



KNOX COUNTY RADIO CONTROL

Knoxville TN June,2012 AMA #594

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THIS AND THAT

► The recent picnic and funfly held on April 28th was a great success.. Had a good turnout and the competition for the fun events was pretty fierce. Bill Leonard sent me the results and the costs..

“ Here's the economic roundup of our Picnic/Funfly/Swap meet.

- Randy Phillipps: \$219.46 food**
- Charles Wilson: \$33.76 charcoal**
- Joel Hebert \$18.57 food & ice**
- Phil Spelt \$82.95 drinks**

for a grand total of \$354.74 I think it was money well spent for a great time Saturday; also, we have a box of hamburgers and drinks & chips leftover for our next event, probably the SPA contest.

Our Timed Flight Event called for a take-off, flight and landing as close as possible to two minutes. Pilots were disqualified if their flight was over two minutes. Eleven flyers entered this event. The top fliers were:

- 1st Bill Leonard, 2.0 min.**
- 2nd Phil Cope, 1 min. 53 sec.**
- 3rd Larry Hayes, 1 min. 36 sec.**

Our Take-off, Loop and Land (3X) with die rolling and a few other activities rolled together attracted several hardy contestants. The top fliers were:

- 1st John Partridge, flying a Horizon Hobbies Blade MCPX helicopter had a total time of 55 sec.**
- 2nd Anthony Stevens, flying a SLICK electric airplane had a total time of 1 min. 21 sec.**
- 3rd Phil Cope, flying an Edge 540 electric airplane had a total time of 1 min. 41 sec.**

By the way, the electric Blade helicopter is a tiny thing. It has a blade span of only 10 in. and weights 1.6 oz.....Bill “



I myself wasn't there for very long, but it looked like a goodly bunch of guys having a good time. KCR Cers love their food, so Charles Wilson gets ready to crank up the grill



Illustration 1: Anthony Stevens sent me this photo..

for some hamburgers and hot dogs. Yum, yum.

▶ **You might also want to remember that June 2nd is the KCRC Float Fly to be held at the Melton Hill Park upper ramp. That should be in the next couple days after you get this newsletter...Jim ■**

Tips & Tricks

▶ **Unclog your CA Tips**

Those tips that come with your jar of CA clog much too easily, right? To keep them ready to use, get a small plastic bottle with a tight lid and fill it partway with acetone, available from the home center. Make sure that the bottle/container is impervious to the acetone, just to be safe.

Now, when you're done with your building/repair project for the day, drop that tip into the acetone until your next session. Any dried CA will be dissolved by then. When you need to retrieve one, use some needle nose pliers or a dental pick with a hook to extract it from the jar. Drain any leftover acetone from the tip and let it air dry for a few minutes before use. **Remember to use a plastic jar to reduce breakage, and follow all the safety warnings on the container of acetone.**

After you've built up a supply of them from successive purchases of CA, you can swap them out midway through a building session to keep things moving. —**Wing Busters Model Airplane Club, Massachusetts**

▶ **RapidDry**

Maybe it's just me, but every time I buy CA kicker, the spray nozzles becomes a "stream" nozzle after a few uses. That mystical smelling stuff has a habit of evaporating right through the bottle too.

I have found an easy solution to this problem. My wife uses a fingernail polish dryer called RapidDry. This is in a two-ounce spray bottle. The pump and composition of the bottle work great with kicker. I wouldn't be surprised if the stuff in the bottle works as well as kicker too. All I get are the empties. —**Russ Whitford, www.slopeflyer.com.....**

(Editors note::: Both of the above named materials smell like you ought to take some precautions when using them. Good

ventilation and no open flames or sparks, at least..)

▶ **And on the social side; It is considered bad form to carry your beer to a job interview, Gleaned from a recent email.... ■**

When Epoxy Doesn't Harden Properly...The Rockland County Radio Control Club, White Plains NY

Epoxy is one of the best modeling materials available. It's useful as an adhesive for wetting out fiberglass cloth, as a filler, and as a finishing material. It can be thinned or thickened for a variety of purposes. Even though it is useful, epoxy can be a pain when it doesn't harden properly.

There are two important issues when dealing with epoxy, proportioning and mixing. Of these two, mixing is the most critical. Misproportioning the hardener to the epoxy generally leads to slow hardening, but lack of proper mixing can lead to permanently sticky epoxy.

