



UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 6th – Club Meeting
- May 22nd – Electric Jet Fun-Fly
- Field Maintenance Day TBA

April Meeting Minutes

The April meeting was called to order by President Jim Powers at 7pm. The minutes and treasurer's report were presented by Dan Wandell. The reports were accepted as read.

In old business Greg reported on the up coming electric jet fun-fly and said a date of Saturday May 22nd would be good for him and Tim Lavender. They had also contacted Hobby Lobby and confirmed that they could attend on that date. A motion was made and passed by those present to hold the event on Saturday May 22nd and to have Sunday May 23rd as a rain date. It was also brought up that Dick Tonan had been contacted and there were no events scheduled that would conflict with our fun-fly.

Jim also brought up the problem of flying over Jefferson Pike and it is the responsibility of everyone in the club to do their part. If you see someone flying over the road let them know and if you are flying and someone tells you that your flying over the road make adjustments in your flying.

In new business there was decision of a field maintenance day and what to do about the runway. A motion was made and passed to schedule field maintenance for Saturday May 1st. Dan brought up the fact that he had purchased the solar panels from Harbor Freight and that we should try and get them installed as part of field maintenance. Jeremy Woodside was out sick and because he is in charge of the installation Jim said he would contact Jeremy and see if he would be available that Saturday.

Greg Doe brought in a couple of wings that he had got from a fellow modeler and talked about the repairs he had done to them.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

President's Comments

Welcome to spring in Middle Tn. The weather is perfect (the wife thinks that means it's time for yard work) then it turns cool and rains, or the wind won't stop blowing. But it won't be long and the sun will shine and the winds will calm down and we will be flying again. I am excited about this flying season because of all the members that have new planes ready. Paul Moore hasn't been flying for very long and he has just completed his first kit built plane. Paul said he has been working on it for almost a year and let me tell you it looks fantastic. He had some minor problems with the retracts on the first flight but he has them fixed now and is ready to go again. Steve Petty is always coming out with something new and when it comes to repairs, Steve does some of the best work I have seen. So the next time you hear that no one builds anymore that all you see are ARF's, your wrong. Take a look around and check out some of the foamies that Mike Boyle or Ricky Hill has built. Sure most of the planes we see today are ARF's, but the ones that fly good are built and assembled correctly and that takes skill on the part of the person doing the work.

Mike Boyle has written an article for the newsletter this month about safety concerning electric planes. Please pay attention to what he has to say because I know first hand what can happen when an electric plane comes alive when your not ready. Following is the article from Mike, enjoy and I'll see you at the next meeting at Legions Steak House in Smyrna on Thursday May 5th.

Jim Powers
President MPRCF



Would You Rather Fight or Switch?

Some of us older members may remember a 1960 cigarette commercial showing an actor with a black eye who stated he would rather fight than switch. I thought about that commercial a few weeks ago when I ran across a picture in Model Aviation where a man had been cut by the propeller on an electric plane when the throttle stick was accidentally bumped. But unlike the actor, his scar was real and all because he had not put a switch on his plane. We have had at least two incidents recently at our field where electric models have jumped off of the table when they unexpectedly came to life. No injuries occurred with either of these events, but this does point out a very real danger with electric planes: they can have instant power with no warning. The answer is very simple. Just install a switch and the likelihood of an unexpected fight with a plane that has come to life is greatly reduced. That brings us to this question: would you rather fight or switch?

Many of the recent BECs now come with a switch, but for those that don't, simply install a 3 wire receiver switch between the speed controller and the receiver. Once that is done, leave it off when installing the flight batteries, take the plane to the runway, and then turn on the switch. You will then be able to preflight the model, and fly. After landing, just turn off the switch and take the model back to your table and remove the batteries. However, please keep in mind that strange things can still happen and switches can fail so installing a switch does not make an electric model safe when a battery is installed. We should always use extreme caution anytime a model has the battery installed, and assume it could come to life at any time. Always stay away from the prop, but if we will just install a switch the likelihood of an unexpected event is greatly reduced.

Mike Boyle
Electric Aficionado