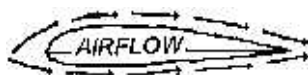


September-October 2004



the official newsletter of the

Radio Control Club of Rochester

AMA charter 465 since 1957



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**DEDICATED TO RESPONSIBLE R/C FUN
 SAFETY BY CHOICE NOT BY CHANCE**

The purpose of the Radio Control Club of Rochester is to aid and encourage interest in the design, construction and safe operation of radio-controlled model aircraft, boats, and cars.

All visitors are always welcome at the Northampton Park Model Flying field and at regular meetings.

Meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Salem Church, 60 Bittner Street, just east of the Inner Loop exit at St. Paul Street.

FOR THE LATEST INFO:
 RCCR WEB PAGE: <http://fly.to/rccr>
 Email: airflow@rochester.rr.com



Even with all the long, rainy days we've had this summer, it seems like the whole thing blew by in a moment. Somewhere in between showers, we've been managing to squeeze out a flight here and there. The remnants of Hurricane Frances dumped over 3 inches of rain on our flying fields, causing the grounds crew to temporarily close the driveway down to Hasman, and seriously damaging one of the club's portable shelters. Ivan is currently threatening to do the same, so use your best judgment when driving out onto our flying fields. They can get quite muddy in short order, especially with the water table as high as it is this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to officially announce two new lifetime members to the RCCR. First up, long-time member Ed Granger. Ed's been a valuable and respected member of the RCCR for years, one of the "glider guiders." Someone told him, "Californy is the place you oughtta be," so he loaded up his truck and moved to Beverly Hills, that is. Ed has taken up permanent residence in the sunny state of California, leaving the rest of us to shiver out our winters in Rochester. Ed's presence at club meetings, not to mention his show-and-tells, will be missed. Second is a long-time friend of the club, Shirley Hunter. Shirley (Mrs. Al Sertl) has been the unofficial club photographer for a while now, so we made her an honorary lifetime member. Little did we know we created a monster! Since her induction into the club, she's joined the AMA, gotten herself an airplane, and started taking flying lessons on Tuesdays at Northampton.

Another Electric Fun Fly has come and gone all too quickly. Threatening weather early on Saturday didn't seem to hinder the pilots, as the transmitter impound was hopping all day. Near-perfect weather on Sunday made the entire weekend. Many thanks go out to everyone that helped out at the meet, including CDs Jerry Joseph and Pete Durante. Running the concession stand were the "club Richards" (Peterson and Foster... Keep your mind out of the gutter!), Judy Foster and Greg Kesel. Joe Somers and Bob White redeemed their June Fun Fly meltdown at the ice cream/raffle ticket booth. Ed Britton and Jim Detar filled in at the transmitter impound when I needed a break. Len Cataldi and Pete Durante kept things organized at the pilot sign-ins. More than 40 pilots registered over two days for the Electric Fun Fly this year, so the event is growing.

As with the June Fun Fly, the raffle items donated by various sponsors were impressive. Grand Prize for the raffle was a Great Planes Yard Stick with Futaba 3-channel radio. AstroFlight weighed in, donating one of their popular model 109 Lithium-Polymer battery chargers. Other sponsors included Quiet Flyer Magazine, Master Airscrew, Bob Smith Industries, and Cermak Electronics.

Our July "slow survivable" combat meet was such a success, that we decided to schedule one for August. Pete Durante CD'ed the event. There were nine total participants, including three out-of-towners from Lockport. George Hartman ran away with top honors, followed closely by Lockporter and AMA AVP Ernie Nikodem. Jim Warner came away with a consistent third-place finish.

This year, a combat meet doesn't go by that a veteran combat pilot doesn't come out of retirement: Joe Somers, flying a SPAD HOR presented to him just three days earlier at a club meeting, with an engine and fuel tank borrowed from John "Deere" Floyd, made a strong showing. If you haven't been to one of these meets, you don't know what you're missing.

With after-work flying hours quickly becoming scarce, I've decided to reopen the RCCR "Ebay Connection." As we have for the past couple of years, Ed Britton, Joe Somers, and I will offer our services to put your items up on Ebay. 10% of the final bidding price goes as a donation to the club. Items aren't limited to just hobby-related; we will sell anything as long as the number of items is kept reasonable, and the items aren't too large. The limit is 48" wingspan for airplanes, unless it has two-piece wings, or you're willing to assist in obtaining packing materials.

