

December 2003

THE FLYER

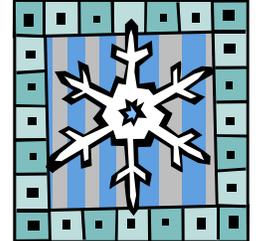


On the Web at...
<http://www.mcrcf.org>

Join our email list - contact Ernie Hollis at:
ernieh30@hotmail.com

Holiday Dinner Party - Saturday, December 6th

Well, it's time to trot out the holiday spirit again - but this time we're going to do things a little differently! Our annual holiday gathering will be held on a Saturday evening this year, instead of the traditional Wednesday night. Maybe some of you who can't make it in the middle of the week will be able to join the crowd on a Saturday. This year's gathering will be at *Mama's Italian Grille* in Chelmsford. We'll be enjoying an Italian buffet dinner that will include a garden salad, a buffet of Italian entrees, bread & butter, coffee & tea, and dessert. (other beverages are extra) The cost per person will be \$17.95 + tax/tip = \$21.50. You are welcome to bring a guest. The club will be providing some nice door prizes for the members-only raffle. Please arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 - we'll plan on eating at 7:00 pm.



If you are planning to attend, and have not already let us know, please contact me (Jeff Ward) as soon as you read this. My information is on the back of every newsletter. Phone, email, anyway you like. You're not committing, we just need a rough idea of how many will be there. See you there!

Please note: There will be a regular meeting on Wednesday December 3rd, usual time and place.

Party Date: Saturday, December 6th

Time: Socializing - 6:30 p.m.; dinner - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Mama's Italian Grille, 285 Chelmsford Street (Route 110), Chelmsford MA

Directions: From Rt. 3, just north of Rt. 495, take exit 31B, Rt. 110 West. Mama's is just down the road on the left.

Nutting Lake Float Fly - A Splashing Good Time!



September 6th was fabulous, weather-wise—we couldn't have asked for a nicer day for this event! Special thanks to Jack Berglund of the 495th, who did yeoman duty running both the Kitchen (chili dogs, chips, and soda) and the Frequency Control center. Also thanks to Dave Varrell, who arranged for use of Micozzi Beach and made quite a few rescue runs in the retrieval boat.

Hopefully the closure of the field didn't present too much of a problem for anybody. The Float Fly is such a nice event, and to be able to hold it right here in town is really convenient.

If you haven't already seen the pictures from the event, check them out in the Gallery at www.mcrcf.org. I guess next year we'll have to have *two* retrieval boats, so that no one will have to go swimming!

Another Successful Yankee Doodle Homecoming Weekend

The club provided free "hands-on" flying experiences for kids and adults during both days of Billerica's big town event. Nobody kept count (bummer - let's remember that next year) but we must have had about 40 people (mostly

(Continued on page 2)

Yankee Doodle Homecoming

(Continued from page 1)

kids, but a few adults) take a turn on the buddy-box. Many thanks to the folks who helped set up, flew trainers and demonstrations, and coached the “trainees”.

I hope I can remember everyone from MCRCF who participated: Dan Fisher, Gary Christiansen, Dave Comeau, Ray Capobianco, Ernie Hollis, Tim Sheehan, Dave Varrell, and Jeff Ward. (let me know if I left anybody out)

Thanks from the Town of Billerica

I recently received this letter of thanks from Selectman Ellen Day Rawlings, in her position as co-chair of Billerica’s 350th Anniversary Committee:

Dear Jeff,

Well, here it is: a long overdue thank you note.

On behalf of the entire 350th Anniversary Committee, I would like to extend thanks to you and the Middlesex County Radio Control Fliers for your participation in our first major fundraising event this past August 9 at Vietnam Veterans’ Park. Family Fun Day was exactly that. Your group, with the balsa fliers were a big hit, and I know everyone appreciated you being there. It may have been an inconvenience for some of your members, but you may well have uncovered some potential future members.

Now, for the hard part: why did it take me two months to send this note?!? I cannot explain that. I can only apologize, and hope you do not interpret this faux pas as a lack of appreciation.

Thank you again to you and your colleagues. We look forward to working with you on future 350th Anniversary events.