One hundred quick, hard strokes are recommended when mixing any amount of epoxy. Count them to make sure that your mixing is adequate. Always mix your epoxy before putting in any additives. Both thinning and thickening agents can keep epoxy from mixing properly. Give the epoxy 100 strokes first and then put in the additive.

Thinning: Epoxy can be thinned using acetone or denatured alcohol. Either of these can be added to make it more watery. A mix of up to 50% doesn't seem to have any effect on the final strength of the epoxy. Thinning the epoxy will slow down the curing time and make it wet out fiberglass and carbon fiber better. Thinned epoxy also can be wiped onto balsa or obechi as a finish.

Thickening: Epoxy can be thickened by adding almost any inert, fine-grained solid from sand to cotton fiber. Modelers usually use micro balloons for thickening epoxy because they are readily available and add little weight. Thickened epoxy can be used to make fillets or to fill gaps.

Five minutes, 15 minutes, 30 minutes, more? Epoxy comes in formulations for different curing times. The times listed on the packages are strictly nominal and generally refer to curing time. Five-minute epoxy does not give you five minutes of working time. At best, you will get 20 seconds of

working time in which to place five-minute epoxy before it starts to "hit." Thirty-minute epoxy gives you around one to three minutes before it starts to hit. These times will vary with temperature, mix proportions, and proper mixing, but they are good reference points. In general, five-minute epoxy is only for spot gluing. It is great for small, quick jobs, but not for involved tasks. A general rule of thumb is the working time for epoxy (after 100 strokes of mixing) is about 10% of the time listed on the package. Keep in mind that epoxy mixed and left in the cup will hit faster than epoxy that is spread out immediately...■

SAFETY FIRST

Jim Maines, KCRC Safety Coordinator

Greetings to all KCRC'ers:

We have had a good month. There were more close calls than I like; however as "safety" guy one needs to keep pushing for zero close calls. This is not because I like to micro manage it is more because I do not like to see blood, mine or anyone else's. Next meeting will be our annual safety talk which is one of the requirements from the AMA. To most if not all we have heard this talk before. It will be a common sense presentation based upon observations and the required items from the AMA. Mainly it will be an attempt at presenting everyday issues that may arise.

Over all I think we are getting better at communicating between flyers. There have been some increase in the use of spotters. I am writing this on Saturday the 12th and I had an opportunity this morning. I thought I saw a pilot putting his plane on the runway with the glow driver still attached. As it turned out the pilot knew what he was doing and my warning was not needed. This would have tended to prevent me from saying anything to the next pilot which may have something out of the ordinary. In reality it is wise to mention any possible situation to the pilot even though he may be aware of it. The big point is that the one time when the warning is needed the warning be given.

Keep up the good work and be safe.....Jim ■

MINUTES, MAY, 2012

Phil Spelt, President, brought the meeting

to order.

- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Joel Hebert, treasurer, gave the April treasurer's report.
- Phil talked about how smoothly the 4/28 FunFly/Picnic/Swap meet went. You couldn't have asked for better weather for a day with friends and the food was just perfect. There is some extra hamburger, dogs, and charcoal so another event with food will be coming soon.
- Phil mentioned he made arrangements for the field to be cut. The club will pay for weed killer and fertilizer at approximately \$300 and the field will be cut for the hay.
- John Bobrek, Secretary, has a metal detector to give to the field. It will be kept in the field lock box and the 9V batteries will be kept separately. Use will be demonstrated at the next meeting. The manual is online here.

Old Business

- Central Baptist Church would like to have an RC demonstration on June 9th from 1:00-3:00PM and Calvary Baptist Church would like to do the same on June 10th from 4-6:00PM. If you are interested in attending either, please show up and help us show the kids why this hobby is so great. Small electrics can be flown at these locations depending on weather. But even setting up your hangar queens as static displays would be great.
- The SPA contest is on May 19-20th. An email will be sent to KCRC members to let them know of volunteer position vacancies. The field will be closed for general flying all day May 19th and until noon on May 20th.
- **The June 2nd Float Fly is in danger of being cancelled or rescheduled due to lack of a boat. If you have a motor boat that can be used on this day for retrieval of unscheduled landings, please contact Phil Spelt or Phil Cope as soon as possible.**
- Bill Dodge finished two sun blocks. These stands are stored in the rafters of the flight line and are assembled and placed in PVC holes along the flight line. There are two sun blocks currently, but we may add more if the club determines they are good. These are designed to be just large enough to keep the sun out of your eye and small enough

as to not block visibility.

