

Silver Lining

Winter 2009

Published Quarterly

Official Newsletter of the Holly Cloud Hoppers

Radio Control Flying Club

AMA Charter #3117



Inside this issue:

From the Editor

A picture of a pretty girl

Misc. Club News

Safety Officer Report

Events Calendar

Tips and Techniques

Flying Field GPS location N42 48.596 W83 34.642

www.hollycloudhoppers.org

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

From the Editor

Scott Rhoades
sdrhoades25@hotmail.com



First order of business is to take care of something that should have been included in the previous issue (Fall 08). As you may recall that newsletter was the 30th that yours truly has done for the club. What 30 issues of newsletters means is a few hundred articles, tips, reprints, pictures, charts, jokes and other misc. items.

So your wondering, big stinkin deal what does all this mean? For the most part it means I have a terrible memory. I can only remember about half the stuff that has been published. For the other half, I can't remember if it was something that was actually published or if it was simply an idea. Now I'm not the only one that has this problem of forgetting what I've said and to whom because I've heard more than a few of you telling the same ole stories over and over at the field.

For the items I know for certain that made their way into a newsletter, there is a very slim chance of remembering what issue they're in. Scarcely a newsletter goes together these days where I don't ransack the archives to reference old issues and

articles. To save what little sanity I have left, I bit the bullet and spent a full day going through all of the newsletters to create a cross reference database.

For you guys what this means is that if there is an article, picture, tip, quote or whatever; that you remember seeing in the Silver Lining and you just can't live another day without seeing again, just email me and I'll either let you know what issue you can find it in or if it's no longer on the HCH web site, I'll send you a PDF copy of that newsletter.

With that out of the way I have a very important proclamation to make. MY FLIGHT BOX IS CURSED! Yes, it's true; hexed, cursed, a box of doom or whatever you want to call it. The box is essentially a voodoo doll, except I don't use pins and needles to inflict pain and suffering. Don't get me wrong this flight box is very practical and has served me well for over twenty years and will for a few more decades. It was made by someone I consider a very good friend, even though he mocks me for liking ketchup on my hotdog. I put jalapeños on them too, doesn't that count for something? Anyhow you'd end up with a fat lip if you tried to take this flight box from me. However, I can no longer ignore the so called 'twists of fate' associated with this box.

It all started many years ago when I began a tradition of putting R/C and flight

On the Cover:

Doug Pickett's Stick Bipe by Cedar Hobbies, at the HCH Chili Fly January 1, 2009

Photo by Scott Rhoades

◀ 2 Editor:

related decals on the sides. I do this for the same reason anybody does, regardless of the sport or hobby... To associate me with VIP companies in hopes others will believe I'm some important big shooter pilot and that I know much more about the hobby than I actually do.

The first act of voodooism is connected to a decal on my box that was given to me by the nice folks at the R/C Modeler magazine booth during the Toledo show. Within a year or two of putting that decal on my flight box, the magazine; which had essentially been known as the aeromodelers bible for decades, ceased operations... Done, finished, kaput! Coincidence? Maybe.

Oh but the story doesn't end there. If it did, I could still look at myself in the mirror. You see about two years ago I dutifully sent a self-addressed stamped envelope to another fine publication, R/C Report, for one of their decals. This decal proudly went on the side of my flight box too. For those that have not heard, as of the March 09 issue the magazine known as R/C Report has ceased to exist.