*Sincerely,
Ellen Day Rawlings*

October Meeting’s Guest Speaker Topic: Center of Gravity

At the October Meeting, we enjoyed having as our guest speaker Mr. Rupert Kosmala. Rupert is an active member of the 495th R/C Squadron, and is a long time model builder and innovator. Rupert gave a very interesting presentation on Center of Gravity as it relates to R/C aircraft models. The presentation was based on material from his previously published article in *Model Aviation* magazine. Rupert showed a technique for identifying a CG reference point on a flyable airplane, and using it to make performance-based changes in the CG. Many thanks to Rupert for to speaking with us.

Community Outreach and Education

We were asked by the Recreation Department (Town of Billerica) if we would be interested in participating in the department’s Winter Program. We didn’t have much time before the schedule deadline, so based on commitments from a couple of members to help out, we’ve agreed to do a “Show and Tell” session in March.

We will be looking for some help and models to display. It might be nice if, in the future, we could do something more involved, like a “make and take” event where folks are introduced to the basic concepts of model building and flying (like with AMA Cub/Delta Dart rubber-powered planes.) or a multi-week program building and flying a trainer. If anyone is interested in participating in or planning such an event, please let Jeff Ward or John Parisi know.

President's Message

We've been blessed with some great late fall flying weather lately, and I hope you've had a chance to take advantage of it. Considering that we were "caught with our skis off" by early snows last year, we're doing pretty well in 2003!

I have a few things for your attention:

- ◆ Safety Item: Please take note of any construction activity on the access road near the barn and horse ring. The new water treatment plant is under construction, and work crews will be very active in that area for some time, especially during normal weekday work hours. If you fly on weekdays, please do not fly over the road and horse ring. In other words, stay away from the east end of the field as much as possible. We've already had a couple of "close encounters" between airplanes and people in the construction area. The road crews and others using the road have enough to watch out for without having to keep an eye out for low flying planes.
- ◆ Elections are coming up in January, and Dave Comeau and Charlie Bacon are the nominating committee. If you are interested in running for office, please let them know, their contact info is at the end of this message. They'll announce the basic slate at the December meeting, but nominations are open right up until the election is held at the January annual meeting.
- ◆ The club auction will be held in early February, so be thinking about things you might want to part with. As usual, we'll need some volunteers to help out with the door, raffles, item running, etc.
- ◆ The estate of Jim Semonian was kind enough to donate the left over modeling stuff from the estate sale. Some of it is seriously in need of organizing. In particular, it would be very helpful if someone would check things like radios, servos, and engines for basic functionality - we'll be able to get more for things at the auction if we can say that they work. Also, general sorting into lots of propellers, hardware, etc. would also be nice. Give me a buzz if you can help.
- ◆ By now you should have received your 2004 membership form in the mail. Please make it as easy as possible on Ray by printing neatly, and including all required information and items.

Hope to see you at the next meeting, and at the holiday party. Be safe, and have fun!

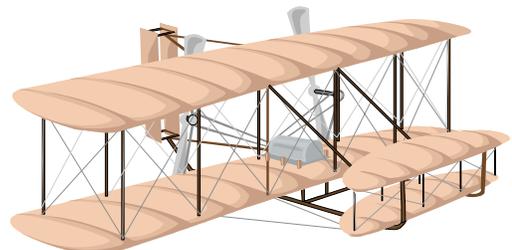
Jeff

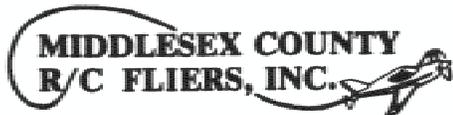
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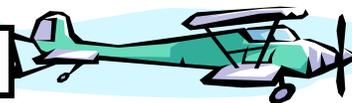
Next Meeting!

Wed 12/3/2003 @ 7:30 pm

Lighthouse School
Wellman Avenue, off Rt. 3A/4
North Chelmsford, MA

The Flyer

December 2003



Official Publication of the Middlesex County R-C Fliers, Inc.

THE FLYER is the official newsletter published by the Middlesex County R-C Fliers, Inc., a non-profit organization chartered for the promotion of radio controlled model aircraft building and flying. The club operates a flying field located on Treble Cove Road, Billerica, MA. The club offers free instruction to any member provided they have a current membership with the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Contact any club member for details. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month between September and June at the Lighthouse School in North Chelmsford at 7:30 p.m.

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