



The R/C Flyer

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May 2003

Next Meeting – May 8, 2003 at 7:00pm - Clear Lake Park Bldg.

April 2003 Meeting Minutes

By: Mike Goza, JSCRCC Secretary

The Meeting started at 7:06pm 4/10/2003

Old Business:

Field cleanup moved to after May meeting on Saturday 5/10/2003.

Asphalt filler, paint machine, and paint will be taken care of before the meeting and 5 5-gallon water jugs will be purchased to replace the ones currently at the field.

New Business:

Need more input for newsletter. Articles have dried up considerably over the past few months.

US FIRST robotics competition is going on this weekend. It is at Reliant Stadium and is free to the public.

Model of the Month (MOM):

Ken Juneau won MOM with a scratch built low combat plane made from plastic downspout material, corrugated plastic surfaces and foam insulation for the wing. It uses a .30-size motor for power.



Ken with his April MOM

Terry brought another foam glider creation using twin electric motors. He kit bashed it to create a C-47 (military DC-3) stand way off scale model. Very creative.



Entertainment:

James Hornsby brought Styrofoam plates to make planes with and hold an impromptu distance competition. The plans were taken from the latest Model Aviation magazine. Taz won the competition. *(Editor: Sorry Taz, your picture didn't come out. Actually all the photos I took at the club meeting are of poor quality due to weak camera battery. Taz, hope your camera is ready for the next meeting!).*



Holley with her Styrofoam plane

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm

FLOAT FUN!

By: Herman Burton

A small flotilla of float planes was launched in late March onto Taylor Lake in northwest Seabrook. Club members and other float plane pilots were invited to come over, enjoy coffee, and watch the planes as they flew over the still water of the lake.



Don White attended in anticipation of the completion of his own float plane he received as a kit at Christmas time. Don Fisher brought his .32 powered float plane, recently acquired "for free", he says. Herman had 2 planes, a Sig LT-40 trainer and his 1/4 scale Piper Cub.

Don first tried his .32 powered plane, but after several long runs on the water, could not quite get his plane airborne. The thought was insufficient elevator throw, so he brought it back to shore for adjustments. While he was making adjustments, Herman put his LT-40 into the water and taxied off toward deeper water. After making a few short runs to check the operation of the water-rudder, he took off. The plane has a "dorsal fin" under the rudder, and this feature provides exceptional lateral stability. The plane lifted off smoothly, and flew several times around the lake before attempting to land. The wind was from the east, and Herman had to come straight toward shore to land into the wind. The plane is a trainer, and of course glides on its huge wing area. He finally had to put it down hard, since the shore was approaching quickly. The plane bounced back into the air, but fortunately came down squarely for a "dry" landing.

Don now had adjusted his elevator, and put his plane into the water. He taxied out from shore, and applied full throttle. The plane accelerated, but never would (could?) get airborne until it was about 200 yards from shore. At that point it tried to get airborne, but winged over and hit the starboard wingtip, nosing over into the lake. GLUB! GLUB!! Herman and Don White took off in the chase boat, retrieved the plane, and brought it back to shore. An inspection revealed one float had been ripped off in the crash, so Don was through for the day.

Prior to Herman's second flight, a mechanical malfunction occurred with the elevator servo. It turned out water was entering the fuselage at the wing saddle, so now this plane, too, was finished for the day. The 1/4 scale Cub was put into the water next, and taxied around to check out its baptism on floats. Being powered with a 1.60 four-stroke, it has ample power, even on water. However, the wind was a little more than Herman wanted to cope with and decided to wait for another day to get airborne for the first time from water.



Herman's beautiful Piper Cub

Everyone had fun. Flying from water is certainly a lot different than land takeoffs. At the next float fun fly, hopefully other members will be able to attend and enjoy the fun and camaraderie.

From the Internet: The Horror of Blimps

By: Troy Whitehurst

Last week while traveling I stopped at a Zany Brainy store and saw that they had a blimp for sale. It's called Airship Earth, and it's a great big balloon with a map of the Earth on it, and two propellers hanging from the bottom. You blow up the balloon with helium put batteries in it, and you have a radio control indoor blimp.

