



The Dead Stick Flyer

Newsletter of Swan Harbor RC

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www.swanharborrc.com



President: Gary Gunter (410) 658-1170

VP: Chris Mounayer (732) 539-8731

Secretary: Ron Lazzeri (443) 425-9006

Treasurer: Steve Snyder (410) 638-2895

Safety Officer: Bob Walker (410) 456-0100

Member at Large: Dale Davis (410) 459-0399

Member at Large: Herman Reichart (410) 935-8979

Member at Large: Stephen Slotnick (908) 403-0273

Member at Large: Jae Jang (443) 910-2439

Swan Harbor RC

**Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic we did not have a
Club meeting for the month of May 2020.**

May 1, 2020

Hello all club members,

Hope everyone and their families are doing well during these times due to COVID-19. I am here to tell you some great news! The field is now open for all members. We will have the sheds off limits to any members unless it is for field maintenance. No more than 10 members at the field are permitted per local government and federal government guidelines. All members must keep a minimum of 6 feet apart from one another and are required to wear face masks. We want to ensure everyone's safety, please keep distance and clean your hands as well. The weather is turning back to flyable weather and let's all enjoy the field this season while keeping everyone's safety in mind.

Thanks and enjoy the very best flying field I have ever seen at any local club!

Chris Mounayer, Vice President

Dealing with the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Please be safe during this time of uncertainty with the Coronavirus!

- *Wash your hands with soap and water frequently during interactions with others*
- *Keep your distance when in crowds – the new normal Social Distancing 6' apart*
- *Disinfect commonly touched surfaces*
- *Stay informed with Coronavirus news updates and restrictions*
- *Follow all local, state, and national guidelines*
- *No Shaking Hands and use a hand sanitizer*
- *We'll get through this but it may take some time. It is vitally important to take care of ourselves but it is also just as important to take care of the people around you as well.*

Inside this Issue:

We hope everyone is staying safe and making the very best of the current situation we find ourselves a part of. Even though we are not having club meetings at this time, we still have some club activities and information that we want to update you on. Several of our club members continue to do the much needed field maintenance that is required to keep the Swan Harbor RC flying field in good working order. As a club, we want to extend our gratitude to these members who have persisted to keep our club in pristine shape!

- **Spring Maintenance & Repairs**
 - *Final Mower Repairs*
 - *Field Signage*
 - *Grass Cutting*
 - *Dale's Centerpiece Flower Garden*
 - *Turf Grass Lawn Service*
- **Club Meetings**
- **Membership**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Yard Sale Bulletin Board**
- **Club Meeting Schedule**
- **Memberships Dues Policy**
- **General Information**

Club Accomplishments & Activities:

- Spring Maintenance & Repairs

- **Final Mower Repairs:** Dale ordered some additional small parts needed for the tractors. Steve Snyder and Herman made these final repairs. They also adjusted the cutting decks on all the mowers so their cutting heights are all the same. So, for example, a cutting height of 3 is the same height on all mowers so they all will be cutting at consistent heights.
- **Field Signage:** Dale hung some final signs on the driveway entrance to better direct people entering the field.
- **Grass Cutting:** The grass cutting crew has been earnestly cutting the grass on a weekly basis. The crew consists of Dale, Steve, Herman, and Jae.
- **Dale's Centerpiece Flower Garden:** Dale has organized his crew to complete the planting of new flowers and shrubs for 2020. Jay, Steve Snyder, Herman, and Mark Pry helped Dale with all of the planting chores and Chris, Steve Slotnick, and Zeb helped spread the mulch in the garden. Dale says the little green chair is a timeout chair for members that misbehave.



- **Turf Grass Lawn Service:** *As Gary Gunter stated at the beginning of the year, we are committed to improving the field's turf grass in 2020-2021. Along with rolling the field this year, we've aerated and applied spring pre-emergence crab grass preventer. And, in an effort to really improve the turf grass we have contracted a lawn service (4 Evergreen Lawn Service 410-274-2575) to apply two weed-n-feed treatments in May and mid-summer to control the weeds and strengthen the grass. We will also be aerating and over-seeding the grass in late August-early September which should really improve the turf grass for the fall and 2021 and beyond.*

Steve and Ron coordinated this effort to get this service underway at the field



- **Club Meetings:** *Due to the Coronavirus's uncertainty and potential risks associated with larger gatherings we have not been having club meetings and cookouts. The club's board is clearly in control and has not seen the need to formally meet. At such time when the board feels it is safe and sees the need for a club meeting we will notify all members appropriately.*
- **Membership:** *Steve Snyder advised that membership for 2020 continues to stand at 68 members strong. We thank all of our members for their enduring safe practices and dedication to the success of the Swan Harbor RC club.*

Upcoming Events:

CANCELLED: Spring 2020 Open House Fly-In

The Open House Fly-In that was scheduled to be held on Saturday, June 13th from 10am-4pm has been cancelled due to the Pandemic. This event will not be rescheduled in 2020.



