



The Dead Stick Flyer

Newsletter of Swan Harbor RC

Volume 33, Number 4, April 2022

www.swanharborrc.com



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April 2022 issue of the Swan Harbor RC Newsletter

Review of March Meeting Newsletter Minutes

Membership & Treasury Report

Old Business:

- *Grass & Equipment Care for 2022*
- *Club Projects: Pit & Flight Line Fence, Canopy Concrete & Fans, and Plane Hold Downs*
- *Club Events: Spring Fly-In: Saturday, June 11, 2022, Starting 10AM*
 - *Plus: September 10th Fall Club Picnic, September 24th Flea Market*
 - *December 3rd Christmas Party*
- *New Member – New Flyer Program Update*

Other Area Events:

- *Warbirds Over Delaware, Antiques and Classics, Wings Over Piper*

Tech Talk:

Pre-Season Aircraft Maintenance – Waking your planes up after a long winter's nap!

Next Club Meeting & Cookout:

- *Date: **Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 7:00pm***
- *Location: **Swan Harbor RC field, Cookout at 6PM before meeting***

Club Pics

General Information

Review of March Meeting Newsletter Minutes

Steve asked the members present at the meeting if the March newsletter minutes were acceptable and if anyone had any questions or comments regarding the minutes. All members present agreed they were good.

Membership & Treasury Report

***Membership:** Steve informed members that the club ended the 2021 year with 86 members. As of the April 2022 meeting we now have 77 paid up members. The regular membership renewal period ended March 31st.*

***Treasury:** Steve reviewed the club's financial status as of the meeting date and noted the club is in great shape.*

Old Business

- **Grass & Equipment Care for 2022:**

- *All of our Zero-Turn mowers have been serviced and have begun the regular grass cutting routines. Gary Gunter provided the service on the mowers in-house. Thanks to Gary!*
- *The first grass cutting of the year occurred on Monday, April 11, 2022. The grass looks marvelous for the start of the year, green and thick (see pics).*

- **Club Projects:**

- **County Project Requests:** *Two capital expenditure requests were submitted to the county that should be completed between mid-summer and the fall of 2022.*
 - **In-Process:** *Pit and Flight Line fence to be replaced. The Pit area fence height will be raised to 4 feet to provide a better margin of safety for spectators behind the Pit area. There will be a 3 foot opening in the middle of each fence line so that flyers can walk through to their planes. The top of the fencing will have a padded wrap cushion. The fence contract has been awarded and the contractor now has 30 days to complete the project. Just an FYI, the field will be shut down for flying when the contractor is installing the fence. We will provide an email notice when the field is closed. We thank you in advance for your cooperation while the fence is under construction.*

- **In-Process: Canopy Stone Crush to be replaced with Concrete.** *The stone crush that is under the two canopies will be removed and replaced with concrete. The stone crush will be moved to the outer sides of the canopy areas. This will provide a better surface to walk on when the ground is wet and help to eliminate stagnant water and bugs under the canopies.*

- **Club Projects: Several internal club projects have been completed and others are in-process as follows:**
 - **Completed: A new front entrance gate has been installed.** *The posts for the gate were installed on Saturday, April 10th and the new swing gate was installed on Friday, April 15th. The gate was Dale's contribution to the club. The lock combination is the same. Operating the gate will be much simpler than the cable version and you won't have to walk in the muddy soil when it is wet. (See pics).*

 - **Completed: 12 new chairs were purchased.** *6 chairs were set up for each canopy to provide a more comfortable stay at the field. The old chairs were breaking down and we did not want anyone to get hurt if they broke while sitting on them.*

 - **In-Process: Concrete Plane Hold Down Bases.** *Everything is ready to install new concrete plane hold down bases at each pit/plane flight station to provide a more secure and permanent structure. We are waiting for good weather to complete this project.*

 - **In-Process: Fans installed under each Canopy.** *A fan will be installed under each canopy to provide air circulation during the hot days of the summer. The fans will be directed so that air flows over the tables and not directly at people.*

- **Club Events: Swan Harbor RC club events scheduled for 2022 are:**
 - **Spring 2022 Fly-In on Saturday, June 11th**
 - **Fall Club Picnic on Saturday, September 10th**
 - **Club Flea Market on Saturday, September 24th**
 - **Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 3rd**



Swan Harbor RC

Spring 2022 Fly-In

Take Oakington Road off US 40 between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace and follow the signs for Swan Harbor Farm to Swan Harbor RC field.

Ample parking on the side areas.

www.swanharborrc.com



Date: Saturday, June 11, 2022

Time: Starting 10am

Lunch will be served.

