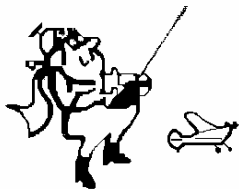


Checkerboard Flyer



**Next Meeting January 21, 1997
Broadview Public Library—6:30 PM**

AMA Charter 864

Officers

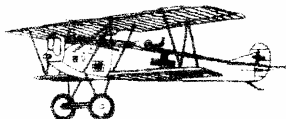
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Checkerboard R/C Club
P.O. Box 6178
Broadview, IL 60163

December Meeting Notes—

President **Joe Rategan** gavelled the December meeting to order at 7:00 PM sharp, but it seemed that everyone was on a sugar high from all the goodies that were brought in by the members for the Christmas party. It took a little while to gain the attention of those in attendance.

The treasurers report was not made due to an unfortunate accident suffered by **Sandy's** son **Mark**. **Mark** broke his leg at school during the afternoon and Sandy spent the better part of the day at the hospital. We understand the priorities.

Joe Rategan read off the list of those who had birthdays in the month of December and each one present was given a free raffle ticket.

Old Business--

The motion to make the Newsletter editors' position a paid position was dropped at the request of the editor.

New Business--

Joe Rategan suggested that since there would be no new or additional expenses anticipated for the coming year the motion to increase the dues for 1997 was also dropped.

Al Wieska sought confirmation on the fact that if dues were postmarked before the first of the new year they would qualify for the \$25 rate rather than the \$30 required after the first. His answer was a definite yes.

Lee Ernest mentioned that in order to keep expenses down a little, it was felt that expenditures for the raffle should be determined by what was collected on the previous months raffle. (There have been quite a few months when we lost money on the raffle.)

After considerable discussion, it was decided that since the present system was not losing an excessive amount of money it should be retained as is.

Al Wieska suggested that it should be mentioned in the newsletter just what the raffle prizes would be for the next meeting. It was agreed that this may stimulate more interest and possibly increase attendance at the meetings.

Lee Ernest suggested the possibility of raising the dues for 1998. **Noah Schaes** made a motion that the dues be raised \$5 for the year 1998. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

(Continued from page 1)

**Happy New Year
To all!**

Calendar of Events

January 21	Regular Meeting
February 18	Regular Meeting
March 18	Regular Meeting
April 15	Regular Meeting
May 20	Regular Meeting
June 17	Regular Meeting
July 15	Regular Meeting
August 19	Regular Meeting
September 16	Regular Meeting
October 21	Regular Meeting
November 18	Regular Meeting
December 9	Christmas Meeting

Fun Fly Dates Will be announced when they are determined.

Think about volunteering to CD one of the events. Many of you must have some great ideas. It's not difficult.

*Fun Fly dates to be announced

(Events at CD's discretion)

Joe Rategan stated that the fee for the use of the library meeting room has been paid for 1997. \$60 per year.

Raffle Winners—

Two of the major raffles were held at the December meeting, and many of those in attendance went home with some very nice prizes. The regular raffle featured the usual prizes in addition to a couple of kits.

George Martin went home with a Thunder Tiger engine and a kit from the year end raffle. That should keep him busy for part of the winter.

The point raffle had to be postponed to the January meeting because of Mark Walts accident.

Get well Mark!

Hope you are feeling a lot better by the time you read this.

Checkerboard R/C Club

Checkerboard Club would like to thank the members and wives who took the time to prepare the goodies for the Christmas Party. They were very good, and much appreciated



New Year Day Breakfast—

The first event of 1997 was well attended with 25 members having breakfast at Mothers Day restaurant. It seemed that everyone was still in the Holiday mood and it was a very nice get together. A little after 11:00 AM the attendees found their way to the the flying field and in spite of a very low ceiling 10 planes were on the line. It looked like it was going to be a close call to see who would be first in the air. **John Walts** started his engine about the time that **Al Wieska** walked to the flight line with his electric powered model. Just as Al was ready to launch he blew a fuse and **John Walts** took off to be the first in the air. **Bob Venable, Howie Venable, John Walts Jr.,** and **Howie Jacklin**, took turns flying John's plane. Incidentally **John Walts** was the last to fly in the old year. About 4:45 New Years eve. Just about dark. **Lee Ernest** was 2nd up, **John Eggum** was number 3. **Gary Parenti** #4, followed by **Harold Parenti. Howie Jacklin** was #6 flying his own plane. Next up was **Charley Thomas** followed by **Jim Ansel. Bill Harlander** was #9 with a shortened flight when his engine quit. **Ed Lipka** was the last heroic flyer to take off. Many thanks to **Lee Ernest** for another great event. You just keep doing it Lee.

