



NVRC Club President Jon Pruett puts the finishing touches on an FT Simple Scout that he assembled at a group build night!

Table of Contents

President's Report	2
VP's Report:	4
AMA Call To Action	5
West Potomac Fun Fly	6
Build Night at Monster Mini Golf	7
Wakefield Forest STEAM Event	8
March Meeting Minutes	9
Upcoming Events	13
Editor's Corner	14

Want to see more here?

Send your newsletter contributions to
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. Our new Lorton flying site is open on weekends. 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!

Officers and Contacts

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President's Report: FPV Flight Suspended

By Jon Pruett

Per direction from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), and to all AMA clubs in the region, no recreational First Person View (FPV) flight activities are allowed in the DC Special Flight Rules Area (SFRA).

The board has been in discussion with AMA HQ Government Relations, our AMA District VP, and AMA Associate District VP and it has been made very clear that per FAA definition and decree, no recreational FPV flight is authorized inside the DC SFRA.

Both fields NVRC operates, Poplar Ford and Lorton, are inside the SFRA and impacted by this requirement.

The FAA requires that all model aircraft flown under the Special Rule for Model Aircraft be flown within unaided visual line of sight (LOS) of the pilot. The definitions for visual line of sight published by the FAA specifically identifies that first person view (FPV) goggles do not qualify for maintaining LOS.

https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/model_aircraft/

"Visual line-of-sight: While flying your drone you must be able to see it at all times using only your natural vision (which includes glasses and contacts, but not first person view goggles or binoculars)."

[https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/model_aircraft/media/Definitions terms Special Rule for Model Aircraft.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/model_aircraft/media/Definitions_terms_Special_Rule_for_Model_Aircraft.pdf)

We are still seeking written confirmation that FPV flight using a standalone screen would be acceptable, but it is very clear that any recreational FPV using goggles is not allowable in the DC SFRA.

Until further notice, all FPV multi-rotor and wing races, practice sessions, and recreational flight activities at Poplar Ford and Lorton are suspended.



President's Report: FPV Flight Suspended

By Jon Pruett

The FAA has begun doing field checks in the region in the last two weeks, and we expect enforcement actions against anyone or any club found to be violating the rules. Any willful individual violations at NVRC fields will result in suspension of club flying privileges. It has been made clear that any club violations will cause NVRC to immediately lose AMA charter status. This would place the club in violation of our binding agreement with Fairfax County for use of the two fields, and result in NVRC becoming a static modeling club only.

So just don't do it.

The board is preparing a waiver request to the FAA to return to our previous FPV policies at Poplar Ford field. We are working with the AMA in this process, and expect that filing to be officially submitted in March. Per members' previous experience with the FAA waiver approval process in the SFRA, it is likely we will not be able to resume FPV activities at NVRC fields until the fall.

We are also working on identifying partnerships with other flying fields and clubs nearby but outside of the SFRA to help get our members back in the sky as soon as we can and resume our FPV racing series. If you have contacts or leads that can assist with this, please let me know.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the email address below. Please be patient if it takes me a day or two to reply - as you can imagine, this is more than a bit of a mess and we're working our way through it as quickly as we can.

Blue Skies,

Jonathan Pruett, President, NVRC
jonathan.pruett@gmail.com

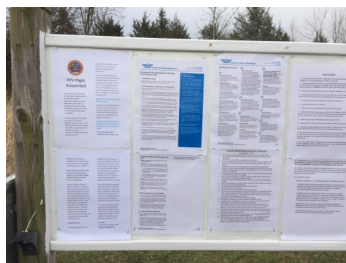


VP's Report: Updates from Poplar Ford and Lorton

Compiled by Carl Lydick from John Roach's RC Groups Updates

As always, **John Roach** has been keeping busy keeping our flying sites in tip-top shape.

- Notices of FPV suspension have been prominently displayed
- Potholes in the gravel road to the parking lot were filled
- Lorton gate lock replaced
- Replaced Lorton Fire extinguisher
- Removed gas can from Lorton shed pending paperwork permitting its storage on site.
- Replaced damaged Handicap sign at Poplar Ford
- Repairs are underway for Poplar Ford mower "Big Red". Will require new gaskets for head and rocker cover
- Replaced rotten board supporting the Solar Array
- Addressed wind and storm damage at Poplar Ford and Lorton fields
- And MORE!