New Business

- Randy Phillips, Board Member, noticed that several signs hung around the flying field were in disrepair and could be a safety issue. Jim Maines, Safety Officer, took on the task to get them repaired.
- Phil Spelt mentioned that the SPA web site needed to be updated and that he was going to take it to the point where web forms and PDF's could be posted.
- There were no Model of the Month or Crash of the Month contestants this meeting. However, John Bobrek plunked his 3DHS Extra 300 SHP wildly and firmly into the runway just minutes after the meeting adjourned ensuring that there will be at least one entry next month.

Phil Spelt adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken and prepared by KCRC Secretary John Bobrek...

Ben Oliver Memorial SPA Contest, 2012 edition

By Phil Spelt, AMA 1294

The 2012 Knoxville SPA contest is in the books. It has to rank among our best efforts. We had 14 pilots, and assorted wives sons, brothers and friends among the attendees. After practice Friday afternoon, we had a late afternoon rain/hail storm, but no damage done to equipment or people. Weather for Saturday and Sunday was absolutely outstanding -- sunshine with broken clouds and smoggy haze, giving pilots some visibility problems in turnarounds, but the clouds also giving us markers to get loops on top of each other and Cuban 8 crossovers in the right place. Winds were "light and variable," which is a weatherman's term for "always blowing in the wrong direction"!

Competition was good in most of the classes. KCRCers participating were: Phil Spelt, second in Sportsman; Warren Oliver, 4th in Expert; and Bill Dodge, 3rd in Senior Expert.

Barry Hunt, Dennis Hunt's son, from Harare, Zimbabwe, flew with us in Expert.

The trophies were created by Jane and Bruce Underwood of Top Notch Trophies in Guntersville, AL. They should get an award



Illustration 2: Bruce Underwood holding the new Trophy. Picture by Duane Wilson, SPA

for these awards: wooden plaques in the shape of Tennessee, with the KCRC logo on the left and the information plate in the middle, and a round wheat-sheaf-framed SPA logo up toward the Tri-Cities area. The trophies were a hit with the pilots, for sure. Photos are from others at the contest, as Phil Spelt was too busy flying and helping Dennis Hunt to take any pictures.

After the place trophies were given out, we had a Sportsmanship Award to give, kindly provided by Top Notch Trophies. After some deliberation, we awarded the Sportsmanship trophy to Ellis Newkirk, who spent his non-flying time at the contest helping his fellow pilots, and had come all the way from Flower Mound, TX with his son Braden. Then came the drawing, among the pilots, for the prizes.

Mr. Gary Phillips, owner of Hobbytown USA in Knoxville, donated five gallons of pattern fuel (KCRCers should support Hobbytown for contributing to our contest every year!). One of the pilot's wife did the drawing honors for us, and the five gallons went to five of our contestants, including Bill Dodge and Warren Oliver. The final drawing was for a short kit of an A-6 Intruder, designed by Jim Kirkland. The plans are a copy of the original set Jim had signed, and the parts were laser cut balsa and plywood, not the two pieces of foam and some plans that have been given in the past. The kit was from Phil Spelt, and was won by Bill Dodge.

All in all, the weekend can be called a fine success. We at KCRC want to thank all who came to fly, and the loyal KCRCers who

came out to help. These included, as usual, Joel Hebert, our Treasurer, who did his customary great job of running the scoring computer (with help from his dog, Sam); Andy Keeley, who ran score sheets **both days** (and who is budding pattern guy); and Jim Maines, our Safety Officer, and Don Watkins, who were out there both days to do odd jobs. Don handled the run to Subway for our Saturday lunch. Jim Scarbrough, Larry Hayes, and several others from our Club were there during the morning on Saturday to do a variety of odd jobs which really helped to get the Contest under way....Phil ■

MORE THIS AND THAT



Randy Phillipps sent me a few pictures from the Joe Nall RC event in South Carolina. He and several other KCRCers went on May 16th to see the beautiful models.....Jim ■



Illustration 3: Dennis Hunt, long time KCRC CD. Picture by Duane Wilson.

