

Ramblings

Official Newsletter of the Roxbury Area Model Airplane Club

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AMA Charter #429

Lithium Battery Talk

On May 11, the first RAMAC meeting in May, Bob Karasiewicz will discuss all you ever wanted to know about Lithium batteries. Covered will be Li Ion, Li Polymer, Li Manganese, Lithium Iron Phosphate and Lithium Iron nano Phosphate batteries. If there is time there will be a discussion on emerging battery technology.

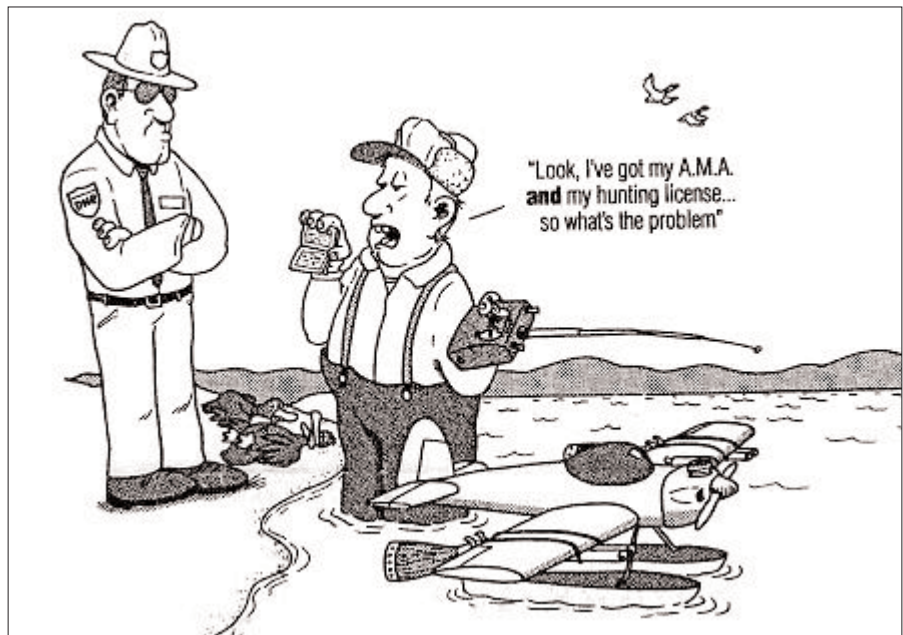
BOB KARASIEWICZ

Keeping it Clean at Pocono

It goes without saying all of us want to have a beautiful field to fly at. Nice pits, tables, a flat runway with green short grass, a great time with our friends. If you have visited some other fields, you know our Pocono field is one of the best!

Lately our field hasn't been looking so "dapper" with fuel bottles, rubber bands, paper towels, bits of airplanes, cigarette butts, and general garbage all over the runway, pits, pin box, and parking area. The garbage problem was bad enough that a Park Ranger stopped by and shared his opinion on the matter. Clean it up! Lou was the unfortunate one getting an earful from the ranger so Lou picked up all of the garbage. Thanks Lou! I got this information second hand so if anyone else helped clean up the field, pits, pin box and parking area with Lou a "Thanks" to you too!

We all need to carry out what we carry in. Everything. This also means cigarette butts. In addition to keeping our field clean and nice looking, we don't want to be aggravating our landlords, the Rangers. Having a dirty field puts our field at risk and is an easy way to get some unwanted attention from the Rangers. If you see someone leave garbage or cigarette butts around, please let them know and ask them to carry out what they brought. **THE PIN BOX IS NOT A GARBAGE CAN!** If no one is around, please pick up what you see. I am sure we will have some "partiers" in the parking lot and leaving garbage behind. We need to clean that up too. Let's be good tenants, take pride in our field, and make our



members, visitors, and the Rangers happy to visit our field

-DAN VANNIEUWLAND
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

RAMAC Proposed by-laws change

Please come to our club meeting on May 11th to vote on whether we should remove the six-function rule for new members. If we get our 2nd field we will need the support of ALL pilots flying at our fields. Flying without paying dues is not something the prospective member wants either. They want to be a member not waiting on line to be an official member of RAMAC.

We need our membership to support our fields. Easily accepting new members into RAMAC is the spirit of a club. The complaints I have heard in the last 20 years about lost prospective members are many. I have pages of past newsletters from way back to NOW with names of people that did not stay in the club. I have heard many com-

plaints of potential members not being able to find information about their applications, meetings, how to join, etc. etc. This just shouldn't be

We used to keep a list of prospective members and after a year on the list many were no longer prospective members OR club members. Last summer for example, Vinny had to bring in two 2nd applications for members from Pocono waiting for their second year. It could have been lost in the paperwork. No matter what the reason, the confusion is just not worth it. Sign them and they're in.

Several new pilots do not realize the problem we had for several years. I believe it to be the six-function rule to be voted into the club. This is not good for RAMAC. Some clubs have 180 to 200 members. Their waiting list keeps things flowing at their own pace. We need to increase our membership so we can afford our fields.

