



Merced County Radio Control Club Newsletter

Merced, California **** WEB-MCRC.US ****AMA Charter #1089 **** Founded 1972
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MERCED COUNTY RADIO CONTROL CLUB OFFICERS 2008-2009

ROGER MENKE PRES. (357-2555) **DICK NALLE,** VICE PRESIDENT (383-3542)
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ALL MEMBERS, SAFETY OFFICERS **DAN DOWNEY,** SENIOR FLIGHT SPECTATOR!

***** SCHEDULED EVENTS, MAY *****

CLUB MEETINGS, IHOP, MERCED, 7:00 PM
OCT. 1st & 15th, RAFFLE! DRAWING FOR \$30!!
CLUB FIELD FLIGHTS, WEEKDAYS, AT THE
MCRC FLYING FIELD, 7761 BERT CRANE ROAD,
ATWATER. Turn into the dirt road at the green
Frisbee nailed on the post on your left! PILOT
INSTRUCTIONS AVAILABLE :MON.,WED, FRI. (CALL)
HELICOPTER FLIERS,SUN.AM,AT CLUB FIELD
FUNPYLONRACE, Canx due to other events!

***** FIELD TALK *****

On Sundays the field has been almost taken over by helicopters and their pilots. Not satisfied that the complex and expensive things can fly at all, some pilots are sure to try the risky maneuver called "auto-rotation". This means that the 'copter is taken to a considerable height, the throttle is cut so that the rotor (the big prop on top) is "unloaded" so that no engine power is used to turn the rotor. This means that the machine will "parachute" down on the free-spinning rotor. It would go all the way down to contact the ground rather heavily but for the fact that the pilot must save the day by adding power just before the bounce off the pavement. A successful maneuver is designated by the fact that no damage is done to the machine. Sometimes, the good plan to add the power at the last second does not work out and the thing goes "bang" on the runway. To find out all the particular details of this event, John Strauss suggests that we discuss the proper performance with Dave Kuhr.

If the runway had been at a field elevation mere six feet lower than it is, there would have been no problem. Dave is certain to persist, for his flying skill is broadly recognized by all concerned. Dave represents a number of fixed-wing pilots who have ventured into rotary wing machines just for the challenge. There are more of this kind of persons in the club, but we will not publicly name them in the name of fairness and justice. They just can't help it. ..Sad. Dave recently learned that there have been times when John Strauss has been proved to know something about certain details. John had advised the removal of a faulty fuel line inside a 'copter's tank but "someone" forgot the good advice. The fuel line failed and screwed things up. We must all realize that experience can only come most strongly by the failure of something. The major benefit of the failure of some other person is that by seeing or learning of their failure, we don't need to repeat the same failures! This will save money for each of us! Between 'copter flights, Earl Downey got in a great flight with a "Tiger II" and he was razzed that the plane made his flying skill look good! There was a discussion concerning the use of "Cool Power" fuel instead of the usual "Power Mist". Pilots said that changing fuel means changing needle valve settings.

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New fuel means resetting idle points, etc. and more! One pilot said that there was no problem with "Cool Power", others said that they would stick with the fuel that they knew. That's why there are so many kinds and brands available to us to buy! "You pays your money ...and you takes your choice!"

***** **MEETING #1 Aug. '08** *(*****

MCRC President Roger Menke opened the Meeting by gleefully crashing the Official Gavel promptly at 7:00PM on the evening of the 4th of Aug.. Roger called for the Sec. to read the Minutes of the last Meeting and the Minutes were read and accepted. Treasurer Winter presented the Treasurer's Report and there were no outstanding bills. There were thirteen Members present and one guest, young Miss Ginny Hockenberry, whose presence is useful in keeping the Meetings polite. There was no important subjects under the Heading of Reports other than the gossip that Ex-Pres. Curtis Partch had shown up in shorts at the field. Some unkind soul said that "Curtis' legs reminded him of a set of parenthesis"! Long pants were recommended hereafter. Under Old Business it was discussed that there is a need for some attention to the rules of FunPylonRaces. Some comments were made that there might be emphasis on races where pilots "fly what they bring", with flexible rules to be decided on the spot. The object is flying fun, not the restriction of flying. The lack of any prizes is recognized as a good reason for loose rules. The date of the next race was discussed, decisions are pending. Under the Heading of New Business, it was discussed that Member Donnie Pretasky had stepped into one of the plentiful gopher holes at the field, the holes that are always seen at the site.

