

Training

Lists: checklists, punch lists, shopping lists, “to-do” lists... just the thought of a list makes some of us cringe. We think of using a list as a boring, regimented activity. But, deep down, I think we all know that using a list is the “professional” way of doing some things. It is one way of being certain that all necessary items are considered, or done, or included or used or...well, you can fill in many more reasons for using a list or lists. Think of all the lists we’ve heard about that NASA uses for the Shuttle missions!

The building, maintaining, repairing, preparing, and many other activities related to our RC aircraft are no different. The safest way to be sure everything gets done is through the use of a list. The exact make-up and content of the list is something that can vary and is dependent in some cases on how we are organized, how our tools and other items are grouped and when we prefer to do or check the various items the list(s) will cover. There is no single perfect list, and any list that helps you to consider the necessary items is generally preferable to having no list! Remember too, that making, saving and changing or updating lists is really easy on the PC. Also you can “double space” your list when you print it so you can add items with a pen or pencil as you think of them and then update your file later.

In this column we will **not** propose to tell you exactly what your list(s) should include, but will suggest certain items to consider by including some examples, and we will suggest some of the **types** of lists you may want to consider.

If you currently use lists for some of your functions, take a few minutes to review them to see if they are up to date. If you don’t currently use lists, get a pencil and paper, or sit at the PC and take a few minutes and see what you can come up with. Try making a list of “Things to Do the Night Before Going Flying”. Or, make a list of “Things to Take to the Field”. What other lists might be useful to you specifically?

Use the above as a little “homework assignment” and we will compare notes in next month’s training column. Remember the last time you got to the field and had forgotten your Tx? Or, maybe you forgot your cooler with the drink (soda) you now want so badly. Uh-oh, did you really forget to charge the receiver battery? Would a list have helped prevent that oversight? What about the loose clevis you forgot to check?

More thoughts on lists and some examples next month, and until then...

Remember to try something new each time you fly!

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