New Product Review

How would you like an R/C system that will operate on any of the 50 channels, scan all channels to see that they are clear, will not let you use a channel that is not clear or has interference, will operate in PCM or PPM mode, will accommodate either + or - pulse FM so that you can use any FM receiver, and has all kinds of bells and whistles if you choose to use them. Here is one system that will do it all.

Recently I received the Aristocraft **'Valiant 8 Tracker'** computer radio that I have been waiting for for about 2 1/2 years. It has been a long wait, but it was worth it. I have demonstrated some of the features of the system at the field, and some of you have seen what this system can do. In this limited space I will try to explain a few of the outstanding features.

It is a radio system designed to take the modeler into the 21st Century. The Tracker is capable of meeting any new band width regulations potentially proposed by the F.C.C.. The P.L.L. (Phase Lock Loop) system of generating the frequency allows for super narrow band transmission not possible on other types of radio systems.

Outstanding features are Frequency Synthesizing, Dual rates, Mixes, Mode, Servo direction, Scanning, Fail safe, and extra channels. Since the frequencies are computer generated the system can be purchased to accommodate any frequency available to modelers anywhere in the world.

On the aircraft frequencies, all 50 channels are available.

By plugging the jumper cable supplied with the system into the receiver switch jack and the transmitter, it is possible to change to any frequency desired. The transmitter and receiver are both changed to the selected frequency.

The transmitter may be used to monitor all channels to determine if they are in use. It will also detect 31M interference on any channel. Scanning can be either automatic or manual. As indicated in the name, the radio is capable of 8 channel operation. It operates as a P.C.M. or FM system and will provide a + or - deviation in FM mode.

By using the jumper cable the L.C.D. screen will indicate the receiver battery pack voltage and with the supplied switch and resistor will indicate voltage under load. Six additional channels are available by plugging an optional decoder into the last channel position of the receiver. These 6 channels act as on/off switches.

Specifications:

Transmitter

RF Output 500 MW
Frequencies 26,27,40,41,50,53,60,72,75
Operating system 2 Stick, Mode 1 or 2 (Selectable)
Modulation FM--P.C.M. or P.P.M.
+ or - pulse (Selectable)
Power System 9.6 Volt Nicad 600 Ma
Current drain 220 MA Maximum
Over 2.5 hours operating time

Receiver

Modulation FM with dual conversion PCM and PLL
Frequencies As above
Usable sensitivity 1.8 Microvolts
Current drain 28 MA
Image rejection Better than -60 DB
Adjacent channel rejection Better than -60 +/- 7.5 KHZ
Operating voltage 4.0 -6.5 V
3rd order intercept Better than +0 DBM
Pulse width (servo) 1.5 MS (nominal)
Weight 1.3 OZ

A very impressive system. Market price not available at this time. Next month I'll tell you about an amazing new receiver.

Frequency Report—

I was fortunate, with the help of **Chuck Smith**, to obtain the AMA frequency monitor for December 4th-5th. I was able to check all the frequencies, from channel 11 to 60 on the following dates and times.

December 4, 1996 11:45 - 1:30 PM

December 4, 1996 3:00 - 3:45 PM

December 5, 1996 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Channel 14 had a 45 DB signal generated by a flyer on this channel. (35' away)

Channel 21 showed a 0-3 DB signal on the positive side of the channel. The signal was Narrow and intermittent. This signal would not effect channel 21 or 22.

All other channels were clear of interference.

The Ace MP8000 transmitter and a RCD receiver (on channel 20) mounted in an aircraft had solid control at 600 yds+ with a detected signal of 2 DB.

Jim Petrzelka

—Murphy's Laws On Life—

If you improve or tinker with something long enough, eventually it will break or malfunction..

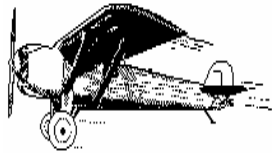
Fly Market

For Sale—

Hirobo .40 size helicopter
assembled, never crashed. \$100

Call Jim Petrzelka (708)656-6759

Support your Local Hobby Shop



Classified Ad Information

All member ads will run for 2 issues unless renewed or notified otherwise.

Ad must be received by the third Tuesday of the month to appear in the following months issue.

Shops and Services

\$3.00 for up to 10 words. \$1.00 for each additional 5 words.

