



Thrustline

The Newsletter by and for the Springfield Model Airplane Club

Website - <http://www.smacoh.org>

Volume 4

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Battery Seminar by Dave Thacker of Radical R/C

Dave provided an in-depth seminar covering R/C Batteries with special emphasis on Lithium-Polymer features. He also covered balancing individual cells in a battery pack when charging through the use of center taps. His hour long talk provided several questions from the floor. The SMAC members in attendance came away with a better idea of charging and maintaining their R/C batteries.



Dave stated that a Lithium-Polymer battery is the most dangerous item that you will ever buy for this hobby in your life-time. He indicated that Li-Po batteries must be treated with the same respect as you do with a can of gasoline.

Dave urged every one to charge Li-Po batteries in a metal container with the lid closed. An AMMO canister was suggested as a charging container.

It is also important to be present "100%" of the time when the battery is being charged. If this is not possible then charge the battery outdoors incase the battery does the unspeakable and overheats or burns. Dave recommended a small hole in the AMMO box to release pressure.

Minutes of SMAC meeting, March 1st, 2005

Tonight's meeting was held at the Asbury United Methodist Church in North Hampton. Club President Jeff Traub called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. There were approximately 27 members and visitors in attendance. Attendance was down to-night due to snowy weather.

Secretary's Report: The report was read by Club Secretary Joe Ferrara. The report was then accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: The report was read by Club Treasurer Tom Minnich. The report was then accepted as read. Tom also stated the raffle fund currently has \$29.00 in it and the membership stands at 62 paid members.

Old Business

Field Maintenance: This issue was the main topic at the last Board Meeting. The field is in generally good shape, but some money is needed for weed killer, grass seed, etc. Additionally, the tractors are getting rather old and upkeep is becoming more of a financial burden than in years past. The roller is rusting severely and cannot hold it's contents for more than 1 or 2 days. Everyone should be thinking about what financial resources the club has available and how to best utilize them to keep the tractors running or to replace them.

Mall Show: As was reported at last month's meeting, due to a last minute scheduling conflict, the annual March Mall Show has been moved to the dates of 8-10 April at the Upper Valley Mall in Springfield. Those participating can set up their display aircraft the night before the show (Thursday 7 April at 9:00 PM).

Paint Ball Event: There seems to be some support for having another such event and the item is still open.

Electric Airplane Event: Buzz Massey and Bill Cline are still looking into scheduling such an event later in the summer and the item is still open.

Membership Application Form: A membership application form model has been submitted by Bob Braun, but the issue has been tabled for the time being.

New Business

Fund Raising Events and Ideas: In order to increase the Club's revenues and treasury, a discussion followed on selling additional food and possibly moving the annual swap meet to a larger location. The item is still open as there was no clear consensus on another location.

February Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be held at Jeff Traub's residence in Enon on March 15th at 7:00 PM. However, Jeff later informed the Board that there were no open issues and the scheduled meeting was canceled.

Monthly Presentation: Tonight's guest speaker was Dave Thacker from Radical R/C in Dayton and he gave a talk to the membership on new battery technology, specifically safety issues. Dave told everyone that many flyers are using the newer type high current lithium battery packs for electric models and advised us that a serious fire hazard exists with them, especially due to overcharging. The newer batteries are extremely light and have very high current ratings, making them popular with electric modelers. He strongly advised anyone using them not to use older types of chargers as this could result in a fire or even an explosion hazard.

You would be much better off investing a few bucks in a new charger rather than risk setting fire to your house or car. There have been a number of incidents of this sort reported. Additionally, since they are a Lithium Compound and can generate intense heat, not all types of fire extinguishers are effective in putting out these kinds of fires. Dave also stated that in order to contain any explosion, the batteries should only be charged outdoors in the open or if done indoors, they should be placed in a suitable metal container. These are available from Radical R/C and a number of other places and cost just a few dollars. Thanks for the show, Dave!

Due to the inclement weather, there was no 50/50

raffle held. There being no further business, a motion to close the meeting was made. The meeting was closed by President Jeff Traub at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted By Club Secretary
Joe Ferrara

low battery alarm came on after only a couple of minutes. The pack has been tossed in the trash barrel.

Hope this is not a prelude to this year!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jeff Traub
SMAC President

Transmitter Memory Batteries

I was looking thru my battery card file when I noticed that my "Stylus transmitter memory battery" has gone 5 years without being changed. It is recommended that the memory battery be changed every 3 years, but you know how time flies.

