



GRASSFIELD RC CLUB, INC. • BROOKLYN PARK, MN • www.grassfieldrc.org • AMA CHARTER #1405

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Phil Zuidema

There is good news for the club! We have secured an additional meeting space, which will allow us to have club meetings on November 11th, January 13th, and March 9th. The meeting place (for these meetings only) is at the Osseo Community Center, 415 Central Avenue, Osseo, Minnesota 55369. This looks like it will serve our needs, and if all goes well, we will consider this meeting place to move all our meetings here. I want to thank Don Aaser of our club, for helping us secure this space by doing a good part of the legwork on it.

We have enjoyed some exceptional weather this fall. It's been warmer than usual, dryer than usual, and prime for flying. As I write this on Friday, November 4th, I'm looking forward to possibly going flying tomorrow, as it's supposed to be 60 degrees and sunny (but breezy). When I was a beginner, I used to be concerned about the wind, but then came to terms with the fact that if I didn't learn to brave the wind, I wouldn't be doing too much flying. Keeping a strong landing speed into the wind will help you maintain control all the way to touchdown. Your ground speed should still be below a no-wind speed, so actually the wind gives you a little more cushion for easy landings.

The hill is still the hill, and will most likely be with us until 2015. When the wind is from the south, it's pretty much a non-factor, and when it's from the west or north, I just ease around the southeast corner of the hill, fly a little west, and then turn north to make a boring landing. I'm sure most of you have figured out how to accommodate that dirt lump by now. Chopper pilots have it even easier.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the field and at the next meeting, on Friday.

PROBLEMS WITH 2.4 GHZ?

by Del Berryman

I recently received the November, 2011, issue of *Model Aviation* and found the article by Greg Hahn on page 161 interesting and thought-provoking. In the article, Hahn discusses interference problems with the 2.4 GHz radio frequency, contributing to loss of control and some unexplained crashes.

RC is only a secondary user of the 2.4 GHz spectrum, meaning RC has no rights against interference from the primary users that hold the FCC license. In other words, RC must cease operation if it interferes with the primary user. On the other hand, RC is the primary user of the 72 MHz band, and no other users are legally permitted.

While we certainly have experienced interference while using 72 MHz, that interference has come from other RC users. If interference with 2.4 GHz becomes problematic, you might give serious consideration to moving back to, or staying on, 72 MHz.

For more information on this issue, be sure to read Greg Hahn's article.

OUR NEXT MEETING: NOV. 11TH

Date: Friday, November 11, 2011
Time: 7:00 pm (Doors open from 6:00 to 10:00 pm)
Location: Osseo Community Center
 415 Central Avenue
 Osseo, MN 55369

The Osseo Community Center is located at the City Hall; go in the Community Center entrance on the north side.

MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

This year's meetings will be held monthly on the second Friday of the month, alternating between the Osseo Community Center and the Brooklyn Center Civic Center:

OSSEO COMMUNITY CENTER

Friday, November 11, 2011
 Friday, January 13, 2012
 Friday, March 9, 2012

BROOKLYN CENTER CIVIC CENTER

Friday, December 9, 2011
 Friday, February 10, 2012
 Friday, April 13, 2012 ~ The Builders' Show

THIS ISSUE'S CLIPPINGS

FROM OUR PRESIDENT	1
PROBLEMS WITH 2.4 GHZ?	1
OUR NEXT MEETING: NOV. 11 TH	1
MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS	1
GRASSFIELD'S OCTOBER 7 TH MEETING	2
THE RACING SEASON ENDS WITH A SHOOT-OUT!	3
OWN, DON'T RENT	4

GRASSFIELD'S OCTOBER 7TH MEETING

The October 7th meeting was held at the Brooklyn Center Community Center. At this meeting, Gregg Hemken was recognized for his many years of service mowing the field since he was 18 years of age. Gregg is now passing the baton to someone else, so we are looking for a volunteer to step up and mow next year. Thanks, Gregg, for all those miles and miles of mowing over the years!

This year, two offices were up for election, president and treasurer. As there were no nominations and no volunteers for either position, Phil Zuidema and Jerry Cornish have agreed to continue in their current offices of president and treasurer, respectively, ratified by the membership at the meeting.