If you do not want to pay more dues or club expenses for a new field then we should working on membership. So back to improvements for membership application and the RAMAC six-function vote policy. This is what the vote is about.

Come out and vote to let a prospective member join. Accept their application with a one deal Vote in. Let them pay dues and present their AMA card. I have been work-

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
All Year		The Great American Crepe Paper Tow Contest CD, Bob Karasiewicz
May 1st	Saturday	RAMAC Mall Show Roxbury Mall Frank La Corte CD
May 8th	Saturday	INTRO Day Pocono Field Frank La Corte CD
May 11th	Tuesday	Club Meeting Eisenhower School, Roxbury
May 16th	Sunday	Combat Sortie #1 Pocono Field Bob Reed CD
May 25th	Tuesday	Club Meeting Eisenhower School, Roxbury
June 8th	Tuesday	Club Meeting Eisenhower School, Roxbury
June 13th	Sunday	Combat Sortie #2 Pocono Field Bob Reed CD
June 26&27	Sat & Sun	Pocono Pattern Contest Pocono Field Joe Lachowski CD
July 11th	Sunday	Combat Sortie #3 Pocono Field Bob Reed CD
August 22nd	Sunday	CUB Day Pocono Field Bob Clark CD

KEEP THE 2009 CALENDER UPDATED. CONTACT DAN VANNIEUWLAND

ing on this change for many years. I believe it is time we move forward.

Proposed BY-Laws Changes:

Modify Article 3 "membership"

Current Wording:

3. Requirements for new open membership consideration are as follows:

A. Applicant must display a current AMA membership card to the organization secretary.

B. Applicant must complete an organization application form and present it to the organization secretary.

C. Upon completion of A&B above, applicant must participate in a minimum of six organization activities such as meetings, flying, etc.

4. All new members must be elected by the general membership. A 2/3 affirmative vote of the membership present at a regular meeting shall be required for election.

5. All applicants for Spousal, and Junior membership need only meet the AMA requirements for consideration and are exempt from item 3.C. above. All other membership rules apply.

Proposed... Delete '3C' Modify '4' & '5':

3. Requirements for new open membership consideration are as follows:

A. Applicant must display a current AMA membership card to the organization secretary.

B. Applicant must complete an organization application form and present it to the organization secretary.

~~C. Upon completion of A&B above, applicant must participate in a minimum of six organization activities such as meetings, flying, etc.~~

4. **After completion of 3A and 3B** all new members must be elected by the general membership. A 2/3 affirmative vote of the membership present at a regular meeting shall be required for election.

5. All applicants for Spousal, and Junior membership need only meet the AMA requirements for consideration ~~and are exempt from item 3.C. above.~~ All other membership rules apply.

A vote on the proposal will take place at the May 11th meeting at the Eisenhower school.

-MARGUERITE GARGIULO

Get ready for Training!

Flight training has begun for 2010 and will be held on Thursday evenings. The flying will commence at six however if the students can get there earlier, they can do they're ground checks, assembly, aircraft inspections etc and we can spend more time in the air.

I would suggest that the students bring their aircraft into the meetings while they are building /assembling them. This way we avoid having to make field adjustments, alterations and repairs. Some of the things that I will be looking for will be:

- 1 Snug engines
- 2 Fuel line clevis locks
- 3 Fiber glassed wing centers (even on the ARFS)
- 4 Radios soft mounted with the brass pointing upward
- 5 Balance at a slightly nose down attitude (with the tank dry)

6 Tight, small gapped, hinges and hinge lines

7 Clevis or z-bends at all servo connections (don't even try to sneak those plastic bots dots by me)

8 Non- balsa elevator pushrod. (a pull up elevator is preferred but a push elevator rod is acceptable if you use a carbon fiber or fiber glass pushrod.)

I would recommend that the following either be brought out to the field or be done before you come to the field:

1 Charge the aircraft and transmitter for twenty - four hours the first time and 12 -16 hours thereafter.

2 Get a gallon of good 10% nitro, Twenty % oil (some castor oil as part of this) fuel and some way of getting it into the fuel tank.

3 A two pound bag of #64 rubber bands from Staples, Office max, etc. You'll be using them a dozen or so at a time and I don't recommend reuse.

4 Spend the extra \$20.00 and get your self a ball bearing engine. You'll regret the purchase of that underpowered plain bushing engine the first night. If the engine is new I would suggest that you break it in for two tanks worth of fuel. We can set it up and break it in at the field if the student doesn't know how to do this. You will, however, loose out on some flying time if we're breaking that new engine in on flight training night.

5 A chicken stick or starter is a must to keep those all-important flying digits safely out of the prop.

6 A fully charged glow plug igniter. Charge it and the radio gear together and then you'll know that it's charged.

7 Bring an extra prop or two. The Master Airscrews seem to survive rough landings better than the APC'S or wooden props. Do yourself a favor and mount the prop so it is horizontal when the engine is rotated clockwise to the point of compression build up. This will keep the prop from getting broken so often if the engine dies and an emergency dead stick landing is required.

