

May, 2003

THE FLYER



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

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

Revised Field Rules Now Available

The club's newly revised rules for Field Safety and Field Operations have been posted at the field, and are also available on the "Rules" page of the club's website. Go to <http://www.mcrcf.org> and hit the "Rules" button. The new documents are available as Adobe pdf files. They are also printed in this newsletter.

The Board of Directors had asked the Operations Committee to review the rules, as they had been in place without change since 1996. The committee met to consider the rules and any changes necessary, and proposed a draft set for consideration by the membership at the last regular club meeting in April. After some discussion and some minor modifications, the draft rules were approved by the membership. Our thanks to committee members Bob Doucette, Dave Calkins, and Ray Capobianco.

The rules have been kept to the bare minimum, but that doesn't mean that "if it isn't in the rules, it doesn't matter". Use common sense and courtesy at all times, even if it isn't on the list - **All members should consider themselves to be Safety Officers!**



Adrian Michaud with his PBF (Pizza Box Flyer) with thanks to the inventors of Coroplast™

May Meeting

- ◆ Report from the park committee meeting
- ◆ Bring something for show and tell!
- ◆ Watch video of expensive planes being turned into kindling!
- ◆ Raffle Prizes - Fuel, Field Charger

From the Club Database

- ◆ Membership - **93** (91 flying)
- ◆ Most popular channel - **52** (12 users)
- ◆ How many different channels do each of us use?

<u># of chnls</u>	<u># of members</u>
1	35
2	18
3	16
4	9
5	7
6	6

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Meeting Minutes (February and April)

Minutes of the 02/05/2003 Regular meeting of the Middlesex County R-C Fliers, Inc.

Introduction and Committee Reports:

President Jeff Ward called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. but without a quorum. There were no new members present. Treasurer John Caci read the financial report for January. Acceptance of the financial reports was deferred. Acceptance of the minutes of the January meeting was deferred. Ray reported the membership as 63.

Old Business

Auction – scheduled for February 16th. Jeff asked for additional volunteers to help. The printed auction flyer had the wrong year on it, pointing out the need for improved quality control! The date has been corrected in the AMA magazine and on their on-line event calendar.

New Business

- ◆ March meeting – Jeff noted that the March meeting schedule coincided with the 495th R/C Squadron's annual Art Alfano Scale Show, and suggested that since there was no pressing official business anticipated for March, that the meeting not be held so that members could attend the show. There was general agreement that this was a good idea. Jeff announced that there would be no regular meeting in March, and that he would publicize the fact in the regular mailing and through email.
- ◆ Raffle – Jeff mentioned that the budget included some money for actual raffle prizes (enough for a couple of meetings) to be used in place of the usual 50/50 raffle. The July meeting will probably be one event that includes a prize raffle, but that the April meeting might also have prizes. Jeff asked for suggestions on what people would like to see as prizes. Although all agreed that "a Harley" would be a good prize, the budget will not support it. Several more economical suggestions were noted.
- ◆ Snowmobiles – Bob Mason asked about snowmobiles in the park. Some have been seen going over our benches. There seems to be mixed opinion over whether they are allowed in the park, but the police appear to think that it's OK. There was a suggestion to put up markers or some snow fence around the benches next year. Jeff suggested that we should only call the police if the snowmobilers were operating in a way to endanger people in the park or if they are damaging the park.
- ◆ Someone mentioned that the Cape Anne Club was still active, contrary to information previously published in "The Flyer". They did not lose their field, as the developer that wanted to build on it couldn't get the necessary permits.

There being no more business, the official part of the meeting was adjourned.

Show and Tell

- ◆ John Parisi showed his "Delta Vortex" ARF designed by Bruce Tharpe Engineering. The Vortex has a 54" wingspan with an OS 91FX engine, and a 14oz. fuel tank. John says it took him "about a week, a little each night" to assemble the ARF. It's designed for sport, not speed.
- ◆ Jim Holt showed two planes: The first was a Great Planes Focke-Wolfe ARF. The second was a SIG Mid-Star 40 kit. Jim said that he was impressed by the Sig kit's laser cut parts, ease of construction, and excellent documentation. The plane will sport a Saito 56 4-stroke when it's done.

After show and tell, Jeff played part of a recent NOVA program called "Spies That Fly". The second half of the program concentrated on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's) used for reconnaissance, including some that were based heavily on R/C models technology. After the video, a 50/50 raffle was held.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Ward
President

Minutes of the 04/02/2003 Regular meeting of the Middlesex County R-C Fliers, Inc.

Introduction and Committee Reports:

Vice President Gary Christiansen called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., with 21 members present. President Jeff Ward

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was absent, attending a meeting of the Vietnam Veterans Park committee. Treasurer John Caci read the financial report for March. The new members were introduced. Bob Mason reported that the field had been rolled. Bob was able to get this done by one of the contractors working across the street at the jail. He did the job for \$100, a substantial savings over the amount we had budgeted based on past experience. Many thanks to Bob M.

