



Issue # 1

Belleville RC Flyer's Newsletter

January 2012

January Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Fannin at 7:07 pm, on the second Tuesday of the month at Eckert's Restaurant. There were 16 members and guests present. The President called for a motion to accept the minutes of the October meeting as outlined in the November Newsletter. The motion was seconded and passed by the membership.

Club Operation Reports

TREASURER: Club Treasurer Ted Ellicott reported on the Club's financial status over the November and December operational period. Currently we have 68 active dues paying members. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report and it was passed as read by those in attendance.

FIELD MAINTENANCE: Currently, the Field is in good condition. John Burnworth reported that some items were removed from the Club's flight shed by some unwanted guests but no real damage was done. The temporary fence proposed for the north end of the field to prevent wheeled vagrants from coming onto the property has not been put up but the consensus is that at this point in the year, it is probably no longer necessary. Next on the maintenance agenda is to organize a field clean-up day for this spring.

SAFETY: Safety Officer Marcus Robinson reported that during this winter season while there is little flying being done...this is the time to check your RC aircraft's flight batteries and also the connecting wires for corrosion and loose solder joints. Old and weak batteries are one of the major causes for crashes in RC aircraft.

TRAINING: We have several new members that have joined the Club to learn RC flying from the ground up. They want to know...besides an appropriate aircraft, what type of support equipment they will need to learn and become proficient in the RC hobby. Dave Fannin, one of the Club's instructors, explained that he always has a "buddy-box" available when he is out at the Flight field.

Another one of our instructors, Larry Dawson, mentioned that as a result of his recent accident and prolonged recovery he probably won't be able, for the time being, to continue with his duties as an instructor. We hope, for his sake and the Club's that he will have a speedy recovery and be able to rejoin us in our Club's RC activities.

WEB PAGE: Our Web Master, Bill Eischeid discussed his efforts to keep our Web Page new and fresh with the latest Club and RC activities. Any positive suggestions are always welcomed.

OLD BUSINESS: Activities surrounding our forthcoming annual swap meet which will be held at the Queen of Peace school gym on the 18th of February are as follows: John Burnworth has secured the site with school officials and Treasurer Ellicott will write him a check to pay their use fee. There has already been five vendors who have committed to buying tables for the event. Our ad for the meet has been published in AMA's magazine and will also appear in the February issue. Dave Fannin and Gary Luttrell will secure an RC model for the event's raffle. Gary asked for volunteers to help him out with the raffle so that they can secure as many raffle ticket buyers as possible. Set-up for the event will be the night before unless the school has scheduled a sports activity for the gym. We will have the gym for a brief period to fly micro helicopters and indoor appropriate micro aircraft before table set-up.

NEW BUSINESS: One of our new members, Brad Fluman asked if we have access to an indoor flying site. He explained to the gathered membership his experience with other clubs and their indoor flying programs which turn out to be money makers for their club. Everyone agreed that this would be a worthwhile activity for our club and will be explored.

NEW MEMBERS: The following new members were inducted into our "Belleville RC Flyers Club"... Andy Adrian, Bradley Fluman, William Glenn, Mike Mawson and John McCallister. The vote to accept the new members was unanimously in favor and we hope that each new member will have good success with the RC hobby and a great dose of fellowship with existing members. Congratulations in joining-in on a wonderful hobby.

ATTENDANCE PRIZE: The "50-50 prize" for this January meeting went to Ralph Miller and John Burnworth. Enjoy it Ralph, 'cause winning lotteries "ain't" your strong suit!

NEXT MEETING: Because of the Valentine's Day conflict, the next Club meeting will be held on the 7th of February...the 1st Tuesday of February at Eckert's Restaurant at 7 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:32 pm.