A group of members visiting before the October meeting



Stan Zdon brought his Sig Space Walker to the meeting. This plane promises to be a very aerobatic plane. Equipped with Robart shock-absorbing landing gear, it is almost completed, ready for the windshields and a few finishing touches. Like all of Stan's planes, the Space Walker, has a one-of-a-kind color scheme — another beautiful plane, Stan!



Roy Maynard worked on his Hellcat on and off since 1995 and finished it this year. A heavy warbird weighing close to 30 pounds, the Hellcat is a nice flyer powered by a Zenoah G62.

Before his first flight, Roy ran the engine and had interference with the ailerons. After making three changes, the ailerons quit fluttering. Roy's friend, Dave Andersen, told him he should have only made one change at a time, so he'd know which of the changes actually solved the problem. But frankly, Dave, Roy doesn't give a damn.

As always, Roy's workmanship on this fine plane is excellent.



THE RACING SEASON ENDS WITH A SHOOT-OUT!

by Del Berryman, President of NCPL

The North Central Pylon League had a great racing season with a very active schedule of events, starting in April and ending in October. We saw a lot of good flying. Racers have good appetites, so a lot of bratwursts, potato salad, brownies, and scotch-a-roos were eaten during the course of the season!

RITCH'S BREW SPONSORED NCPL THIS YEAR

We were fortunate to have a sponsor for this year's racing. Ritch's Brew supplied free fuel for all the NCPL races. For information on their fuels, go to their website, www.ritchsbrew.com.

THE JETT ENGINE: AMA 426 CLASS

We introduced a new class of racing, the AMA-426 class, using a Jett .40 engine, manufactured by Dub Jett. Prior to this year, we had raced with OS and Nelson engines for many years.

The new Jett engine has a lot of appeal. It is slower than the Nelson, but faster than the OS. The Jett engines are very consistent, making their racing speeds nearly the same for everyone. This means that nobody has the advantage because he has a better engine — you need to be a skilled pilot, too.

Because Jett engines were new to us this year, we ran half of our races with the OS and half with Jett. For 2012, we are considering racing only Jett engines. This will be decided at the North Central Pylon League winter meeting.

THE SEASON FINALS & SHOOT-OUT

The final race was on October 1st. After this race, the season's points were tallied; pictured at right are the first through eighth place finishers (top to bottom). The eight season finishers then competed one more time in the traditional "Shoot-Out". Randy Etken won the Shoot-Out, with Dan Norlin finishing in second place and Richard Steine finishing third.



NCPL racers on the starting line, with Highway 169's construction project and slow traffic behind them (above)

RANDY ETKEN WINS A "TRIPLE CROWN"

Randy Etken won a "Triple Crown" this year, winning first place in the OS-46 class, the Jett AMA-426 class, and the Shoot-Out. In the national ratings, Randy finished eighth in the point system. Congratulations, Randy, on a great flying season!

REMEMBERING THE SEASON'S SPECIAL EVENTS

Looking back over the season, some special events stand out. Racers obviously enjoy the competition, so for the *E & E Brickyard "500"* they threw money in the pot to be awarded to top finishers of the race. Many events were topped off with free food and trophies for first, second, and third place finishers.

On the flip-side, there were two "*Skid Row Specials*" which were great fun — but with no trophies, no prizes, and Bring Your Own Brown Bags and Beverages.

THE NCPL DIFFERENCE

More than just a racing club, the NCPL is made up of something special — great friendships. While other clubs can be so competitive that "it's every man for himself", at the NCPL, racers help each other out — if a racer has a mechanical problem, there's always someone, or maybe two or three "someones", that will give a helping hand.

And after the race is over, nobody wants to leave the field. Racers gather under the shelter on hot summer days or gather around the fire pit when it's chilly. There's always lots of laughter and plenty of peanuts (plus a few beers, maybe a cigar or two). Racing moments are replayed, and stories are told. And friendships get stronger.



