



SAM Says

Toys for Tots Fun Fly — December 3rd & 4th



The SAM has a long tradition of providing toys for the needy children around the Chualar community. The first weekend in December has been the time to bring toys in order to give something back to the community that is immediately within our flying field location.

In order to fly on this weekend SAM members are encouraged to bring gifts. If you can bring two gifts make one of them for a girl and the other for a boy. **Please don't wrap the gifts!** If you plan to fly both Saturday and Sunday you need bring toys only once.

Following the weekend's flying fun Jack Jellá will see that all the toys are taken to the Chualar Fire Department for distribution to the

needy families. Let's make this a big year for the children in our area!

by SAM Says Editor



President Says

Hay thar folks, it's time once again in the year to close out with a CRASH (I mean a bang). Our Xmas dinner for 2005 will be on 12/3 at the Landing Zone at the Salinas Airport. You should have all gotten the reservation slip in the mail along with the ballot and the membership renewal form.

We've had a SUPER FANTASTIC YEAR with well attended events, and have had a lot of great times as a group! This newsletter has the 2006 calendar of events. You will see that we're gonna have two electric events this year, we're gonna have the IMAC event again, plus a lot of fun stuff including our Rudder gates (gonna need cooks for those, any volunteers???)

We had the great enjoyment of watching a DVD, done by Ping Gamboa, of the October float-fly at Lake San Antonio at the last meeting. I will set up a small TV at the Xmas dinner so anyone wanting to watch it can. But with food and the White Elephant thing, we're gonna be BUSY! But be sure to come and find out WHOM the new officers for 2006 will be! It's gonna be a SURPRISE!!!!

Happy Landings!!

CRASH St. John!

President Flies!

2005 Events in Review

Electric Fun Fly



Memorial Fun Fly



Coast Soaring



Ruddergates

Float Flies



Glider Contests



IMAC



Francis Memorial

Spread Spectrum is Here!

On October 20, 2005, Horizon Hobby and Spektrum RC announced the release of a new 2.4 GHz radio control system utilizing digital spread spectrum (DSS) technology. This system is designed for flying smaller park flyer and micro/mini helicopter-type aircraft. This is exciting technology that we will see integrated seamlessly into our flying site operations. It is very important for AMA members to understand that the operation of this type of system has no effect on the operation of our other systems operating on 72 MHz. Additionally, it is very important for members to understand that there is no plan to phase out the 72 MHz band or any other bands currently authorized for radio control air and surface models.

Discount on RTL Fasteners

SAM has received an offer from RTL Fasteners for 10% off your first order. I gave out a number of their catalogues at the field. Whether you build kit or ARF models you will all need bolts and screws of varying sizes. Their catalogue can be downloaded from their web site: www.rtlfasteners.com. To get the discount you must order before **December 31, 2005** and mention coupon code **081705**. You can also contact RTL Fasteners at 800-239-6010 or email them at info@rtlfasteners.com.

GHOST SQUADRON

Each month the newsletter will feature a model and RC pilot from yesteryear.



Answers to November's quiz!

- Pilot ?
- Glider Name ?
- Year 1999



Anyone recognize this helicopter pilot?

What year was this photo taken?

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2005 Scene at the Field Review!



Minutes of the November Club Meeting

The November meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Jim St. John. There were twelve members present. Bob McGregor gave the treasurer's report and reported that the membership is still at 71.

President St. John announced that the slate of officers is complete, but that nominations from the membership were still in order. There were no nominations from the floor. The ballot will be mailed to every member within the next two weeks.

A proposed 2006 calendar of events was discussed. Dennis Stanley requested that the club consider having two electric fun fly events in 2006. After discussion it was decided to schedule a second electric event for February 25, 2006. Dennis volunteered to direct the second event (which will actually be the first electric event of the new season).

The Annual Meeting and dinner is scheduled for December 3rd. It will be held at the Landing Zone restaurant at the airport and will begin at 6:00 PM. Reservations for this dinner will be included in the election ballot mailing as well as 2006 membership application forms. Jack Jellá explained the *white elephant* gift process that has become a tradition at the annual dinner meeting.

There are several field workdays planned in the 2006 calendar. These workdays will be well planned with specific objectives and assignments. There will be an attempt to keep these work sessions to 4-6 hours. The jobs can be done quickly if every one will pitch and help. Every attempt will be made to see that all members are aware of these Saturdays when the fill be closed to flying.

