

Silver Lining

Winter 2006
Published Quarterly

*Official Newsletter of the Holly Cloud Hoppers
Radio Control Flying Club
AMA Charter #3117*



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www.hollycloudhoppers.org

Flying Field GPS location N42 48.596 W83 34.642

Be Safe, Have Fun and Don't Have Too Many Rules!

Online Edition

From the **Editor**

Scott Rhoades



To our online subscribers... If you waited an excruciatingly long time for the Fall '05 edition to download back in November and December, my apologies!

That issue is what people in the computer biz call “a heavy file”. Not until Larry Pittman posted it on the web page did I ever consider the megabyte size of the finished product. The news came to me shortly after it was posted by way of Frank, when he said he liked the newsletter but it took him over an hour to download. I nearly flipped and immediately went to work finding ways to shave some serious fat from that file. The photo collage of Don Campbell's memorial was certainly the major contributor but I wasn't removing it! To make a long story short, by sacrificing some picture quality, I was able to get that file down to 2.25 MB from 16 MB, if that means anything to you. A new, slimmer copy was expedited over to Larry and it has been on the web site since mid January. So for those that cursed me out and gave up downloading that issue, I can assure you it's safe to try again.

If you did manage to read the fall issue when it was first posted, I have news for you. Some of the typographical errors were fixed in the updated version! It just warms my heart when I get a bunch of comments like; “*Hope I can get up in time for the meeting at two o'clock in the morning*”. It just shows me that you guys are actually reading. If you did show up at 2:00 am for the meeting, my apologies again, and I need your \$20 for your 2006 newsletter subscription.

Glaring typos and massive megabytes were two relatively small problems in comparison to others I ran into during the process of getting that issue out. First problem hit when

On the Cover:

Don Campbell's Hog Bipe being flown by Jeff Lambert at Don's Memorial, August 7, 2005

Photo by:

John Verran of Pine Ridge Productions
1011 Winifred Holly, MI
jverran@comcast.net
248-634-4672

the newsletter was almost done and it completely disappeared from my computer! I felt ill for quite a while before I found that Corel, the program I use, does automatic backups. I only had to repeat about an hours worth of work instead of many. The second problem could have easily reduced me to tears had the outcome been different. The newsletter was done but I couldn't burn a copy for Larry because my CD burner wouldn't work. Little did I know a broken burner was just a preview of computer issues to come. The graphics card went south, and at nearly the same time the hard drive had to be reformatted. That's the part that would have sent me into therapy because it had been a VERY LONG TIME since I had done any backups. Fortunately the skills of an excellent computer doc retrieved everything intact from the hard drive before reformatting. Contact me if you want his phone number.

Now I didn't tell you my computer woes to get sympathy or to fill this page with words. I have a very logical theory that explains these so called “coincident” of events. You see, that newsletter was going together quite nicely without any hitches, that is, until I made the decision to use Joe Lehman's picture as the cover. The only logical explanation is a paranormal practical joke by Joe as payback for putting his mug front page. I can hear the collective “yes” coming from those that knew Joe.

Talking about cover photos, I must take a moment to mention the excellent one that is gracing this issue. It was taken by a professional photographer at Don's memorial. This photographer is John Verran of Pine Ridge Productions. John forwarded many superb pictures that will certainly find a home in future newsletters for a long time to come. I talked with John for quite some time and I'm very thankful he saw to it that I got a copy of the many great photos he took that day. John is a super nice guy and I was quite impressed with his equipment and the methods he uses to get the right shot. If you are ever in the need of professional photography, he is certainly the person to contact. (See his info on the bottom of page 2)

Once again the *HCH* officers send a huge thanks to the VFW of Holly for allowing us to use their hall for our annual meeting. The club is very fortunate to have the use of such a great, spacious place to meet. Having plenty of room and tables to accommodate planes in the winter project contest is a huge plus. †

