



PILOT TALK



Colonial Virginia Aeromodelers Chapter 1474

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Visit the CVA Web Site at: www.homestead.com/cvarc/

President's Column

2009 Meeting Schedule

All meetings (except for the Christmas Dinner) in 2009 will be held at the Williamsburg Christian Church on the second Thursday of the month, starting at 7 PM. The next meetings will be 12 March and 9 April.

Directions to Williamsburg Christian Church

The building is at 200 John Tyler Lane. At the intersection of Route 199 and Route 5, turn the OPPOSITE direction that you would turn to go to the field. Go 50 yards and turn right (left is Strawberry Plains Rd.). You can't miss the Church; it is on the right just past the Professional Park that can be seen from Route 199. Everyone needs to be warned that there is an additional fine of \$200 for going over 25 MPH and the cops are there a lot.

MEETING LOCATION

Williamsburg Christian Church

200 John Tyler Lane

7PM Thursday

2009

Mall Show

We will be holding our Mall Show on March 21 & 22. Please plan on participating. If you can not come out for the entire weekend, please stop by for a visit. There will be plenty of expert advice to help with your project or just watch and learn some new technique. Bring a building or

repair project to work on. It is amazing how much you can accomplish with two days of concentrated effort and several extra sets of hands.

Pilot Accomplishment Program

Last month I talked about goals. If your goal is to become a better pilot, consider participating in the pilot accomplishment program, which is modeled after the League of Silent Flight (LSF) Soaring Accomplishment Program. The goal is to recognize individual proficiency and accomplishment in RC flying through a set of successively harder tasks that measure the pilot's skills. This program gives the pilots who are interested a challenge. Participation in the CVA Pilot Accomplishment Program is strictly voluntary. Each participating pilot is responsible for obtaining signatures of a witness for each task on the appropriate Accomplishment Level Form. The pilot should practice the individual tasks until he is comfortable and then ask another CVA member to witness the attempt and to sign if the task is successful completed. The CVA Pilot Accomplishment forms can be downloaded from the CVA web page.

Fun Fly

NNPRC is holding their annual Frost Bite Fun Fly on 8 March with pilot registration beginning at 0900 and the first flight at 1000. The entry fee is \$5.00 with 3 events, all involving bomb drop with supplied equipment. Here is the link to the flyer <http://www.treystoneinc.com/NNPRCC/pdf%20files/Frost%20Bite%20Fun%20Fly%20-%202009.pdf>.

PVC Connectors

A friend gave me this link, <http://www.creativeshelters.com/Fittings/PVC-Structure-Fitting.aspx>, for PVC fittings. They have several unique fittings including 3, 4 and 5 way connections.

Swap Meets and Auctions

Hanover RC club swap meet will be at the Fairmont Christian Church, 6502 Creighton Road, Mechanicsville, VA. on March 21. Here is the link http://hanoverrc.org/swap_meet.htm.

Show and Tell

We are going to have a short show and tell at the end of each meeting. You are invited to bring a new plane, a neat gadget or to show an interesting building technique.

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Minutes

C.V.A MINUTES FEBRUARY 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Williamsburg Christian Church. There were 25 members present. The President announced the minutes of the January 8th meeting as published in the last newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the January 8th minutes. A vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

The treasurer gave his report on the club finances.

Site Improvement: Tom Treese reports that he is rolling the field about once a month. Jon Person commented on the new test pilot box with shoulder level side barriers. He built the test box using input from Bob Marsh who has seen barrier type boxes at other fields. John Backes reminded the club that this pilot box design is just a test, and he asks that members try the box out and save comments on likes or dislikes for discussion at a later date.

Activities: Joe Musika talked about the upcoming mall show set for March 21-22 and the electric fly set for April 25. President John Backes commented the electric fly date is just a proposal and that the full club schedule has not been set yet. Joe Musika also commented on the spring picnic and Warbirds over Williamsburg coming up. John Backes mentioned the NNRC Senior Pattern event set for June and that NNRC would like to see CVA also host a Senior Pattern event also. John said a CVA pattern event would need someone to run it and left the proposal open to anyone willing to volunteer for it. John Backes spoke of the NNRC fun-fly set for March 7th and gave a brief description of the events in the fun-fly. Other announcements included the indoor electric fly at the Boo Williams Sports Complex March 16, 2009. Bill Van Cleave talked about the upcoming mall show on Mar 21-22 at the Williamsburg Outlet Mall. Bill gave a short talk on the purpose of the mall show and made a list of volunteers to help with setup, displays.

Safety: Be safe.