Don't forget that our annual end-of-season picnic is coming up October 10. As usual, it's at the ski lodge at Northampton Park. Hots, burgers and soda will be provided; bring a dish to pass. Until then, take advantage of the good weather while it lasts, and burn some nitro, or electrons as the case may be.

Matt

My name is Dave Mathewson and I'm running for the office of AMA President. I am currently the AMA District 2 Vice President, having held this position for the last four years. Prior to this I was an Associate Vice President for both John Grigg and Wes DeCou.

I have outlined a vision and a set of goals that I believe would enhance AMA's ability to serve our members and advance model aviation. Times change and AMA needs to make a shift in what have been our priorities.

RADIO-CONTROLLED MODEL AIRPLANE FLYING INSTRUCTION AND DEMONSTRATIONS

When: Sunday, SEPTEMBER 19th, 10:00AM - 4:00PM FREE

Take a turn at the controls of a radio-controlled model airplane. Airplanes and instruction will be provided. Instructors will fly the plane and transfer control to the student via a trainer transmitter at no risk to the student.

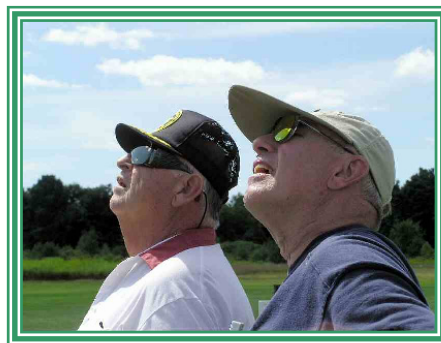
Field is located on Redman Road, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Route 18. Follow the signs on Redman Rd. Adults and children are welcome. Bring a grandchild, friend, or come yourself and fly! Stop in anytime between 10:00am and 4:00pm.

Sponsored by the Radio Control Club of Rochester and the Town of Hamlin.

Note: Paul Hanlon has moved on to the address below.

**Paul Hanlon
6503 E Laguna circle
Highlands Ranch Co 80130 phone# 720-344-0182**

2004 Great Electric FunFly





September 4-5-6, 2004, CHIEFS Camp & Fly, Canandaigua NY

More than a day of hot sun without rain? Awesome! "What a glorious summer day!" and "Isn't it about time?" I thought as I made my way to Chiefs' field in Canandaigua today to check out the camp and fly.

I'm not too savvy about the world of R/C yet, having concentrated mostly on taking pictures. The spirited planes and the passion of the enthusiasts have provided me with a true and enjoyable challenge. So I thought I would see just what I could find out about the Canandaigua Sky Chiefs, and the R/C Gypsies.

I was reminded of Eartha Kit as I drove into the Chief's field. "It's a lazy afternoon, and the beetle bugs are zooming and the tulip trees are blooming and there's not another human in view, but us two..". It was pretty peaceful. Not much going on. Just RVs lazily waiting for something to happen.

The field is beautifully situated. It feels as if it's on top of the world, with plenty of room for parking and camping. On one side of the parking area is a line of trees. On the other side of the runway is a cornfield. I sat in my car absorbing the scene for a while.

Eventually I stirred myself, and walked over to the control center where I met Fran Merklinger, the club president, and Lynn Bowerman the field director along with other club members and visitors.



