



ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS CHARTERED CLUB #1255

## *SERVO CHATTER*

A PUBLICATION OF:

ANOKA COUNTY RADIO CONTROL CLUB, INC.

**DECEMBER 2023**

***THE DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup> MEETING IS INDOORS AT CRCC!!***

### **PRESIDENT'S CHATTER**

#### **IS THERE A FLYING SEASON?**

Some say here in Minnesota there is. I am one to disagree. I have a great time flying indoors. The popularity is growing with all the electric improvements and the ARFs that are both available and affordable. The National Sports Dome is a great flying venue. There is also flying at the college in St Joseph most weekends all winter.

The same is true with outdoor winter flying. Any lake is a great flying site. WITH remote ID.:( Electrics have made it easier to plug in a battery and fly for those that like the cold dense air. I use a transmitter mitt when the cold starts to bite the fingers. With light snow predictions our site should be accessible most of the winter and could be plowed if needed.

I had the opportunity to do some float flying this weekend and interestingly got some touch-n-goes on the snow-covered ice as well.

Being an all-season flyer does mean you have some difficulty allocating time for repairs and building.

I am hoping to see you all at our December meeting. Bring your favorite sweet treat I'll bring coffee fixings.



#### **MAINTENANCE**

Tim Karash (our resident mower service tech) has picked up the mower for bushing replacement on the deck. After a dismantling and a power wash he found a few more problems he is addressing to keep the mower serviceable. Thanks to Bob Moser and Gary Titus the oil was changed this fall at about 361 hours. Some of the scheduled maintenance per manual should happen every 200 hours. A crack in the deck will need welding among a few other wear items. I have told Tim to use his judgment to complete whatever is necessary. We have to maintain it to keep from needing another purchase.

Tim also donated enough materials to build two more picnic tables which will need surface planing, assembly, wheels, and water proofing. I am in process now hoping to get them to the field before the snow is too deep.

Wheels for the tables were donated by Rick Teteak.

Jeff Slater

#### **FROM THE VEEP**

Them Winter Blues. Whomever came up with that colloquialism didn't consider that Minnesota skies in winter are often grey, although the lack of sunshine could lead to our moods being significantly "blue." To fight the winter blues, there are a few options. For those of you who can, consider the options to continue flying all season that Jeff listed in his article. Otherwise, you can keep occupied with some

maintenance, building, or attending swap meets/auctions (I may have stolen that last part from the Look Back section.)

Don't underestimate the need for yearly maintenance on your planes. We put each part of the aircraft under significant stress when we fly them. This leads to parts wearing out and eventually giving up. I've heard many stories from members about airplanes crashing in the early spring season due to small failures that could have been avoided. For example, consider the nylon control horns and clevises that actuate the control surfaces. They are pushed and pulled on by the servos and the resulting aerodynamic forces, plus UV degradation by the sun's rays. I recall a proverb from a movie I once watched that went "for want of a nail, the war was lost." You could also say that "for want of a fresh piece of plastic, the plane lawn darted six inches deep into the sod... and was lost." It doesn't cost much to replace these small parts, but the cost of not checking them could be significant.

Besides the small stuff, you could also find damage to an airplane hidden under the covering. I have an old Kadet MkII that I've been putting on to get ready to fly someday. The covering job wasn't in great shape but I was hoping to at least maiden it before redoing it. Recently I peeked under a torn piece of Monokote and discovered that there was some balsa sheeting that was cracked and no longer secured to the wing with glue. This led me to go ahead and remove the covering and schedule some repair for the wing and fuselage. In this case it was likely hangar rash, but who knows what could have torn off during that first flight.

You've all heard me go on about the joy on building your own planes, so I'll be brief on that point. Even with the over-abundance of ARF models there are still many new and new-old-stock kits out there on the market. These can be great ways to spend those cold winter months indoors and constructing a new plane.

And regarding swap meets and auctions, you can find many-a great deal at these events to add to your fleet or list of projects. I don't know about all of the events happening in Minnesota to list off right now, so if you do, please send me the details and I will put together an email to send out to the membership group.

Since my Piper Cub started the mystery airplane idea, I'll keep it going for a while. This installment might be kinda tricky since it has features of both a fixed wing and one of those wings that moves faster than the fuselage. As a hint, a craft of this name was also found a long time ago in a galaxy far away. Remember, you could earn some free raffle tickets with your guess. Raffle goodies include: a Tower Hobbies covering iron complete with a new sock, a hot glue gun, a handful of C-clamps, a sanding drum attachment, Dubro low bounce wheels, and pinned hinges.

Ryan Kontak



Mystery Airplane

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ACRC peaked at 78 members for the 2023 flying season. 16 members have renewed their 2024 membership as of December first.

I know it's a bit early, but I would like to remind the membership of the upcoming Board Member nominations to be held in May & June. If you have any interest in serving, please consider doing so. This year the four board positions up for election are President, Treasurer, Pilot Training Coordinator and Event Coordinator. The term for these positions is (2) years as per the By-Laws. If you have any questions and would like more information about these positions, reach out to any of the Board Members.

