

Fall 2006
Published Quarterly

Silver Lining

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



Well, another flying season is quickly becoming just a memory. All in all I think the majority of the season went pretty well. The days I was at the field there were very few... um... (*rhymes with flashes*). As far as events held at the field, most were blessed with rather nice weather.

There was, however, one off field, last minute, loosely organized, three member endeavor that was far from blessed with favorable weather. But let's start that story at the very beginning.

The weekend after Labor Day, the town of Holly holds its annual Carry Nation Festival. The festival is a three-day event with all kinds of activities that commemorates the visit of the 19th Century prohibitionists that wielded a hatchet in one hand and a Bible in the other.

Just about one week before the festival, yours truly had an idea. The club should put a float in Holly's Carry Nation Parade. Due to the very limited time to take this from idea to a reality, I only contacted members by email. Out of the forty-something e-mails sent, only ONE member replied that he would be in. Good enough, the float was a go. Tory Showek was the only sucker, I mean member, that was able to help make this happen.

The entire week leading to the parade involved a lot of head scratching and welding display stands for airplanes. Everything was coming together quite nicely except for the unfavorable weather forecast for parade day.

On the morning of the parade, forecasts still called for a chance of rain through noon time. I put in a quick call to Tory and we debated whether or not to go ahead. Acting

as though I was impartial and didn't care, I was actually very motivated to participate due the preparation time invested. Some how Troy was swayed into a "Let's give it a try". It was agreed that we would stay with the original plan of meeting where parade organizers placed us, in the VFW Hall parking lot.

Upon our arrival in Holly, the sky was looking very much like for once, the weatherman just might be right. As we hesitated to unload any planes, the sky actually started looking better by the moment. Deciding yet again to "give it try", we soon were assembling planes and positioning them on the trailer as if we were arranging a huge bouquet of flowers... (*deep voice*) but in a manly way.

At one point in the assembly process the clouds above even broke up enough to reveal tiny patches of blue sky. Before we knew it the VFW Hall parking lot had become busy with many other participants completing their last minute preparations too, but then IT happened... Just as we finished lashing down the planes so they would make a safe journey through the streets of Holly, thunder approached from the west. Speculation of "Looks like it might go to the north" was heard nearby, but we are modelers and all too familiar with Murphy and his laws. We knew very well what was going to happen.

At roughly T-minus ten minutes to parade launch time a few drops of the pending storm began. There wasn't enough time to disassemble the planes and put them back into our vehicles. The only protection our precious toys had from a complete soaking was a big green tarp that I brought along, "just in case". Just wish I would have grabbed the one WITHOUT HOLES IN IT! With the tarp secure and doing only a fair job keeping things dry, we had to tell a parade organizer, we were out.

Soon the storm was an official gully washer, complete with an accompaniment of thunder, lightning and people running around holding lightning rods or umbrellas as some call them. To our amazement, the parade still started at 10:00 sharp. As Tory and I sat in my truck, we watched parade participants assemble on the street in front of the VFW Hall. In the meantime, we had to ask

On the Cover:

The HCH float in Holly's Carry Nation Festival parade.

September 9, 2006

Events Calendar

November 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		

December 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						

January 2007

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			

February 2007

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			

March 2007

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

April 2007

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**

Chili Fun Fly	HCH Club Field	11:00 am	January 1 st (2007)
Detroit Aero Modelers Swap Meet	19801 Farmington Rd. Livonia	9:00 am	January 7 th
Flint R/C Swap Meet	Lake Fenton High School	9:00 am	February 18 th
Chesaning R/C Swap Meet	Baker College, Owosso	9:00 am	February 4 th
Annual Club Meeting	Holly VFW post, 201 Airport Rd.	2:00 pm	February 25 th
2007 HCH Membership dues due			March 1 st
Toledo R/C Exposition	Seagate Center, Toledo OH		April 13,14,15

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who would be out to watch a parade in this anyhow. The other question to ponder was; if the rain stopped in time would we dare join the parade? That option became more and more of a “fat chance” as more and more parade floats started the expedition through town, and more and more rain kept coming in.

As though as there was a valve controlling the water works, the rain shut off as quickly as it was turned on, as luck would have it, there was parade still to join. For a possible world record third time, we voted again to “give it a try” The tarp was taken off just in time for us to be the last float before a couple old John Deere's and Holly's

fire trucks brought up the rear.