Old Business

There was no old business.

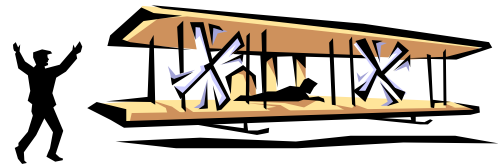
New Business

On behalf of the Operations Committee, Bob Doucette presented drafts of revised Field Safety Rules and Field Operations Rules. After discussion, several minor modifications were suggested and accepted. The rules were voted on and accepted.

Unofficial Business

Show and Tell - John Yassemedis brought his new hobby lathe to show.
50/50 Raffle—won by Gary C.

Respectfully submitted,
John Parisi, Director



What's Happening in Vietnam Veterans Park

- ◆ The Billerica Recreation Department and the Sudbury Valley Trustees are cooperating on the creation of a brochure describing the park. It will include trail maps and info on facilities and activities. The Middlesex County R/C Fliers and its model flying activities are mentioned in the brochure.
- ◆ The loamed areas have been raked and reseeded, as of 4/28. Please do whatever you can to minimize damage to the seeded areas. Please try to drive and park on the grassy areas, even if you have to walk a little to the pit area.
- ◆ The Billerica Police have indicated an interest in having the park entrance gated so that once they clear the parking lot in the evening, no cars can get back in. Not sure if any decision has been made on this yet.
- ◆ Peggy Hannon-Rizza from Billerica Recreation is working with two Eagle Scout candidates regarding work on the new memorials and traffic circle at the park entrance. The park committee would like to have it finished in time for Billerica's 350th year celebration in 2005.
- ◆ The BMX bike racing season starts again in May. The BMX association hopes to get the starting hill paved this year.
- ◆ Billerica Youth Soccer intends to develop two more soccer fields inside the park. They'll be near the existing fields, across the dirt road in the existing open space. The additional fields are needed so that other fields can be "rested".
- ◆ The town is considering designating the area that used to be Goldenrod Ave. (between the old community garden and the trees) as parking space, to take up some of the overflow during peak demand periods.
- ◆ The county's dilapidated yellow barn on Treble Cove Road is going to be rehabilitated (don't know if they mean rebuilt, or leveled so they can start over.) Not sure at this time what its use will be, but Peggy says when it's finished there will be some parking there and some bathrooms that will be available to the public.

President's Message

Finally, some warm weather. I hope you've all given your models a thorough "going over" before getting into the prime flying season. Sometimes things just seem to loosen up or fall apart over the winter. Also, please check the condition of your transmitter and receiver batteries carefully before flying them again this season.

Dave Heckman called me this week with some sad news. His close friend and our fellow club member Warren Harding passed away in mid-April, after struggling with a heart condition. Warren didn't fly, but he was a regular at the club meetings, and I appreciated that. Our condolences to Dave, and to Warren's family.

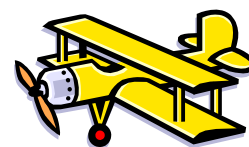
Many of you have read the updated club rules for safety and field operations, either at the last meeting, at the field, or on the web site. If you haven't yet, please do so. Formulating the rules can be tough, deciding between being thorough (and risking a list of rules so long no one can remember them all) and keeping it simple (and not addressing every issue.) We opted for simplicity, but the price you pay for that is me harping on you on safety issues in the newsletter!

This month's issue is one of "protecting the pilot's box." Too many times over the last couple of years, people have been observed performing low altitude maneuvers close to the pilot's box while there are other pilots flying. As we all know, when you're flying, you're not watching the other person or their model. In the best case scenario, this can be very distracting for the other pilots, especially less experienced fliers. In some cases, such aircraft (planes and helicopters) have crashed into or flown through the pilot's box or the pits. In almost all instances, *this could have been avoided*. For reasons of safety and courtesy, please consider these guidelines:

1. Avoid performing low altitude maneuvers over the runway when there are other pilots in the box.
2. Do not attempt any maneuvers at low altitude over the runway that you have not practiced extensively at high altitude or under more forgiving conditions.
3. If you want to fly or practice a maneuver at low altitude near field center, ask the other pilots if they will give you the field, and then limit the practice maneuvers to 5-10 minutes max. (Other pilots, please be gracious as long as no one abuses this)
4. For everyone's safety, all low altitude flying should be done no closer than the runway center line, even if you're alone in the box.
5. If you just have to fly low, at least warn the other pilots, and give them the opportunity to grit their teeth or land and get out of the way.
6. If you know you're going to fly low or practice maneuvers you haven't mastered, ask someone to spot for you (and everyone else!)

