



Stetson Flyer

Stetson Flyers Model Airplane Club

April 2001

President's Message

Finally, we are rid of the snow. The flying season is here and for those of us who are fair weather flyers: it is time. Batteries cycled, airplanes checked out and rusty thumbs, the time has come. And you will notice new additions to our flying site-- Hydro poles! Thank god they are the shorter ones. They are on the east side (corn field) of the road and should not be a problem. Of course some of you will find either the poles or the wire, as one would expect. We should have a pool for the first to do this.

As for the members who were flying all winter, it is time get rid of the bad habits developed over the cold season and follow proper procedures. Yes, safety and etiquette is a must do!

The lock and chain for entry to the field have now been set up with the new 2001 code. Please respect this one as we are trying to control membership dues. **Please lock it when you leave the field.**

Our last meeting was a winner! Thanks to Richard from Discount Hobbies we were swamped with electric airplanes for Bring n' brag, as well old radio equipment and so on. Thanks to everyone who brought their wares, they sure displayed nice items. The attendance was 65 people. Thank you everyone!

Our next meeting is the auction. From what I hear, it should be a good one. So, blow the dust of your items and participate, it will be a lot of fun. We will be discussing the work party day as well.

See you there!
Gerry Nadon

Coming Events...

April 24 th	Club Auction
May 29 th	Regular Meeting
June 3 rd	25 th Anniversary FunFly
July 1 st	Canada Day Display at NAM
August 4 th	Turkey Shoot Fun Fly
September 1 ^{st-2nd}	Giant Scale Rally
September 25 th	Regular Meeting

Next Meeting

Tuesday April 24th
7:30 pm

Auction Night

*Reserve bids allowed
10% of sale goes to club*

Don't forget your "Bring'n'Brag"!

***Use the back door
to the museum!***



Pranged Pig Award—The March Pranged Pig goes to yours truly, John Jackson. I'm not sure if it was a glitch or dumb thumbs, but I fired my electric Lightning into a snowbank to the point where we had to dig for pieces.

Club Officials and Contacts

President	Gerry Nadon	824-9100
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Vice-President	Peter Barnes	824-5352
Secretary	Erich Zappe	830-7549
Treasurer	Christine Devlin	830-7533
Events	open	
Chief Flying Instructor	Bob Butterworth	487-2851
Field	open	
Webmaster	Roger Hiscocks	837-0186
	hiscocks@idirect.com	
Newsletter	John Jackson	445-5726
	john.jackson@netmanage.com	

Mailing Address:

The Stetson Flyers Model Airplane Club
P.O. Box 456, Orleans, ON, K1C 1S8

Web Page:

<http://www.stetsonflyers.com>

Dues:

\$55.00 per calendar year; \$30.00 for students under 18

Meetings

The Stetson Flyers meet at 7:30 on the last Tuesday of each month, except for December, June, July or August. The meetings are held at the National Aviation Museum in the Bush Theatre.

Receive this newsletter via email!

Instead of sending a printed newsletter by Canada Post, we can send you an email notice with the web site address where you can download the newsletter each month. The file is an Adobe Acrobat PDF file, which means that you need to use a FREE Acrobat Reader software to view or print the document. There is a link to the Adobe site to get the FREE software on our web site.

The benefits to you are faster delivery, colour pictures, less cost to the club, and environmentally friendly to boot!

To receive the newsletter by email, send **your** email address to john.jackson@netmanage.com.

Please visit our web site at

<http://www.stetsonflyers.com>

Our web site is hosted as a community service by

Magma Communications
(613) 228-3565

Would you like a member discount on your internet access? Contact club member Rick Ramalho at rick@magma.ca to receive information on discounts for Stetson Flyers members.

T-Shirts—2nd Chance!

Any members who missed the run on the Stetson Flyer shirts or would like another, can contact me (Doug Tufts) as I have five requests for another run. The shirts are \$20 each, and sweatshirts are \$35.

There is a minimum of 20 shirts per run. You can reach me at 613-745-0041 or e-mail doug_tufts@hotmail.com

The minutes from the March meeting are not available at this time. They will be read out at the April 24th meeting. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Looking for event dates for other clubs in this area? Check out the calendar on club member Darcy Whyte's web page:

<http://www.calmdays.com/h/cd/calendar.asp>

If there is an event that is not listed, you can add to the calendar at the top of the page.

For Sale: If you have something you would like to sell, feel free to send me the details and I will add it to our next newsletter!

Ceramic Receiver Filters

What is a ceramic filter?

The ceramic filters used in R/C receivers are devices that only allow signals of 0.455 kHz to pass. They confirm that the dual conversion of the quartz crystals and the transmitter signal are locked on to the frequency and phase shift. These filters are common in some receivers, especially the FUTABA 127 FM Receivers.

What do they look like?

A ceramic filter is a small grey plastic box that contains wafers of thin ceramic film squeezed together with brass fingers for electrical contact. They have tinned tabs for soldering to the circuit board.



What causes them to fail?

