

# PCC Newsletter



September 2012    Next Meeting:    September 19th, 2012    AMA Chartered Club # 139

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING @PCC



### **Some days it's just not meant to be!**

Use the web cam wisely, and you won't end up looking at the field like this! Luckily, days like this do not happen all the time!

## AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

*Mike Solaegui*

8-15-2012

Bob Comstock attended his first meeting and applied for membership, he is a San Antonio refugee that flies big electric jets.

July minutes approved

J & M Hobby House provided a Flyzone Mini Fokker and a gallon of fuel as raffle prizes.

No committee actions.

Treasures report is that we are doing OK.

No safety issues

Field needs a dump run.

103 paid up members.

We discussed starting a Shoestring pylon racing (EF-1) class and involving the local clubs, I have spoken to SACRATS and TOMCATS members to get racing going, this is a good time to give fast electrics a try.

Brian Chan has volunteered to take over the flight proficiency program from Ellsworth Crowell, Ellsworth have been a very generous member of PCC for years, we owe him much gratitude.

Greg Romine showed his Dornier Do-335 Pfeil (Arrow)

Mike Nadler brought his new Foam Fun Cub.

Daniel Wahl showed his new Foam Extra.

Matt Abrams has a new very light foamie from Hobbie King made from EPP foam.

Times they are a changing, all four planes for show and tell are foam electrics.

Andrew Young with S.T.E.M./ CLUB USA is asking for PCC's participation with his group, contact Andrew, [clubusa@gmail.com](mailto:clubusa@gmail.com).

Oh, by the way I drew the tickets for the raffle and won!

*Mike for Dennis Lowery*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September

- 3 Labor Day
- 3 Fun-Fly @Salinas Area Modelers, Chualar  
Info: Rick Maida 408-778-6885
- 6 Indoor @Oceana High School Pacifica.
- 8 Float Fly at Lake Hennessey, Ray Squires.
- 8 Swap Meet, Sacramento Area Modelers  
Info: morc9988@yahoo.com
- 15 SACRC field open to PCC member/BBQ.
- 15 Warbirds Over Livermore @ Livermore Flying Electrons
- 19 PCC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Dave Chetcuti Rm, Millbrae
- 22 Waldo Pepper's Flying Circus WWI and Golden Age  
SACRC, Info: jeff.whitney@sbcglobal.net
- 22 SCCMAS Fun-Fly.

### October

- 4 Indoor @Oceana High School Pacifica.
- 13-14, HMB Art & Pumpkin Festival. Half Moon Bay.
- 13 Volts Fly-In, Salinas Area Modelers, Chualar, Ca
- 17 PCC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Dave Chetcuti Rm, Millbrae
- 20 PCC field opens to SACRC members/ BBQ.
- 27 Bayside RC Auction, Holy Spirit Church, Fremont, Ca

### November

- 3 Tomcat Swap Meet, SCCMAS Morgan Hill.
- 21 PCC Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Dave Chetcuti Rm, Millbrae

## LIPO BATTERY MONITOR

*Brian Chan*



Just open a package from HobbyKing, got this monitor as a filler to make up an order(There was room in the package !)

I plug this gizmo into the monitor port of a new battery, it reads 4.38, 4.47, 3.65, 3.80 on a 4S pack. I was surprised to

see anything over 4.2V. So I use a Multi-meter to read the voltage, all the cells give a reading of 4.17V across a LED as a load. Then I used a power supply that I set to 4.10V, the monitor still give me the 4.38V on the first port. I set the power supply to 3.5V, the monitor still reads 4.38 V!

Needless to say, that thing found its way to the trashcan, as there is not any port to recalibrate the unit.

So the warning is, what you see is not actually what is in the battery!!

## FLIGHT PROFICIENCY PROGRAM

*Brian Chan*

If you have read this newsletter from the beginning, you will know that I have taken over the flight proficiency program chairman from Ellsworth.

For those who do not know what is this all about, it is a program developed to improve one's skill.

There is a great deal of personal pleasure and satisfaction in learning to fly radio control airplanes well. No matter what kind of aircraft you own. This program helps pilots of all ages and levels to hone their skills and increase their proficiency.

The purpose of this program is not to put you on the spot, or to make you a competition flier. Instead, it is simply to impart some purpose to the time you spent in the air, maximize your enjoyment of the sport and provide a standard against which you can judge your own progress.

The program is strictly voluntary and consists of five flying proficiency levels to which a member can aspire. Regardless of level, the goals of the program are to:

- Provide an interesting and challenging flying achievement program that will encourage individual club member to improve their overall flying ability.
- Develop a core of competent fliers to assist new club members in all aspect of the sport that pertain to powered flight.
- Minimize safety hazards and accidents by encouraging all club members to develop safer and more proficient flying habits.
- Encourage competition flying, both within and outside the club.
- Make radio flying a safer, more meaningful and satisfying experience for all club members.

