



Jim Brink, President

Greetings Modeleers,

Last month was a confusing time for our club regarding plans for 4th of July activities. Thanks to those who came out for a special meeting at which several points of view were expressed, and an excellent workable plan was unanimously agreed upon. The wide-ranging discussion included comments about the working philosophy of the club, and although there was less agreement about this, everyone got to make their points with respect.

The outcome was that we will hold an air show on the 4th at Modeleers Field but not be involved with Wellington's parade plans, and I hope that most of us will find a fun way to participate. I am sending out publicity notices this week and hope to get coverage in the local papers to target the people of Fort Collins. If you know of a neighborhood paper that I should contact, call or email me, and I'll try to include it.

The actual contents of the airshow have not been set even though I have discussed several ideas with many of you. We need about 15 to 20 flights to fill two hours, some including multiple aircraft and as many types as possible, so there is room for everyone to fly who wants to. I hope that you will be active in getting your ideas to me so that I can make a tentative flight schedule next week for your comments. If flying for the public is not for you, we will need help on that day with food preparation and sales, flightline safety, parking, or just answering questions from the public. Or make up your own way of being involved. I feel sure that many of your ideas will be as good or better than mine.

Before and after the show, we hope to have lots of takers for buddy-box flying. If the weather holds, the field will be open for regular flying after that.

I am excited about this air show project and believe that we can make it a fun and interesting event for guests and members alike. I hope that it will also help further the long-term goals of our club.

Wheels down landings,

Jim Brink

Shawn's 3 Simple Rules for Lipo Safety

By Shawn Palmer

Marketing/Support Director
shawnp@castlecreations.com

Part 2

Rule #3: Always store the pack at 1/2 charge when it won't be used for an extended amount of time.

This is a fairly new one. Lipos simply haven't been around long enough to fall into inactive hands for extended periods of time! I don't know the "whys" or "hows" involved, but a pack stored (more than a month or two) at full charge, over time will lose capacity and discharge capability and eventually it will "puff" and be useless. So if you think it may be a month or two before you fly a pack again, discharge half the capacity of a full pack or charge up a spent pack and then discharge down to half capacity for storage.

So there you have it - 3 simple rules for a long and happy cycle life with your Lipos. If you follow them, I feel Lipos are no more dangerous than any other electron storage device (ie. battery).

But what happens when the rules are broken, or more importantly: When exactly is the user at risk of an explosion and fire from a Lipo pack?

There are three instances a lipo will explosively vent and potentially involve flames:

1. A serious impact or similar physical damage to the pack when it is fairly charged (bad crash, puncture, damage to the silver envelope and etc.)

A damaged pack should be destroyed (soaked in saltwater) as soon as possible, and if necessary, stored outside in a safe place should it catch fire until it can be destroyed.

2. Direct short. A sustained direct short can cause explosive venting and flames almost immediately. Even a very tiny amount of time (1/100th of a second) spent in a shorted condition can reduce lifespan and output capability significantly, if not outright destroy the pack. Keep this in mind when you solder connectors on new Lipo packs! Even a tiny short from one wire brushing another can have large effects.

3. Charger error, charger user error, or most commonly: charging a damaged pack. Contrary to the above, where you pretty much know you're in immediate danger from a damaged/shorted pack - this is where most of the lipo paranoia and fires come from. "I had just put it on to charge 10 minutes before, and all of a sudden it's puffing up

Continued under Minutes...

Next Meeting - Saturday, July 1st, 10:00 A.M. at Modeleers Field in Wellington



Minutes of the June Meeting

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Rocky Mountain Modeleers

June 3, 2006

Modeleers Field, 1200 N County Rd 5,
Wellington, CO 80549

Vice President Bill Tuttle called 13 members to order at 10:00 A.M. Bill filled in as acting president for Jim Brink, who went to Tahiti and Jerry Craig filled in as acting secretary for Dave Sampson who went to Utah. Guess who took the better vacation?

Guests: included Glenn and Mary Lou Hultgren, grandparents of Clint Hultgren and the Hultgrens' friends Jim and Dot Weber.

Minutes: for May were approved.

Treasurer's Report: for May was approved.

Safety Officer's Report: None presented.