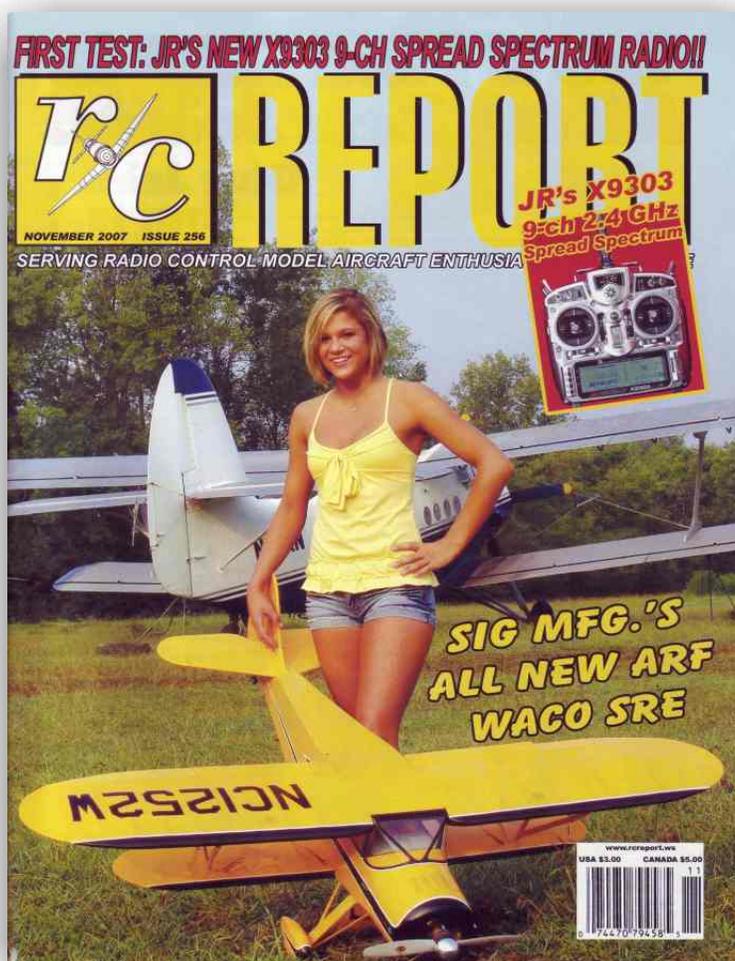
Now let's do the math.... Two magazine decals stuck to the side of my flight box and two magazines gone. Still a coincidence? I don't think so! Cursed.... I'm telling you.

I feel really bad about this. Well maybe not so much about R/C Modeler. The couple years before its demise, it had become more of a glossy catalog of advertisers and their products. Clarence Lee's column was about the only thing

worth reading. Some of you long time modelers know what I'm talking about. But R/C Report???? All I can say is.... Dang! [*crying*]

R/C Report (RCR) was born about one year after I started in this hobby. Guess you could say I advanced right along with RCR. Some of you really old timers will remember that the first few years RCR was printed in a newspaper/tabloid layout. I fondly recall RCR, in those early days, as some sort of underground /insiders publication for hardcore modelers. It was never available at regular newsstands like 'other' modeling magazines. If you wanted a

▶ Editor, 4



◀ 3 Editor:

copy you had to meet some big burly guy in an alley and tell him Guido sent you. The pages of RCR never had the glitzy look of its glossy counterparts, but in many modelers opinion, it was far superior.

RCR was far different too in that it didn't have hordes of associate staff, an advertising sales team or 20 people to put you on hold for an hour when you called with a concern about your subscription. RCR's office staff consisted of Editor/publisher Gordon Banks, his wife Mina and one assistant that changed a few times over the years. I envisioned the Alabama world headquarters of RCR being only slightly bigger than the room I'm putting this newsletter together in. Yet the scale at which they brought raw R/C info to modelers was simply unmatched.

Before we continue I have a confession to make. For many years I never paid for my subscription. Those of you familiar with RCR know the "Here's How" section where readers sent in building tips. If the tip was published the trade or 'payment' was a two year subscription. Six or seven years ago I got started on a pretty good cycle. As my subscription came close to ending, I'd start sending in tips to whomever the "Here's How" editor was until Gordon, who had final say, relented and published one.

There was one time, however, that my subscription was renewed without sending in a tip. Gordon extended my subscription

for the proudest moment in my writing career, if you can call it that. He published an article of mine in the May, 2007 issue. That article was a product test report for the Hangar 9 Angle Pro Incidence Meter.

From day one RCR established itself as a publication for honest reviews of products and planes. Over the years it wasn't uncommon to hear speculation about the honesty published in RCR being restrained as to not upset the advertisers. Well from my perspective, I will say those statements are FALSE.

