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[Want to see more here?](#)

Send your newsletter contributions to  
[carllydick@hotmail.com](mailto:carllydick@hotmail.com).

NVRC is one of the largest radio control clubs in Virginia with over 200 members. Our primary flying field is located at Poplar Ford Park and we expect to have a new Lorton site in 2016. The club includes pilots in all areas of radio-controlled flight: Sport, Giant Scale, Electric, Sailplane, Aerobatics, Combat, and MultiRotor. 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! Just ask for help!

In existence for over 50 years, NVRC is proud to be a club where everyone is welcome!

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# VP's REPORT:

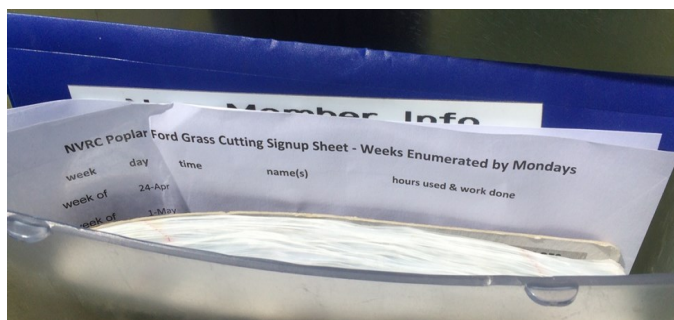
By John Roach

## Equipment Status:

All 3 lawn mowers are ready for use. The mower with an automatic transmission is in the shed. "Big Red," the mower with a manual transmission is under a tarp next to the shed. The 14 hp Craftsman mower is taking up space in my car port until it is needed at the field. Mice continue to build nests in the engine of any mower parked outside of the shed. They chew on the spark plug wire to try to get it out of the way of their nest. I zip-tied a block of mouse poison to the frame of Big Red and am now trying to figure out how to wrap its engine in hardware cloth to keep mice out of it.

Purchase of a battery-powered string trimmer was not favored by those at the April membership meeting. A can of ether is in the shed to help with starting our 2 Bolens string trimmers. Many thanks to whoever got one running this week and trimmed the pit fence line.

Grass cutting signup sheets have been placed in the box with the field log. Please consider using the time your batteries are charging to cut grass. It grows pretty fast at this time of year. The landing strip should be cut at a setting of "2." If you cut the approaches at a setting of "4," they will better withstand our dry summer and fall. Please do not mow the foot trails into the woods at this time. There is debris on them and bush hogging deeply rutted them in the area between the field and the woods.



*Sign up sheets for Grass Cutting*

## April 30 Workday:

It is hoped that rolling the area on the far side of the field with a 54 inch diesel roller will compact the ruts made by bush hogging so that the foot trails to the woods can be mowed in the near future. The approaches and landing strip will also get rolled. Winter equine damage to the landing strip was confined to a solitary set of tracks running the length of both sides of the landing strip. They were made this spring when the ground had the consistency of bread pudding. We will have to dig our own dirt to fill them, so priority will go to filling foot prints in front of the landing field access points from the pit area. All members are encouraged to cut down autumn olive in the vicinity of the field to discourage its return to the newly cleared park meadows.





# VP's REPORT: Continued

By John Roach

## Multi-Rotor Flying at Poplar Ford:

The cleared acreage beyond the field spectator area is proposed for line of sight (LOS) and first person view (FPV) multi-rotor (MR) model aircraft operations. This area is not in the flight path of fixed wing models and is readily accessible by foot from the parking lot. Our 2013 memorandum of understanding with the park lets us fly within 1000 feet of the center of our runway. The pit fence is 265 feet long, so 1000 feet from the windsock on the far side of the field turns out to be just this side of a convenient stand of hardwoods in the direction of a man made pond next to the horse trail that borders the cleared area. Looking back towards the field from that horse trail, 1000 feet from the center of our runway is a little over 300 feet from the horse trail. Small stands of hardwoods and cedars lie within 1000 feet of our windsock. They may offer shade or serve as readymade FPV pylons. These features are shown in the 25 April 2016 aerial view recorded from a height of about 80 meters above the pylon pole at the left end of the landing strip. The small stand of hardwoods lying just beyond 1000 feet from the center of our runway is identified by the red arrow in the picture.