No landing or parking fee for event. Donations are appreciated.

For more information contact:

Steve Snyder, President: 443-243-4323 snyder800@gmail.com

Ron Lazzeri, Vice President: 443-425-9006 ronlazzeri@verizon.net

- **New Member - New Flyer Program: (Has not been started at this time)**

Several meetings ago, Steve introduced the idea of a “New Flyer Program” that he would like to get going in 2022. This program will help interested and potential new members ease into the RC hobby with good startup information.

It would include a pamphlet with information for getting started in the hobby to include a couple options for affordable trainer type RC planes, flight simulators, AMA & FAA lower cost membership, basic RC tips, and club flight mentors/instructors.

Steve would also like to review the membership policy and produce an affordable newbie trial membership to help a potential RC hobbyist ease into our club without initially breaking their financial resources and scaring them off.

Finally, he would like to solicit several member volunteers to be flight instructors and mentors for new flyers that need help getting started and trained. Our goal is to make new RC flyers feel that the initial entry into the hobby can be affordable and fun by providing them low cost yet effective options for getting started.

New Business

Summer Club Meetings: At the April meeting we discussed the upcoming summer club meetings/cookouts that will be held at the Swan Harbor RC field. A decision has been made to have the summer meetings and cookout on Tuesday evenings at 7pm with the cookout starting at 6PM. It was duly noted that Saturday meetings run the risk of President Biden's TFR's which will shut down flying for the day. If, and when, maybe, we get a waiver for the TFR's we will certainly review the decision for a Saturday meeting and cookout.

May Club Meeting

- The May club meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10th starting at 7:00pm.
 - **Note:** A bad weather cancellation may move the meeting to the Havre de Grace center.
- A cookout at the field will start at 6PM.
- An agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting.
- We welcome everyone to the meetings to help shape the future of our club.

Other Area Events:

- **Warbirds Over Delaware:** July 13th through July 16th
- **Antiques and Classics:** Saturday, August 7th
- **Wings Over Piper:** Thursday, August 4th through 7th

Tech Talk – Pre-Season Aircraft Maintenance

Early spring months are a good time to get your RC Aircraft ready for the new flying season. Here are some general tips you can add to your Checklist.

General Inspection:

Perform a thorough inspection of your aircraft. Look it over. Turn it upside down. Look inside. Take the cowl off. Look for issues. You get the idea. Here are some useful check list items:

- Loose covering or holes in the covering that can tear further in the air.
- Loose screws on engines, servos, wheels, etc.
- Broken internal parts, formers, supports, engine mounts, etc.
- Do any parts need to be re-glued or re-attached securely with Loctite?
- Loose canopy or cowling
- Receiver and antenna is secure and operational
- Loose battery/compartments
- Transmitter working, range check, batteries holding full charge

- *Need to re-bind transmitter with receiver*
- *Loose or worn control surface hinges and control rods*
- *Frayed battery or servo wires from vibration*
- *Damaged or cracked propellers, out of balance*
- *Do you have all your needed tools in your flight box?*
- *Did mice or spiders make nests in your plane – could hamper operation*
- *Gas engine carburetors gummed up or dirty from lack of use*
- *Glow engines gummed up from glow fuel/castor oil sediment*
- *Glow starter battery operational*
- *Gas engine starter and battery working properly*
- *Dirty covering: clean it up – it will fly and look better*
- *Puffed or questionable LIPO batteries – replace them*
- *AMA & FAA membership up to date*
- *Need help from an experienced member to get going*
- *Need TFR restriction information at field*
- *Attend monthly meetings for up to date club events and activities*

Batteries: *Check and evaluate your batteries where possible. Are the batteries accepting a full charge? How old are they? Batteries usually start to fail at the 3-4 year mark. For LIPO's, are they swollen or puffed? It could be a sign of a failure looming even though they still work. Replace any batteries you determine are subject to failure and do yourself a favor and avoid a problem in the air.*

Battery chargers: *Are you charging your batteries at the correct charge rates? Check the charger's owner's manual, website, or with someone in the Club you're confident can help validate your process. Look in the club's website under "Tech Corner" for additional charging information.*

Loose Parts: *Check for loose bolts, screws, covering and other essential gear. Use a small amount of Loctite to keep bolts from coming loose from vibration. Repair any torn or loose covering as it will only get bigger and eventually cause a problem you do not want.*

Servos: *Check your servos. Turn the TX & RX on and move the sticks on the transmitter in all directions (with the engine off, please!). Listen and look for servos that bind or slip during their travel. It may be a sign of worn gears and the servo may need replacing.*

Propellers: *Check your Props. Are they nicked, cracked or out of balance? This can cause extra vibration, wear out the engine bearings, and shake the airframe causing unwanted issues. Clean the Props, balance the props or replace them.*

Transmitters: Check your transmitter. Is it “Binding” correctly with the on-board receiver of the aircraft? Follow the manufacturer’s procedures for this step. Actually, this is a good practice to be followed routinely during the flying season as well.