When Gordon agreed to my proposal of reviewing the Angle Pro I had recently purchased, he sent me a list of guidelines



Picture from Horizonhobby.com

AnglePro 4-in-1 Digital Throw/Incidence Meter by Hangar 9

for writing a product review. Nowhere in that list or in any of the correspondence I had with Gordon, was anything ever said or implied about keeping the review.... shall we say....hospitable.

◀ 4 Editor:

My article was indeed published with edits but I can honestly say NONE of the 'not so kind' words I had about the product were softened or removed. So if pure honesty wasn't standard operating procedure for RCR, why would Gordon risk upsetting a huge player in the modeling world, Horizon Hobby (AKA Hangar 9), for some Joe Schmoe from Michigan? Not that I blasted the product mind you, but I had issues... with the product that is.

Over the years plenty of products did take a beating in the pages of RCR and those companies continued to advertise with RCR. However there were a few who, when their feelings got hurt, took their ball to go play in another neighborhood and Gordon wasn't shy about letting readers know what happened. If you ask me, an unfavorable review not only revealed the truth about a product but it also spoke volumes about the character of the company behind it. Honesty was always a risk for Gordon and putting it in front of corporate dollars is what made RCR a truly unique modeling magazine that will never be duplicated again.

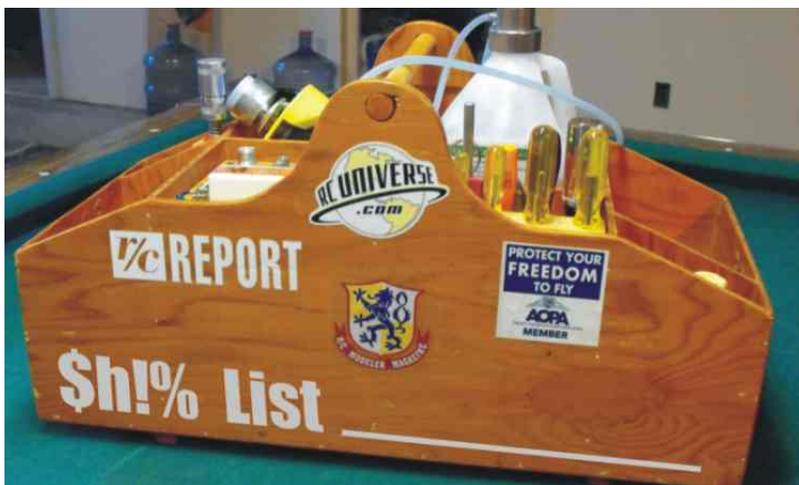
Just as I received a subscription without sending in an official building tip, I also had a tip published that will not result in a two year subscription. However I will also regard that as a very proud, but somber, moment as well. A few weeks before it was leaked on the internet that RCR was going end, I sent in a building tip to extend my streak. That tip was published in the "final and farewell issue".

There is a lot I'm going to miss about RCR and most has nothing to do with honest

reviews. You see I've been using that magazine as the model for the Silver Lining. You may think that the purpose of this newsletter is to provide *HCH* members with the latest club news. That is certainly a function but the objective is to entertain and present info in a light hearted manner so you don't forget, we do this for fun, which was clearly the principle behind RCR. So as that magazine comes to an end, it takes a bit of this newsletter with it.

Even though R/C Report will not be coming to my mailbox every month all appears not lost. A web version is currently in the works. www.rcreport.net

One final note: I expect some very good treatment from you guys or I'll start putting names on the side of my flight box. †



The Cursed Flight Box

Things to ponder:

