

ARCS NEWS

October 5, 2003



Club Officers:

President: Herb Ziegler
638-2824
Vice President: Tim Dudley
673-2342
Treasurer: Mike Schofield
488-2120
Secretary: Mike Amie
468-1332
Safety Officer: Dave Kennedy
476-8128

Board of Directors:

Rocco Mangano
Dave Mathewson
Mike Gosson
Phil Artese
Mark DeFilippo

Inside this issue:

<i>NiMH Battery experience</i>	2
<i>Membership Form</i>	3
<i>Humor</i>	3
<i>Calendar</i>	4

Club Meeting- Friday, Oct. 10, 2003 7 PM at Walt's

Fall is upon us again. That means it is time to resume the club meetings. They will be held once a month on the second Friday of the month at Walt's, starting at 7PM. We will conduct club business at the meetings and hopefully have some kind of fun activity or presentation. If you want the latest information about the club or have any input about issues facing the club, be sure to attend. If you want to present something, let one of the club officers know.

President's Message:

We've had a good year for training. Most Thursdays have allowed us to get some flying in and several people have soloed. We will continue for a couple of weeks until the clocks change. Thanks to Mike Amie, Jules Fried and Dave Kennedy for giving up every Thursday night for the entire season.

One of the Full-Size pilots informed me that he had to abort a landing because someone drove across the runway in front of him. We have spent a lot of money on road maintenance and it shows. We have mowed the side of the road so that the weeds don't scratch the cars. There is no reason not to use the road. It is mandatory to use the road. Everyone is expected to comply with this rule, no exceptions.

We had a nice picnic in July. The weather was nice and several members came out to eat and fly. The Easy-up shelters that we bought worked well. They set up in minutes and keep the sun or rain off of you.

The Fun Fly was well attended with 13 pilots demonstrating their abilities. We had some rain but when it rained, we ate and when it stopped, we flew. It was interesting to see Fritz trying to roll the 3 channel PT40. It just wanted to fly straight. Daniel Walker demonstrated the fine art of Cheese Ball Dropping. Lots of plaques were awarded and everyone went home with some kind of prize generously donated by Walt's. Once again the Easy-up's were great to have.

Dave Mathewson is running for a second term as AMA District II Vice President. He has dedicated almost every weekend for the last 3 years to some RC related event and has done much to improve the communication between the AMA and its members. Besides that, he's just a great guy. You should have received a ballot in the mail. Please be sure and send it in so that Dave can keep doing all those great things. (Dave, you can pay me in cash, small unmarked bills).

(Continued on page 2)

NiMH Battery experience– Digital Camera:

By Herb.

I've had an interesting learning experience with the batteries in my digital camera. When I bought it, it came with a set of (4) 1600 mAh NiMH AA batteries along with a 1 hour fast charger. The charger has folding prongs on the back so that it can plug directly into a wall outlet and it has an LED indicator that changes from orange to green when the charging is complete. At first it was great, giving good battery life between charges. After about 6 months of use, it got so I could only take 8 or 10 pictures until it would shut off due to low batteries. I checked the cells with a voltmeter and found only 1 of them was low. I was ready to buy a new set of batteries but, being somewhat frugal, I started checking the operation of the charger. It appeared to be functioning properly. While shopping for new batteries, I started looking at the chargers that were available. I noticed quite a range in price. Some charge only NiMH, some charge NiMH and NiCd with a selector switch and some dual chargers don't have a selector switch. One that caught my eye was made by Energizer. It also was a fast charger that included (4) 1850 mAh NiMH AA batteries with one significant difference. This one has an LED for each cell and it monitors and charges each cell individually. It cost \$40.00 at Best Buy which included the 4 batteries. It also has a separate wall adapter that, at first, seemed less convenient. It turns out that the charger runs on 12 volts DC so it can be powered by the cigarette lighter in your car. I bought the charger and tried it out on the batteries that were giving me trouble. The batteries get quite hot during the charging so you need to keep it in an open area. I kept track of which battery seemed to be low and as expected, that one took quite a bit longer for the LED to indicate that full charge had been reached. I put the batteries in the camera and began taking pictures. I eventually got tired of taking pictures and concluded that the batteries that I was ready to recycle were still good. The problem was that the original charger was monitoring the group of 4 batteries during the charge. This monitoring scheme would allow one battery to be under charged while the other 3 were enough to tell the charger that it was done. I have had this new charger for about 7 months and both sets of batteries continue to give good life. 2 weeks ago at work I was using the company's digital camera. I charged the batteries and started to take pictures. After about 8 pictures, the camera shut off. I talked to people who use the camera a lot and they said that was about all the life they ever got out of the batteries. I brought my charger in from home and charged the "bad" batteries and proceeded to take pictures. The camera worked for over an hour before I shut it off. I then went to Best Buy and bought another charger for work.