There is more information on the flypcc.org web site, <http://flypcc.org/pages/membership/> Look at the side bar on the right hand side. There are five levels of accomplishment. I am in the middle of correcting the flight diagram to match up the flight requirement to the current flying field safety standards.

Speaking of flight proficiency program, I have the honor to witness a young pilot to get his Level A Certification. Nathan March, 8 years old, passed the Level A requirement successfully not once but twice (as required) and become the youngest member to achieve that honor.



Look at that level of concentration!



After he passed the required flight maneuvers.

## **CONVENIENT CLEAN UP**

Want a nice, neat, convenient way to clean up that airplane? Use baby wipes—those soft wipe tissues that come under various brand names and are packaged in handy plastic boxes.

The wipes must contain some kind of cleaning agent because they remove oil well and the lanolin acts like a polish.

—From the newsletter of the Western New York Sailplane and Electric Flyers



Phil flying the Parkmaster.

## **EVENT REMINDER:**

### ***PCC-SACRC Flyin and BBQ @ SACRC***

September 15, Saturday, at SACRC Lou Haynie Memorial Field.

Contact Bob Freshwater (SACRC) 510-657-2847 to RSVP.

If you have never been to SACRC field, here is the direction to SACRC Field in Union City:

1. Go East on Hwy 92.
2. Exit on Industrial Road, turn **right** (south).
3. **Right** on Hesperian Blvd (which will become Union City Blvd), at Costco.
4. **Right** on Bettoncourt Way, about 1/4 mile pass RR crossing on Union City Blvd.
5. **Left** on Whipple Road.
6. **Right** on Benson Road.
7. Follow the road all the way to the end, you will see a gate on the left (see photo on next pag). The gate should be unlocked.



**And it is our turn to return the favor on October 20th at PCC's Richardson Field.**

## **POT LIFE**

*(This has nothing to do with cannabis!)*

Use a large surface area container, when mixing resin, to increase its pot life.

The pot life of a resin is determined by the working temperature, mass of the mixed material and the choice of hardener. Hardeners are available with a wide range of pot lives and cure times.

Variations in the mass of mixed material and the ambient temperature can affect the length of the pot life. Pot life is measured in a lab with specific parameters. If those parameters are adjusted, the pot life can be increased or decreased.



Foggy day at Richardson Field.



Greg's Do-335 Pfeil (Arrow) at the meeting.



Daniel's Extra at the meeting.



Matt's flat foam 3D at the meeting.



Mike N's Fun Cub at the meeting.



Eric shows the raffle price that Prez Mike won!



Ray's new toy from Aero-Works.

## **FLYING AT RANCHO SAN ANTONIO**

*Brian Chan*

For those who flies electrics and frequent the Rancho San Antonio (RSA) Park flying field in Los Altos take notes, The Park has a new set of rules starting October 1st. The park rangers will enforce the rules.

A little history on the park and flying at RSA. There is a group, Rancho San Antonio electric flyers, that fly and govern(loosely) the activity at the park. It started as a small park flyers site that slowly evolved to bring what you fly, anything that can fly place. The site became too popular that caused the new rules be force to be created to have some control the usage of the site.

Here is the new rules and was told it may be continued to change.

- **Gas powered models prohibited**
- **Models must take off and land in designated area**
- **Pilots are required to stay in the designated area**
- **Models must stay within designated fly area, and maintain at least 100' vertical and horizontal clearance from parking lots, trails, structures and visitors**
- **Maximum model weight = 5 pounds**
- **Maximum model speed = 50 mph**
- **Maximum noise = 80 db at 25 feet**
- **Front prop models ONLY, no pushers, Razors, Zagis or ducted fans**
- **Maximum of 5 models flying at one time**
- **NO helicopters, rockets or FPV flying**
- **Current AMA membership required to fly**

There might an influx of new members at the local clubs level as many pilots will be displaced with enforcement of the new rules.

### **PLAN COPYING**

Here is a place to get your model plans enlarged, reduced or copied. Lots of other services, too.

ACTION Reprographics  
 2550 Wyandotte Street "A"  
 Mountain View, CA 94043  
 650-968-7226  
 Fax 650-623-0103  
[www.actionreprographics.com](http://www.actionreprographics.com)

I just copies a few plans, they are about \$0.25/sq. ft.



Darwin with his Hacker Jodel, he converted it from a FF kit.



Mark with his S-Bach special.



Mark, Dave and Ken working on Dave's plane.