Now in the parade line up, a guy with an official looking radio grabbed the mike and informed everybody in Northwest Oakland County with a two way radio “the Holly CLOUD Hoppers were back in”. (Yes, he said cloud... He must know us!) As we made the turn from Airport Rd. onto Saginaw St., much to my surprise, there were actually many spectators lining both sides of the street.

Tory and I, along with my daughter Emily, walked next to the float handing out fliers, while my shanghaied dad drove the tow vehicle. Our planes drew a lot of energetic

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responses from the kids but I have to say it was the adults that showed the most enthusiasm. We heard a whole lot of... "Check that out!" and "Wow that's cool!" We also got a few... "I didn't know you guys existed".

The fliers we passed out were just quarter sheet papers that had brief info about the club on one side, and a map to the field on the other. Unfortunately we only had one hundred of these buggers to pass out. Why only a hundred? Well that was the magic number between being ready for the parade and not wasting a lot of money in case the weather made it an absolute no go.

Since the supply of fliers was limited, handing them out was an art in selection of who to give them to. Tory's method was to "give them to guys that look like they need a hobby". I guess the old adage that looks can be deceiving held true. At one point in the parade I looked over just in time to see Tory almost tackled when he passed someone that really wanted a flyer. That made me happy; not that Tory was nearly injured, but it showed the float was a success and people wanted to learn about R/C and the club. As for Emily, I don't think she had any close calls of bodily harm, but I do believe only older gray-haired men got flyers on her side of the street. She was told to give fliers to men that look like guys that hang out at the field.

About fifteen minutes after the Cloud Hoppers were announced as back in; the R/C gods decided we had tantalized enough people for one day. With roughly one-third of the parade route left to go, more rain and lightning prompted us to pull out. After a quick turn onto a side street, we worked with the speed and precision of a NASCAR pit crew to put the holey tarp over the planes once more, but this time it would be for a slow trip back to the VFW Hall.

The parade turned out to be a lot of fun, especially hearing the never ending positive reactions from all ages. The rain we could easily have done without, (duh)



Photo by Scott Rhoades

The planes had to spend some time under a tarp before and after the parade.

however, it did provide opportunity for a few good laughs between Tory and I.

When the parade idea first came about, I figured it would be a good way to snag a new member or two, as well as spread some good public relations. Response from the crowd exceeded expectations and as for gaining new members... only time will tell on that one.

The best part of the whole day was taking first place as Best Float. Yes I said first place! Truly shocking, considering this was a last minute idea and only a three member endeavor. I'm unsure if Tory regrets getting involved, considering how wet we got, but I sure did appreciate his involvement. Also thank you's to the third club member that helped, Emily Rhoades and my dad, Jack Rhoades, for supplying his truck and agreeing to drive it.

In the last issue I told you that I had a story regarding flying in paradise that would be published in this issue. Ok so you forgot that promise about three seconds after you read it. Other plans came up and for those that give a rooty toot toot that article will come later, in one form or another. ♣

Misc News

By Scott Rhoades

It's getting close to that time of year again, renewing our AMA and *HCH* memberships. *HCH* memberships don't expire until March 1, 2007. However, unless you renewed for two last year, your AMA membership expires on December 31. If you do not renew your AMA by the end of December you cannot fly at the field until that renewal is made. Yes that does include the Chili fly on January 1st.

Every one should have received their AMA renewal form by now, the AMA mailed them out in early to mid October. Remember, not only can AMA renewals be done by mail but they can also be done at www.modelaircraft.org, by fax at (765)741-0057 or phone at (800) 435-9262. Unfortunately all those nifty options are not available to renew your *HCH* membership. The only way to renew is directly to Larry Pittman either by mail or in person. Regardless of how you get your club renewal to Larry, be sure to use the application on page 6 of this newsletter. Printing that page before logging out this newsletter save you time later.

Thanks to all that showed up at the field October, 21 to help put things away for the winter. Considering this is the first time an official field closing had been scheduled, turn out was fantastic. Putting everything away for the winter not only greatly reduces the chance of vandalism, like we had last year, but increases the longevity of items that previously remained out in the brutal Michigan winter.