8 A "buddy box" makes training a lot easier. You don't have to worry about hitting trims or the power switch when you pass the box if you don't pass the box!

These are just some quick thoughts and I'm sure that I've forgotten something, but if you try to remember these things it will get you up in the air and training a lot sooner. I'm looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday nights at the Pocono field.

- LEW MCCARTHY

Science Night

I don't remember if any of our famous ground hogs saw their shadows on February 2nd, but I do know that I did not. I was too busy trying to convert my Demoiselle from NiCd power to Lithium Polymer power. So I was inside at my work bench doing this conversion so I could have a longer and hopefully better flight that night at the Randolph middle school.

Was I going to meet a bunch of the club members there and have a fun fly? Well, sort of. I met some club members there, but it was for a science activity night with fifty or so middle school students accompanied by one of their parents. The focus that evening was on

aviation. Specifically, a short demonstration by RAMAC, and then a couple of activities which one was to build a balsa glider and then trim and fly it in the gymnasium. The students would do this with some help from their parents and guidance from the science teachers and RAMAC members that were there.

The teacher that got this all started was Bob Garay. He is a science/shop teacher there and met us at the school early to help us set up and show us his wonderful shop. He told us that his shop program was one of a few left in the Morris county school system. This didn't surprise me, knowing how much technology has advanced in the past twenty or so years. When I started college, we were still using punch cards to feed our programs to the main frame on campus. I like to call this the Pre- Percomzoic period. That would be a time period after the Dinosaurs and just before personal computers. Sadly, the school shop programs are going the way of punch cards. You don't need to know how to run a belt sander when your pc goes haywire, you just need to figure out what component to replace. I hope Bob Garay and the Randolph school system can keep it going.

Most of the members arrived between 6:00 and 6:30 pm to do whatever set-up needed to be done in the gymnasium. The one member not included in "most", was John Gill. He was already in the gym, and had his table covered with model airplanes. Each model represented an era in aviation from the pioneering to the jet age. After the students and their parents were settled in the bleachers, John gave a short talk on each model. This included specifics about the full scale, maybe a unique characteristic of the plane, and general info about that plane's era. I think John gave a nice informative talk that lasted about ten minutes.

Next up to talk was Frank Granelli. Let me back up to when everybody was arriving. This is when Frank was demonstrating his small R/C helicopter. As the people walked past his demo flying I heard a few comments like, "That's pretty neat!" and, "He hasn't crashed his yet!" And he never did. Frank had several successful flights and no mishaps. O.K., back to his talk or lesson. Mr. Garay had asked Frank to give a short talk on what makes a wing fly and how does it create lift. He did this well with small posters and some hand gestures, like pointing up means lift applied here. As Frank was finishing his talk, Mr. Garay came over to Vinny Gargiulo and myself and told us that our allotted time was up, and that he might be able to give us some time after the two projects had been finished by the students. It wasn't that big a deal we didn't get a

chance to talk to the assembled crowd, because both Vinny and I got a chance to do some ground demonstrations and talk about our planes to the people as they came in. Vinny had his foam fish, which he decided not to fly in this gym because it was smaller than the one we usually fly in at the Eisenhower Middle school and here there were a lot more obstacles to hit. When Mr. Garay asked me if I would fly, I decided that my plane was much slower than Vinny's and I would give it a try.

A few seconds after I took off, I realized that the forced air heating system in the gym had more control over my plane than I did. So I decided to keep this flight short. I did a couple of slow turns around a couple obstacles and then the heating system and I set my plane down gently. Altogether, it was about twenty seconds of flying, and that was enough for me. Apparently the crowd was pleased, because they gave me a nice round of applause. I didn't feel that I deserved all that, but I smiled anyway. And that was it! RAMAC's part was basically over. All we had to do now was help out. A little advice here, some help trimming over there, and some first aid right up front. There was only one such accident and it was an adult who was satisfied with just a couple of band-aids. Soon the gym was filled with balsa gliders, lots of people and much shouting and screaming. When the gliders had seen their final few tosses, the group moved on to their next task which was an egg drop event where the students were given an egg and some materials to make an egg carrying device that when the egg (in a zip-lock bag) was placed in it and dropped from about 20', the egg didn't break. I didn't keep track of the actual numbers, but I would say that close to 50% of the students managed to not break their eggs. I didn't think the number would be so high. I obviously didn't give the students of Randolph Middle School enough credit for being creative. I think all the designs were creative, some students just weren't as lucky. These are the ones that went home and made one egg omelets.

Everyone there had a good time. I know there was talk about doing this again sometime. I like to help people learn, especially when it involves flying. I would like to see this happen again because this event went very well, and Bob Garay is a great person to work with. Not to mention that I would like to prove to all that I don't need a heating system's help to fly and land my airplane.

-DAVID NUETZEL

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Visit the RAMAC Web Site!
www.ramac.org

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