For many years there have been holes all around the field due to the fact that it is impossible to kill all the gophers living near us. Donny broke his foot! Score is: **Gophers 1, Donnie 0!** Under the Heading of Safety, a recent crash by pilot Larry Smith was discussed. Members mentioned that plastic spinners are cheap. They are usually found in ARF planes, cost no additional cash and are therefore worthless. Failures are common with plastic spinners, the best that can be said for them is that they slightly protect the engine in case of a crash. If you got it for nothing, that's what it is worth,-- nothing! The twin-engined plane built by the Rockholts was discussed. Under the Heading of Show and Tell, Curtis showed us the repair of a plane by the free application of 1/8th inch doorply. If you really need to crash a bothersome plane, bring it to the field when Curtis is not there, for he will repair and re-fly **anything!** Treasurer Winter spoke on the difference between a transmitter designed mainly for helicopters and a TX designed for planes and 'copters both. All TXs can be used for 'copters, but those primarily designed for 'copters have some features not seen in other TXs. Chuck showed the differences to us all. Member Terry Hays told that he almost lost a plane because of his failure to extend the antenna on his TX. It does not take long to forget to do this if you are getting accustomed to using a 2.4 Ghz TX, where it is not possible or necessary to extend the antenna! So what does Terry do? He bought the 2.4 Ghz module and RX so that he can use the same TX for both the 72Hz and the 2.4Ghz units!!! John Martin missed \$20 on the Card Drawing, \$25 next time! Nine prizes in the Raffle! Good Meeting! Come see --and help operate your Club!

***** **BAD TIMING!!!** *****

No, not me! I mean **you**! A couple of months ago there popped on the scene a new dealer, “hobbycity.com” or “hobbyking.com” (same guys). They advertised some very desirable goods, especially some great looking engines! Well, Terry went for a couple of engines, an “XYZ 26cc” two-stroke gas ignition engine, which ran like the proverbial “striped ape”! A nice engine! Terry also got a 55cc gas engine which ran well until an enthusiastic contact with the ground. (It is under repairs currently and will fly again soon.) I saw the neat-o engines and I grew envious and so I bought a fine looking “SV 26cc” engine, an engine with the carb and the muffler behind the engine, as God intended. The price of the 26cc engines was a low **\$149!** Now the Hong Kong business has a few more of them in stock ---but “RCShowcase” sells exactly the same engine for **\$225!** **You** might be too late, for the logical thing for a business to do is to buy them all from the Chinese for their wholesale price, which is a low percentage of the retail price of \$149 because they will have a lock on the engine, they buy them in big batches and pay less for shipping! So if you see our engines at the field, we won’t blame you if you shed a tear!!!! If you have a computer, you absolutely gott’a look them up and see the prices before they are all raised or sold to an American dealer at local prices! They have great 50cc and 100cc **twin cylinder engines** for lower prices than you might believe! The operation is run by a man called Tony Hand, who just might be an American-trained flier, ‘cause he knows what we need! Shipping and handling prices will make you sob, but the business operates under the strict laws of Hong Kong which state that they **must satisfy the customer!! Not bad!!**

***** **AN AIR FORCE OF ONE** *****

The United States Army sponsors recruiting advertisements where they use the slogan, “**An Army of one!**” This is a neat-o slogan --but it would be a bad situation in which to find yourself during a real firefight! (The action required in this case is the traditional “**Bug out**” maneuver!) We have noted that the Army is getting into the business of our kind of airplanes! They have all kinds and sizes of hobby-sized planes for all kinds of battlefield jobs! It would seem to me to be a great idea of flinging a small electric powered RC airplane into the air to look over the next hill, rather than sending a batch of troops to go there and look! They have remote planes that are fired into the air with rubber band-powered launchers and they use them to send back television pictures of what is ahead of them! Good thinking! The USAF, whose business is bigger planes, flies a twin boom gas-engined scout plane that was designed in Israel. Enemy troops were photographed surrendering to one of these small ships. The Navy flies these planes from ships and catches them in big nets when they come home. The USAF uses big robot planes which are self-navigating with a smart onboard computer -and the huge thing once flew from Cal. to Australia! The ever-popular drone flown by remote pilots over Iraq and such hot spots can be fitted with air-to-ground missiles and can be made to shoot to kill without risking a human pilot. (Isaac Asimov, a popular science fiction writer, wrote the “*First Laws of Robotics*”. The first law is not to kill humans --but nobody told the guys who fire “Hellfire” missiles from unmanned drones!) Right now, there’s cameras and all manner of stuff to use in our models, --but don’t get nuts and go to extremes!

