C2- Radio Shack P# 272-153 or P#272-1069

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LM 7805

Another approach is to use a 2 cell Li-Po battery ($2 \times 3.7\text{v} = 7.4\text{v}$) as an onboard flight pack in conjunction with the voltage regulator shown.

 Re: 4 cell battery pack ($1.2\text{v} \times 4 = 4.8\text{v}$ nominal)

Re: 5 cell battery pack ($1.2\text{v} \times 5 = 6.0\text{v}$ nominal)