I'd seen these things for sale in Sharper Image catalogs for \$60-\$75. At Zany Brainy it was on clearance for \$15. What a deal!

Last night my wife was playing tennis and it was just my daughter and I at home. I bought a small helium tank from a party store, and last night we put the blimp together. Let me tell you, it's quite a blimp. It's huge. The balloon is like 3 ft in diameter.

We blew it up with the tank attached the gondola with the propellers, and put in batteries. Then we balanced the blimp for neutral buoyancy with this putty that came with it, so it hangs in the air by itself neither rising nor falling. It was easy and fun, and then I blew up another balloon and made Mickey Mouse helium voices for my daughter.

My three year old girl loved it. We flew the blimp all over the house, terrorized the dog, attacked the fish tank, and the controls were so easy my daughter could fly it.

Let's face it, blimps are fun.

Alas, the fun had to end and my daughter had to go to sleep. I left the blimp floating in my office downstairs, my wife came home, and we went to bed, and slept the sleep of the righteous.

At this point it is important to know that my house has central heating. I have it configured to blow hot air out on the ground floor and take it in at the second floor to take advantage of the fact that heat rises.

The blimp, which was up until this moment a fun toy, here embarked on a career of evil. Using the artificial convection of my central heating, the blimp stealthily departed my office. It moved silently through the living room and drifted to the staircase. Gliding wraithlike over the staircase it then entered the bedroom where my wife and I lay sleeping peacefully.

Running silently, and gliding six feet or so above the ground on invisible and tiny air currents it approached the bed. In spite of its noiseless passage, or perhaps because of it, I awoke. That doesn't really say it properly. Let me try again. I awoke, the way you awake at 2:00 AM when your sleeping senses suddenly tell you without reason that the forces of evil on converging on you.

That still doesn't do it. Let me try one more time.

I awoke the way you awake when you suddenly know that there is a large levitating sinister presence hovering towards you with menacing intent through the malignant darkness. Now sometimes I do wake up in the middle of the night thinking that there are large sinister and menacing things floating out of the darkness to do me and mine evil. Usually I open my eyes, look and listen carefully, decide it was a false alarm, and go back to sleep. So, the fact that I awoke in such a manner was not all that unusual.

On this occasion I awoke to the sense that there was a large menacing presence approaching me silently out of the gloom, so I opened my eyes, and there it was! A LARGE SILENT MENACING PRESENCE WAS APPROACHING ME OUT OF THE GLOOM, AND IT COULD FLY!!!

Somewhere in the control room of my mind a fat little dwarf in a security outfit was paging through a Penthouse while smoking a cigar with his feet up on the table, watching the security monitors of my brain with his peripheral vision. Suddenly he saw the LARGE SILENT SINISTER MENACING FLOATING PRESENCE coming at me, and he pulled every panic switch and hit every alarm that my body has. A full decade's allotment of adrenaline was dumped into my bloodstream all at once. My metabolism

went from "restful sleep mode" to HOLY ----! FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE OR DIE!!!! mode" in a nanosecond. My heart went from twenty something beats per minute to about 240 even faster.

I always knew this was going to happen. I always knew that skepticism and science were mere psychological decorations and vanities. Deep in our alligator brains we all know that the world is just chock full of evil and monsters and sinister forces aligned against us, and it is only a matter of time until they show up. Evolution knows this, too. It knows what to do when the silent terror comes at you from out of the dark.

When 50 million years worth of evolutionary survival instinct hits you all at once flat in the gut at 200 mph it is not a pleasant sensation.

Without volition I screamed my battle cry (which is indistinguishable to the sound a little girl makes when you drop a spider down her dress (not that I'd know what that sounds like) and leapt out of bed in my underwear.

I struck the approaching menace with all my strength and almost fell over at the total lack of resistance that a helium balloon offers when you punch the living ---- out of it with all the strength that sudden middle of the night terror produces. Its trajectory took it straight into the ceiling fan which whipped it about the room at terrifying velocity.