Ad plus payment must be made out to Checkerboard R/C Club, and must be received by the third Tuesday of the month to appear in the following months issue.

Mail to:

James Petrzelka
2400 S. 61 Ct.
Cicero, IL 60650

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Important Warning!

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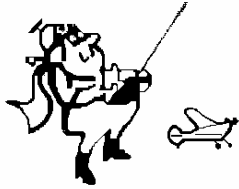
The Checkerboard Flyer

P.O. Box 6178

Broadview, IL 60153

Deliver by 1/17/97

Checkerboard Flyer



**Next Meeting February 18, 1997
Broadview Public Library—6:30 PM**

AMA Charter 864

Officers

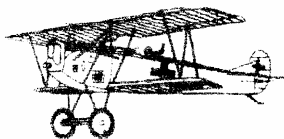
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Checkerboard R/C Club
P.O. Box 6178
Broadview, IL 60163

Meeting Notes----

President **Joe Rategan** gaveled the meeting to order at 7:13 PM, and after everyone settled down Joe announced the names of the members who had birthdays in the month of January. Each was given a free ticket for the raffle. **Sandy Walts** gave a very abbreviated treasurers report which was approved by the membership. New member **Daniel Serwas** was welcomed into the Club. It was announced that the tickets for the year end point raffle (which was postponed from December) would be passed out after the regular raffles were held. (Three raffles this month, **WOW!**)

Old Business:

There was no old business this month.

New Business:

It was noted that our long time member and good friend **Lionel Lusardi** had a stroke during the holidays and is now recuperating. "Our prayers and best wishes are with you Lionel. **See you in June, buddy.**"

Many members who were in attendance went home with some very nice kits and already built models which they won in the point raffle. The points gained are one very good reason to attend meetings and participate in Club activities during the year. We are now at the start of a new year, and a great opportunity to collect a good number of points for the next point raffle. Who knows, you could be a lucky winner. Attend meetings, join in Club activities, and get those points. Join in the fun.

—January Raffle Winner—

Daniel Serwas— Futaba Radio

Dan is a new junior member attending his first meeting

Congratulations Dan!

Calendar of Events

February 18	Regular Meeting
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May 20	Regular Meeting
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Fun Fly Dates Will be announced when they are determined.

Think about volunteering to CD one of the events. Many of you must have some great ideas. It's not difficult.

*Fun Fly dates to be announced

(Events at CD's discretion)

Electric Flight

Just about the time you get the idea that electric flight is pretty safe, read on.— Whether flying full scale or models, we are often reminded of the dangers of even the slightest inattention. We must always think about what might happen. Most accidents, when reviewed after the fact, have a very obvious series of events leading up to the actual accident. If we can break this series of events, we can prevent the accident. A moment to think and look ahead might prevent losing a model or even prevent a serious injury.

A case in point:

Norm had just finished changing the receiver in his motor glider and was performing some normal bench checks. Normally he used his bench vise to hold the model. He could then run the electric motor to check for proper operation or interference. His model had a BEC switching device allowing the motor and receiver to operate off the same set of batteries. This time he decided to check the motor while holding the model on top of a cardboard box. He watched closely as the motor ran down. The BEC worked as it should, shutting down the motor, leaving enough power for the receiver. When the prop stopped Norm turned his back on the glider to attend to other things. Minutes later he was startled to hear the motor start up again. Knowing that his model would slip off

the box and be damaged, he spun around and reached out to catch the model. Instead he reached into the spinning propeller. There was no damage to the plane, but Norm suffered severe cuts to four fingers and his thumb. This accident is an unfortunate example of the "not so obvious" dangers of electric power. With electric power, the motor is a loaded gun as long as it is connected to the battery. In this case the battery seemed to have run down, but after a few moments "rest" it recovered enough power for the BEC to switch the motor back on.

From Skywriter Newsletter, Santa Fe.

NM

— A Reminder —

As of January 1st the dues are \$30 for new or continuing members or contributors.

\$20 for new or continuing junior members (Under 18)

Constitution & By-Laws—As amended
5/14/94

Another Reminder

All members who have had their phone prefix changed from 312 to 773 or any other please let me know so that we can update our roster.

Jim Petrzelka

Murphy's Laws On Life

You can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time and that is sufficient.

New Product Review

Last month I reported on a sensational new R/C system just released by Aristo-Craft / Polk.

It now appears that Aristo -Craft has scooped the R/C industry with their new "Seeker" receiver. To my knowledge it is the first of it's kind on the market; a break-through in receiver technology.

