



HI-SKY R/C FLYER

September 2005

Volume 34 Issue 9

President: Gene Laughlin
Vice President: Jim Ruple
AMA Charter Club #851

Treasurer: Ed Anderson
Secretary: Jim Tartt
www.hiskyrc.com

September Meeting:

The September 2005 meeting will be at the field starting at 7:00 PM on Tuesday Sept 6.

We will have field cleanup starting at 6:00 PM before the meeting. We have a great crop of weeds that have come up since the rain. Please come early and help out. We want the area to look nice for the Callin' of the Hogs fly-in.

Minutes of the Hi-Sky R/C Club August 2, 2005

The President called the August 2005, meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Midland Club Flying Field. Eighteen (18) members were present.

The minutes were approved as read.

Guest: Steve Tift

Field Report: Bruce Hoover said the field needs mowing and trimming.

Safety Report: No report

Activity: Jim Ruple said the next activity is the Callin' of the Hogs, September 10th. The fly-in will include all types of aircraft along with the Hogs.

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 August Minutes
- 1 Li Po safety notice
- 2 Picked up Passing by
- 2 Needle valve adjustment
- 3 From the Robbins Nest

Li-Po Batteries SAFETY NOTICE

There has been a fire in Midland caused by a Lithium Polymer battery. There will be more reported about this at the club meeting Tuesday September 6. These batteries should be charged and stored in a fire proof container such as an ammo box, ceramic container, or other fire proof container. Do not charge Li Pos in your airplane, in your car, or sitting on your wood workbench. Do not leave them unattended and go in the house for a long time. These are not like your nicad or nimh batteries. With our charging systems Li Po or Li Ion can not be left on charge overnight as nicads can. Any battery regardless of chemistry may be subject to abuse and burn. The only thing to do is to charge the packs in such a way that, if they do ignite, no harm is done to model, car, or home. Be sure to use a charger that is designed for these batteries!



Charge box for Li Po batteries.

The above picture is an example of a charge/storage box for lithium polymer batteries. It can be made for about \$15.00 to \$20.00 if you have to buy everything. It is a metal tool box that is lined with one half inch sheetrock. The number of bays may be varied according to your need. A 0.50 caliber metal ammo box could be used instead of the tool box. The sheetrock does an excellent job of containing a fire.

I will not attempt to discuss the chemistry or other details about any batteries in this article. It is beyond the scope of this "class". But it is a simple matter to

continued on page 3

Old Business: Jim Ruple said the City of Midland has approved funds to build the new R C Flying site at the city's old Cole Park. The runways have been surveyed and are ready to be developed.

New Business: Jim Ruple encouraged flying at the new electric flying site at C. J. Kelly Park in Midland. The City has given the club all rights to the flying site and regulation responsibility therein. Dennis Robbins reported that the July 10th & 11th Electric Fly-in Swap meet was a great success. Approximately three hundred visitors were at the Fly-in along with several pilots from other cities.

Show and Tell: Bill Coombes showed his Wattage PT 19 electric plane. It will be flown with a 370 electric motor and has a 32" wingspan. Dennis Robbins gave instructions on tape hinging control surfaces.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Callin' of the Hogs - September 10th

Picked Up Passing by

By Henry Smith

We had a good representation at the Odessa Big Bird Fly in. I saw A. J. Lee, Mike Chase, Rick Strange, Jon Wheeler, Tony Lara, Jim Tartt, Jim Ruple, Bruce Hoover, and Gene Laughlin in attendance. I hope I did not miss anyone. I was there on Saturday before the flood in Midland on Sunday. One of the big highlights of the day was seeing two B-17 models and a B-24 model all flying at the same time. That was impressive.

We have our annual Callin' of the Hogs September 10. That is the Saturday after our meeting. Clean the dirt off the old Hog (Astro type), make sure the engine will run, make a check on all functions and give it a test flight. Most of us have not flown our Astro Hog since last year. Mine has required some "adjustments".