Events Calendar

April 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

HCH dates

Events around the area

2006 HCH Membership dues due to avoid late fee

April 15

Toledo R/C Exposition

Seagate Center, Toledo OH

April 7,8,9

Field Prep Party and Swap Meet HCH Flying Field

*Alternate rain date 4/23/06 noon

April 22 - 10:00 am

Fun Fly

HCH Flying Field

June 17 - 10:00 am

Open House

HCH Flying Field

August 5 -12:00 pm

Last Bash Potluck

HCH Flying Field

Sept. 23 - 4:00 pm

Due to safety reason, access to the pit area needs to be restricted to HCH members only.

Here are the new signs that should protect us from all liabilities.



The *HCH* annual meeting went well and not much was on the agenda this year; however we did manage to take 30 minutes of material and turn it into a two hour meeting. This happens every year and not because discussions get intense; we just seem to get sidetracked and often. A departure from the subject begins something like this: *“Talk about mowing the grass, has anybody tried that new glue?”* I don't get the connection, but that's all we need to start a 10-15 minute discussion about glues. Good thing we only have one meeting a year, as a group we have A.D.D. (Attention Deficit Disorder)

Online subscribers can read the minutes from the meeting and the club financial report by signing into the members section of the *HCH* web site. Paper subscribers got a supplemental page with both.

Here is a quick synopsis of some meeting discussions and other club related news:

The first event on the schedule after the pilgrimage to Mecca (Toledo) is the annual ***Field Prep Party on Saturday April 22 at 10:00 am***. In case of rain, we will get together on Sunday, April 23 at noon. Don't forget, we hold the ***Tailgate Swap Meet*** concurrently at this event. I certainly have some products to peddle, so be sure to bring items you wish to sell, because if I sell everything I'll have money to spend.

Ken Kliewer provided a status report of the field at the meeting because he's made a trip out there recently. Unfortunately his report is distressing. Some dim-witted, trigger happy idiots (likely posing as responsible hunters) used a few items at the field for target practice or maybe there were actually some game animals sitting on these items at the time.

All the usual club events have been scheduled, so be sure to check the calendar in this newsletter. There is, however, one event missing that had become a staple in our events schedule. This would be the Crossroads Village event. At the time of printing, representatives from Crossroads have not indicated whether or not they have us in mind to provide another day or two of

R/C demonstrations. A majority vote says we'll go if they want us.

Those displeased with the bumpity bump of the flying field driveway can look forward to calmness. Approval has been voted to add gravel to driveway.

You sure can tell the average age of our membership is advancing because nobody wants to get on their knees to start or tune a plane anymore. By an overwhelmingly vote four more starting stands will be added to the pits. These are to be built at the Field Prep Party just like the four that were added last year.

Your *HCH* has a new president and that would be Chuck Beach, who served as vice president last year. Taking Chuck's place as vice president is Doug Pickett. Secretary/treasurer, Safety officer, and newsletter editor remain the same for '06; however, Larry Pittman did indicate this will be his last year as Secretary/Treasurer. If you have an interest in taking over his duties next year, make your intentions known to be nominated at next year's meeting.

I am happy to report HobbyTown Grand Blanc has joined team *HCH* by becoming a bonafide advertiser in the Silver Lining. Owner, David Hayes, agreed to a deal that will put an ad in all regular editions of the newsletter for '06, provide a link to their site from ours and supply him a list of member emails. David will periodically send the membership emails notifying us of special deals and such. Even though nobody at the meeting had any qualms about releasing the email list, without a doubt somebody within our membership will not be so agreeable. If you do not wish to get any more notices simply reply to the email and politely tell David that you do not wish to receive any more notifications of awesome deals. Next time you are into HobbyTown, be sure to thank David for his support of our club.

Still on the subject of HobbyTown in Grand Blanc, David has expressed interest in holding a demonstration day and using the *HCH* field for this

► **Miscellany, 5**

HobbyTown USA

www.htugrandblanc.com

Hitec HS-55 Servos



Buy 3 for \$38.99*
Regular \$13.99 ea.