***** **BITS AND PIECES** *****

In a late issue of our Oct. '08 AMA magazine, an engine guru, Joe Wagner, tells in his column, "*The Engine Shop*", pg. 111, that we are doing a really bad thing to use auto "pump gas" in our gas/ignition engines! The reason for this is simple. Almost all pump gasoline has a content of ethanol --and that stuff will make plastic and rubber parts inside the carb get all soft and gooey! This famous guru strongly recommends the "white gas" sold as *Colman Camp Fuel* for our engines. This sounds logical, don't it? (An RC plane that flew across the Atlantic from Greenland to Ireland used this low-octane stuff in a four-stroke O.S. engine fitted with a spark plug ignition and a generator to charge batteries for the very long flight.) I hope that someone tries it to see if it works as well for us as it did for Joe. Our Club Member Donnie Pretasky is stuck in room #15 in the Anberry Hospital with a broke foot. He would like to see some visitors! Take a minute and drop in or call 356-2422! Visiting hours are from 12:00PM-8:00PM. Don't be loud, there are lot'sa people sleeping! Our Member Larry Prichard recently suffered a break-in on his truck! Larry lost a Great Plains Chipmunk, ready to fly, with a Zenoah G-26 gas engine, Futaba \$ervos, his Futaba 9 ch. TX and an RTF Nextstar with Evolution .46 engine! Please keep your eyes open for these things at local swap meets, garage sales, etc.. If you see this stuff, call a cop! This is at least the third robbery from a parked truck; Nick, Curtis and Larry have lost their stuff from their trucks. ***Be careful or be sorry!!!*** On Monday, the 22nd, Member Bud Hunt visited us at the Field and got out a super-fine Cavalier built for him by Ex-Member Gene Mitchell (who is pictured in the Oct. RC Report mag, on pg.118).

Bud was a bit concerned that he might have forgotten how to fly, because he hadn't flown since October, but he flew as if he flown just yesterday! He has a perfect airplane, a perfect engine and a perfect radio and it all came together perfectly! Bud had a good day! Not everybody has good days all the time. Senior Member Raymond Loewen ran out of his luck buying a plane for a low price at a garage sale. The plane was a twin boom, swept wing pusher with a thin airfoil. Swept wing/thin winged airplanes need to go like mad before they will fly! If they are yanked off the runway before a good high speed, they always go smash-o-roonie! Raymond's plane reached a low altitude on takeoff, it rolled with a high speed stall and it was re-kitted on ground contact! (Raymond will be seen at more garage sales.) Not to be outdone by his brother Raymond, Senior Member Richard Loewen was flying a b-i-g plane powered with an Evolution 46cc engine when he noted that the elevator had quit flying before the rest of the plane came down. The plane was not far behind the fluttering elevator --and it went smash-o-roonie too! One factor of this crash might have been the "Flutter Demon" or the fact that the servo arm was loose from the servo! Treas. Chuck told that expensive and powerful servos might be equipped with bolts instead of the light screws that hold servo arms on the servo shaft! Many fliers of big planes use a small dab of "Lock Tite" on the vital bolt to make certain that the thing does not come undone due to the heavy vibration of a big single cylinder gas engine! We have learned two lessons here; fly fast with thin winged/swept winged planes and lock the servo screws/bolts in place with a blob of the lock goo! There are lesson contained in every crash! Learn or repeat the crash!!!