Control Center



Fran Merklinger

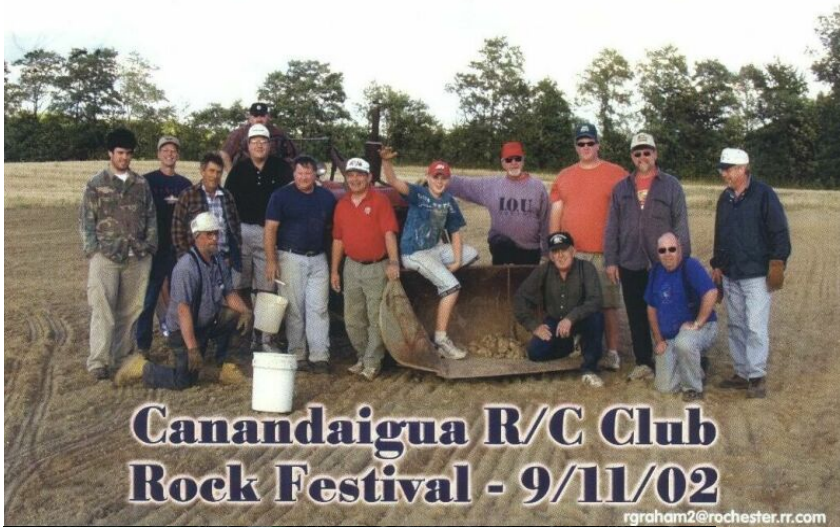


Lynn Bowerman

Fran told me that the club was relocated about two years ago from a site the other side of town on Sand Hill Road. There is a lot more space for activities now. The club's landlord, the NY Steam Engine Association along with the Geneva R/C Club helped the development of the field. A special occasion was the "Rock Festival" held 9/11/02 to remove rocks and prepare the runway. In a corner of the field, a huge pile of rocks is a reminder of that cooperative effort. The Atlanta Fire Department (NY not GA!) donated fencing. That was another work project for the members.

The club seems to be well accepted by its neighbors, who enjoy watching the activities. The membership has increased since the airshow, there being between 45 and 50 members at present. The Gypsies have spent the first weekend and last weekend of the summer at the Canandaigua Club for years, which is something enjoyed by both parties.

Fran says if you are interested, "Come on out! We'll teach you to fly. It's no more expensive than any other hobby".



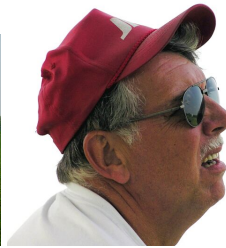
At the end of this season, four large trees will be removed from one end of the runway, which should improve safety.

One of the rescues performed this year was extracting a plane from a PET (Plane Eating Tree). I liked the method. An expert bow & arrow marksman is required. Then fishing line & tackle. Shoot. Pull.

Lynn Bowermen told me that the Chiefs were founded about 15 years ago. Some of the founders were (and spelling corrections would be appreciated!) Gus Fandagias, Larry Comstra, Ted Williams, Bob Carson and Bob Damanski. Lynn used the AMA guidelines in designing the new field. The Gehan Road facilities have meant that the club could be more venturesome. The first Annual Glow Show, which attracted additional members, was held in the current facilities. Lynn is pleased that of the new members, there is an entire family including four children, and a father/ son combination. He himself is now a father of a three-month-old, which has changed life a little for him! About the hobby, he says that if it is growing in popularity, it is largely due to ARFs and the fact that planes can be purchased now for under \$100.00. Lynn now does reviews for RC Universe. Go to www.rcuniverse.com to the magazine section, click on reviews, and check out RV6 "60" scale, about the fourth review down. I watched a test of a beautiful, smooth & quiet experimental model...



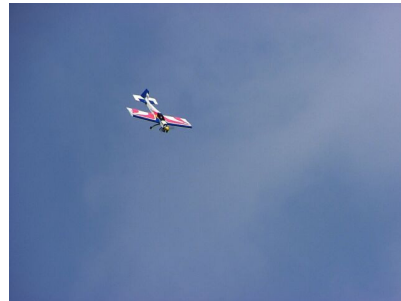
Around lunchtime I met *some* of the Gypsies. I was treated to venison sausage made and cooked by Dave Landers. Wonderful! I was told that the Gypsies wander from place to place, wherever they can find a home. The main thrust is being together, camping, having fun & flying planes. They enjoy each other so much they even meet to eat together in the winter. Their food and campfires are legendary. I should have collected some of the jokes told around the fire.



The wind was capricious especially at altitude, which was a slight damper, but Greg Covey (Quiet Flyer) gave a nice show anyway



There were other fun flies to see.....





I missed the best picture of the day. Maybe it would have been the best picture of my life. The one every photographer hopes for before leaving this earth. That was the recovery of the crashed plane. Plane and rescuers emerged from the cornfield like the baseball players in "Field of Dreams". It was magical and triumphant, but my camera was back on the picnic table while I participated in the search & rescue. Will I never learn?

Nevertheless, I was content when I loaded up my car and made my way west into the golden haze of the early evening, a little bluegrass shaking car and driver on the journey.

Shirley D. Hunter

9-5-2004