The "Seeker" is a high grade bullet proof FM receiver that will sense the signal from your transmitter and automatically match itself to the frequency from any major brand transmitter on 27, 72, and 75 Mhz. It is also available on 5 meters. It has a feature that optionally allows the use of a separate battery pack to operate the servos. The separation of power sources will eliminate servo jitter and allow for the use of a higher voltage battery pack for the servos. Optional battery packs from 4.8 - 12 volts can be used.

Each "Seeker" receiver has a built in computer that uses the P.L.L. (Phase Lock Loop) synthesized system which very accurately matches your transmitter to the receiver. It will accommodate either a positive or negative pulse from the transmitter. There are never any crystals to change.

Because most radio interference such as selectivity, 3IM, and pager swamping occur in the receiver, the receiver must have narrow band specifications. There are problems with making extremely narrow band receivers because most replacement crystals have more than +/- 10PPM tolerance (+/- 0.7 KHz) which normally requires that the receiver be tuned by the manufacturer. The "Seekers" P.L.L. system locks on to your transmitter with the narrowest of possible settings. (+/- 5PPM on all 50 channels.

The receiver never forgets the last frequency that was set.

You can imagine the benefit this can be to a hobby shop owner, not having to carry 50 crystals for each brand of radio. Setting the frequency is fool proof and fast.

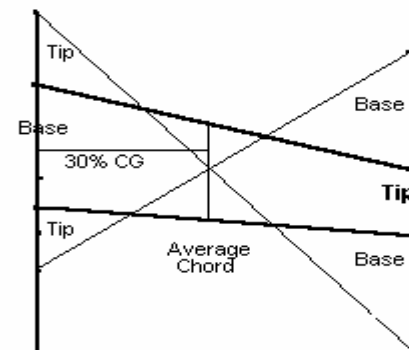
The "Seeker" comes with 3 Elite dual ball bearing servos, a switch harness, and battery pack. Incidentally the Elite servo is one of the best standard servos available.

Jim Petrzelka

One More Time—

For those of us who have a little problem remembering how to determine the CG of your wing, here is a little drawing that may make things a little easier. This rule applies to any shape of wing. Draw 1/2 the wing either full size or scale.

Locate the % of CG that you need along the average chord line from the leading edge of the wing.



Show & Tell—

Bill Harlander showed up with a Chuck Rhodes designed large and very well made low wing model. It is powered by a Zenoah G23 engine, has a 74" wingspan and weighs in at 13 1/2 pounds. Yellow with red trim. Bill built the model from plans and did a very nice job. He said he flew the model between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It was one of those foggy, cold days and Bill says he found ice on the leading edge of the wing when he landed. Nice work Bill.

New member Daniel Serwas showed us his Sig Kadet LT40. It is his first plane, and he built it with the help of Jim & Roger Summers. Good looking model. Dan did not get around to installing the radio which he received for Christmas. He now has 2 radios after winning the Futaba at the January meeting.

Sandy Walts showed us the Easy Fly .40 that Dave Patrick rigged with wing tip lights and flew on NewYears Eve He flew the plane at about 7:30PM, and again around midnight. Sandy said that he flew from the old year into the new. Some trick ! I guess this gives him the title of having the last flight of the year, and the first flight of the New Year.

Fly Market For Sale—

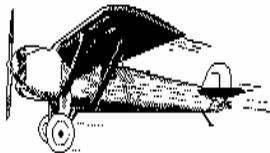
Hirobo .40 size helicopter
assembled, never crashed. \$100

Call Jim Petrzelka (708)656-6759

Goldberg Eagle 2 with Futaba 4 channel radio &
Royal .46 engine. Built & ready to fly.
12V Starter, 12V fuel pump, Field box, Sealing iron,
Heat gun, & miscellaneous equipment.

Call Howard Beerman (708)354-5138

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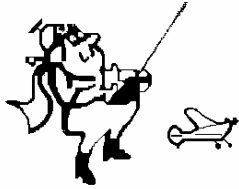
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Deliver by 2/14/97

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**Next Meeting March 18, 1997
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AMA Charter 864

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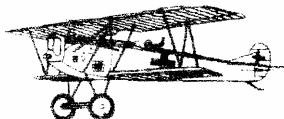
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Checkerboard R/C Club
P.O. Box 6178
Broadview, IL 60163

Meeting Notes

President **Joe Rategan** gaveled the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The treasurers report was read and approved. The report indicated that we are solvent.

