

THE DEAD STICK FLYER

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 16
October 2026

News from the High Command — Fall 2026

Good day, fellow RC enthusiasts!

I hope this latest bit of propaganda from the High Command finds everyone in good health, high spirits, and with their airplanes still in one piece. We are now roughly three-quarters of the way through the flying season, which means we have only a limited number of good flying days left before Mother Nature shuts down the field and reminds us who is really in charge.



A Big Thank You to the Field Maintenance Crew

First and foremost, I want to give a huge shout-out to our field maintenance crew. The grounds have been in absolutely pristine shape all year, and that doesn't happen by accident.

A tremendous amount of time and effort goes into keeping the field looking and flying as well as it does, and we sincerely appreciate everything they do.

In addition, the team seeded and aerated the runway and much of the surrounding grass on 10/6/2026, just one of the many proactive services they offer.

So, the next time you're at the field, be sure to take a peek inside the shed (or look left at our lovely figure model perched on the new "hotness", he was all we could afford after the purchase).

Indoor flying starts Friday, November 6, 2026. We have the Emmorton gym scheduled from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM for indoor flying. The facility address is Emmorton Activity Center, 2213 Old Emmorton Rd, Bel Air, MD 21015. Please note that if Harford County schools or county offices are closed due to weather, indoor flying will be canceled as the facility will be closed.



Swan Harbor RC 2026 Board of Directors

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Next Events:

Tuesday, November 10 2026 @ 7:00 PM

- Tuesday, November 10, 2026 7:00 PM Club Meeting
- Saturday, December 5, 2026 12:00 PM Christmas Party



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Fall Open House & Fun Fly

Our Fall Open House/Fun Fly, while slightly hampered by Mother Nature, turned out to be a tremendous success.

A huge thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who helped throughout the day. From cooking, to flight management — which is essentially herding cats with wings — to helping with parking and all the other jobs that magically appear during an event, the day simply would not have been successful without you.

The turnout was great, and plenty of flying was enjoyed by all.

Events like this are what make a club more than just a place to fly airplanes. They give us an opportunity to meet new people, share the hobby, and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with standing around a flight line telling stories.

And, of course, there is the important tradition of "the truth not getting in the way of a good story." Personally, I met several new pilots at the event and really enjoyed the conversations and fellowship. That's one of the things I enjoy most about this hobby.

Get Out There and Fly!

As we head into the latter part of the season, I encourage everyone to get out to the field and take advantage of the good weather while we still have it.

- Bring an airplane.
- Bring a friend.
- Bring someone who has never flown an RC airplane.
- Bring that airplane you've been working on for six months and are terrified to actually fly.

Most importantly, get out there and enjoy the hobby.

The airplanes are great, but the people are what make this club special. Get to know some of the newer members, introduce yourself to someone you haven't met, and don't be afraid to strike up a conversation.

You might make a new friend.

You might learn something.

Or you might hear a story that gets progressively less believable with every retelling.

Either way, it's a good day at the field.

Fly safe, fly often, and keep the corn out of your airplanes!

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Turbine Waivers — Because Apparently We Needed to Go Faster

I'd also like to congratulate Steve, Jeff, and myself on obtaining our fixed-wing turbine waivers.

It is definitely a rush, to say the least.

Several people have asked what these things are like to fly. The best way I can describe it is:

The flying part is easy. They truly go where you point them.

Granted, they go there very, very quickly, but they do, in fact, go where you point them.

The real excitement begins when you start considering some of the other factors.

You've got:

- High wing loading
- Excessive landing speeds
- A roughly three-second throttle response delay
- A runway that suddenly seems considerably shorter than it did five minutes ago
- Zero runoff area
- And, just for added excitement, mature corn conveniently located at our field

Put all of that together and it has a remarkable way of making you rethink your dedication to the sport.

There is something very humbling about sitting behind a turbine aircraft, knowing that when you move the throttle, the airplane is basically saying:

"Sure... I'll get around to that in about three seconds."

Meanwhile, the runway is getting shorter, the corn is getting taller, and your brain is beginning to reconsider every decision that led you to this particular moment.

But when it all works, there is absolutely nothing quite like it.



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General Information

How to Join the Swan Harbor RC Club:

- From the Internet, go to the club's website www.swanharborrc.com.
- Proceed to the section "How to Join".
- In this section you will find instructions for becoming a new member.
- There you will find several ways you can pay the membership fees, including a PayPal option. Please note that an extra fee is included with the PayPal payment option.
- An alternate option for joining the club would be to contact Steve Snyder, President/Treasurer, for additional membership information or questions. Steve can be reached at 443-243-4323 or snyder800@gmail.com.
- Complete a membership application and submit it along with your payment to complete your membership submission.
- You are also required to have an active AMA and FAA registration.

Swan Harbor RC is an FAA FRIA approved flying site.

Membership Dues Policy

To pay your club dues for the season, either as a renewing member or a new member, please follow the noted procedures. 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: \$ 85.00 (1)
- Annual Renewal period: 1/1/YR thru 3/31/YR
- Renewal Payment is due by: 3/31/YR

New Membership Dues

- Full year new membership: \$135.00 (1)
- Joining period: (2) 1/1/YR thru 12/31/YR
- Amount includes \$85.00 annual membership & \$50.00 first year initiation fee

Notes

- The annual dues were increased \$5.00 at the October 2023 meeting.
- New members joining the club on 9/1/YR or after in that same year, are considered paid in full for the remainder of the current year and the 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.
- Harford County's No Smoking Policy on County Property: We follow all county rules and regulations and ask for your cooperation.