



NVRC



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NVRC is one of the largest radio control clubs in Virginia with over 160 members. Our flying field is located at Poplar Ford Park. The club includes pilots in all areas of radio-controlled flight: sport, giant scale, electric, sailplane, aerobatics, combat, and rotor. NVRC has members with decades of expertise to share in many types of flying and building. Whether you're a beginner or someone looking for advanced techniques, there are volunteer instructors to provide assistance--don't be timid, ask for help. In existence for over 50 years now, NVRC is proud to be a club where everyone is welcome.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Gary Quinn

We are moving forward! The field is open and although it is still a work in progress, I flew my Mentor the other day with no problems and I know other members have used the field as well. It's exciting to know the flying season is here and the field is open every day, 9am to dusk. The county continues to make terrific progress on the new road. We are making progress on the field condition and it is definitely easier to land on the right to left approach with all of the trees gone.

We should be getting a new porta potty as well as the one we currently have seems to have attracted some wasps. It must be karma because there were some wasps in the logbook holder and I was able to let them all fly out unharmed. Later on when entering the porta potty, wasps were all around inside it. Sometimes you just have to make decisions and hope it's the right one, so I reminded the wasps what I did for their associates over in the log box. Thankfully, everything worked out and the wasps left me alone. So you don't have to go through that experience, I have asked the porta people for a new unit with no wasps.

We now have a "tick Key" on the side of the shed next to the charger station. We still have two tick boxes inside the shed. Instructions are with the tick key and this device is used by search and rescue personal who get lots of ticks. If you need it, please make sure to put it back. I purchased some of this tick spray and sprayed it on my clothes and sneakers. I have yet to get a tick and I have been in the woods and around the perimeter of the field. Again, this is used by search and rescue personal. It can be purchased at REI in Fairfax. Follow the instructions!



If you didn't know it, Jim McWhorter and his friend Alan are putting together a sizzle reel of RC events to make a pitch for an RC Reality show. We were at Kwang's field this past month and did some filming. Besides the filming, Charlie Maples flew in with his Piper Cub L4, and gave Colin and his two friends front seat rides in the plane. All three kids had never been in a private plane and one was afraid to go in a commercial plane. It was an amazing day of flying.

We had an NVRC booth at the Hobby Hangar Swap Meet at the end of the month and spoke to a number of people who want to join the club. A lot of applications were handed out and a lot of discussions were held about the club and our activities. It was great exposure for the club.

Our second to last indoor fly in was held at Westfield HS and our next and last one is scheduled for May 18. I had the chance to speak with Chuck Cowell, our teacher sponsor for the indoor fly in's and he is very happy to help us with this event. He is looking to do more with the students and we are going to meet to develop a strategy to try and get more kids involved in the hobby. Roger has already begun his work with the Westfield students and I am excited that he is going to expand and grow that program. Thanks Roger for all you do with the students.

At our last indoor event, Pat was the winner of our "Any Class" indoor racing contest. He graciously gave his award to Paul who one day may join the club.



Our building contest is coming up this month and we will host the contest instead of our usual monthly meeting. I'll make sure we have some snacks and drinks as you walk around and look at the fantastic work of your fellow members. Please make sure to come and enter the contest or cast your vote.

Remember, when at the field it is your responsibility to make sure all flyers are NVRC members and are qualified with a blue band on the radio. Just this past month I was flying and saw someone with a red band. I inquired and he is now going to get his blue band from Bob. Another person flying at the field was just "trying it out" and I don't even know if he was a guest of somebody. I found this out after he was already gone. If you don't know who someone is, take a minute and introduce yourself. You might meet someone interesting.

Thanks to everyone who has helped out at the field in getting it ready and at our events. As the flying season comes upon us we will need even more volunteers to help out. Check the calendar for upcoming events and get ready for some emails looking for member volunteers to help out. I look forward to seeing you at a meeting, an event, or at the field.

VP'S REPORT By Gary Valenzuela

I would like to thank Bob Burnett and the club members who have taken the lead on getting the field back in shape.

Good news is that the field is now open.

MEETING MINUTES

There were 32 members present. Before the meeting Colin handed out raffle tickets to all the attending members. Three raffles were held during the meeting and each winner was handed a \$10 gift card from Hobby Hangar.

New members at the meeting: Edward and Andrew Anston, Jack Picco, Steve Nurry

Presidents Report:

Gary Q spoke about the field updates, the County update, Westfield fly ins, upcoming events and the work done at the field. He also reviewed the filming event he attended where some local video producers are making a demo tape to try and create an RC Airplane realty TV show.

Treasurer Report:

Bob reported that we are on schedule for finances for the year. Membership renewals keep coming in and all members need to renew now instead of waiting. It was noted to make sure you have a BLUE band on your radio when flying at the field to show you are an active and qualified flyer. The auction raised about \$1,300 after expenses.