Club Officers

President: Dave Fannin
Vice President: Jerry Nevenner
Secretary: Ralph Miller
Treasurer: Ted Ellicott
Safety: Marcus Robinson

INSTRUCTORS

DAN ARENS 444-8063
LARRY DAWSON 233-5484
DAVE FANNIN 401-2450
MARCUS ROBINSON 310-4088
RAY TELICZAN 476-1131

FAA vs AMA

The following is an excerpt from an article written by Kris Krasnosky warning his fellow EAA members about the dangerous situation that is about to befall the AMA and its ability to promote and support the RC model hobby. I have put the final paragraph of the regulation in red because if enforced it would have a severe impact on our club's ability to operate.

New FAA restrictions on model aircraft by Kris Krasnosky, EAA Member

Model aircraft have been generating interest and technological advances in aviation for years now. So, as an Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) member, I would like to bring this topic to the attention of the EAA and its membership. The FAA created the Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) in 2008. The ARC is now drafting new regulations for small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) which, for now, includes model aircraft. I believe the damage that will be done to model aviation should these rules be enacted will have a significant impact on general aviation.

The regulations, as they currently stand, for model aircraft are summarized as follows:

- **ALTITUDE:** As proposed, the rule would impose a nationwide altitude ceiling of 400 feet. AMA recognizes the need for altitude limitations when model aircraft are operated in close proximity to airports, and this concept is supported in AMA's current Safety Code. However, a nationwide altitude ceiling for model aircraft is impractical, unnecessary, unrealistic and unenforceable through any reasonable means of compliance and detection.
- **SPEED:** It is likely that the rule will attempt to limit model aircraft performance by establishing a set speed limit such as 100 mph. Imposing such a speed limit will have little to no effect on aircraft performance and is both undetectable and unenforceable through any practical, cost-effective means.
- **WEIGHT:** As proposed, the sUAS rule will limit small unmanned aircraft to 55 pounds or less, and the implication for AMA's Large Model Aircraft Program has not yet been determined. Without an acceptable standard or an alternative means of compliance, this rule may well curtail a vital element of the modeling activity that drives creativity, innovation and technological development.
- **TURBINE BAN:** The blanket prohibition of gas turbine engines suggested in the ARC recommendations does not consider the wide range of products currently in the marketplace. The inclusion of this prohibition in the proposed rule will impose a significant and unjustified economic impact on the industry.
- **AIRPORT PROXIMITY:** It is understood that the FAA is considering going outside the ARC's recommendation and extending the "area of concern" around the nation's 19,760 airports beyond the current 3-mile radius that has been the standard for more than 29 years. The intent to extend this radius has absolutely no statistical basis, has no supporting data and has no accident or incident correlation. Doing so would exponentially impact the number of existing flying sites affected by the rule. Extending the radius by as little as 2 miles (to 5 miles) would nearly triple the area of concern and create more than 1,784,000 square miles in which "no fly without permission" restrictions would be imposed.

The link listed will give you the latest info on the battle that is looming over FAA's attempt to regulate the operation of model RC aircraft. It is a two part video produced by the AMA from a conference they held with FAA representatives to find out what the FAA had in store for their forthcoming regulation of the hobby. From my point of view, little was learned from this effort but everyone who loves this hobby should follow the developments closely and not be afraid to write their Congress reps to support their interests and those of the RC hobby industry.
R. Miller [Editor].

Click on the link listed below:

<http://www.modelaircraft.org/amatv.aspx>

...is the monthly newsletter of the Belleville RC Flyers. It is published to keep the club members informed of club activities. Materials for publication should be submitted to the editorial staff. Club meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. In Summer, May through September, the meetings are held at the flying field. From October through April the meetings are held at a local Restaurant. The standard meeting time is 7 pm. The flying field is located on Rentchler Road 1/2 mile South of Rte's 177 and 158, half way between Belleville and Mascoutah. Visitors and spectators are always welcome and Club membership is open to all. Yearly dues are \$36.00 and there is an initiation fee of \$15.00 Academy of Model aeronautics membership is also required.