Grass in the park meadows is knocked down by winter snow. It then grows to a height of about 5 feet by October. The plowed area in the left side of this picture has been seeded with grass. It will not grow to a height of 5 feet by October, but as newly planted grass in a study area, we need to give it a chance to get established. I propose that members who want to fly FPV walk to the edge of this clearing along the trail from the Port Potty and fly FPV from the shade at the edge of the woods into the seeded side of the clearing and report back to the membership at the June meeting about your impressions of this area as a multi-rotor flying area.

NVRC members who want to fly multi-rotors LOS or FPV need only:

- Pass a simple proficiency test to qualify as multi-rotor pilots.
- Enlist a safety spotter for FPV situational awareness and to assist you in locating your model aircraft as per AMA FPV rules.





# Auction Update:

## April 10th:

The annual auction was held a few weeks ago. As suspected the results were down from previous years with net revenue being \$1000 less than the Fall 2015 auction. After the \$400 donation to the Engineering Club NVRC will net \$392.

Despite the smaller take from this auction the kids did a great job and the West Potomac High School looks to be a great venue for the future. So much so that we have already scheduled the Fall Auction and the 2017 Spring Auction with them. The Fall Auction will be held on **October 15th 2016** and the Spring Auction will be held on **April 8th 2017**. Look for more updates as those dates get closer.

If you missed the auction last month you missed out on a good time and probably a great deal on some gear. There were a LOT of steals to be had. We expect turnout and participation will be higher at the Fall and 2017 Auctions and we're going to do everything we can to put the word out. Put those dates on your calendar and make sure you don't miss out!



*The Staff and Kids of West Potomac High School did a great job setting up and keeping everyone fed*



*Checking out the goods*



*The Auctioneers and runners working on another sale*



*Balsa kits to giant helicopters and everything in between*



## Blast From the Past:

At the April meeting NVRC President Carl Brieske shared the story below. The image, from 1968 during the Vietnam war, was taken by NVRC Club member (and Navy Commander) Ernie Green. The picture was to be shared with NVRC members who were deployed at the time. When Brigadier General Donovan F. Smith received the image he sent it along to his Photo Intelligence Officer for interpretation, without providing ANY explanation.

You can see for yourself they did an exceptional job identifying the NVRC flying site! The Story below appeared in Radio Control Modeler Magazine.



Actual photo supplied to Air Force Intelligence.

**TARGET:**

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

They say a picture is worth a thousand words . . . here is Air Force Intelligence's report on a single photo provided by the Northern Virginia R/C Club.

SEVERAL members of the Northern Virginia R/C Club are currently serving in Vietnam and, thus, have not seen their club's new blacktop runway since it was put down after they had left the Washington area. In an effort to keep them up to date on this, and other matters, Navy Commander Ernie Green installed a self-winding Kodak Instamatic on a modified Smog Hog and made the attached photo. The photo, in turn, was sent to Bob Scott and Brigadier General Donovan F. Smith, Chief of the Air Force Advisory Group, two of NVRC's absent members.

With tongue in cheek, and with absolutely no explanation, General Smith gave the photo to his Photo Intelligence Officer for interpretation. The results leave no doubt that our Air Force knows its business well. The analyst did not know the camera used

was an Instamatic and therefore did not know the focal length of the lens used (a vital statistic in the determination of exact dimensions from photos). In addition, exact altitude was not given, another vital piece of information for the Intelligence Division. Nevertheless, as you can see from the following report the 190 x 45 foot runway has been fairly accurately described, despite these handicaps, and the remainder of the details are accurate in every respect.

CONFIDENTIAL GP-1  
IPIR: 6470RTS-IDC SER:GO SPECIAL  
DAY PHOTO. TOT UNK  
CINCPAC CPFL ICOD 5JUN67  
PART 1. SIGNIFICANT PHOTO INTERPRETATIONS (VN) B. NEW TARGETS AND SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

### COLLATERAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT

IDENTIFIED LOCATION AS POSSIBLY IN VICINITY OF KON-TUM. POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION AS MODEL AIRCRAFT LANDING FIELD. ONE (1) ASPHALT RUNWAY APRX 130 FT BY 30 FT, HEADING APRX NNE SSW, WITH GRADED EARTH OVERRUNS APRX 60 FT BY 37 FT. ONE (1) INTERSECTING GRADED EARTH SECONDARY RUNWAY APRX 235 FT BY 30 FT HEADING APRX NORTH AND SOUTH. ONE (1) SOD PARKING APRON APRX 51 FT BY 84 FT WITH MOBILE REFUELING AND MAINTENANCE CAPABILITIES. THREE (3) UNIDENTIFIED SINGLE ENGINE PROPELLER DRIVEN AIRCRAFT ON PARKING APRON, ONE (1) ACFT WITH 4.2 FT WINGSPAN, 2.75 FT LENGTH. ONE (1) ACFT WITH 2.75 FT WINGSPAN, 1.3 FT LENGTH. ONE (1) ACFT 3.3 FT WINGSPAN, 2.4 FT LENGTH. TWO (2) UNIDENTIFIED SINGLE ENGINE PROPELLER DRIVE ACFT AIRBORNE, APPARENTLY CIRCLING AIRSTRIP IN COUNTER-CLOCKWISE DIRECTION.

AOB: FIVE (5) PROPELLER DRIVEN ACFT  
GFW: GROUND CREW/HANDLERS AND TWELVE (12) ADULTS, ONE (1) CHILD; EST FIVE (5) QUART SIZED, HAND PUMPED FUEL CONTAINERS (.00395 METRIC TONS)  
CHART: N/A  
BEN: 0000-00000 CAT: 80000 CMR: NONE WXR: CLEAR CVG: TOTAL QAL SCL: 000.3M  
CLARK E. DAVISON,  
LT COL USAF  
CHIEF, INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

How's that for photo intelligence work? Can you find all of the detail they have listed? It's all there.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF, AIR FORCE ADVISORY GROUP  
AFAG-CCR

TO: BOB SCOTT

THOUGHT YOU AND  
ERNIE WOULD GET A  
KICK OUT OF THE P/L's  
WORK ON THIS. THEY  
DIDN'T DO TOO BADLY

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DOVAVON F. SMITH  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Chief





## News and Events:

### Build Contest Next Month!

In lieu of the May meeting NVRC will be holding the annual Build Contest on Thursday, May 19th. Show off your latest build (even if it isn't done yet!).



*Images from the 2014 Build Contest.*



*Images from the 2015 Build Contest.*

### Girl Scout STEM day at NVRC!

NVRC Member Paul Lukas is putting together a STEM day for local Girl Scouts and we need YOUR help! The event will be held on June 4th and is expected to run from 9:30AM until noon. We would like to have flight training and perhaps a simulator, a craft project, and flight demonstrations. If you're interested in participating please let us know. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

### Auctions Scheduled

We've found a great venue for our auctions so we have locked down dates for the Fall Auction and the Spring 2017 Auction. The auctions will be held at West Potomac High School, with the Fall Auction on **October 15th 2016** and the Spring Auction on **April 8th 2017**. **Save the dates and spread the word!**



## News and Events:

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### Summer Meeting Location

The June 16th Monthly Meeting will be held at Poplar Ford park and will begin at 7:00 PM. Holding the meeting at the field will allow us a nice change of venue, let us cook out, and will allow us to have flying demos as part of the show-and-share. If this works out the July and August meetings will also be held at the field. If there isn't enough interest we'll move back to the fire station.