The names of those members having birthdays in the month of February was read and each was given a free raffle ticket for the Airtronics radio raffle.

New members **Mathew Walts** and **Kris Kuderna** were introduced to the membership.

Old Business:

Joe Rosenkranz mentioned that the ground will begin to thaw and we should again look into the prospects of getting some new wood chips to spread around the pit area. It seems that last years chips are pretty well degraded and are not doing the job.

John Walts stated that he knew of some good wood chips that were available at no cost. Joe Rategan said that there would be people available to pick up the chips and spread them around where needed. (If you get a call, be ready to give a helping hand.)

New Business:

Jim Petrzelka made a motion that rather than charge by the word to place an ad in the newsletter, a flat \$5.00 rate should be charged for non-members. The motion was approved by the membership. (Member ads are still free.)

Dave Patrick announced that he had purchased a new business (Model Magic) located in Minnesota. They are the producers of adhesives and fillers for the hobby and industry. We thanked him for his donation of some of the products for our raffle. Good luck in your new venture Dave.

Joe Rategan announced that our good friend and member **Lionel Lusardi** is in rehabilitation and is coming along. He requests no visitors and any cards or letters should be sent to his home. (We are all pulling for you buddy. See ya in June.)

—Raffle Winner—

Airtronics Radio—Henry Napierkowski

Congratulations

Calendar of Events

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Think about volunteering to CD one of the events. Many of you must have some great ideas. It's not difficult.

*Fun Fly dates to be announced

(Events at CD's discretion)

NOTICE

Please have your dues for 1997 paid as early as possible. A new roster will be issued after the April meeting. Don't miss out on the fun for the coming year.

Show & Tell

Gregg Meyer

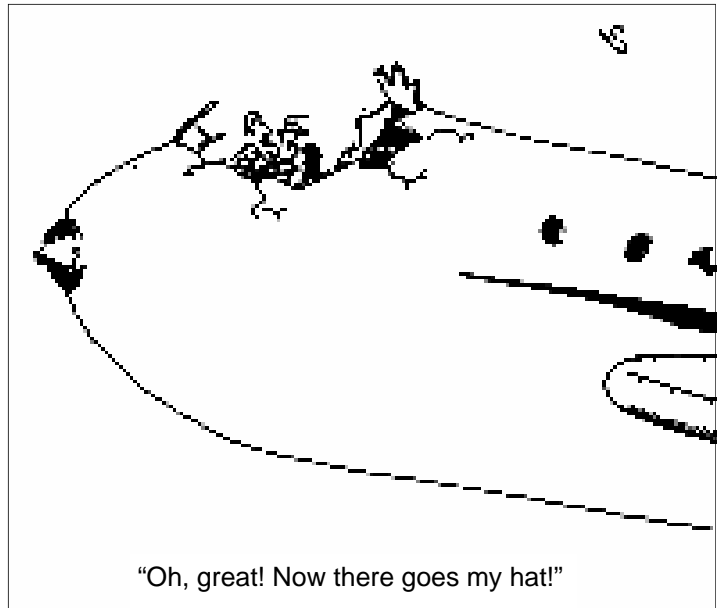
A very nice Great Planes Ultra sport .60 covered in Yellow with red trim. The model is powered with a Thunder Tiger .60 engine. Gregg says he was very happy with another Thunder Tiger engine and he hopes the .60 will do as well.

Harold Parenti

A Delta ducted fan based on the Holy Smoke. The model was built about 1988 and flown with another type of ducted fan. Harold is now researching a new type of ducted fan in the model. It is covered in red, white, and gray monokote and weighs about 6 pounds. The story about this delta is that when first flown with a ducted fan the model wanted to fly inverted at all times. Harold corrected the problem by cutting an intake hole for the fan in the bottom of the model.

Gary Parenti

It looks like Gary is getting into pattern flying. He showed us a Trion, a 70's aircraft which was flown by Jimmy Greer at that time. It is colored red, white, and blue, has retract and weighs about 8 1/2 pounds. He is using an OS .61 engine with a pump to power the model. A very nice looking model.



Lee Ernest

Lee just finished a Global Raven. It is a profile aircraft powered by a Super Tiger .45 engine. The model is colored red with black markings. The radio, servos, battery, and tank are all mounted inside the wing. You did a nice job Lee. Lee says he built the model because he was tired of seeing John Walts take all the fun fly events with his fun fly aircraft. Now if he can fly as well as John, he should do very well. Right, Lee?