I will send the transmitter back to Airtronics tomorrow. Their turn-around, like all the others, is about 5-7 days. If we have anyone new to computer transmitters, or if they have bought a second hand transmitter I would recommend that it be sent back for a new memory battery. Transmitter doesn't tell you when the Lithium-Memory battery is about to run out!

Don't be like me and have the battery quit while you are flying; the memory will remain until you shut off the transmitter power. The entire memory is then lost. If you have 7-8 models programmed in, losing the whole works can be a real pain in the Butt! The big danger is that if you try to fly again all your settings are gone, I suppose that low throttle on the transmitter could even be high throttle on the model, which can be really nasty.

Don't think that it can't happen, it did to me. I got out on the runway and when I checked the controls nothing worked right, lucky for me low throttle stick was low throttle on the model.

I was also charging my transmitter pack last Friday, which was replaced last year. I could only get about 275 mils out of it, this was from an 1800 mil pack. I had replaced the original pack on 18 June 04 with some after-market batteries, that I had on hand. Big mistake, they were fine all last year, but will not take a charge this year.

I messed around trying to charge them several times and they appeared to take a full charge, about 1750 mils, but the next day the transmitter

R/C Microflight Magazine

Several people were talking about R/C Microflight Magazine going out of business at the last Club meeting. I talked to the publisher and he said this is the first he's heard about it! Several people at the meeting were listening to the conversation.

The rumor going around that R/C Microflight is going "under" is "false", unless of course the publisher isn't telling the truth. There is no reason that he should have to lie about it.

Jeff Traub
SMAC President

A Smile for Today

The other day a young person asked me how I felt about being old. I was taken aback, for I do not think of myself as old. Upon seeing my reaction, she was immediately embarrassed, but I explained that it was an interesting question, and I would ponder it, and let her know.

Old age, I decided, is a gift. I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometime despair over my body- but I don't agonize over it for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become more kind to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avante garde on my patio. I am entitled to overeat, to be messy, to be extravagant. I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great

Global FlyerAn Amazing Voyage in 67 hours

Steve Fossett (Inset Photo on the right) was the pilot on this historic flight.

Calendar of Events

- 5 April 2005 SMAC Club Meeting 7:30 PM**
Location: Asbury United Methodist Church
104 E. Clark St. (Rte #41)
North Hampton, Ohio
- April 8-10, 2005 SMAC Mall Show**
Location: Upper Valley Mall
Springfield, Ohio
Setup: Thursday 7 April (9:00 PM)
- 19 April 2005 SMAC Board Meeting 7:00 PM**
Location: Home of Jeff Traub
2665 Lindair Dr., Springfield, OH
- 3 May 2005 SMAC Club Meeting 7:00 PM**
Location: Club Field
Spence Road, North Hampton, Ohio
- 17 May 2005 SMAC Board Meeting 7:00 PM**
Location: Home of Jeff Traub
2665 Lindair Dr., Springfield, OH

The Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer was financed by Richard Branson, Virgin Atlantic Airways; Designed by Burt Rutan of Scale Composites. Steve Fossett lifted-off from Salina, Kansas at approximately 6:47 p.m. Monday February 28, 2005 and returned on Thursday March 3, 2005 at 1:48:56 p.m. Completing the first solo non-stop, non-refueled flight around the world.

my hair turn gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver. I can say “no”, and mean it. I can say “yes”, and mean it. As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don’t question myself

freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read until 4 am, and sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50’s & 60ies, and if I at the same wish to weep over a lost love, I will. I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten—and I eventually remember the important things. Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers? But broken hearts are what gives us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have

anymore. I’ve even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer the question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. For the first time in my life, I don’t have to have a reason to do the things I want to do. If I want to play games on the computer all day, lay on the couch and watch old movies for hours or don’t want to go to the beach or movies, I have earned that right. I have put in my time doing everything for others, so now I can be a bit selfish without feeling guilty.

I sometimes feel sorry for the young, They face a far different world than I knew growing up, where we feared the law, respected the old, the flag, our country. I never felt the need to use filthy language in order to express myself. And they too will grow old some day.

I am grateful to have been born when I was, into a kinder, gentler world. Yes, I like being old. (Author unknown)