Aside from all this John has also mowed the fields a few times. If you see John, shake his hand and say thank you for all the hard work he puts in to keep our facilities not just flyable but beautiful. He (and others) put in a great deal of effort so the rest of us can enjoy a great flying experience every time we make it out.



Call To Action

From AMA Government Affairs (*sent from AMA, not NVRC*)



Friday, April 13, 2018

Dear members,

We need your help.

There is talk that the next reauthorization bill for the Federal Aviation Administration will eliminate the Special Rule for Model Aircraft – also known as Section 336 – which has allowed AMA to manage our members and fly safely and responsibly, as we have for over 80 years. Losing the Special Rule would be a devastating blow to our hobby.

[Please click here to send a letter to your elected representatives in support of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft.](#)

This is a critical moment to let your elected representatives know the importance of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft and the role of community-based organizations such as AMA.

Our community has operated safely for decades – long before the recent advent of drones. Model aviation has played a critical role in the innovations of new technology and encouraging young people to pursue an interest in science and technology fields. More than that, this long-standing hobby has been passed down from generation to generation and is a tradition for many American families.

We need your help to demonstrate the value of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft not only for our community, but everyone. **Please make your voices heard by contacting your elected representatives today.**

Sincerely,

AMA Government Relations

P.S. When you've finished sending the letter, you will also have an opportunity to call your representatives. We encourage you to take the time for this as well. Thank you.



West Potomac Fun Fly

Compiled from post shared at [NVRC RC Groups Thread](#)

The West Potomac Fun Fly ran from 8 am, until 2 pm on February 4th. Once I figured out how far away the gym walls were, I had a blast flying in what at times was very busy air space above the basketball court. Mr. Franco's students did a good job preparing the gym for flying. Most obstacles were removed and the few aircraft that managed to get caught overhead were soon retrieved with a long dusting pole.



There were some pretty good flying scratch built models. They looked good and flew well. The top door prize was a \$40 Hobby Hanger gift card that went to a young family who walked in just before the drawing. Their young son was quite taken by all of the RC airplanes being flown. The gift card may well turn out to be his entry into the hobby.





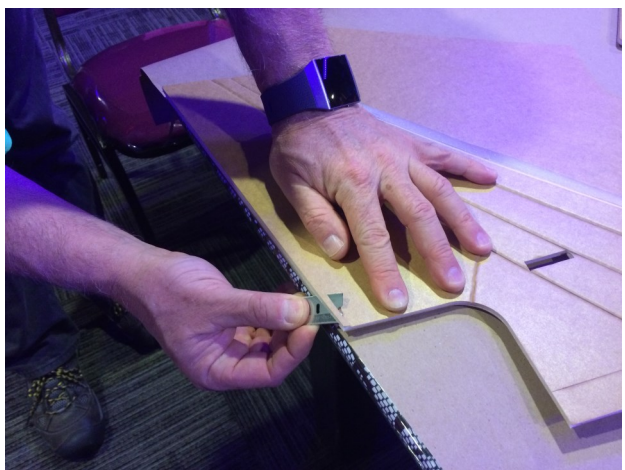
Flite Test Build at Monster Mini Golf

Compiled from post shared at [NVRC RC Groups Thread](#)

Several of those who bought Flite Test Mini-Arrows and other aircraft met from 7 to 9 at Monster Mini Golf before moving on to racing quads last night. **Tony** put us in a party



room equipped with butcher-paper-protected work tables, glue guns and space to project Mini-Arrow Build videos. The models built fast using techniques described in the videos such as hot glue reinforcement of beveled control surface hinges. A Hula Hoop was suspended 12 feet above the race course to add vertical complexity to the course. All racers who were there agreed that the course was the best designed layout of the racing series.





Wakefield Forest Elementary School STEAM Fair

From Paul Lukas

On April 12 at 6PM, the gymnasium doors at Wakefield Forest Elementary School opened for their annual STEAM Fair. Among community organizations and local businesses, NVRC reserved three tables to introduce the elementary aged school children (and their parents) to our love of aviation.