Sudden stops such as good old mother earth, tree trunks, hard water, falling off your workbench, unbalanced props, etc. can all cause a ceramic filter to fail. The impact removes tension between the wafers and the brass fingers causing poor contact. They do not heal themselves, and will often fail in flight causing extensive damage to the owner's wallet.

What are the failure symptoms?

A failing ceramic filter can show up as an intermittent loss of control at either near or far distances, glitches when the motor is started, or poor range tests. Due to the nature of the failure, you may not know that you have a problem until the plane is under stress such as tight turn or acrobatic manoeuvre.

What about the crystals?

Quartz crystals do not weaken; they either work or do not work. On impact they shatter like glass!

What's involved in repairing a ceramic filter?

The filter can't be repaired, but it can be replaced. After removing and separating the circuit board(s) from the receiver, the electrical contacts and the structural supports are de-soldered. The filter is removed from the circuit board which may require un-gluing it. The new filter is installed, the circuit boards are joined together again and reassembled into the receiver. Testing includes vibration, tap and range tests on the receiver.

Where can I send a receiver out for repair?

For Futaba Receivers:
Futaba Service Center
1610 Interstate Drive
Champaign IL 61822
<http://www.futaba-rc.com/service.html>

Jack Francis
Electronic Hobby
15 Moonglow Place
Dundas Ontario
L9H 3R6

(905) 627-0392 between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm

Warning when setting up servos

The output transistor on your transmitter can fail if used for long periods of time (i.e. ½ hour) with the antenna collapsed, such as when setting up servos. To avoid this problem, extend the antenna 2 sections to help dissipate the radio energy.

Electric Night March 27



This Speed-280 powered triplane built by Charlie Colwell

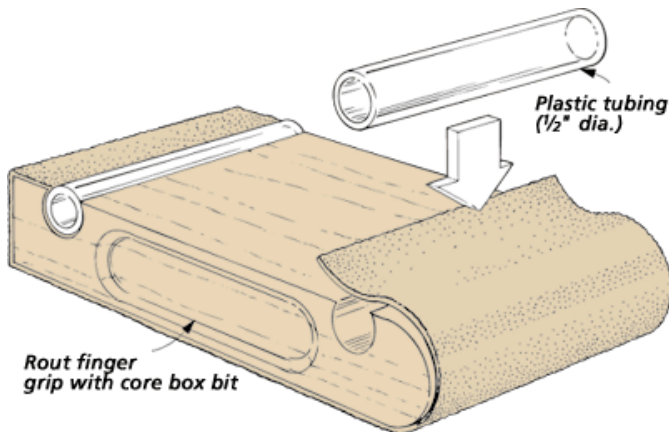


A beautiful DC-3 scratch build by Louis Roque uses two pager motors (about \$2.50 each from Princess Auto) and home built gearboxes. Functioning suspension. Weighs in at 7 oz. Ready to fly!

Sanding Block

For the longest time, I used a scrap piece of wood for a sanding block. It was simple and didn't cost much. But it never worked as well as I would've liked — the sandpaper tended to shift around and tear. Recently, though, I came up with a "new" sanding block that works really well. Not only is it sized to fit my hand perfectly; it also holds the paper in place using plastic tubing.

To make the sanding block, first I found a "palm-sized" scrap block and drilled a couple of rounded channels across the top of the block. (To do this, you'll need a 1/2"-dia. Forstner bit.) Finally, round the nose of the block on a belt sander, and if you want to get really fancy, you can rout a finger grip on each side.



The sandpaper is held in place by two pieces of 1/2"-dia. Plastic tubing that are cut to length and pressed into the channels, see photo and drawing. To use the sanding block, simply secure the back end of the sandpaper with one of the plastic tubes. Then wrap the paper around the block and secure the other end in the same fashion.

Jon Garbison
Online Editor, Woodsmith
www.woodworkingtips.com

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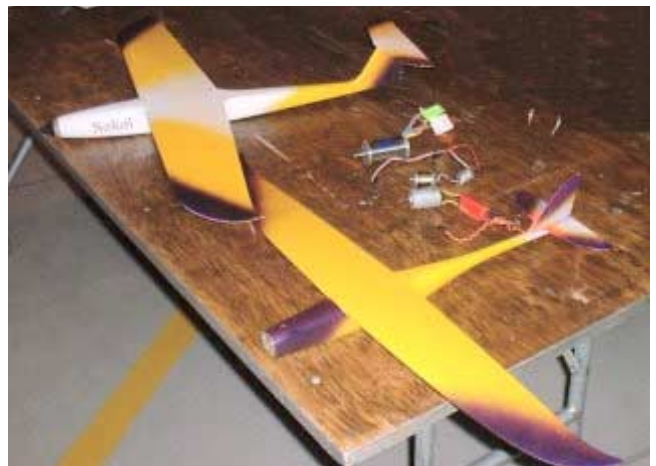
Electric Night March 27



EDF—Electric Ducted Fan



One of several displays of older and antique transmitters/receivers, servos and engines on display.



A pair of Speed-400 sized racers. Don't let the \$17.00 motor fool you—these planes are FAST!