Old Business:

1. The Wellington 4th of July celebration was discussed and questions were raised about the Modeleers participation. There was concern that the membership never really voted to proceed, and it was unknown how many members actually supported the project. Bill Tuttle and Loren Deines noted that the board wanted it to be presented to the membership on this date. There was doubt expressed that people could be attracted to the flying field with the addition of other venues like the car show from 11 A.M. to mid afternoon. Concern was raised about the probability of wind canceling flights at noon and later. A \$2 parking fee seemed unnecessary. A trailer for the float had not been located, and Loren could not locate bleachers. Finally, no new members were generated by the 2005 event. The motion was made and seconded, and the members present voted unanimously in favor of canceling the Modeleers participation in the Wellington Fourth of July festivities.

2. There was discussion of other ways to attract members and a booth at the library park at New West Fest was suggested. Bo Viger volunteered to research booth availability and cost and report back.

3. Bill Tuttle informed the group that the following items had been provided as raffle items for the Wellington event: An E-Flight Mini Edge, A Dynamax battery charger, and a 3-channel Futaba transmitter including receiver and servos, still in the box. Since the event was canceled, he will bring them to the July meeting to be raffled.

New Business:

1. The Love-Air folks requested \$500 support for the heli fly in late June. Since the effort previously returned a

profit, it was moved and approved unanimously to provide the funds. Since the treasurer and checkbook were not present, a check will be issued at a later date.

Show and Tell

Tom Keller's new/old huge orange and blue electric bird took to the air. It floated about so well that we nearly had to throw rocks to get it down.

Clint Hultgren also soloed - from high school that is. Both Clint and Garret are home schooled, and Clint elected to have his graduation party with us at the field. The Hultgrens provided two way-delicious cakes and brownies and punch to wash it all down. Also in attendance were Clint's grandparents Glenn and Mary Lou Hultgren and old family friends Jim and Dot Weber. Clint plans to pursue commercial pilot and instructor licenses at Aims College this fall.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:55 A.M. and all present ate cake!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Craig

Acting for Dave Sampson

Rocky Mountain Modeleers Secretary



NEW MEMBER --

Larry Watson

Welcome to the club!

Shawn's 3 Simple Rules for Lipo Safety continued...

and starting to shoot flames for no reason". I've heard that quite a few times. They want to blame the pack brand, they want to blame the charger, they want to blame the power supply, they want to blame everything and everyone except who actually is to blame - themselves.

Charger errors are still very possible in this day of almost everything being automatic. Lipos are even more volatile to being at over 4.2v/cell as they are being under 3.0v/cell. It doesn't take but 10 minutes when charged at the next cell up rate to cause a catastrophic pack failure. I recommend folks to not charge lipos unattended (as in in the garage when you are inside the house doing something else). I charge here at my desk at work with the charger and pack in my view as I work on my computer, or at home beside my desk/workbenches when I'm sitting at them only. Mostly because due to testing, we have a lot of packs very near the end of their lives due to over-discharging, or simply cycle life, and I know the only time they are subject to bad things happening is while on the charger.

Continued on page 4 --

Minutes from the Special Meeting (June 15)

Minutes of Special Meeting

Rocky Mountain Modeleers
June 15, 2006
Modeleers Field, 1200 N County Rd 5,
Wellington, CO 80549

President Jim Brink called 10 members to order at 6:03 P.M.

This special meeting was called to discuss the unanimous vote cast at the last regular club meeting (June 3rd) to cancel club events scheduled for July 4th.

Jim handed out the following text at the beginning of the meeting to set the background. "Thanks for coming. Sorry for the extra meeting on short notice. The Executive Committee and I want to acknowledge confusion about the issue of two air shows (1st, the e-demo at the K-12 field in Wellington; and second, the larger air show at Modeleers Field). We are sorry for that mistake. We do want to point out that the club discussed the July 4th events — including both the Wellington parade and e-demo as well as the Modeleers Field air show — at three meetings (February, March, and May 2006) and heard no negative comments until those expressed at the June meeting. That said, the Executive Committee acknowledges that no vote on the 4th of July events was called at any of these meetings." There will be four criteria for this event: 1) public exposure for the Modeleers; 2) new club members; 3) profit earned; 4) fun activity for members.

Jim discussed the content of the hand-out. We eventually clarified that the motion and vote at the regular June meeting was to cancel all July 4th events, including those in Wellington as well as those at Modeleers Field.

Tom Keller voiced the opinion that this club should be about the enjoyment of flying r/c aircraft – not about raising money; and that we should not try to be "Love-Air Lite," by which he meant a club that tries in all its activities to raise money. Dan St. John said that charging for food at a club event was OK, but that charging for parking was a bad idea that had evoked much negative opinion at the regular June meeting. Gene Burmeister suggested that if raising money was an objective, then a higher charge for food was probably a better idea than charging for parking.