The Astro Hog was originally designed by Fred Dunn about 1957. He went on to win the 1958 Nats with it. In fact it took the four places at the 1958 Nationals. I am told it was the first low wing airplane model to successfully utilize ailerons. The original Hog was a tail dragger. It was originally kitted by Berkeley. When Berkeley went bankrupt in the early 1960s SIG bought the rights to all their kits. SIG updated and re-released the Astro Hog in November 1983. Their plan shows both tricycle and tail dragger versions.

SIG states in their advertising that the Hog is not competitive with today's high-tech pattern ships. But it does offer today's sport flier amazing aerobatic performances in a stable, easy to fly model. It will perform most of the maneuvers, yet it will fly slow enough to let you enjoy it. "Nothing flies like a Hog."

I appreciate everyone who has contributed in some way to this newsletter. It helps to have someone who can write a short article on any subject that is of interest to our club. Thanks to everyone.

The subject of radio control modeling is diverse and expanding. We have experts on a lot of subjects. I would like to have someone write an article on converting a glow engine plane to electric. How about someone writing an article that would clear up some of the confusion on the electric motors terminology. How do I compare X companies motors to Y motors? I was looking in several magazines recently and trying to compare motors and just became more confused. With glow or gas engines I can have a fair idea what will fit what model. An O. S. 0.61 engine and a MDS 0.68 engine will both fly my Great Planes Big Stick 60. But, if I want to re-power my Gypsy from a brushed motor to a brushless motor what do I choose? If I buy the new electric Chipmunk that Carl Goldberg has on the market, what motor??? Some of you may think this is elementary, but it is not to some of us.

Needle Valve Adjustment

First close the needle valve until it just stops. Do not go any more or you may damage the valve seat. Then, open the suggested number of turns. If you don't have the instructions, try about 3 turns. Either way this is only a starting point because all engines will run with different settings. Next start the engine and allow it to warm up. When the engine has warmed up, we will do the "pinch test". THIS IS TO BE DONE STANDING BEHIND THE ENGINE and PROPELLER!! The "pinch test" is done by briefly pinching the fuel tubing and then releasing it. When correctly done, the engine will respond in one of three ways.

1. If the engine speeds up during the pinch and richens after the release, the rich mixture can be leaned a bit.
2. If the engine speeds up during the pinch and continues to run at a higher RPM, The mixture is about right. You may run the engine at this point (this is where I like to run my engines). You may also lean the mixture a little more.
3. If the engine does not speed up during the pinch and continues to run the same after the release, it is running at its maximum practical RPM.

There is one other response to the pinch test. If the engine speeds up and suddenly dies or suddenly dies, the needle valve is set too lean and must be opened still more.

The low speed adjustment is done the same way. The glow plug should be good and the fuel should be fresh. You may have to adjust both high and low "ends" several times to get it right. Then hold the model vertical to see if the engine will still run without failing. This simulates a vertical climb. NEVER MAKE ENGINE ADJUSTMENTS STANDING IN FRONT OF THE PROPELLER!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TEXOMA R/C MODELERS IMAC CHALLENGE

SHERMAN'S PETE DARTER RC FLYING FIELD

SEPT 3& SEPT 4, 2005

CALLIN' OF THE HOGS

MIDLAND CLUB FIELD

SEPT 10, 2005

COWTOWN IMAC CHALLENGE

BENBROOK LAKE

SEPT 17 & SEPT 18, 2005

Big Spring Float Fly in

Comanche Trail Lake

Sept 17 & Sept 18, 2005

Model Airplane Drivers Society Fall Fly-In

Clovis, NM Club field

September 24, 2005

Cloud Duster Fly In

HIAP (Hobbs, NM)

October 1, 2005

San Angelo Fun Fly

San Angelo Club Field

October 15 & October 16, 2005

Halloween Fun Fly

Alamogordo, NM RC Club Field

October 29, 2005

Basic Flying Rules:

Try to stay in the middle of the air. Do not go near the edges of it. The edges of the air can be recognized by the appearance of ground, buildings, sea or water, trees and interstellar space. It is much more difficult to fly there!