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

Misc. Club News

By **Scott Rhoades**

- Membership renewals for '09 are being accepted by *HCH* secretary, Jim Finch. Remember renewals were due March 1st and renewals paid after April 15th will be assessed a late fee of \$15. Here is a link to the membership renewal form.
<http://hollycloudhoppers.org/documents/HCH%20Renewal.pdf>
- You may recall a mention in the last newsletter regarding Ken Kliever's mishap involving his plane and a rather large and looming tree that ultimately resulted in the tree's removal. Well this valiant effort did not go unrecognized at the annual meeting as Ken's sacrifice resulted in being rewarded the coveted *HCH* Crash Master award. Last year's recipient of the award, Doug Pickett, stated: "Any crash that results in the removal of a tree deserves an award." Congrats Ken, and you know there are still plenty of trees at the field that are, shall we say... taking up airspace. *[wink wink]*
- At the annual *HCH* meeting in February the same ole club officers from last year were voted in again this year. Doug campaigned on a very good platform of small government and Fun Fly reform. Your 2009 club officers are as follows:
President - Doug Pickett
Vice President - Noah Hampton
Secretary / Treasurer - Jim Finch
Safety Officer - Tory Showek
Newsletter Editor - Scott Rhoades
- Just as the last finishing touches were being made to this edition an email from Jim Finch to *HCH* members hit my in box. Since just an R/C story of interest to the club was filling this spot, figured I'd scrap that for now and talk about this email instead. If you didn't get it, it was a forwarded message from Shawn Speaker, Manager of the Holly Recreation Area...our landlord.

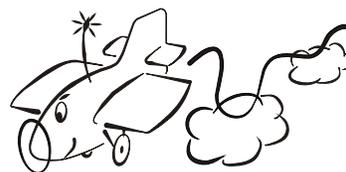
Shawn's message was to gather support for a proposal going to the state legislature that would eliminate the vehicle and boating access stickers. "*Michigan residents (will be) allowed access to these facilities/locations by paying a \$10.00 fee at the Secretary of State when you renew your license*". Hummm, sounds like a good trade, for non seniors, \$10 vs. \$24.

Found the proposal on the net and here is an excerpt from it¹: *The fee would be a \$9 charge per annual vehicle license plate/registration, and \$4.50 per motorcycle plate/registration on all Michigan Secretary of State registered passenger vehicles and motorcycles. This fee would be in addition to current vehicle registration costs. There would be a refund provision following the license plate/registration purchase for those who certified they did not want to support Michigan's outdoor recreation system and would not be visiting any of the above-mentioned facilities.*

If that means two out of the three vehicles registered in my name can be opted out? I'm in. And I promise to only drive one vehicle at a time to the field.

¹http://www.michigandnr.com/Publications/PDFS/RecreationCamping/CCMSP/11-2007-01_MI_State_Park_Vehicle_Plate_Proposal.pdf

Calendar Events



April 2009

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 2009

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 2009

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 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
						11
					17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Festival info coming in next newsletter

August 2009

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 2009

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

Toledo R/C Exposition	Seagate Center, Toledo OH	April 3,4,5 th
2009 HCH Membership renewal due to avoid late fee		April 15 th
HCH Field Prep Party	HCH Club Field.	10:00 am April 18 th
Bald Mountain Float Fly	Skymasters, Bald Mountain Rec. Area, Trout lake.	10:00 am May 17 th
War bird Fly In	Pontiac Miniature Aircraft Club	June 27 th
Club Fun Fly	HCH Club Field	10:00 am June 13 th
Fathers Day Airshow	Flint Aero Club, Baker Field	June 21 st
Fenton Freedom Festival Parade	Participants bringing planes will meet @ 8:00 am, others @ 9:30	July 4 th
HCH Open House	HCH Club Field	12:00 pm August 1
Big Bird Fun Fly	Flint Aero Club, Baker Field	August 1,2

Safety Report

By Tory Showek
HCH Safety officer

How many of you consider sight the most important of the 5 senses? How many of you risk this sense either knowingly or not, on a daily basis? According to Prevent Blindness America (PBA), almost 900,000 Americans injure their eyes annually during home and work activities or while playing sports.