Flint Aero R/C Club Father's Day Show Raffle



Hanger 9 P-40 Warhawk with Futaba 6-Channel radio & Saito 4-stroke engine

Tickets \$1 ea, 6 for \$5

Expert Electronics 6-CH Micro RX



\$35.99*
Regular \$54.99

NEW FRIO Brushless Motors from Great Planes!!



Four Models from 950Kv - 1450Kv Integrated Fan To Reduce Running Temps
\$39.99 ea

810-695-9088

*Offers valid through April 16, 2006. Not valid with other offers, discounts or coupons, including club discounts. Must present this ad at time of purchase. While quantities last; not rainchecks or special orders. 3/14/06



Photo provided by Joe Savine

Chilli Fly, New Years Day 2006



Radio Control Flying Club



◀ 4 Miscellany

purpose. The specifics are unclear but an overwhelming majority of members voted that the event sounded favorable and further discussions with David can continue as to work out the nuts and bolts

It looks as though the inter-club fun fly as we know it has been terminated. It may, however, be reinvented as one event per year affair.

As many of you know, for the last two open houses a complete ready to fly airplane with radio was raffled off at each event. What some of you may not know is where they came from. Well these planes were the generosity of a single member Joe Lehman. The club will, for one more time, be the benefactor of Lehman generosity. This time it comes from Joe's family, with them providing yet another one of Joe's planes w/radio. This time, some of his equipment such as flight box, starter and glow driver will be included in the prize package. Since a winner will be drawn at the open house several months from now, this gives us plenty of opportunity to maximize the amount of donations. A couple hundred raffle tickets are being printed and tickets will be distributed at the annual Field Prep Party on April, 22. Those willing to lend a hand raising funds for the club by selling tickets can pick up tickets then or contact a club officer.

Here is your chance to order glow fuel for \$13.00 a gallon. The fuel is 15% nitro, Omega Cool Power and you must order a case (4 gallons) to get this price. Contact Frank Robinson at (810) 632-3963. If you wish to get in on this deal, be sure to get your money to Frank by April 30th. *Other blends are also available at bulk prices.*

For those wanting to show your HCH affiliation with a club logo stylishly embroidered on a hat, polo shirt, or any article of clothing, can place an order at any time. Blackhorse Enterprises in Hartland offers both of the logos shown to the left. The cost breakdown is as follows:

- Polo shirt \$20.00
- Sweatshirt \$25.00
- High profile hat (trucker hat) \$12.50
- Low profile cap \$15.00.

Contact Blackhorse Enterprises at:

(810) 750-9315



The Dark Side of R/C

From: "The Straight Dope" web site

Last week while traveling I stopped at a Zany Brainy store and saw that they had a blimp for sale. It's called Airship Earth, and it's a great big balloon with a map of the Earth on it, and two propellers hanging from the bottom. You blow up the balloon with helium put batteries in it, and you have a radio control indoor blimp. I'd seen these things for sale in Sharper Image catalogs for \$60-\$75. At Zany Brainy it was on clearance for \$15. What a deal!

Last night my wife was playing tennis and it was just my daughter and I at home. I bought a small helium tank from a party store, and last night we put the blimp together. Let me tell you, it's quite a blimp. It's huge. The balloon has like a 3 ft diameter. We blew it up with the tank attached the gondola with the propellers, and put in batteries. Then we balanced the blimp for neutral buoyancy with this putty that came with it, so it hangs in the air by itself neither rising nor falling. It was easy and fun, and then I blew up another balloon and made Mickey Mouse helium voices for my daughter. My three-year-old girl loved it. We flew the blimp all over the house, terrorized the dog, attacked the fish tank, and the controls were so easy my daughter could fly. Let's face it, blimps are fun.