The business session was adjourned for Show and Tell and the viewing of a DVD movie.

Jack Jellá brought two small free flight models: a early 1/2A Zeek and a 1/2 size Buzzard Bombshell. Jack shared very interesting stories about these models and his experiences with them.

A movie of the last float fly at Lake San Antonio was shown, thanks to the photographic work of Marcelino Bamboa.

by John Midgorden

Annual Club Meeting & Dinner December 3, 2005

The Annual Dinner Meeting of the SAM will be held at the Landing Zone Restaurant located in the Salinas Airport Terminal. Happy Hour will begin at 6:00 PM and the Dinner at 7:00 PM.

In addition to announcing the results of the election for 2006 officers there will also be a white elephant gift exchange. A reservation form for the dinner was included in the November election ballot mailing. **Reservations will need to be received no later than December 1st!**



2006 SAM EVENT CALENDAR

January
 4 Board/Club Meeting Salinas Airport

February
 1 Board/Club Meeting Salinas Airport
 25 Electric Fun Fly SAM Field

March
 1 Board/Club Meeting Salinas Airport
 4 Slope Soaring Seaside
 25 Field Work Day SAM Field

April
 5 Board/Club Meeting Salinas Airport
 14-16 Float Fly Lake San Antonio
 21-23 Francis Memorial Fun Fly SAM Field

May
 3 Board/Club Meeting Salinas Airport
 12-14 Float Fly Lake San Antonio
 21 RudderGate SAM Field

June
 3 Glider Contest SAM Field
 7 Board/Club Meeting Salinas Airport
 24 Field Work Day SAM Field
 25 RudderGate SAM Field

July
 1 Glider Contest SAM Field
 5 Board/Club Meeting Salinas Airport
 15 Memorial Fun Fly SAM Field
 30 RudderGate SAM Field


August
 2 Board/Club Meeting Salinas Airport
 5 Glider Contest SAM Field
 19-20 IMAC Contest SAM Field
 27 RudderGate SAM Field

September
 6 Board/Club Meeting Salinas Airport
 23 Field Work Day SAM Field
 24 RudderGate SAM Field

October
 4 Board/Club Meeting Salinas Airport
 6-8 Float Fly Lake San Antonio
 21 Electric Fun Fly SAM Field
 29 RudderGate SAM Field

November
 1 Board/Club Meeting Salinas Airport

December
 2 Toys for Tots Fun Fly SAM Field
 2 Annual Dinner Landing Zone Restaurant



Jan 13-16, 2006
Ontario Convention Center

Be a part of aviation history!

Join the AMA at 6:00 pm at the Ontario Convention Center Ballroom for a truly historic event. In conjunction with AMA Convention 2006, Burt Rutan will be honored at a dinner Saturday, January 14th and awarded the Model Aviation Hall of Fame award.

Dinner will be a part of the evening festivities and you will have the opportunity to hear from the Ansari X prize winner, who designed the first civilian craft to put a man into space.

Seating is limited, and tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. These seats will go extremely fast and we want you to be there. This evening will mark an amazing occasion to meet a truly worthy public figure who is a great example of using model aviation to fulfill his career.

AMA feels that an event like this is a chance of a lifetime and we hope you can share in this experience with us.

For a downloadable PDF file with details of the menu and payment information to attend go to <http://modelaircraft.org>.

Information About Ni-Cds

Most new RC pilots use the batteries that came with their radio set. These batteries are, for the most part, rechargeable Nickel-Cadmium batteries (Ni-Cd for short). The first rechargeable RC batteries, Ni-Cds remain the mainstay of the RC world.

Ni-Cds are usually reliable, vibration resistant, widely available and very cost effective. Model pilots have relied on them for nearly 40 years. True, they have a few performance negatives, but on the whole Ni-Cds are a very user friendly power system for our transmitters and on-board systems.

The first performance problem Ni-Cd batteries have involves their sudden voltage loss when the cells reach near-discharged levels. The nominal Ni-Cd voltage, regardless of the cells rated capacity such as 700 mille-Amp hours (700 mAh), is 1.2 volts. Therefore a 4-cell receiver battery pack using 700 mAh capacity cells would have a nominal voltage of 4.8 volts. A transmitter battery pack usually contains 8 cells for a nominal voltage of 9.6 volts.