Field Report: New club information signs have been posted and the picnic benches have been painted. The wind sock has been installed over the pit area. The major horse divots have been repaired although there are many more to fill. A lot of trees have been cleared at the end of the runway on the approach from the right making it easier to land. It is now a very clear area. Bob Burnett and his tree crew did a great job. The gravel is still a work in progress with the County for the new road and is currently being laid down by the County. Continue to use the current road until the new access road is completed.

Safety Report:

Safety Officer Pat Dunlap will be issuing some guidance for electric setup. The field rules were discussed. Pat will review our rules to assure we are in compliance and we will update the procedures if any discrepancies are found. A topic discussed was the use of the frequency board for 2.4 Ghz pilots.

Old business:

The plots for Lorton field have been completed by the County and now two public hearings remain in the process to approve the field. This was the last major hurdle and approval should occur sometime this year. The application was filed on April 23. Lorton field is a very good location and suitable for any size aircraft. Poplar Ford Flying Field is on the County master plan and a new pavilion has been approved. At all the meetings we attend, NVRC is always mentioned in a positive manner. This assures us that the field will be intact and maintained in the years to come.

New business:

Vince Tobacco is offering to be the contest director for a three -club jet racing event, and will be emailing members for interest. The format will be a club challenge between the FARM, NVRC, and CMB clubs.

Indoor flying dates were added for Westfield High School. They occur in the gym and will be on April 27 and May 18.

Peter inquired about the Building contest and the current rules and the possibility of changing them. The CD for the event, Carl Hampton, was not present to comment. Gary Q asked for input and Bob B stated that the members vote on the planes. Gary Q asked Peter to get with Carl to discuss his concerns and Gary Q said he will discuss with Carl.

Show-n-Tell:

Charlie brought a Radian UMX from Hobby Hangar. It is a micro glider that flies very well and is just \$90. The new micro technology with 3-axis gyros have certainly made small RC an exciting and affordable choice. Tony demonstrated a sound system from MrRCSound in an Eflite Carbon Cub. The system runs \$165 and the speakers mount directly to the foam fuselage inside the cockpit without the need for putting any holes in the model. It sounds great. Paul displayed some inexpensive flat foam models that are easy to fly from Flitetest.com. They are a 3 pack swappable speed build kits. They come in three shapes for about \$33. Terry presented a fuselage kit he is modifying for electric, and showed us an easy way to create a sanding tool for the tail joint. Rob displayed a flat foam, built up wing with ribs which will have very light construction. This will be a ducted fan model with a canard. More to follow as he continues his build.

IMAC CORNER by Gary A Valenzuela

Thanks to all that made the 2nd Annual Mason Dixon Shootout a success.

Thursday night before the event while in Detroit I received a text from a member that was suppose to attend the contest. Along with attending his wife had volunteered to do the score keeping for the event. The score keeper is one of the most time consuming and probably the most important job during the event. To make a long story short the member had problems with his plane and sent a text asking if I had someone else that could step up to score keep. Mind you that I had his wife locked in months in advance and it was 36 hours before the event. Oh yea, I just landed in Detroit and it was 9:30pm.

With some early morning emails and phone calls to fellow flyers I was able to give myself a crash course on the score keeping program. With the help of club members and host field members I was able to pull off a two day contest successfully. We had a total of 15 flyers from both the Northeast and Southeast Region. I would also like to thank all the judges and seasoned flyers that kept me on track.

The results are:

Basic:

1st Skip Messick - NE
2nd Gary Barnes - SE
3rd Amit Doron - NE

Intermediate:

1st Earle Andrews - NE
2nd Connor Barnes - SE
3rd Steve Sides - SE

Unlimited:

David Michael - NE

Freestyle:

Connor Barnes - SE

Sportsman:

1st Nick Deacon - NE
2nd Alexander Popp - NE
3rd William Wilson - NE

Advanced:

1st Christopher Thorpe - NE

Seniors:

Earle Andrews - NE

Again thanks to all the support.



MANASSASS AIRSHOW By Gary Quinn

NVRC attended the Manassas air show this past weekend and what an exciting show for everyone. Some of the things that went on at the airshow included:

- The Air Circus Bi Planes flying in formation
- A B-25 bomber, rides were available for \$450 a seat!
- L-9 Jet racing across the airspace
- Warbirds showing off their flying skills from the past
- A parade of helicopters and planes
- Skydiving demonstrations
- RC Jets racing across the sky
- RC helicopters doing unbelievable maneuvers
- Rob Edmonds Delta Wing aircraft show with choreographed music
- Lots of different Aircraft on display

We had an NVRC table and did a raffle drawing for a Champ or Quad Copter along with selling some of the foam gliders. A lot of information was passed out about the club and we answered a lot of questions. We had a number of airplanes on display and the kids got a kick out of seeing "Dusty".



JOSEPH SZCZUR JOINS 2015 F3P WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAM

Congratulations to Joseph Szczur, 14, for his great performance at the F3P US team trials held in Akron, OH March 21st-23rd. Joseph will be joining pilots RJ Gritter, Devin McGrath, and Ryan Clark in Warsaw, Poland next April at the 2015 F3P world championships event. Joseph qualified for the team after finishing first in the junior pilot category.