Thank you to the following members for their generous Runway Fund donations.

Ryan Dorf  
Duane Orson  
Mark Tellevik

The next meeting will be at the Coon Rapids Civic Center, December 21st at 7:00pm. Remember, you get one free entry into the raffle if you bring anything large or small to the meeting for show and tell. Let's see the projects or new gizmos you are working on this winter.

Scott Oleson



Only In Minnesota: Float flying and hard water touch-n-goes on the same day

## A LOOK BACK

### DECEMBER 2005

18 YEARS AGO

All things R/C related have slowed for the season as winter closes in:

The weather caused the cancellation of the November Fun-Fly

Multiple mentions of building projects that are in the works.

The board has shuffled its duties for the upcoming year.

A page full of winter storage tips for all of our R/C related equipment.

Swap Meets and Auctions were listed to defeat the winter blues.

### DECEMBER 1995

28 YEARS AGO

DON'T PANIC! Read the headline.

There is a large property "For Sale" sign on the highway. Land owner Al Johnson, is selling the property between the Highway and our flying field.

Long time ACRC member, Bob Arko, passed away on November 28th, 1995 after losing a battle with cancer.

Tim Karash

## ACRC MINUTES

### Board members present:

Jeff Slater, Tim Karash, Ryan Kontak, Scott Oleson.

3 Members present plus board

No Guests

### Membership Report:

78 Total members for the year.

### Treasurer's Report:

Income: \$156.06

Expenses: \$634.69

### Safety Officer Report:

None.

### Event Coordinator:

Freeze Fly on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

### Training Report:

Done for the season. Will resume in May

### Old Business:

Road sign update:

Artwork and photos sufficient to recreate the sign.  
Shoot from the hip estimate of \$300

Club non-profit status has been renewed.

Additional indoor flying dates will be added.  
Membership will be notified electronically.

### New Business:

Runway fundraising Calendars are for sale again this year.

Jeff Slater has rebuilt 3 picnic tables. More to be added in the spring.

An area, approximately 110' X 16' X 1 foot deep, has sunk down. It is located about 60 ft west of the eastern ditch.

Will need to be filled and seeded next year. We will try to get dirt from Hoffman's fields.

Noise issues have surfaced again as planes are getting larger with more powerful, louder engine and propeller combinations.

ACRC rules and regulations have addressed this issue in the past with a 100db recommended maximum. Noise meters will be used to verify the level of aircraft noise.

Scott Oleson will work with Marc Tellevik to update the club website with current member lists, maps, the club photo library, and useful links.

Members of other clubs are able to renew their dues via PayPal. Scott will investigate the possibilities.

The ACRC board is always open for ideas to attract more interest.

Business cards with club information will be printed for easier prospective member handouts

#### **Show and Tell:**

Ryan Kontak brought a Sig Cub Kit 1/6th scale size. He started this project nearly 23 years ago and has been encouraged by his "significant other" to get it done.

Ryan also brought a tiny Power Up brand, 4.0 Invader. The delta wing micro plane flies via Bluetooth phone app. Twin micro pusher motors, with inch & quarter props, are used for thrust and steering. 10-minute flights on a single cell battery.

Scott Oleson brought a NIB COMO 40 size glow motor. COMO was a sister company to Super Tiger with better materials and quality.

Jeff Slater bought out another estate and brought an interesting device to measure and straighten an aluminum arrow shaft.

Other goodies will appear as he sorts things out.

Apologies to Mike Reinhardt who brought a SIG Wonder last month, and the wrong name was noted in the minutes.

{Dang Auto Correct}

#### **Raffle:**

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1) Gorilla ca glue | Jeff Slater    |
| 2) Velcro tape     | Gary Smith     |
| 3) switch mount    | Tim Karash     |
| 4) Tee Pins        | Scott Oleson   |
| 5) EZ Trimmer      | Mike Reinhardt |

Submitted by Tim Karash

#### **CALENDAR INFORMATION**

The Holidays are upon us once again. Our delightful Weather Guide calendars make wonderful Christmas gifts for those people on your list.

The cost of repaving our runway may seem insurmountable, but if we keep chipping away at it, we can get it done. Even one sale adds funds towards the repaving project.

I will have calendars available at the December meeting, just in time for Christmas!

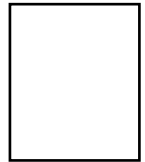
Tim Karash





# SERVO CHATTER

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## CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH

*Tim Karash*

*Ryan Kontak*

*Scott Oleson*

*Jeff Slater*

## ACRC SPONSORS

King Kong Hobbies  
Woodworking Plus  
Blackjacks Asphalt  
Rivard Companies

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday – December 21

- ACRC Meeting-At CRCC

Monday – January 1

- ACRC Freeze-Fly

Thursday – January 18

- ACRC Meeting-At CRCC

CRCC - Coon Rapids Civic Center