Trim Settings: Check the trim settings and any other settings to fix any quirky flying tendencies, that you may recall from your last flights with that plane. Be sure to check them again after flying the aircraft at the field.

Aircraft Balance: Check your aircraft’s balance. Was it flying tail heavy or is it nose heavy? Things can change so it is a good idea to check the aircraft’s balance to be sure it is flying as best it can. It can be difficult or frustrating to fly an aircraft that is out of balance and could also be a challenge to land easily.

Spark/Glow Plugs: Check your spark plugs or glow plugs depending on whether it is a gasser or glow fuel burner. They can become fouled if your engine’s HS & LS settings are off. If questionable, you may want to check your engine’s settings when at the field next. There are various visual indications of a spark plug’s performance based on the carburetor’s settings, but generally a medium light tan color on the plug’s electrode is a good indication of good HS & LS settings. Replace the plugs if they look fouled or are heavily coated with carbon.

Fuel: Check your fuel. Using fresh fuel is always a good practice. It will allow the engine to run at its best performance assuming it is properly tuned.

Oil Mix: As always use a good oil for gas/oil mix 2 stroke engines. Check the oil mix ratios in your fuel. Engines do not run well on a lean oil mix and can overheat.

Check any manufacturer’s recommendations you’re not sure about to verify your equipment is operating the best it can.

Clean It Up: Give the aircraft a good cleaning. A lot of times we just give it a swift cleaning just to get it in the car to go home from the field. Make it look good as well.

Retire It or Spruce It Up: Do you have a plane sitting in the corner that you are deciding whether to retire it or not? Well, now is a good time to spruce it up. Maybe some new covering or a new engine can put life back into one of your old favorites.

The new front gate



The green grass runway





The new chairs (Bob Walker)



The first grass cut of the year (Bob Walker)