Tech Corner:

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.
- **Batteries:** Check and test 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.

- **Check your 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 Lock Tite 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 and 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.
- **Control Surface Directions:** An additional step to perform as you are checking over your transmitter would be to move each individual control stick (Elevator, Aileron, Rudder, Throttle, and other surfaces in more advance planes) to verify that the corresponding control surface is moving in the right direction. You never know, sometimes you can make a simple change and it can adversely affect some other function that you may not be aware of. You may also want to do a "Range Check" for extra safety. Please refer to your transmitter's user manual if you are not sure how to perform a "Range Check".
- **Trim Settings:** Check the trim settings and any other settings to fix any quirky flying tendencies 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 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 the manufacturer's recommendations.
- **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. Only you can decide but I'll bet you'll love it at the field!



Yard Sale Bulletin Board:

If you have something you want to sell, please send me an email with all the details of the item(s) you want to sell, asking price, a picture image, and your contact information to ronlazzeri@verizon.net. I will be sure to include it in the next month's newsletter.

For Sale by Owner – Joe Cooke, Sr.

Joe is not a club member but came to the field earlier this year and asked if there was a way we could post some RC equipment he is selling. I am attaching some pics of the equipment for sale below. If you are interested please call Joe Cooke directly. Joe says the plane has only been flown once by an experienced pilot.

- **Hobbico Superstar**
- **Asking price \$200.00 or best offer**
- **Joe Cooke, Sr., Sparrows Point, MD 21219**
- **Mobile: (410) 371-0250**



Club Meeting Schedule:

- **January thru April and October thru November:**
 - *Monthly club meetings will now be held at the Golden Corral in Aberdeen, MD on Route 40 on the 2nd Saturday of each month 10:00am-12:00pm. We will be meeting in one of the small dining rooms and enjoy their full breakfast buffet.*

- **May thru September:**
 - *Monthly club meetings and a cookout will be held at the Swan Harbor RC flying field on the 2nd Saturday of each month starting at 10am. The Fall Club Picnic will be held on the same day as the September club meeting.*

- **December:**
 - *The December club meeting will be held at the annual Christmas Party. Details of this event will be made available in advance of the party.*

Membership Dues Policy “Revised March 2019”:

At the March 16th club meeting, the Board and attending members discussed our current club’s Membership Dues Policy and came to an agreement on a new set of guidelines to make it clear and fair for all members, new and existing. The following Membership Dues Policy was agreed upon and adopted.

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/YR (Payment is due by 3/31/YR)
 - **Grace period is for 2019 only:** 4/1/19 thru 4/15/19
 - *If a member’s renewal dues are not paid in full by 4/15/19, then that member is considered to be in default. If that member wants to join the club after 4/15/19, then that member is required to pay at the full new member rate. The member in default will not be permitted to fly at the field after 4/15/19 until their membership dues are paid in full. There will not be a Grace Period in 2020 and thereafter.*

 - *Note: All members are urged to pay their renewal fee as early as possible during the renewal period since club expenses are budgeted and paid based on membership fee receipts.*

New Membership Dues:

- **Full year membership fee:** \$125.00
 - **Joining period:** 1/1/YR thru 12/31/YR
 - **Fee Includes:**
 - \$75.00 annual membership fee
 - \$50.00 1st 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.

AMA & FAA Membership Requirements:

In an effort to ensure our club's compliance with AMA and FAA rules and regulations we are requiring that all members, whether a new member or an existing member renewal, the following documents are required to be submitted to Steve Snyder when dues are paid:

- **Swan Harbor RC Membership Form**
 - The form can be found on the Swan Harbor RC website
- **Proof of AMA & FAA membership**
 - Provide a copy of each membership's email or registration card
 - The copy must include the registration number

Note: If any member sees an unknown person flying at the field, you should ask the flyer if they have a current membership card. If they say they do not, then ask them if they would like information on how to join. Explain that membership is a requirement for flying at the field.

General Information

What are Members Working On: Building a new aircraft, assembling an ARF, working on an old reliable? We'd love to hear what you are working on. Send us some information and a couple pics of your project and we'll post it in the 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!