Training: Bill Van Cleave commented on new member Carl Sommers doing well and being close to soloing. Erik "Kort" Kortenhoeven a new member asked if anyone in the club had a flight sim program that he could borrow. John Backes said the club does have a simulator program but at this time it's not known who has it.

Old Business: None

New Business: Carl Rannigan suggested that a motion be made to get 2 new coolers to replace the ones that were stolen. A motion was made to replace the coolers and seconded. A vote was taken and it passed unanimously. John Backes commented on the need of pictures for our website to update some of our galleries. Bob Marsh agreed to hold the club buddy boxes.

Show and Tell: Buck Morning showed his fun-fly .46 plane he got at the NNRC swap meet. Earl Barger showed his Citabria micro flier. Joe Musika showed his near entirely rebuilt stick by Bill Van Cleave done in eye popping fluorescent green. John Backes showed his Surf and Turf

video from Higher Plane. Ken Howard Jr. showed his Blade MCX micro heli and flew it at the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Buck Morning
Secretary

Activities

Winter is almost gone, looking forward to nice warm, sunny days. Our 2009 schedule starts with CVA's Mall Show, Mar. 21-22. The "cry for help" has been put out, and will be an item for discussion at the 12 Mar meeting. It looks like our schedule this year will mimic last years, with similar events, except for the dates. The Mall Show is a scant three weeks away, and HELP is needed!!!! On Mar. 20th, members should bring their planes to the staging area around 7:30 or 8:00. We need to have a respectful number of aircraft for hanging and setting around for show. We need a good model turnout!

The show set-up will begin Fri. evening, at 9pm, after the Mall is closed. On Saturday, set-up begins at 7am. The show will run from 10am to 9pm on Saturday, and from 10am to 6pm on Sunday. Breakdown will begin at 6pm, and usually takes about an hour. Members are needed for modeling demos, so bring any that you are in the process of building. Support for this show is important to help keep interest in the sport, and we've gained some new members from it. It would be nice to have a "stellar" turn-out.

Joe Musika
Activities Coordinator

Safety

No safety items to report this period.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mall Show
21 & 22 March 2009

Training Corner

”Wait a minute! I thought I gave it a little bit of right rudder. It didn’t seem to respond! But it still seems to be going straight and true. No, it still just doesn’t feel right! I just gave it some left and it didn’t seem to move in that direction at all! OK, let’s give it a lot of UP and be sure it responds. OH NO! This time I know I know I gave it a command and it did nothing. And, darn...now it is really out of control! Oh no! Nothing is working and... Uh-oh; now it has crashed!

Many of us have experienced something similar to the above, at the flying field, with our RC planes. But has it happened while flying with a simulator on your computer? That kind of crash can be just as frustrating and equally expensive. And yes, there is at least one important lesson to be learned!

I really think it started about a year ago, when I began using a simulator which demanded much more of a computer than my 5 year old could provide. Yes, I found ways to reduce demands on memory and the video card, but the fact remained that the computer was over burdened. I don’t know if that lead to the “crash” or if it was just coincidental, but the end result was the same...one dead computer while flying the simulator! And I mean “real dead”! None of the “restore” techniques would work. A local expert who builds and repairs computers did some diagnostics and determined that the “motherboard” was gone. “No hope”..... “Time for a new one.” The good news was that the hard-drive was still intact and most of the files could be saved (of course I had them on a second hard-drive anyway). The bad news....the complete address book with about 80 names and addresses was gone. Well, maybe just hidden in some cyber location that not even the expert could find. Gone, and that means lots of hours to recreate! But, I was lucky, had it been the hard-drive, I could have lost all the files including all our files related to CVA Training and the training section of the web page we have put together. Fortunately that did not happen.

The lesson? Take heed that crashes really do happen to computers as well as planes. I never dreamed that it would happen to my computer, but it did and I lost a lot of potential flying time because of it. It took just about a month to get back to where I had been. The lesson? Be safe, and back-up your important files!

PS: A new computer means lots of lost time also, while hardware is hooked-up, drivers are installed, etc. Further, if you make an operating system upgrade, like to Vista Ultimate, you are going to have to re-learn how to do lots of things. I have probably lost 60 hours of otherwise productive time during the past month just getting back to where I was! The simulator? That was the first thing to get installed and yes, it works great now with no limitations and great graphics!

This column has been a slight diversion from the normal training issues, but one that could help you avoid a problem which could keep you from flying for a while. Next month we will put the focus back on more normal RC training issues. Until then.....

Remember to try something new each time you fly!

Steve Klute
Training Coordinator

The official **CVA FREQUENCY CONTROL POLICY** is to place a pin in the frequency control board prior to turning on your transmitter, and to remove the pin from the board after each use.

FLY SAFELY