Alas, the fun had to end and my daughter had to go to sleep. I left the blimp floating in my office downstairs, my wife came home, and we went to bed, and slept the sleep of the righteous. At this point it is important to know that my house has central heating. I have it configured to blow hot air out on the ground floor and take it in at the second floor to take advantage of the fact that heat rises. The blimp which was up until this moment a fun toy here embarked on a career of evil. Using the artificial convection of my central heating, the blimp stealthily departed my office. It moved silently through the living and drifted to the staircase. Gliding wraithlike over the staircase it then entered the bedroom where my wife and I lay sleeping peacefully. Running silently, and gliding six feet or so above the ground on invisible and tiny air currents it approached the bed. In spite of its noiseless passage, or perhaps because of it, I awoke. That doesn't really say it properly. Let me try again.

I awoke, the way you awake at 2:00 AM when your sleeping senses suddenly tell you without reason that the forces of evil are converging on you. That still doesn't do it. Let me try one more time.

I awoke the way you awake when you suddenly know that there is a large levitating sinister presence hovering towards you with menacing intent through the malignant darkness.

Now sometimes I do wake up in the middle of the night thinking that there are large sinister and menacing things floating out of the darkness to do me and mine evil. Usually I open my eyes, look and listen carefully, decide it was a false alarm, and go back to sleep. So, the fact that I awoke in such a manner was not all that unusual.

On this occasion I awoke to the sense that there was a large menacing presence approaching me silently out of the gloom, so I opened my eyes, and there it was! A LARGE SILENT MENACING PRESENCE WAS APPROACHING ME OUT OF THE GLOOM, AND IT COULD FLY!!!

Somewhere in the control room of my mind a fat little dwarf in a security outfit was paging through a Penthouse while smoking a cigar with his feet up on the table, watching the security monitors of my brain with his peripheral vision. Suddenly he saw the LARGE

SILENT SINSITER MENACING FLOATING PRESENCE coming at me, and he pulled every panic switch and hit every alarm that my body has. A full decade's allotment of adrenaline was dumped into my bloodstream all at once. My metabolism went from "restful sleep mode" to HOLY \$&#! FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE OR DIE!!!! mode" in a nanosecond. My heart went from twenty something beats per minute to about 240 even faster. I always knew this was going to happen. I always knew that skepticism and science were mere psychological decorations and vanities. Deep in our alligator brains we all know that the world is just chock full of evil and monsters and sinister forces aligned against us, and it is only a matter of time until they show up. Evolution knows this, too. It knows what to do when the silent terror comes at you from out of the dark.

When 50 million years worth of evolutionary survival instinct hits you all at once flat in the gut at 200 mph it is not a pleasant sensation. Without volition I screamed my battle cry (which is indistinguishable to the sound a little girl makes when you drop a spider down her dress (not that I'd know what that sounds like,) and leapt out of bed in my underwear. I struck the approaching menace with all my strength and almost fell over at the total lack of resistance that a helium balloon offers when you punch the living shit out of it with all the strength that sudden middle of the night terror produces. Its trajectory took it straight into the ceiling fan, which whipped it about the room at terrifying velocity.

Seeking a weapon, I ripped the alarm clock out of its plug and hurled it at the now High Velocity Menacing presence (breaking the clock and putting a nice hole in the wall.) Somehow at this moment I suddenly realized that I was fighting the blimp, and not a monster. It might have been funny if I didn't truly and actually feel like I was having a legitimate heart attack.

On quivering legs I went to the bathroom and literally gagged into the toilet while shaking uncontrollably with the shock of the reaction I'd had. Unbelievably, both my wife and daughter had completely slept through the incident. When I decided that I wasn't having a heart attack after all I went back into the bedroom and found the blimp, which had somehow survived the incident. I took it to the walk in closet and released it inside where it floated around with the air currents released from the vents in there. I closed the door, sealing it in, and went back to bed. About 500 years later I fell asleep.

