

PROP KICKS

Cloud Kings R/C Club, Oxford, PA



AMA # 579

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Its all about me...

This is my first foray into writing our clubs newsletter. While I am excited by the proposition, the enormity of getting his out every couple of months without suggested content form its loyal readers has just started to sink in. Some would call me slow... :-)

Therefore I must ask you all to do your bit, and to provide to me some elements of content which attract you to our wonderful and diverse hobby. This can be anything from a build project you are undertaking, or something that is near and dear, something close to your heart from the AMA, or local events and everything in between.

But in the absence of alternative suggestions this newsletter is a reflection of my news and views. Yes... It's all about me.

Hot off the Cutter...

Some of you may know that I have been building a CNC foam cutter over the last weeks, months and almost years. Yes it has taken about 15 months from ordering the first bits to getting something which can now cut foam. For those uninitiated CNC stands for Computer Numerically Controlled, which is an elaborate way of saying computer controlled. But, this means that I can now cut foam wing cores to almost any specification, size, dimension, airfoil, camber, include spars, include aileron cuts etc.

Now truth be told, this finally worked for the first time yesterday - Veterans Day, when for the first time a pristine set of wings evolved from a copious amounts of scrap foam. Like all things in life, this is a new learning experi-

ence. But for those of you who wish to try out a side of the sport which is exhilarating, nerve racking and will almost certainly end up with tiny bits of foam scattered far and wide over the field, let me know and we will get a set of high speed wings created to your specs.



Submissions to Prop Kicks

Prop Kicks is a bi-monthly publication of the Cloud Kings RC Club. Your pictures, ideas, articles are needed for publication. Send your submissions to Editor@Cloudkingsrc.org. Please submit your articles and photos in electronic format by e-mail or cd.

Where's Ripmax

The land of milk and honey, apple pie and motherhood, the capitalist centre of the universe, home of the free, the worlds innovators. Are all terms describing the fair land which I now call home. However, on an emergency trip back to my own fair land these past few weeks, to arrange my wedding, (yes I have succumbed). I once again got hold of my old hobby magazine RCM&E- Radio Controlled Modelers and Engineers, a great read, and if anyone wants to borrow a copy, let me know.

But, what stuck me is the sheer amount of diversity of models available, which simply isn't available in this fair land. On flicking through the pages I was struck by a sleek delta model claiming to do in excess of 100MPH it looked nicely finished, sleek lines and excellent reviews and frankly looked like it would be a handful.

So getting back to the states with cash still in my pocket (please don't tell the future wife) I set about buying said lightning bolt. A quick internet search suggested that Tower Hobby held the U.S. distribution rights, so logging on with all speed, already calculating the cost of overnight shipping, I was horrified to learn that Tower no longer sells Ripmax. A quick note to Ripmax confirmed they don't sell in the States. What??? In the land of the capitalist, one can't purchase lightning?

But on further investigation I then found that there are a number of model suppliers/manufacturers from elsewhere in the world, which for some unfathomable reason have elected to bypass the North American market. I have reached out to Ripmax to better understand their intentions, but even with the offer of a healthy helping of apple pie they still are undecided.

Unfortunately, that now means I have to wait, my order has been placed shipped to the UK—the new capital of social progression and open trading with European partners. But it means I now have to wait until I travel back to the UK to get my hands on this beauty.



Drones, Scourge or Savior?

One would have to be deaf, dumb, blind and probably permanently horizontal not to have some knowledge or understanding of the craze sweeping RC.

Drones first started appearing a few years ago, and no self respecting 4 year old would be without at least one drone in their possession, generally helpfully provided by the dotting father who needs nothing more than an excuse to have quality time with their son.

But with news stories about drones invading the Whitehouse, and the alarming regularity of stories of airliners taking evasive action, has for better or worse firmly put RC in the spotlight.



But is all publicity good? One could argue that RC has endured decades of decline, with limited if any real publicity, where once it was a kids dream to fly, it is now a hobby almost exclusively limited to those of us approaching our sunset years. However, with the introduction of drones, this has now changed, almost everyone knows what RC is, a huge proportion of the population owns one. Providing our collective governments (who have been a tad slow in understanding where this is going) a challenge to try to retrospectively regulate. Where once regulation affected just a few thousand, it now affects several million. And then there is that thorny problem, what is a drone anyway?

My personal views are split, I can see both benefits and disadvantages from this influx of new flyers, I like the fact that RC has finally gotten a spotlight, but am concerned



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