Putting away the frequency board and impound marks the bi-annual transition of *HCH* frequency control. For those new to the club, controlling frequencies from now until the spring prep party is done by the old, less reliable, add a pin system. In place of the frequency board is a long metal bar with numbers representing all fifty 72 MHz aircraft frequencies. Reserving a frequency to fly is done by attaching a marker at the corresponding frequency number. Yes I did say this system is less reliable! Frequency mishaps have proven to be much more likely with this control method, so be sure to be extra cautious. Impounding transmitters still applies; a tray at frequency board is available for that task.

The next newsletter will be published AFTER the *HCH* annual meeting in February. So this is the only notice you will receive from me regarding the meeting. To date we again have use of the Holly VFW Hall on Airport Rd. in Holly, February 25th. Non members are always welcome to attend but should periodically check the web site for possible changes in dates or location.

Remember Larry will be retiring from his duties as club treasurer and secretary. So a new person or persons will need to be elected to these positions. We will certainly miss Larry in this capacity because of his attentiveness to club needs. If you are interested in taking over his duties be sure to attend the meeting in February or contact a club officer so your name can be included in the election. A description of everything that Larry does for the *HCH* was published in the Spring 06 issue of the Silver Lining.

Every year good ideas are presented at the meeting but that's all we get... Ideas! Rarely are these ideas ever presented with important information such as cost. Since we only have one meeting a year, discussions cannot be tabled while facts are gathered for voting at a later date. If you have a proposal, do the research ahead of time and bring as much information possible to the meeting. This is important: The membership needs to vote on solid facts not estimations and conjecture.

At the Club Fun Fly this past season the events were:

Precession landings: Points are awarded for landing in certain zones marked on the runway.

Bomb drop: A marker is dropped from a plane and points are awarded for closest to the bull's eye.

Limbo: Fly under a streamer that gets lowered after each successful pass. The lowest successful limbo wins the event.

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Timed taxi: Taxi around pylons as quick as possible.

Jelly bean carry: Each plane carries 10 jelly beans in a cup and does a number of loops and or split S's. The number each pilot must do is determined by the roll of a die. The one that lands with the most remaining jelly beans wins.

The reason for brining this up is because of the Limbo. When it works right, the limbo is a fun event. However it causes a lot of frustration due to the streamer, AKA limbo pole, easily breaking in the wind. This event needs to be retired, if you have event ideas please bring them (with details) to the meeting.

To add an interesting twist to the Fun Fly a comment has been made that all participants should fly trainer style planes (flat bottom airfoil with a few degrees of dihedral). The positives of such a policy are; even though members of all skill levels are encouraged to participate several don't each year because they feel out classed. This policy very likely will attract a wider range of membership to the fun fly. Another appeal is; it certainly would make events much more interesting with everybody flying the same category of plane. The down side is that some members don't own such a plane anymore. +

HCH 2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

Print this application and send along with your check to renew your HCH membership.

* Required

Due by March 1, 2007

*Name _____ *AMA # _____ *Email _____

Family membership additions (must also be AMA members).

Name _____ AMA # _____ Email _____

Name _____ AMA # _____ Email _____

Name _____ AMA # _____ Email _____

*All radio equipment that I use is on the following channels: _____

***I will be renewing as:**

- Full Member \$35.00
- Family Membership \$45.00
- Associate member (AMA not required) \$25.00

Membership Amount \$ _____

Make your check or money
order payable to:
Holly Cloud Hoppers

Mail to: **Larry Pittman**
11406 Majorca Pl.
Fenton, MI 48530

*2007 Michigan State Park Vehicle Pass **+24.00** I'm over 65 and will purchase my discount pass from the DNR.

(One pass covers an entire family membership)

***Total Check Amount \$** _____

Renewals after April 15, must include a \$15.00 reinstatement fee

My address and/or phone number has changed.

New Address: _____

New Phone: _____

If your AMA membership was renewed after
January, I Please provide a photo copy of your
2007 AMA membership card to expedite your
HCH renewal

Aeromodeler personality test

by Scott Rhoades

For each question, record the letter of the answer that best fits you.

1. If your R/C hobby were a TV show, the title would be:

- a. Life styles of the Rich and Famous
- b. Survivor
- c. Lost

2. The local hobby shop:

- a. Has a reserved parking spot with your name on it.
- b. Saves your sorry butt too often supplying that absolutely necessary part to fly.
- c. Is next to McDonalds.

3. It's your wife's birthday and the weather is perfect, do you?

- a. Leave an expensive gift and go Fly, Fly, Fly.
- b. Promise her dinner and hope to squeeze in a couple flights before.
- c. Do what ever she says because you're still in the dog house for forgetting last year.