Randy Etken



Tim Brockman



Richard Steine



Don Luce



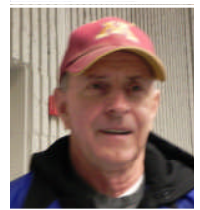
Jerry Elett



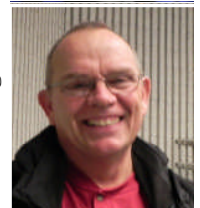
Phil Zuidema



Dan Norlin



Ron Gage



Top eight finishers of the flying season (at right)

OWN, DON'T RENT

By Dave Andersen
of the Twin City Radio Controllers

The flying field of the Twin City Radio Controllers is the club's fifth flying site. After years of wandering, the membership decided decades ago that, in order to have a permanent home, the club must own, not rent. It is nearly impossible for an owner to be removed from his land whereas a renter can be booted out on a whim. Land owners are residents who have representation in the local government — renters are outsiders.

It was controversial at the time. There were only three other RC clubs in the country that owned their flying sites. It required a mortgage. It seemed risky. Some membership was lost. But it turned out to be a brilliant decision.

A few years later, TCRC was booted out anyway. If the club had been a renter, that probably would have been the end of TCRC. But it was an eminent-domain acquisition. The state paid TCRC so generously that TCRC bought an even better site—its current location. The mortgage was paid off years ago with celebration. TCRC has very good relations with its neighbors and is now welcome as a community resource.

Several RC clubs in the area will lose their flying sites in the near future when the economy improves. (You know who

they are.) Land prices, down payments, and mortgage interest rates are historically low. Now is an opportunity for them to buy that may never come again.

Here are some lessons learned from TCRC's experience:

- Form a search committee. Expect a lot of hard work. Years maybe.
- Purchase a minimum of 40 acres well away from homes and highways.
- Consider parks and landfills too.
- Acquire access, zoning, overflight and retrieval rights in writing. If the land is being purchased from the owner of surrounding land, this can be written into the purchase agreement. In TCRC's case, the land is flood plain that is zoned for recreation and sport aviation.
- Be totally upfront and honest with neighbors and city officials. Stress that you will be good neighbors and an asset to the community. Tell them all about model aviation. Invite them to flying demos. Point out the alternatives. (One alternative to TCRC was a dirt-bike club.)
- Find funds to supplement dues for the mortgage and property taxes. TCRC's down payment came from air shows. Part of the land was leased for crops. The annual auction helped.

TCRC had only 40 members at the time.

GRASSFIELD CONTACTS

PRESIDENT Phil Zuidema	612.269.3285 phzuidema@comcast.net	
VICE PRESIDENT Jerry Elert	651.484.5187 jerry@conmechservices.com	
SECRETARY Del Berryman	612.799.6247 del31@charter.net	
TREASURER Jerry Cornish	651.275.0480 cornishjerry@gmail.com	
CONTEST COORDINATOR Richard Steine	612.860.5714 rsteine02@comcast.net	
FIELD MARSHAL Gregg Hemken	763.772.4103 gpcah@aol.com	
SAFETY OFFICER Lee LaValley	715.977.1956 llavalley@gmail.com	
WEB SITE EDITOR Bill Hempel	763.424.2937 grassfldrc@aol.com	
NEWSLETTER EDITORS Del Berryman Rita Berryman	612.799.6247 del31@charter.net or rita.berryman@charter.net	
FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS Danny Collier Bill Hempel Paul Johnson Andrew Wachholz Darryl Zempel	952.484.6189 763.424.2937 612.655.1808 651.503.4214 763.493.4004	dannycollier07@yahoo.com grassfldrc@aol.com superpauly98@yahoo.com andrew@twointeract.com darrzemp@embarqmail.com

THE CLIPPINGS is published by The Grassfield Radio Control Club, Inc., and distributed to club members and other interested parties. Any material from this publication may be copied for personal use or republished for any non-profit purpose by any AMA member, if it is accompanied by the proper attribution which includes The Grassfield Radio Control Club, Inc., as well as the author's name and title, if given; if the original author is from a club other than The Grassfield Radio Control Club, also list the name of the originating club or organization. Any other reproduction, publication, or redistribution, in any form, is prohibited.

The Grassfield Radio Control Club, Inc. reserves the right, in sole discretion, to edit or reject any material submitted for publication. All other rights reserved.

For editorial submissions, advertising, and membership information, contact Del Berryman — del31@charter.net — 612-799-6247.