The young pilot flew an aircraft called "Excel v1" designed by Scott Barnhart. The plane weighed a scant 86 grams without the battery. His equipment included a Spektrum DX 18 radio control transmitter with Spektrum 2010 servos and was powered by an e-flight 250 motor running on a Thunder Power 7.4 volt battery about the size used in a typical pocket cell phone.

"It's an honor to be with guys that are pretty much the best indoor radio control pilots in the country and to fly with them at the world championships," said Joseph after the win.

Joseph is an 8th grade student at Rocky Run Middle School in Chantilly, VA, where he is the president of the STEM-focused Model Airplane Student Club (MASC). This is the second FAI category in which Joseph has represented the United States. Last August he flew with the United States team in F3A, outdoor international aerobatics category during the world championships in Johannesburg, South Africa.



THAT'S A LOT OF DIRT! Gary Quinn

This past Sunday, the winds were blowing about 40 miles per hour and since I can't fly in wind, especially like that, I decided to go play in the dirt. The dirt that is over at the field in a big happy dirt pile. So, off to the field I went with my volunteer Colin.

Colin said that it didn't look like 20 tons of dirt. Then he started to shovel it. And I started to shovel it. A few trailer loads later, we realized we received 20 tons of dirt! We barely put a dent in it and we shoveled a lot of it. We started with filling in the patches that needed some more dirt. Colin definitely got a work out loading the dirt onto the trailer. When it was finished, he did claim victory on top of the pile.

After doing some field and pit area dirt work, we put some dirt and chipped wood into the road area that always floods. Hopefully the county will fill that with gravel and we won't have to worry about it anymore. After our dirt experience, we needed to smooth the dirt down with the roller. Thanks to Larry for coming out to the field a few weeks ago and welding the pipes. It has made a big difference. We did a bunch of rolling and then wrapped it up.

Overall the field is getting better and with some more dirt, seeding and the big roller, we should be good to go. Stay tuned for the next official field work day!



CRASH By Gary Quinn

“Even good pilots have challenging days when flying over the Bermuda Triangle”

Every time someone has an accident with a plane, there is always a story that goes with it. Even experienced pilots who fly all the time, rarely have issues in the air or on the ground can be challenged at any given time with circumstances beyond their control.

Adrian, our newsletter editor, was flying at the field the other day and was coming in for a landing after flying his beautiful gas engine Saratoga. It was one of his favorite planes and it looked beautiful. He had already flown it a few times and was just wrapping up the day with a few more flights. Coming in from a left to right approach, as he descended in the turn, he thought he was above and in front of the tree line. Unfortunately, he was behind the tree line and the plane engaged with a number of trees. From what he and the spectators say, the loud impact sounded like a shotgun blast. Adrian was stunned to say the least as he thought he was well above and in front of the tree line. Needless to say, Adrian was saddened by the fact that not only had he crashed one of his favorite planes, but that he had actually crashed into the trees.

The section of the field that Adrian went into has been called the “Bermuda Triangle of the NVRC field”. For whatever reason, many planes have gone down in this area. Now when the sun is setting, if you are landing from that approach and you happen to look anywhere near the sun, you can become blinded for a second. And as we all know, it only takes a second to lose orientation or visual sight of your plane. Adrian said that the sun was not a factor, just the perception of where the plane was to him and its actual location in the air.

When recovering the plane, it was interesting to discover that the debris field was extremely large. It was amazing to find pieces of the plane scattered all over the area. And this was just a small, .40 sized airplane! The Futaba receiver was never recovered and if you do happen to find yourself in that area and find it, Adrian would be grateful for its return.



We go to the field prepared to have a safe, fun flying day. We do our pre-flight checks to make sure all controls are working properly. We do everything to make sure that the plane is safe and ready for a good flight and landing. Sometimes, we just can't control everything that happens to us and our planes and bad things happen. That's why they are called accidents.

EDITOR'S DESK By Adrian Apodaca

Do to the above, I am too sad to write ;) That and my current build of the Hangar 9 Meridian has hit a few quality control issues. I'll get over it, until then, I will mourn my beloved Saratoga. In my 3 years of flying, this is the first plane that I have totalled. It wasn't even from losing control or trying a stunt too close to the ground... which makes it worse. I hit a tree!!!! My wife and friends keep telling me it's part of the hobby, I have to admit, it's a very sucky part of it.

Anyway, I hope to have at least a review or two coming your way this summer. For my Lake Champlain plane, I haven't decided if I will take a Parkzone Sport Cub (release date set for June) or the Multiplex Pilatus Porter (shipping soon).

As always, I ask, please send me your photo submissions of your planes in flight. They make for great cover images especially if they are taken at our field. If no one else sends pictures in, you'll have to keep staring at my planes! Also, if you want to share a RC related news story or experience, please send it in!

NVRC Newsletter

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