Members voted unanimously to reinstate plans for a July 4th air show at Modeleers Field. Discussion before the vote touched on these points: that many pilots are likely to fly on the 4th of July, so why not make the event an air show (Don Mitchell); that planning an air show is a "huge hassle" but something we should do any way (Tom Keller); that since we've moved to Horton's, our expenses are up so that we need more members and more revenue

(Bill Tuttle); and that several veteran members of the club share the opinion expressed at this meeting that we should be about maintaining what we are currently as opposed to expanding to a larger Love-Air type of club (Tom Keller);



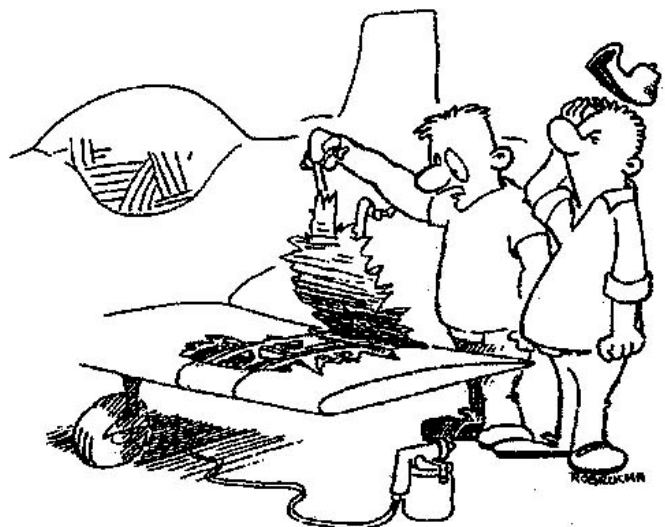
Details of the 4th of July Modeleers' air show that members approved are as follows:

1. The air show will run from 11:00 to 1:00. Open flying and buddy-box training (see below) will occur before and after these hours.
2. Bert Sutton (from Love-Air) will provide a patriotic freestyle demonstration with his big plane.
3. We'll have a candy-drop, involving dropping ~2-lb candy over the e-flight area north of the storage shed which kids will be invited to pick up. There was discussion of the safety, legality and logistics of this idea, but guest Sean Seyler (a kid himself) thought this would be fun, and the idea was approved.
4. Mike Harrington has agreed to bring his PA system.
5. Picnic lunch food and drinks will be sold.
6. Parking will be free.
7. Bleachers will be in-place if they are available for free and with minimal hassle.
8. Buddy-box instruction with trainer aircraft will be available at no charge. A donation will be suggested to pay for fuel.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Sampson
Rocky Mountain Modeleers Secretary



IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
DUCT TAPE AND MASKING TAPE?



Meet the Member



Tom Kephart

Born/raised: I was born in the UK and grew up here after my Dad retired from the Air Force.

Married: Yes, I found a pretty, kind, and intelligent young lady who took pity on me and decided it was best I have someone to keep me out of trouble. Christian has been busy ever since. Luv you bunches, Sweetie!

Children: Three: My pretty girl Chai (Labrador), Psycho Kota (Border Collie), and Roshi (our neurotic cat).

Occupation: Systems Administrator (people find ways to break computers, and I try to put them back together again)

Years in hobby: About a year and a half. Christian started me off with a HobbyZone Aerobird for Christmas, and I've been hooked ever since.

Member since: 2005

Planes/ helis owned: NexStar, Sig Kadet EP, Mini Edge 540, Super Sportster EP, Cosmic Wind Minnow (electric conversion)

Favorite plane/ heli: Usually whatever is charged up and ready to go. But if I had to pick, it would be my Super Sportster so far.

Worst crash: My Sportster. I have turbo'd the model and just love high speed fly-bys. Well...I guess I hadn't glued in my hinges really well on the elevator because half of it broke loose and started fluttering badly. The plane flew over just as the elevator broke loose, and do I really have to say anything else? All I can say is the crash was spectacular; (I just wish I had a video of it!).