This is helpful for digital cameras but isn't too meaningful for model aircraft since the packs are soldered together. It is less of a problem because the cells are wired in series. Any one cell being low will lower the total voltage of the pack. The result will be the overcharging of the other cells while waiting for the slow one which will shorten the life of the pack. Happy charging!

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

While you are at it, send in your AMA renewal. You will need it to fly on New Years Day.

The Model Forum is taking shape. It will be on Jan. 31st, 2004 at the Ramada Inn. It will have the same continuous discussion format that has worked so well in the past. The next organizational meeting will be on Wed. Oct. 22 at 7:30 at the Ramada. If you are interested in helping, let me know.

If you want to get scientific about your airplane, there is a company that sells flight data recorders that record things like servo positions, airspeed, altitude, RPM etc. The device records all the data during the flight and then you can download it to a PC with a USB connection. Their web site is www.eagletreesystems.com.

Walt's Secret Santa sale keeps getting bigger. This year's special guest will be a RealFlight expert. We will again have an information booth at the event so I'll be looking for people to man it during the day. The date is listed on the calendar on the last page of this newsletter.

As the weather gets worse, please use discretion before driving down to the field. If the road is too wet, park at the top and walk down, do not leave a bunch of ruts and especially, do not drive on the runways. Thanks.

I hope to see you at the meeting Friday night.

Herb.

638-2824

herbz1957@yahoo.com

Aero Radio Club of Syracuse Membership Application/Renewal

Name: _____

Please Check all that apply:

Address: _____

____ New Member initiation fee \$ 5.00

City: _____ State: _____

____ Junior Member (under 18, parent *NOT* a member) \$10.00

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

____ Junior Member (under 18, parent *IS* a member) \$ 0.00

E-Mail: _____

____ Senior Member (over 65) \$15.00

AMA Number: _____

____ Regular Member (18-65) \$35.00

Radio Channel(s): _____

____ Late Fee (after Jan. 31, Renewals only) \$ 5.00

Submit this form and payment to:

Add up all applicable fees \$ _____

Mike Schofield (ARCS Treasurer)
3910 Howlett Hill Rd.
Syracuse, N.Y. 13215 Ph: 488-2120

Make checks payable to ARCS

RC Humor:

Something to ponder:

Helicopters can't actually fly. They are so ugly that the earth repels them.



Definitions:

RUNWAY: Flat object used by student pilots to walk on to retrieve aircraft which "almost landed ok".

TRAINER: Inexpensive throw-a-way device used by beginning pilots to scare instructors and spectators with.

PROPELLER: Wood, plastic or composite device used to stabilize inferior landings.

AEROMODELING : The art of turning precision-cut and glued balsa wood and foam into toothpicks and confetti.

«First» «Last»
«Address»
«City» «State» «Zip»

7651 W. Sorrell Hill Rd.
Baldwinsville, NY

AERO RADIO CLUB OF SYRACUSE

Calendar

Fri. Oct. 10, 2003	7PM Walt's	Club Meeting
Wed. Oct. 22, 2003	7:30 PM Ramada Inn	Model Forum Meeting
Fri. Nov. 14, 2003	7PM Walt's	Club Meeting
Sat. Nov. 22, 2003	9AM-5PM Walt's	Secret Santa Sale
Fri. Dec. 12, 2003	7PM Walt's	Club Meeting (Family Pizza Party)
Thu. Jan. 1, 2004	11AM at the field	New Years Day Fun Fly
Fri. Jan. 9, 2004	7PM Walt's	Club Meeting
Fri. Jan 30, 2004	7 PM at the Ramada	Meeting and set-up for the forum
Sat. Jan. 31, 2004	9AM-4PM Ramada	STARS/ARCS Model Forum