Dale's ready for the Hummingbirds



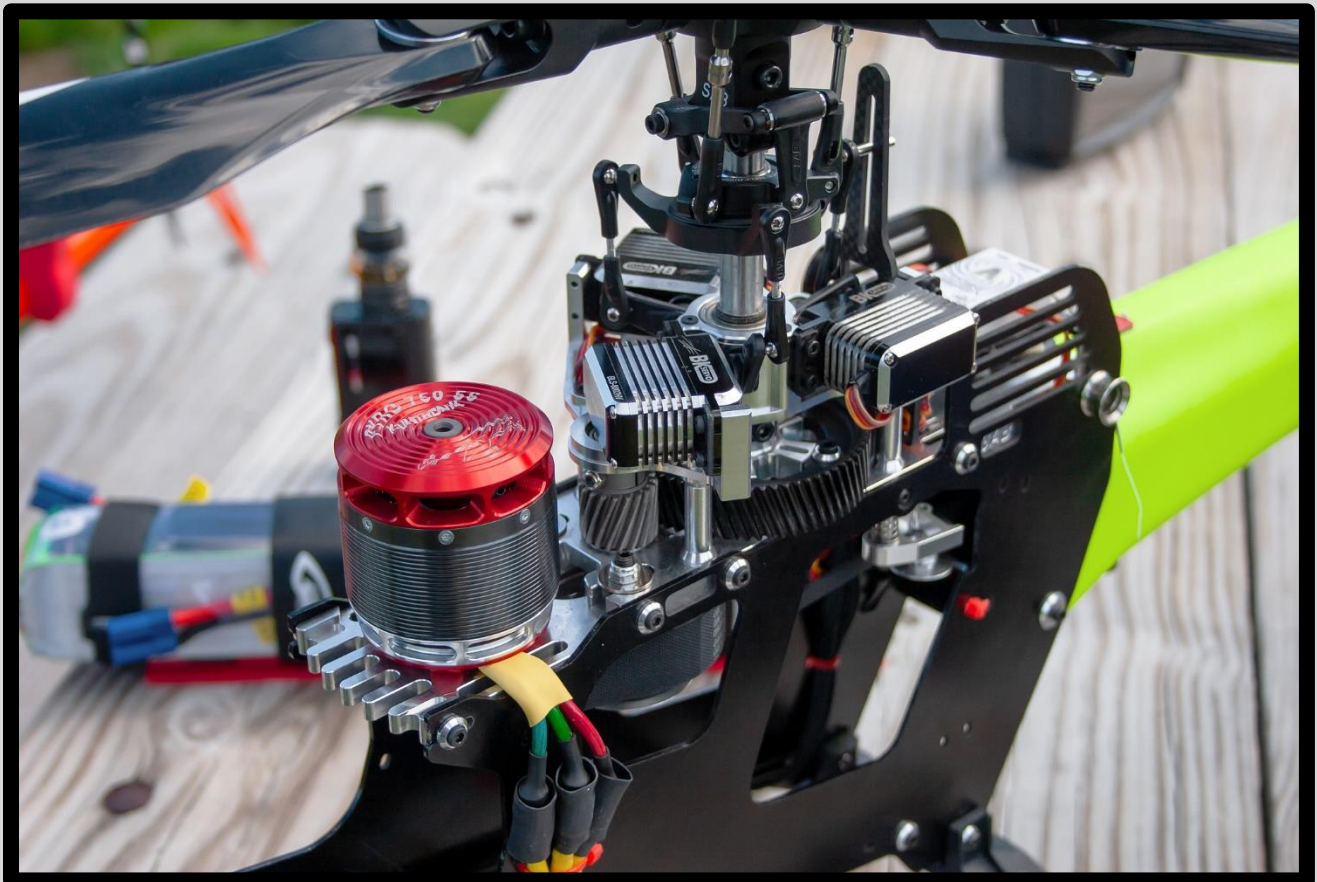
3 Hummingbird Nests

Along the driveway



Rene's Helicopters





General Information:

Membership Dues Policy

To pay your club dues for the season, either as a renewing member or a new member, please forward them to Steve Snyder, Treasurer. As you all know we depend on our dues to fund projects and general maintenance for our club.

Existing Annual Membership Renewals:

- Annual renewal membership fee: \$75.00
- Renewal period: 1/1/YR thru 3/31/YEAR
- Payment is due by: 3/31/YEAR

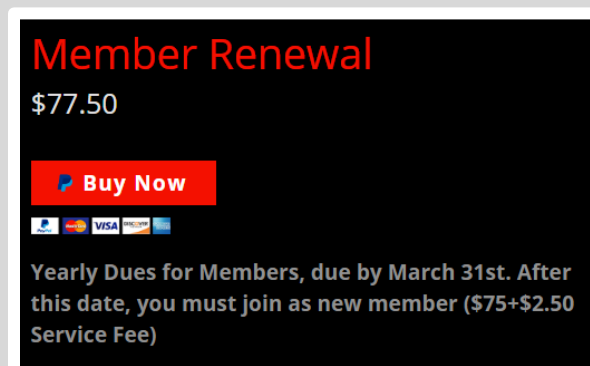
New Membership Dues:

- Full year new membership fee: \$125.00
- Joining period: 1/1/YR thru 12/31/YEAR (*)
 - Fee Includes:
 - \$75.00 annual membership fee
 - \$50.00 first year initiation fee

(*) Note: New members joining the club on 9/1/YR or after of that same year are considered paid in full for the current year and the immediately following year. The reason for this exception is that the current flying season is about 75% over and we want to give new members an incentive to join our club.

You can pay your dues with PayPal:

If you decide to pay your dues with PayPal go to the club's website: swanharborrc.com and click on the top menu item How to Join. This section will explain everything you'll need to know regarding how to join as a new member or pay your dues as a renewing member. In this section you will see the PayPal payment option as pictured below. Please take note that the PayPal payment option has a PayPal service fee of \$2.50 added to the payment total.



What members are working on: Building a new aircraft, assembling an ARF, working on an old reliable, or want to sell something? We would love to hear about what you are working on. Send us some information and a couple of pics of your project and we will post it in the next monthly newsletter. Send your emails to: ronlazzeri@verizon.net.

Newsletter: To receive the Swan Harbor RC Newsletter by email, please send a request to: sslotnick@mac.com.

Photos: Anyone who would like to have new photos appear in the slideshow or the photo gallery is encouraged to send their photos to Stephen Slotnick at sslotnick@mac.com and he will add them as soon as he can.

Interest in Joining the Club: Please see the instructions on the Swan Harbor RC website www.swanharborrc.com under the heading "How to Join." Additional membership information or questions can be obtained from Steve Snyder at (443) 243-4324 or email: snyder800@gmail.com.

Harford County's No Smoking Policy on County Property:
We follow all county rules and regulations and ask for your cooperation.

Thank You!