Seeking a weapon, I ripped the alarm clock out of its plug and hurled it at the now High Velocity Menacing presence (breaking the clock and putting a nice hole in the wall.)

Somehow at this moment I suddenly realized that I was fighting the blimp, and not a monster. It might have been funny if I didn't truly and actually feel like I was having a legitimate heart attack.

On quivering legs I went to the bathroom and literally gagged into the toilet while shaking uncontrollably with the shock of the reaction I'd had.

Unbelievably, both my wife and daughter had completely slept through the incident. When I decided that I wasn't having a heart attack after all I went back into the bedroom and found the blimp which had somehow survived the incident. I took it to the walk in closet and released it inside where it floated around with the air currents released from the vents in there. I closed the door, this sealing it in, and went back to bed. About 500 years later I fell asleep.

At about 7 am my wife awoke. She had been playing tennis and wasn't aware that we had assembled the blimp the previous evening, and that it is now floating around the walk-in closet that she approached.

The dynamics between the existing air currents of the closet and the suction caused by opening the door was just enough to give the blimp the appearance of an Evil Sinister Menace flying straight towards her.

This time the blimp did not survive the encounter, nor almost, did I, as I had to explain to my very angry spouse what motivated me to hide an evil lurking presence in the closet for her to find at 7 am.

I can order replacement balloons on the internet but I don't think I will. Some blimps are better off dead.

Did You Know

That you can plug your receiver battery into any of the channel slots in the receiver and even through a Y harness with any of the servos? (Courtesy of Tower Hobbies Technical Tips).

Club Shirts and Hats for Sale

By: Holly Boyle

The club still has some club hats and shirts for sale so get one before they run out. Hats are \$10, T-shirts are \$15, blue golf shirt \$26 and with a pocket \$31. All items are available at the club meetings.

For Sale

Tower Hobbies Extra Special for .40 glow or 10-cell electric. Less than 10 flights, never crashed. Covered in transparent yellow, green and blue covering. Built light and straight. \$50 w/o radio gear or motor.



Contact: Terry Dunn (281)990-0564, mopar66@ev1.net

Upcoming Events

By: *Editor*

5/02-04/03 : Houston F2D World Cup for 330, 331 (JSO) sponsored by Proptwisters of Houston. Site is Scobee field; contact Pat Willcox (CD) at 281-358-1750.

5/17-18/03 : RC Pylon Racing for 442, 424, 428 (JSO) at Scobee Field sponsored by Bayou City Flyers. Contact Steve Baggett CD, at 979-793-5215.

5/17/03-Hockley, TX 3d Annual All Purpose Fly In. Contact Stuart Rush (CD) at 281-7879567. Sponsored by NW Houston RC.

5/24/03 : Deer Park BPAC Inaugural Warbird Fly In sponsored by Bayport Aero Club. Contact Paul Curry, CD, at 281-487-3749 for more information.

5/24-25/03 : Texas State Championships for 309, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 328,329,330,331(JSO) at Scobee Field. Contact Richard Stubblefield CD, at 781-358-3522 for more information.

5/24-26/03 : Deep South Soaring Championships for 441,444, 460(o) at Shulman Sod Farm. Contact Don Cleveland CD, at 281-852-2450.

6/07-08/03 : Bomber Field Annual Warbird Event, Monaville, TX. Contact Nick Stratos CD, at 281-471-6762.

6/14/03 : Alvin TX 2nd Annual Big Bird Fly In. Contact Fred Daniels CD at 281-4888371 for more information. Sponsored by Alvin RC Modelers Assn.

6/21/03 : Braden Clough Big Bird Fly In sponsored by Texas City RC Club. Contact Phillip Poffenbarger CD, at 281-337-5344.

7/5-6/03 : Propnuts Annual July 4th Big Bird event in Crosby TX. Contact Lloyd Sullivan CD, at 281-998-3377. Sponsored by Propnuts RC Club.

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The R/C Flyer

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