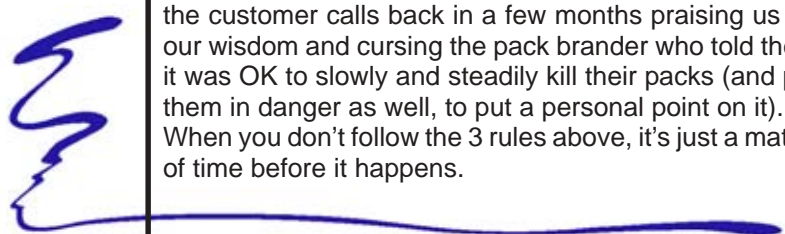
Something you may not know about me: I have six toes on one foot (just kidding!). However I am left-handed.

Shawn's 3 Simple Rules for Lipo Safety continued...

With my own personal packs, I have no problem leaving the room or even not monitoring them at all, because I know they have not been abused in any way and are absolutely safe.

Charging a damaged pack is where a vast majority of lipo paranoia comes from, because it seems to be completely at random and may strike at any time. In fact, continuing to discharge below 3.0v/cell can damage a pack so severely, and in so few cycles, it very well may fail catastrophically on the charger when "everything seemed normal, and just like yesterday". So where's the average hobbyists defense against the "random lipo killer inside their charger?" Obviously it all comes down to the 3 rules of lipos. When they're followed, nothing bad happens. Period.

My support staff and I are presented daily with folks that persist in breaking rule #1 "because I know what I'm doing". I recommend to my staff to make sure and teach them about logging cycles, and write down how many mah the pack takes in each time. Or at the very least, jot it down once a month. This shows the consumer that the mah in is dropping steadily (depending on the level of damage being done), and when it gets to close to 75% of the original new pack mah, it'll start to fall rapidly each cycle, and it's time to retire that pack. Then we offer them a simple experiment - on a second pack, run the cutoff at 3v/cell, and keep track the same way as well. Invariably, the customer calls back in a few months praising us for our wisdom and cursing the pack brander who told them it was OK to slowly and steadily kill their packs (and put them in danger as well, to put a personal point on it). When you don't follow the 3 rules above, it's just a matter of time before it happens.



Congratulations to Jim Brink and Greg St. John, who both placed 2nd in their respective classes at the Love-Air IMAC competition on June 17th!

Last Month's

"Scrambled

Plane" Sig

Somethin' Extra



Congratulations to last month's winner of the "Scrambled Plane Game"

Don Vagge



What a surprise, Don was the winner **AGAIN!**



AMA Charter #1824

Annual Dues:

Adult: \$60

Junior: \$30

Family: \$70

Half price after July*

*(*Only for new members!)*

One-time runway fee: \$50



Membership is open to all RC model airplane enthusiasts who are members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). Activities of the club include all phases of RC modeling: instruction, sport flying, contests, etc. A monthly newsletter is sent to each member.

Current membership is required for flying at any club field. A non-member who is an AMA member may fly two days as a guest.

New members are welcome!

Ask any member for information.

Our meetings are held at
10:00 A.M. on the first Saturday of the month at
Modeleers Field in Wellington.
(Call an officer for directions if necessary.)

Officers:

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Jim Brink | 223-3975 |
| Vice Pres. | Bill Tuttle | 484-8378 |
| Secretary | Dave Sampson | 223-9088 |
| Treasurer | Gene Burmeister | 674-9820 |
| Editor | Garret Hultgren | 224-4350 |
| Webmaster | Ryan Korzyniowski | 231-1857 |
| Weather Station | | 568-3203 |

Flight instruction is offered during daylight savings time at no charge to members. Flying instruction is available on a first-come basis on Thursday afternoons at Modeleers field. *(Call an officer for directions)* Other times can be arranged by appointment with the individual instructors.

Instructors:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Mike Lohr | 221-5278 |
| Fred Damm | 221-4457 |
| Loren Deines | 494-1117 |
| Larry Grover | 224-5124 |
| Dan St. John | 223-0849 (Helicopters) |
| Greg St. John | 223-0849 (Helicopters) |
| Don Botteron | 223-8050 (Adv., by Apmt. only) |
| Don Vagge | 223-1169 |



Home State Bank
303 E. Mountain Ave.
(970) 203-6100
*Three Fort Collins locations,
four Loveland locations*



The Pavillion Ft. Collins, CO 80525
4348 South College Phone (970) 226-3900
Fort Collins • Longmont • Westminster

Next Meeting - Saturday, July 1st, 10:00 A.M. at Modeleers Field in Wellington

Rocky Mountain Modeleers
c/o Garret Hultgren
1630 Sagewood Dr.
Ft. Collins, CO 80525