

AMA Charter No. 2940

THE DEAD STICK FLYER

Havre de Grace, MD

Volume 22, No.06

The Newsletter of SWAN HARBOR RC

June 2011

www.SwanHarborRC.com

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Open House Fun Fly is Saturday, June 4, 2011 starting at 10:00 AM

**Next Club Meeting is at field on June 9, 2011 at 7:00 pm
Come early and get eat hotdogs and fries.**

GENERAL CLUB NEWS...

The April meeting was called to order by Vice President Scott Jordan at 7:05 pm at the Churchville Rec Center. There were 18 members present and treasurer Steve Snyder reported we have a total of 68 members signed up and paid. That is a 17 member increase since the March meeting.

Old Business

1. The old tractor was taken away.
2. Steve Snyder put fertilizer with pre emerge on the field
3. Field is in pretty good shape, but the parking area is terrible
4. The county is waiting for some dry days before doing improvements. This will consist of improving the parking lots. Dale Davis has signs and fencing ready to go.
5. At the last meeting someone suggested buying "tire" mulch for the area under the canopies. Dale said this is a bad idea. It cost \$125/yard, it holds heat and has metal pieces ground up from the steel belts.

New Business

1. An anonymous donor is providing for the mulch and a new grill that is a combination gas/charcoal
2. The replacement/repair of shed was discussed. Achille Silvestri is willing to donate his shed. Steve Snyder priced materials and found we could build one with a garage door for about \$1000.
3. One new and one potential new member were present

The meeting adjourned and most members met again at the local Wendy's

The May 11, 2011 meeting was called to order by President Jim Snyder. This was the first meeting of 2011 at the Swan Harbor flying field. Over 20 members were present. Hot dogs, hamburgers, French fries, brownies, etc were available before the meeting.

Treasurer Steve Snyder reported as of the meeting, there were 68 paid members. Payments were made for a new weed wacker, a blower, food, gas and mower repairs.

Under old business, Dale Davis had installed two signs at the entrance to the field. He also reported that the county will work on the parking lot the following week. Dale also brought a new grill that was used for the evening hamburgers and hot dogs.

New business

1. It was reported that the outhouse should be coming any day.
2. Tom Insley was going to see about moving Achille's shed to the field.
3. Open house is Saturday June 4.
4. Dale Davis is working on a flag with the Swan Harbor logo. Also he will see about getting shirts, hats and decals.

If you have any questions regarding the minutes or contents of this Newsletter, please direct them to Bob Walker.



New Signs at the entrance to the field



Steve and Jim Snyder launching the electric jet



Jae Jang and Hangar Nine Pulse 125



Jim Snyder with his new Pilot-RC Yak

May 2011 The Old Days... Bob Walker

We did 1983 a few months ago, but a lot was happening back then in our hobby.

One of the first CA glues was Hot Stuff. Everyone was having fun trying to figure out how to unstuck fingers, etc. 3 ounces was about \$4. Satellite City either made or distributed it. Carl Goldberg had Super Jet CA glue. Both were advertising accelerator for the CA. Pacer also had CA glue, but was advertising their debonder...handy for those stuck together fingers....

World Engines was the US distributor for OS Engines. June 15 was the advertised arrival date of the new OS FS-120 4 cycle engine. The new design of this engine was to greatly increase the power and was intended to be used by pattern flyers.

The July 1983 issue of Model Aviation Magazine noted that the Radio Control Modelers of Baltimore were going to have a contest on June 11. My father, John Walker had the centerfold of that issue. His construction article for the CO2 SWATT had full sized plans in the center so they could be easily removed. This was a military like pusher plane using a Brown Twin CO2 engine and free flight. Built using.....CA glue.

Electric planes were starting to get popular. Astro Flight was a leader in electric motors, chargers, controllers, etc. Unfortunately, NiCad™ batteries were being used. They were large, heavy and took a while to recharge, but the field was picking up in popularity.

Sheldon's Hobby Shop in California was advertising fuel. 5% nitro for \$6.95; 15% was \$9.25, so fuel really has not gone up over the years.

Ace Radio Control was advertising frequency flags.....not the ones numbered 11-50, but with colors. In 1983 we still only had about 10 frequencies. And we were on wideband.

Kraft, once the premier manufacturer of radio control systems in the 60's and 70's was advertising their K-Line systems. These were imports and the beginning of the end of RC systems being manufactured in the US.

JR Radios were distributed by Circus Hobbies of Las Vegas. They were priced between \$100 and \$460. The various models were called Apollo, Circus, Century and Unlimited. Futaba had ball bearing, coreless and high speed servos.

Circus Hobbies also had a large selection of Kalt Helicopters, most with collective. These were priced \$200 to \$500. Circus also distributed Webra engines from Germany, which recently went under. Helicopters were popular enough to have a column each month in Model Aviation.

Still not a lot of good ARF's in the early 80's....Lanier may have been the largest. The big kit manufacturers included Andrews, Bridi, Dave Platt, Goldberg, Johnnie Cashburn, M.E.N., Midwest, Pica, Sig, Top-Flite. Engines were Irvine, H-B, OS, Enya, Super Tiger, Fox, and K&B.

SAFETY REPORT....Bob Walker, Safety Officer

If the field dries out, flyers will be flocking to the field. The cold weather is a thing of the past until Fall. Hopefully, this will not be a windy season.

But once you finally get out there, here are a few things to remember:

1. Range checking seems to be a lost art. When I started in RC back in the 60's, I always range checked before flying. Half the time, there was no range, so it was back to the bench to find out why. I still range check each day before flying. With the 72 mHz systems it is easy. Collapse the antenna and start walking. With the 2.4 GHz transmitters, the way to range check may not be obvious. Your first time at the field each season, it is especially important to do a range check. Bring out the radio manual and check before flying.
2. The bane of computer radios is that they have multiple programs for multiple planes. A number of planes crash every year because the radio is set to the wrong plane. The people who take off and find they have reversed controls seldom land in one piece. Model Match is a nifty thing on Spektrum radios, but I do not think the others have this. Check the carburetor if you can before starting too. A reversed throttle and engine starting at full rpm can be an unpleasant surprise.
3. Before taking off it is a good idea to work all the controls and make sure they operate in the proper direction. This simple step could have saved many a plane.
4. The pit area is dangerous. Please do not have children wondering around this area. Each year there are several plane crashes in the pit or close by fly overs. If your guests or children are not flying, please keep them behind the fence.
5. With regard to pets, the second sign coming into the field states that all dogs in the park must be on a leash. Please be courteous to others and obey the county rules.



Paul Coleman and his Hangar 9 Taylorcraft

I am sure once the flying starts in earnest, there will be more to remind everyone about. Until then, please fly safe and please be aware of other airplanes flying and in the pit area.

Until next month.....

ABOUT SWAN HARBOR RC....

Swan Harbor RC meets 7PM the second Thursday of the month. In the Fall and Winter we meet at the Churchville Rec Center located on Glenville Road in Churchville. Otherwise we meet at our flying field at Swan Harbor Farm. The public is welcome to the meetings. To fly with us at Swan Harbor flying field take Oakington Road off US 40 (between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace) and follow the signs for Swan Harbor Farm. Be sure to have a current AMA membership card because you need it to fly. A [SWAN HARBOR RC 2011 Membership Applications](#) is available on line or additional information can be obtained from Steve Snyder, 410-638-2895, Steve@SwanharborRC.com.

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| June 4, 2011 | Club Spring Fly-In. Rain date June 11. |
| June 9, 2011 | June club meeting at the field |

Archives:

[Past Newsletters](#)

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