At about 7 am my wife awoke. She had been playing tennis and wasn't aware that we have assembled the blimp the previous evening, and that was now floating around the walk-in closet that she approached.

The dynamics between the existing air currents of the closet and the suction caused by opening the door was just enough to give the blimp the appearance of an Evil Sinister Menace flying straight towards her.

This time the blimp did not survive the encounter, nor almost, did I, as I had to explain to my very angry spouse what motivated me to hide an evil lurking presence in the closet for her to find at 7 am.

I can order replacement balloons on the Internet but I don't think I will.

Some blimps are better off dead. †

2006 Club Officers



President



Chuck Beach

248-627-4844

Vice President



Doug Pickett

248-634-7927
picketthl@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer



Larry Pittman

810-750-0047
Larrypit@chartermi.net

Safety Officer



Frank Robinson

810-629-3963
Lrobinf@aol.com

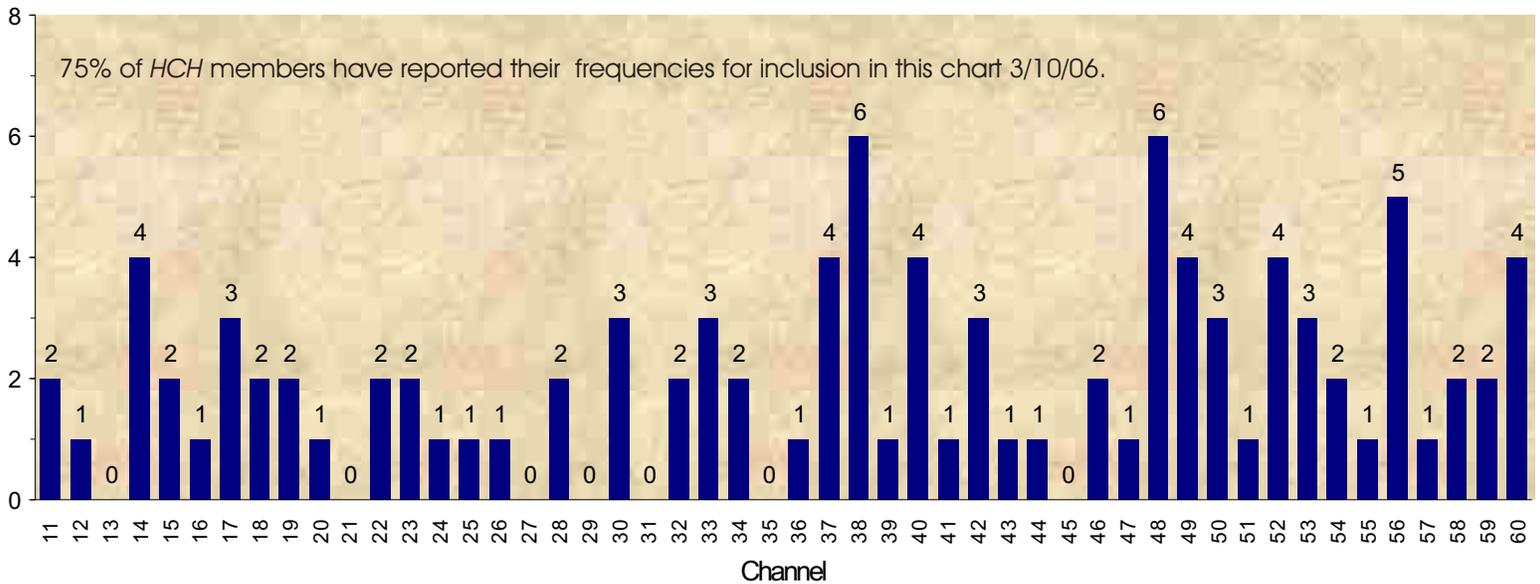
Newsletter Editor



Scott Rhoades

810-923-3799
sdrhoadres25@hotmail.com

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