4. Your yearly R/C budget:

- a. Rivals the gross national product of a small country.
- b. Is just low enough for many purchases to fly under the wife's monetary radar.
- c. Is still being carried over from 1985.

5. When somebody says they "need a canopy" you:

- a. Are quite certain you have one in your workshop that will fit without knowing the plane or the size.
- b. Have the phone number of a good supply source.
- c. Point to several locations off field where you lost one.

6. You walk into a hobby shop with \$50 cash and:

- a. Use credit cards. \$50 cash is gas money for driving to other hobby shops.
- b. Spend \$49.97 using every bit of the club discount.
- c. Realize it isn't McDonalds.

7. When you fly:

- a. All other activity stops because everybody wants to see how the NEW plane fly's.
- b. It's typically short lived because you have to get home do stuff like cut the grass.
- c. Children cry.

8. When you crash a plane, you:

- a. Finally have room to buy another plane.
- b. Have a moment of silence and maybe shed a tear or two.
- c. Break out the duct tape.

9. What famous book title best describes your flying?

- a. Seven habits of highly effective people
- b. War and peace
- c. Gone with the wind

10. Your favorite aviation movie is?

- a. The Aviator
- b. Top Gun
- c. Titanic

If most of your answers were, A. Well aren't we Mr. Big Stuff
If most of your answers were, B. Welcome to the club my friend.
If most of your answers were, C. Have you ever thought about taking up macramé?



S.R.

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11/06/06

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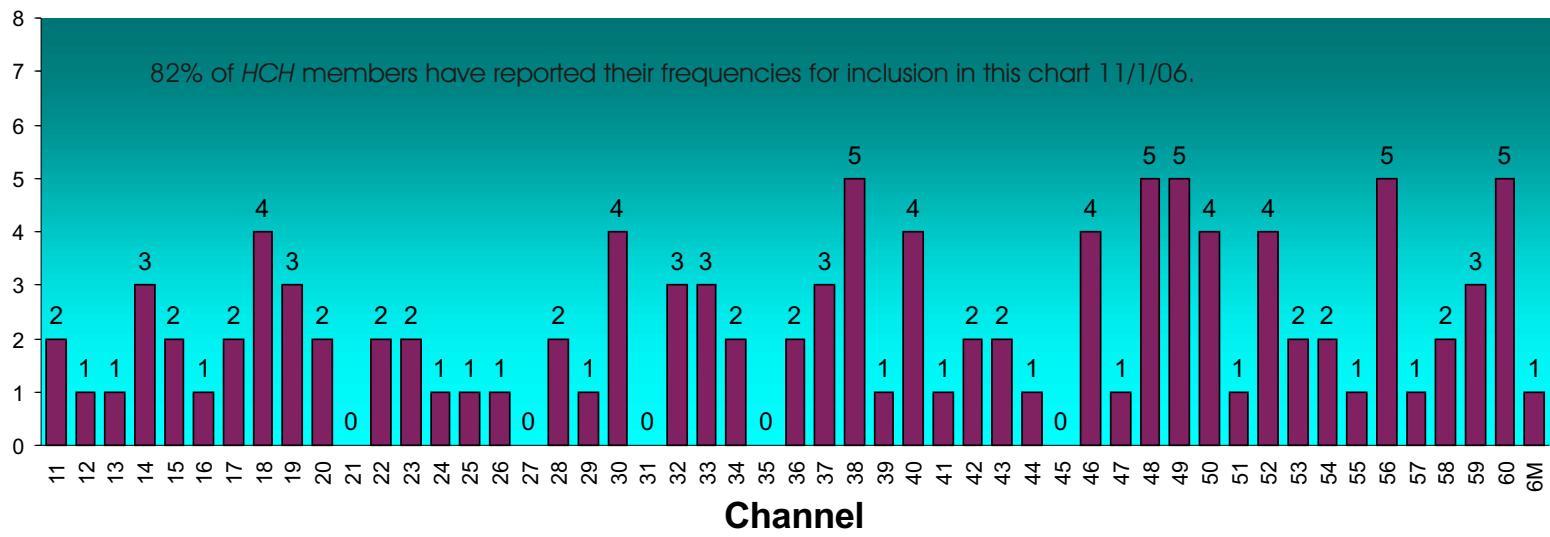
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