**** **SECOND MEETING, AUG.'08** ****

Pres. Roger Menke called the Meeting to Order and Sec. Jimbo read the Minutes of the last Meet. Treas. Winter submitted his Report to 14 Members and one Guest, young Miss Ginny Hockenberry. Under the Heading of Reports, Pres. Menke told that he had contacted a member of the Atwater DPW who had related that it would probably be three years before any construction of a new sewage plant near our field would occur. A discussion mentioned some factors: the cost of materials to repave our field are being raised, the repave idea might wisely be held off until the time when we are assured that we will be allowed to keep our field, the runway is not in bad shape and the simple re-tarring as has been done in the past will usually suffice. Only time will designate what action is called for on our part to retain the best facility of our Club, our Field! Under the Heading of Old Business, the monthly FunPylonRace was cancelled due to the Annual Picnic. Under New Business, it was mentioned that Senior Member Raymond Loewen has won over a recent medical problem, for which we are all thankful! Member Donald Pretasky broke his foot at the field and looks forward to some social visits at Anberry. Pres. Menke remarked on the lack of Member participation in the "Show and Tell". Please bring something you're working on and tell us of your fun! Pres. Menke named Ex-Pres Bob Lesmires as the Member to bring something to the Meetings. Under the Heading of Safety, Members were congratulated for the care and the use of good Safe habits at the field. *It only takes a tiny second for any of us to be harshly reminded of the bite of the spinning sharp propellers on the front end of our planes! Ouch!!!*

Members spoke of the low cost of some fine engines from Hong Kong, "hobbyking.com". Terry Hays, Ed Perry and Jimbo bought some before the prices went up. **Check them out!** Member Wayne Frazier told of the happy purchase of a neat-o .60 size "Chipmunk" ARF made in Viet Nam. Treasurer recommended that in case of buying a less-than-perfect product, it works very well for you to write a nice, pleasant letter to the maker for redress of the problem. Wouldn't you rather read a polite letter than a mean, griping letter about getting things right? It works for Chuck and it will work for you too! The Meeting was closed and the Club Card Raffle revealed the name of Senior Member Raymond Loewen who missed \$25 (Haw!) Next Drawing will be for \$30! Come to the Meetings and have a shot at the cash! The Club Raffle included fuel, CA, MonoKote, etc.. We have fun at the Meetings and we hang around for some good food too!!!

***** **THE PICNIC** *****

The turn-out for the First Annual MCRC Club Picnic celebration was satisfactory! Over forty folks came to enjoy steak, chicken, hot dogs, soda, wine, brownies, salads, breads and a wide menu of great food brought by our Members and their wives! There was plentiful polite burping and belt-busting satisfaction. Our compliments go to the culinary skills of the participants, all of whom bring fabulous dishes! The Club absorbs much of the costs of the Evening, a benefit to the Members who attend the Picnic!

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Treasurer Winter made a short presentation telling of the year's history and the fun we have had. Sec. Jimbo had the assistance of two honest young ladies to draw and read the Raffle numbers. The prizes went to many folks! This year the Picnic Raffle prizes included an O.S. LA .40 engine, new in the box, donated by Member John Martin of Modesto. Senior Member John Montgomery donated two airplanes, one a .40 size Ugly Stick, the second one a "Sea Square", a little .19 sea plane, a Futaba four channel TX/RX and a field box with two starters! Our thanks go out to these generous Members. The Raffle prizes this year included a big stuffed tiger, bottles of nuts, a ten pound bag of peanuts, CA, pliers, wine and the grand prize, an ARFT-34 plane new in the box!

Oddly enough, our Official Raffle Ticket Reader, trustworthy Ginny Hockenberry, reached into the ticket bottle shaken up by her friend Morgan –and she drew out the Grand Prize winning ticket of her own father, John! John commented that he would now give her a ride home, a fact that was up in the air until Ginny came through for her Dad! We thanked the cooking crew for their fine efforts and the great food which was seriously enjoyed by all! **Your** participation in the Club Events is vital to the enjoyment of all of us! The picnic was a great success! **You** know the fun that it was if you came --- and **you** should come next year if you missed this Club Event! (To the cheapskates among us, this is a great way to have an evening with your wife and hungry kids!)

**MCRC EDITOR
PMB #433
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Meetings for October:

**Wed. 1st of October
And
Wed. 15th October!**

**Be There at IHOP,
Merced, 7:00PM**