### NVRC Open House May 7th

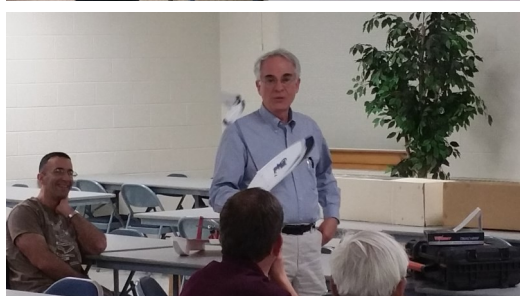
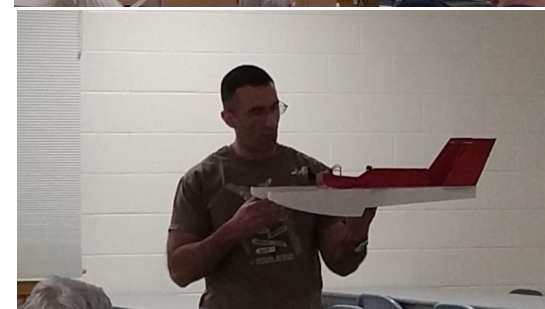
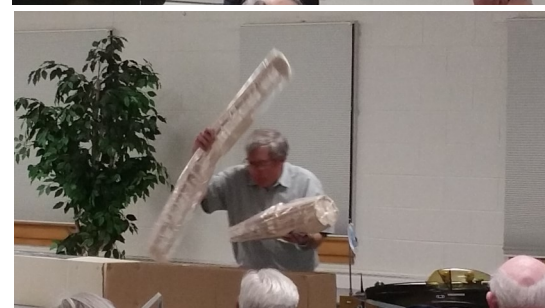
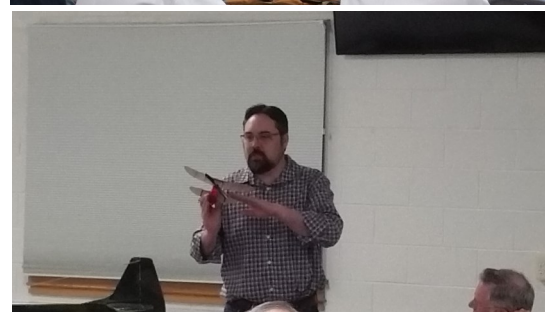
On Saturday, May 7th NVRC will be hosting an open house at the Poplar Ford field to share the hobby with anyone interested in radio controlled airplanes and drones. Any member who is available should come out to the field, enjoy the day, and be prepared to talk about all aspects of our hobby. Be prepared to show off your airplanes, helicopters, or multirotors! While we are there we will also be handing out flyers from the AMA to support safe drone usage. We're also planning to test out the grill, so come out and have a great time!



# April Meeting Wrap-up:

## April Meeting Agenda

- Guests and New members
- Secretary Report
- Auction—Results
- Girl Scout STEM discussion
- Target—Norther Virginia
- Field Maintenance Day
- Building Contest
- Summer Meeting Location
- Ko's Fly-in / FPV
- Show and Tell
- Weak Signals Show—Ken shared images from the Toledo Show
- 50 / 50 Drawing



## Upcoming events:

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 7  | NVRC Open House                                      |
| May 19 | Annual Build Contest<br>(in lieu of Monthly Meeting) |
| May 28 | Spring Fun Fly                                       |
| June 4 | Girl Scout STEM day                                  |





## Editors Corner:

By Carl Lydick

April has definitely flown by. With the weather starting to turn around I've been able to get out to the field a few times, although not as much as I'd like. I've been able to fly the dust off of most of my stuff and got to "maiden" my steal from the auction, a very nicely finished F-18 prop jet. I don't know who built this one but I'm definitely impressed with the quality of the finish. After some tweaking on the settings and setup she flies nicely!



If you're looking for a change of scenery for a fly-in I'm planning to attend an Electric Fly-in with the Frederick Model Aircraft Club on May 21st, one week before our Spring Fun Fly on the 28th. A friend is coordinating the event and I expect it will be a good time. It won't be a huge event but should be a fun, relaxing day at a scenic airfield in Frederick, MD. Details can be found on their site at [frederickmodelaircraftclub.org](http://frederickmodelaircraftclub.org). If you're interested in attending let me know!



I'm still grinding away in an effort to wrap up my winter build in time for the Build Contest next month. Most of the major construction is complete with the exception of the upper wing. There are still a ton of cosmetic things to tackle but I'm hoping to at least have her airworthy by the 19th even if she isn't all buttoned up and pretty. I'll also be bringing out the "foamy" P-40 that was under construction at the last build contest. She has been patiently waiting for the new Lorton site and I hope to have her flying this season.

I want to personally encourage everyone to come out to the build contest on the 19th and bring any project you're working on along. NVRC has a lot of talented builders doing really impressive stuff and there are always a lot of ticks to learn. I spent most of last years contest drooling over several beautiful builds and I'm looking forward to seeing what folks have been up to this year. Building is the part of this hobby that I'm most passionate about. Whether it is Dollar Tree foam board and hot glue or fiberglass molds and balsa I love to see people flying something they've put their heart into. Flying an ARF right out of the box is fun, but flying something you've put hours (or months) into tweaking and perfecting is even more exciting and rewarding. And of course if you built it yourself you'll be able to fix it when something eventually breaks!

As always if there is anything you'd like to see covered in the Newsletter or on the website please reach out to me at [carllydick@hotmail.com](mailto:carllydick@hotmail.com). Thanks, and see you on the 19th!