Coco, one of two who frequent the PCC field.

## **LAMINATING WOOD WING AND TAIL OUTLINES.**

*Ron Fikes, RSA Electric flyers*

Cut the shape of the surface to be formed from 3/16" thick foamboard, and to the outline of the INSIDE of the tip - make the form(s) 2 inches longer, at each end, than the wood pieces you need. Coat the edges of the foamboard with rubbed-on candle wax (to make removal easier).

Use light, soft balsa for the laminations - do not use stiff "C" grain, it will be too hard to bend. The laminations and glue give the pieces their strength. The biggest secret to the strength is that the grain of the wood follows the shape. Cut the pieces of balsa (sizes, as indicated on the plan and as long as the form), soak them in VERY HOT water until they are limber, wipe the water off, spread a thin layer of sandable Aliphatic glue between the pieces, stack them. Using a paper towel, wipe off the excess glue and press the pieces together at the same time.

Using strips of masking tape, tape one end of the stack to the excess end of the form. Continue to tape the strips down, about 1" apart, ALL THE TIME PULLING ON THE STRIPS (this keeps the wood from cracking). Expect some cracked pieces in the stacks as you form them - just make a new one.

After you have it all taped down, wipe off any glue that has seeped out. Take the whole works to the microwave. Support the form, with the wood, on a custard cup, turn the microwave oven to high, and "cook" for 10 seconds. This heats up the water in the wood, squeezes out some glue (wipe it off again) and speeds the drying. Set the form aside overnight.

Remove the tape pieces, pull the wood loose and sand each side smooth before trimming to the length you will need.

You can sand the cross section of the laminated wood before adding them to the plane, or after.

You can make almost any shape you want from laminated wood - if the radius is very small, use thinner wood, and more layers. If you want to make the laminations stronger, without raising the weight, substitute one layer of bass wood between the balsa layers. Laminations can be made using CA adhesive - first tape the soaked wood to the form (with NO glue in between), allow to dry overnight. The wood will take the shape of the form. Then glue the laminations together using the CA. One downside to this method is that the CA is hard to sand.

*Ron*



## **CHEAP REINFORCEMENTS**

*Ron Fikes, RSA Electric Flyers*

Did you ever need to put a thin patch over a joint? Need it to be light and strong? And most of all free? Ask the person who does your laundry to save the used dryer sheets for you.

These can be cut any size, glued in place with thin CyA, epoxy or white glue.

If you might think they are not strong, try to tear one.

## **FOAM PLANES ARE NOT INDESTRUCTIBLE**



Foam planes are not indestructible, but they are easy to repair.

## **AMA RENEWEL**

It may be only September, but it is the time to think about getting your AMA membership renew. You want to get the 2013 AMA card in your head to be able to renew our PCC club membership by the time January 1st comes along!

## **HINGE INSTALLATION IS CRITICAL**

*Jim Bronowsky,  
Mid-Missouri R/C Association, Columbia MI*

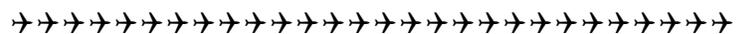
If you are working with an almost-ready-to-fly (ARF) aircraft or are building from a kit or scratch, you will be installing hinges. This is a critical step in model construction. If the control surface binds or has too much of a gap, your baby is going to be a dog and you will have definite control problems.

There are two basic types of hinges: the "living" hinge that is installed using CA glue and the "pinned" hinge that is put in with epoxy. There are advantages and disadvantages to using either type. I have used the living hinge for several years and like the fact that it only takes a few drops of CA to set the hinges in the control surface; however, I have had these hinges break and always seem to get the CA all over the covering, no matter how careful I am. I also have glued the control surface to the wing and tail.

Recently, I went back to pinned hinges. These hinges move with much less resistance and are more durable. I cover the hinge with lip balm before installing it with 5-minute epoxy. When the epoxy dries, the excess can easily be removed from around the hinge.

The Great Planes Slot Machine is a good investment, and it makes hinge installation much easier. Just hang on tight when you start it or you'll have a hinge slot where you probably don't want it.

Finally, after you have a control surface that moves easily and permits adequate throw, don't forget to seal the gap. It is amazing how much difference this will make in the performance of your aircraft. A roll of clear MonoKote will seal the control surfaces of all the aircraft you have. It also keeps the hinges secure and helps prevent control surface flutter.



## **HMB Art & Pumpkin Festival**

**October 13-14, 2012**

*Plan ahead to avoid the traffic.*



*Peninsula Channel Commanders*

113 Starlite Drive,  
San Mateo, Ca 94402  
<http://flypcc.org>

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 19th, 2012, 7:30 p.m.**

**J&M**

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