

Prop Kicks



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

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Presidents Message

To Save or to Spend that is the Question!

It's perplexing for me to understand the state of the economy. On one hand the media informs me which way the national economy is headed, and on the other hand I just look at the state of affairs around me; my bank statements, price of gas, layoffs, etc. Either or both ways, for me, it will be safer to spend with care. Because the news it is discouraging to say the least. We're told that the economy needs stimulating, but everything of value is depreciating – it all makes my head spin (When all the while I'd rather be thinking about props spinning!) The important thing for this writing is how it will affect our flying this year.

Everyone reading this has chosen to enjoy flying with Cloud Kings RC Club for another year. With that being said, we must still avoid some spending which may mean less trips to the field, flying the old "beater" airplane another year, or not buying something new! After all the government indicates that we need to stimulate the economy, but cash may be a little tight right now.

I've an idea: Why don't everyone get a new plane and name it "*The Stimulator*"? Of course, there are other names we could use, "*Recession Proof*", "*Last Dollar*", "*On Fumes*", etc. How about a couple for the electric guys calling theirs, "*Last Charge*", "*Currently Broke*", "*Amped Up*", "*De-Energized*". After all having a little humor about it may help us ease the pain.

The "flying field" is a great way to spend that buck, - and a good value at that! I can guarantee that when you go home you'll leave with a smile, whether you fly or not. Come on out enjoy the activities.

The answer to the lead question is - spend it if ya got it!

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New Members

Roma Aravind

Prospective members

Andrew Conner - Sponsored by Don Ham
William Devoe - Sponsored by Henry Belfiore
William Kelsall - Sponsored by Don Ham
Jordan Patton - Sponsored by Tom Lauletta

Next Meeting:

April 14, 7:30 PM at West Grove Fire House

Up Coming Events

May 2 Tail Gate Sale
June 20 Fun Fly
July 4 Club Cover Dish Lunch
Sept. 5 Summer Picnic
Oct. 10 Vintage October Fest
Nov 7 RC Sale
Dec 5 Christmas Luncheon

The Vintage Flyer

The Good Old Days & Now

In its early days, model airplane flight, as a phenomenon, was a fairly simple thing to study or talk about. It did not involve nearly so many people or types of flying, as it does now. There weren't so many options to choose from, although Experimentation and invention has always been the central core of model plane flight. This is not to imply that "in the good old' days" of model airplane flight, the activity itself was all that simple.

In those early decades, tinkering with model aircraft was anything but a simple activity - especially in the very beginning. Requiring many hours (as in weeks or months) of preparation, design (and redesign), construction, trial and error, many would-be pilots did very little actual flying. The planes usually had to be built (often from one's own adaptations and designs) from the ground up. Most of the parts had to also be fashioned on the kitchen table at home, as they were not available in hobby stores or mail-order houses.

Every plane was truly unique. Even many of the engines, when used, were unique — perhaps even built by the flyer himself or by someone he knew (Jim Brown was a case in point with his Brown engines -1932). Props were often crafted and refined by hand: shaped, tested, adjusted, tested and modified again — until they either broke in a crash or did their job.

This does not mean that the hobby of building and flying was reserved for engineers and mechanics. People from every walk of life fell under the spell of model airplane flight, including famous personalities like Henry Fonda and Jimmy Stewart, who even in the early years of their Hollywood careers, enjoyed going out to the desert to fly their planes.

In time, of course, things changed, as they always do.



Actor Jimmy Stewart loved building and flying model planes in the early days.

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The Vintage Flyer (Continued)

More and more of the successful planes were reproduced as plans, and kits. Common building materials and even parts also became more readily available. Control linkage, engines, wheels, props, all sorts of necessary parts began to find their way into the marketplace, and their greater availability helped to expand the pass-time. As the exciting challenge of building and flying a model airplane became easier, more people were drawn to the hobby.

Radio-controlled flight struggled at first, since the required onboard equipment was anything but light. The old radios with vacuum tubes were heavy, and then there were the batteries. Batteries back then were not the lightweight Lithium's or even NiCad-type batteries. Everything was heavy, so RC planes were built larger to carry the load. Even so, the hobby was exciting and often rewarding. That is, when the plane didn't end up in a pile or in flames.

Today, the entire experience of RC flight is very, very different.

Today electric-powered planes, gas-powered planes, glow-powered planes, and countless ready-built and ready-to-fly RC planes are available just about everywhere. Department stores, huge discount stores, most toy stores, many electronic stores, and even local supermarkets have joined hobby stores in carrying radio-controlled aircraft. So the question before is what lies just around the next corner. It's an exciting time to be an RC'er – let's get out and make the most of it!

Electrifying News

By Sparky

Shocking news from researchers promise a sweet solution to our battery woes!

Away with those cumbersome chargers, expensive Li-Po's, long waiting between flights to recharge, and mashed up battery packs after a not so perfect landing. Have you ever wished for a more convenient and user friendly battery?

Well, there's good news from the University of St Louis, Missouri, Scientist there have created a fuel cell that runs on virtually any sugar source, including soft drinks. They say it has the potential to operate three to four times longer on a single charge than conventional lithiumion batteries.

Sugar-fueled power is not new. Remembering back to our good old High School health class you may recall learning that our bodies are powered by sugar in the form of glucose. The research team taking this natural glucose concept a step further has developed a small prototype battery the size of a postage stamp to successfully power a hand-held calculator.

These new batteries can be instantly recharged by adding any convenient sugar source, including plant sap. The sugar battery contains enzymes that convert sugar into electricity, leaving ordinary water as the main byproduct. Best of all, the materials used to build the sugar battery are bio degradable. Things such as glucose, flat sodas (carbonation seems to weaken the cell), sweet drink mixes and even tree sap. The best fuel tested so far is ordinary table sugar dissolved in water.



No need to make that trip to Mussers, all you need is already on your kitchen table - just drain out the spent fuel (plain water/ H^2O) and fill'er-up with some sweet nectar!

Our February Luncheon