Some hazards our eyes face during construction or repair and operation of our models includes:

- Grinding
- Cutting
- Solvents and adhesives
- Broken or shattered knife blades
- Spinning propellers (DUH!)
- Fuel spray
- Puffed lipos/ overcharged round cells

After having numerous close calls and some injuries, I now have a couple pairs of safety glasses at the ready in my shop that I can install whenever I feel like there is a potential for eye injury. Do I wear them all the time? No of course not, but I think just having them in your shop in plain view helps to keep eye safety top of mind. I also feel, now that I'm writing this, that having some glasses with the little loop thingies so you can have them around your neck at all times while in the shop is a good idea too. If anything, having them flopping around your neck and generally getting in the way will urge you to slap 'em on.

Editors note: I too use safety glasses frequently, however I've come to prefer a face shield when working in the shop. It easily flips out of the way when I don't need it, but is readily available when I'm ready to grind, cut or do any task that can be potentially dangerous to the eyes.

Ever have an Exacto knife roll off the work bench? If you're like me, the first instinct is to try to catch it. Not such a good idea. If you're a little more evolved than me, you try to get whatever body part that is about to get dissected the hell out of the way (usually the family jewels or feet). Hopefully your reflexes haven't deteriorated too much over the years. To prevent this, consider a pencil grip aid. These are usually a triangular shaped piece that fits over a pencil to teach proper grip to school kids or help arthritis sufferers. They are available online or at the major stores in the area. Needless to say, they work great to keep our tools on the table. †

Tips and Techniques

Sheeting

Next time you're sheeting a fore deck or turtle deck, consider using an ace bandage to apply pressure to the sheeting. Simply cut the sheeting to size, apply your glue of choice, (I like yellow wood glue), and wrap the entire area with the ace bandage. It's a good idea to tape the seams to insure a flush fit between the sheeting and fuselage sides. Leave the bandage in place until the glue heals, I mean dries.

Blind nuts

Installing blind nuts can be a real pain in the keister especially in smaller models or when you're blessed with the dexterity of a horseshoe crab. An easy tool can be made from a piece of flexible control cable, like Sullivans, and a wheel collar. Slide one end of the cable through the hole, usually a firewall, until it's easily accessible. Next slide the blind nut on the cable, followed by the wheel collar. Tighten the wheel collar. Now, pull the cable back through the firewall hard enough to get the "tangs" to bite. Remove cable. Finally, carefully install the proper sized screw and flat washer into the blind nut and draw the blind nut in, fully seating it into position. You can also get really fancy and fashion a handle out of 1" dowel rod to assist in pulling the nut into place.

Tory Showek, HCH member

Wires

Get a hold of a junk VCR and take it apart. Quite often there are a lot of wire harnesses in it. While the wire is other colors, as well as black and red, it is high quality and works very well for R/C hookups.

Lite Ply Replacement

My favorite material is "doorskins" to use in place of Lite Ply. You can purchase these at your local building supply company for around 5 bucks. The sheets are 36-inches wide by 80-inches high and about 1/8-inch thick. I have used this in place of Lite Ply in fuselage sides, hatches, landing gear mounts, servo mounts, etc., and have never had a failure.

Plywood on the cheap

Also along those lines, cabinet makers have birch- and oak-faced ply pieces in different sizes 1/4-inches thick, that they will sell to you for a reasonable price. I use these for firewalls, gear mounts in bigger airplanes, and you can double them up to make firewalls for gas engines.

Last three from the First State R/C Club, Willmington, Delaware

This newsletter is a communication of the *HCH* (Holly Cloud Hoppers). Contributions and editorial comments are welcome and may be forwarded to the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to reject or edit articles and other copy submitted for publication. Every attempt is made to assure the accuracy of the information presence, but the Editor cannot be responsible for errors or omissions. Content is copyright ©2009 by the *HCH*. Users may download and/or print some or all of the material on this letter solely for their own personal use. Any other copying, redistribution or publication of any material is strictly prohibited without the express written consent of the copyright owner. **Exception:** Non-profit club newsletters may reprint entire articles or excerpts without authorization, as long as proper credits are give to the author, and the *HCH* including a current web address to the *HCH*. Editorial content provided by writers does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *HCH*, or does it accept responsibility for the results of advice given by columnists or writers.