What is all this “nominal voltage” stuff? Since Ni-Cd batteries are rechargeable, their actual voltage fluctuates over a range. Freshly charged, a single Ni-Cd cell has a “surface” voltage of around 1.4 volts. The term “surface voltage” means that this voltage is not really useable as it disappears as soon as an electrical load is applied to the battery or a few hours have elapsed since the last full charge.

After a few hours, a charged battery’s voltage drops to about 1.35 volts. This is a useable voltage which decreases quickly when current is drawn from the battery. Under load, a good Ni-Cd’s voltage drops from 1.35 to between 1.2 and 1.3. Therefore we say that its nominal voltage is 1.2 volts. A Ni-Cd battery remains at this 1.2-volt level for most of its time under load.

As current continues to be drawn during operation, the voltage very gradually drops to around 1.1 to 1.05 volts. After reaching about 1.05 volts however, the bottom drops out of a Ni-Cd and voltage drops to almost nothing in just a few minutes. What this means to an RC pilot is that there is little warning, and even less time to do something, once a Ni-Cd reaches the end of its capacity.

Everything works well then there is a sudden slowing of control response, in the case of a receiver pack, or a big range loss for a transmitter, when the battery reaches the end of its charge. In either case, the end result is a re-kitted, or re-ARF’d, aircraft to retrieve. The moral here is to make sure never to push a Ni-Cd battery anywhere near its limits.

The other Ni-Cd problem is the loss of capacity over time. Unlike the “dry cells”, like a Duracell® battery, a Ni-Cd battery is not made of just one chemical-containing package. Instead, it is made from many small plates, packed closely together with a chemical media in between and then enclosed by the metal container. Over time, small chemical deposits build up between the many plates. The deposits reduce the battery’s ability to absorb and store a charge. Therefore, the battery’s mAh capacity is reduced.

After two years of regular slow charging with the charger that is packed with the usually RC system, most Ni-Cd batteries have only about 80% of their rated capacity. The result is less safe flight time.

The Sirius Charge Pro Series, made by Peak electronics, is designed to overcome both these Ni-Cd problems. I first encountered the Sirius Charge about six years ago at a trade show, the Westchester Radio Aero Modelers (WRAM) show held every February. This nice gentleman spent 20 minutes telling me about this “Vunder Machine” and I didn’t believe a word he said as the claims were just short of magic.

Once full charge is reached, the Sirius charger switches to a Pulsed Maintenance Mode. This is not a trickle charge like most other fast chargers. It is a computer controlled full current charge that alternates charging with discharging. This system is designed to recondition the chemicals inside the battery, removing those small chemical deposits on the plates.

Frank Granelli



**Next Newsletter Deadline
December 15, 2005**

Send contributions to John Midgorden, Editor
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SAM AMA Club Charter #1554

Coming Events

December 3, 2005

Toys for Tots Weekend at the Field
 Annual Banquet at the Landing Zone

December 3, 2005

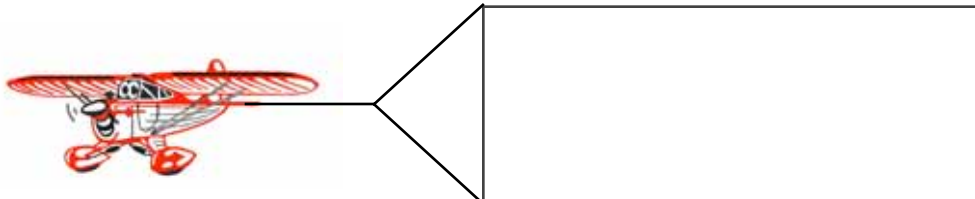
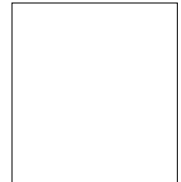
Annual December Meeting and Banquet
 at the Landing Zone Restaurant located
 at the Salinas Airport Terminal. Happy
 Hour at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM.

January 4, 2006

January Board and Club Meeting at
 the Salinas Airport Terminal—upstairs
 conference room.

**The 2006 SAM Event Calendar is
 presented on page 6 of this issue
 of SAM Says.**

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