Be safe and have fun!

Jeff



p.s Thanks to Ray C. and John P. for keeping up the field markings!

Upcoming R/C Events

- ♦ **Hydro Fun Fly**, 05/17/03 - 05/18/03 -Brimfield, MA (C) Hydro Fun Fly. Site: Streeter Point. D.E. Foster CD, 69 Intervale Rd Springfield MA 01118 PH:413-782-3872. Sponsor: GEE BEE PRODUCTS
- ♦ **Wachusett Barnstormers 5th Annual Bottom Gun Scale Fly-in**, June 7-8, Gardner Airport, Gardner MA. No competition, no pressure fly in for scale R/C models. Full scale paved and grass runways. All scale aircraft and pilots welcome, jets too. Camping and RV (no hookups) sites available. Food on site. Raffle and door prizes. Flying starts at 8:30 a.m. both days. Contact CD Bob Gifford (978) 297-2576

Field Operating Rules

Approved: April 2, 2003

1. Flight operations at this site are restricted to current MCRCF members and their guests with a current AMA membership.
2. Flight operations are not permitted before 8:00 AM on weekdays or before 9:00 AM on weekends. The field closes at dusk and no one is permitted on the field after dark. No flight operations during electrical storms.
3. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted in the park at any time.
4. All pilots must have a **current** MCRCF issued frequency pin and observe MCRCF Frequency Pole rules and etiquette.
5. Flight privilege shall not exceed 15 minutes per flight.
6. All model aircraft will fly in the designated areas and will yield right-of-way to full-size aircraft (see site map).
7. No flying over equestrian events, the town soccer field or the soccer parking lot during events. Both take-offs and landing must be from the end of the field opposite the event. Flying is limited to electric park flyers and helicopters (operating below the tree tops) if both groups are active.
8. No more than three model aircraft may be concurrently in flight off the main runway, with one helicopter hovering in the designated helicopter practice area.
9. Mufflers shall be attached to all engines that were designed to operate with a muffler. It is recommended that engine noise should not exceed 98 dB at 9 feet.
10. Flying turbine-powered aircraft is not permitted at this field.

Emergency Phone Numbers:

Police **978 671-0900**

Fire **978 671-0940**

Field Safety Rules

Approved: April 2, 2003

ALL MEMBERS ARE TO CONSIDER THEMSELVES SAFETY OFFICERS.

1. All pilots and pilots-in-training are required to be familiar with and abide by the MCRCF Field Safety Rules and the AMA Safety Code.
2. For personal safety, it is strongly recommended that members **SHOULD NOT FLY ALONE**.
3. All aircraft must be properly restrained while starting the engine. Bungee cord style restraints are **NOT** permitted.
4. High-speed engine run-ups shall occur in the designated area that is located in the lower half of the pit area. As a courtesy to others, pilots will point the exhaust from their aircraft away from other modelers and planes in the area.
5. Pilots will fly only from the designated flying stations.
6. Returning aircraft should not be taxied back into the pit area. Engines of returning aircraft are to be turned off prior to entering the pit area.
7. Pilots with gas engines shall have a proper BC fire extinguisher readily available.
8. Landing aircraft have precedence over take-offs and dead stick landings have precedence over all other model activities.
9. Children are **NOT** permitted in the pit area or on the flight line without the **DIRECT** supervision of a responsible adult.

10. WATCH YOUR PROPS ARC AND PROP WASH AREA!

Emergency Phone Numbers:

Police **978 671-0900**

Fire **978 671-0940**



First Class Mail

28 Griffen Drive
Wakefield, MA 01880

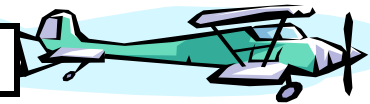
Next Meeting!

Wed 5/7/2003 @ 7:30 pm

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

The Flyer

May 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.

Club Officers

President

Jeff Ward
4 Eastview Avenue
Billerica, MA 01821
978-663-4493
e-mail: jeffward@attbi.com

Vice President

Gary Christiansen
7 Holly Lane
Hudson, NH 03051
603-889-0379

Registrar/Secretary

Raymond Capobianco
28 Griffen Drive
Wakefield, MA 01880
781-944-6056

Treasurer

John Caci
288 Wellman Avenue
N. Chelmsford, MA 01863
978-251-8718

Newsletter Editor

Jeff Ward (interim)
4 Eastview Avenue
Billerica, MA 01821
978-663-4493
e-mail: jeffward@attbi.com

Training Coordinator

Rich Kruszynski
334 Old Billerica Rd.
Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-0164
e-mail: richard.j.kruszynski@verizon.net

Directors

Jerry Crowley

John Parisi

Rich Kruszynski