Charlie Thomas

A very nice looking Global Skyraider finished in gray monokote with black markings and weighs about 8 pounds. Charlie powered the model with an OS .61 long stroke engine. He says he picked up the kit about 2 years ago at a swap and finally got around to building it. A really great looking model, Charlie.

Continued on page 3

Murphy's Laws On Life

Leftover nuts never match leftover bolts.

For all those born before 1945---

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, frisbees, and the PILL. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens. Before panty hose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes--and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. In our time closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Bunnies were small rabbits, and rabbits were not Volkswagens.

We thought fast food was what you ate during lent. We were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electronic typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, floppy disks, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us, timesharing meant togetherness--not computers and condominiums. Hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

Back then, "Made in Japan" meant junk. Back then Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. We were in a time when there were 5 and 10 cent stores, were you bought things for 5 and 10 cents. For one nickel, you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and 2 postcards. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$500---but who could afford one? A pity too, because gas was 11 cents a gallon!

In our day, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink, and POT was something you cooked in. AIDS were volunteers at the local hospital. We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change. We made do with what we had, and we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think that you needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today.

But WE SURVIVED!!! What better reason

to celebrate.

(Show & Tell continued)

Kris Kudrna

Kris is a new junior member and he says he is going to learn to fly on the Cierra ARF. It looks like a great trainer with an K&B Sportster .45 diesel on the front for power. Good luck Kris. Hope to see you flying solo by the end of this summer.

Dave Patrick

This is one big Cub. It is a 1/3 scale Balsa USA Cub on Edo floats powered by a Saito 325 radial engine. The model has a 12' wingspan and weighs about 35 pounds. The model is finished in conventional Cub yellow with black markings. It took 2 strong people to guide it into the building. The engine is not scale, but was chosen because it has very little vibration when running. The model will be used in the making of a movie called "Book of Swords". Although the model will not be seen in the movie, a camera will be mounted on the wing and Dave will fly it in over Lake Michigan at night to show an approaching view of the city. Dave said that a couple of attempts had been made using a full size helicopter to film the scene, but were not satisfactory. Good luck, Dave.

INiCad Batteries---

Well, Here is another version of how to maintain your NiCad batteries. This one comes from Stu Richmond In an article in R/C Modeler. He says:

The care and feeding of NiCad batteries is filled with old wives tales about memory, reversed polarity, trickle charging and other battery baloney. The truth is the more our NiCads get used, the happier they are. Many of us use Sanyo cells and my greatest source of reliable data is the Sanyo Engineering Handbook and the Sanyo Technical support people. I have a letter from Sanyo saying that well cared for and fed batteries can be expected to live as long as 7 years. When I get a new pack, I put the date on it and I put a 5 year hence discard date on it too. This is safe for me: it has never failed me. I use a peak detection charger (Hitec's CG-325) that charges my transmitter in 15 to 25 minutes; it charges my airborne in 10 to 20 minutes and the cells feel slightly warm at charge conclusion. The handbook says this is the most ideal charging condition. When I put a model and transmitter away for a month or more, I turn on both and allow them to fully discharge for a day or two, then I shut off the switches and forget about the batteries. The handbook says that they store best that way. Fully discharged. There you have it, another opinion.

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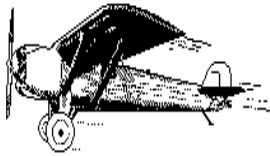
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Frequency Policy

1. Owners of transmitters bearing RCMA/AMA gold stickers denoting narrow band capability may operate on any of the odd or even numbered channels and will display a single-channel blocking clothes pin on the frequency bar of the impound rack when their transmitters are in their possession.
2. Owners of transmitters bearing RCMA/AMA silver stickers denoting wide band capability will operate on even numbered channels only and will display a wide clothes pin blocking their channel and each adjacent channel when their transmitters are in their possession.
3. Members will not operate non-RCMA/AMA transmitters.
4. If you have narrow band equipment, please refrain from using a wide blocking clothes pin to add a buffer between you and adjacent channels. If your equipment has true narrow band capability, it will operate reliably in the presence of adjacent channels.
5. In the interest of safety and responsibility, all those who are not narrow band equipped should convert or re-equip to narrow band standards without delay.
6. Owners of synthesized (selectable channels) radios will have properly marked pins and antenna flags for all channels they intend to fly on.

Important Warning!

October 25, 1994 monitoring confirms a significant level of PRS interference on channel 41, 42, 44 at Miller Meadow. These three channels should be considered unusable.

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