Thought for the month:

We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing.

Think it Over:

There are more airplanes in the ocean than there are submarines in the sky.

operate safely. You should not smoke while handling an open can of fuel. You should keep your hand out of the prop. Don't whittle toward yourself. And don't fly while drinking. And please observe these warnings about Li Po batteries. Remember that safety is a matter of discipline.

More information on lithium polymer batteries may be found at www.fmadirect.com under the support section the Kokam battery systems Application note #2. There are other good sites with good information about these batteries.

From the Robbins Nest:

LET ME GUESS YOUR FREQUENCY CHANNEL!:

Park flyers have added a new dimension to remote control aircraft. The small, inexpensive park flyer has allowed many more folks to join the fun of model aviation. This is good, and bad. It's good, because we are seeing R/C enjoying growth like never before. I have met lots of people around town who for the first time are getting into remote control aircraft. They often fly at schools, parks, or in their front yard, and probably don't even know there is a club here in town called the Hi-Sky R/C club.

These folks don't realize the possible consequences of turning on a transmitter, and sending their neighbors plane spiraling into the ground. This is usually bad, especially if it's your plane doing the nose dive!

So what are we to do to insure that someone down the street or across the park isn't on our channel? Let me introduce you to a small, inexpensive handheld device made by Hobbico.

To avoid the above described situations, I broke down and purchased the *Hobbico Frequency Scanner* for \$49.95 (Actually, a friend has one, so maybe I'm just keeping up with the Jones!) This thing is pretty amazing. You turn it on, and it goes through all 72mHz frequencies in about 15 seconds. When it hits a channel in use, a small LED comes on, and stays on. A separate LED is used for each channel, with the corresponding channel number beside each, so it is easy to tell which channels are in use.

An external antenna can be purchased separately, which increases the range to 1000 feet. (The unit only is good to about 300 feet without it.) Remember, this is line of sight on the ground, and you could be hit by a transmitter the frequency checker did not pick up once you are in the air.

Another possible scenario is that you use the checker,

Continue on page 4

Tools for Beginners

From the Sierra Flyers, Marysville CA
Jim Kitchen, editor

A beginner does not need a lot of fancy tools to do a good job. However, there are a few inexpensive tools that make life easier.

- X-acto blade and holder, usually a number 11 for most jobs.
- Coping saw.
- Razor saw to cut across grain and hardwood.
- T-pins. They come in three sizes, but generally the small and medium sizes are the most useful.
- 18-inch steel rule is very handy. If the rule tends to slip when using, try spraying with 3M-77 on the down side. Once dry, it acts as an antiskid.
- 90° plastic triangles: For squaring assemblies. (Video cassette boxes are square, will stand alone, and are very useful for holding two parts such as a horizontal and vertical stabilizer when assembling).
- Sandpaper: Aluminum oxide sandpaper is best. This is sold at auto paint stores, has a long life, and is often less expensive than what is found at hardware and model stores.
- Sanding blocks: Always use a sanding pad or block. Various lengths of suspended ceiling tile grid make good, light weight sanding blocks. (Use 3M-77 spray or rubber cement to attach sandpaper strips to a sanding block. Use a heat gun to loosen the adhesive when it must be replaced).

Quote from the man who brought us "War of the Worlds".

Moral Indignation is jealousy with a halo.
H. G. Wells 1866 - 1946

For Sale: Carl Goldberg J-3 Cub Kit \$75.00 It is new in the box. May be converted to electric.
Call Henry Smith @ 570-6262

Continued from page 3
see the sky is all clear, and begin flying. Then someone turns on! NOT GOOD!! You won't know until it's too late.

I feel the best use for the frequency checker is at the flying field, where we sometimes get a little sloppy with our frequency control. Just let the checker do a scan for you before you fly, and you will know which channels are in use at that time. Just a little cheap insurance for those of us who try to eliminate all the possibilities for problems.

I will bring the checker to the meeting at the field, and demonstrate how it works. Don't miss it!

Dennis Robbins