Among the aircraft on display were a flying wing, racing drones, a Horizon Hobby Night Vapor, and an FPV Inductrix with a video link to a small monitor. **Jon Pruett** provided his NuBee2 to show off what the balsa structure inside a model aircraft looks like, as well as his franken-trainer foam board build. The biggest hit of the night were the RC Simulators! Girls and boys alike lined up for a turn, and there were several that showed an aptitude for flight. **Jon Haitsuka** manned a laptop and controller provided by Hobby Hangar, while **Paul Lukas** helped children on a second simulator. **Doug Fig**, assisted by **Jason Beloncik**, provided a third laptop which featured a multirotor FPV simulator.

Many parents also showed an interest and we answered questions on getting into the hobby. We also had two Woodson High School volunteers who helped the children build and fly NVRC branded paper airplanes. The stage was full of planes in flight and smiling kids all evening. It was inspirational to see their imaginations take flight with the activity. A special thanks to **Bob Freas** for providing us with 150 copies of printed paper airplane templates - every single one of which was folded by children and launched into the air!

If you hear of school or community events showcasing science and technology in our community, please consider taking an evening or afternoon to volunteer. Giving back to our communities and inspiring younger generations with a love and fascination with aviation should be part of what we do as a club. If you have an event you would like to participate in, please reach out to the board for help in getting organized.





March Meeting Minutes:

Provided by John Roach

Visitors and new members – Dave Cop introduced himself by noting that his interest was fixedwing flying. **Tony Dahbura** in turn replied that his interest was helicopters. **Nic Burhans**, AMA Associate VP, District 4 was also among our guests.

Goggle FPV Ban Includes Screen FPV – Jonathan Pruett began the discussion with the recent example of an individual who flew a power loop around an aircraft landing at Las Vegas airport and posted the video online. This caught the eye of the FAA as did the recent announcement of an FPV race in Alexandria [that apparently did not clearly state that it was an indoor event.] The FAA views FPV racing as illegal nationwide, but it is not enforced except within the DC SFRA. The FAA told the AMA to knock it off, especially in the DC SFRA, including screen FPV. If we violate this suspension, we immediately lose our AMA charter which will in turn cause us to lose our flying fields. NVRC is working with AMA and meeting with the FAA next week.

The AMA is seeking a nationwide waiver and **Paul Lukas** is applying for a waiver for Poplar Ford. **Nic Burhans** spoke up to add that the FAA is not enforcing their FPV ban outside the DC SFRA pending reauthorization of their funding so long as any FPV is AMA #550 compliant. There must be one safety observer for every pilot and each safety observer must be standing next to their pilot. The DC SFRA is treated by the FAA as a fiefdom [in a working in partnership with the Secret Service, law enforcement and Homeland Security] while waiting for [possible changes in] 336 in the 2018 FAA reauthorization. Flying FPV using goggles is banned. Flying FPV using a screen display is also banned if pilot focus is on the screen rather than LOS control of the aircraft. This ban covers fixed wing, helicopter and multirotor flying. **Nic** then went on to introduce **Bob Burnett** as our new AMA Associate District VP whose specific emphasis will be serving clubs in the SFRA.



March Meeting Minutes:

Provided by John Roach

A club member asked if there was a road map to obtaining waivers.

Nic replied that **Chad Budreau** was working on a nationwide AMA waiver and **Paul** was working on a waiver for NVRC.

The follow up question was whether we were going for full on Goggle FPV in our waiver request, to which **Paul** replied, "Yes." He then went on to add that once we obtain a multirotor waiver, we would seek a fixed wing waiver and then go for a blanket waiver [for 550 compliant flying] at Poplar Ford.

VP Report – Storm Riley did only minor damage at Lorton and Poplar Ford fields. Repairs were made and both fields are ready for use. The County will roll the landing strips with the work dependent on their schedules and the weather. In response to a question about road maintenance within the park, **John Roach** replied that he would contact county staff about it and rolling the field. [Park staff were contacted 16 MAR.] **Pat Dunlap** pointed out that a workday needs to be scheduled soon for Lorton. Its runway has a number of areas that need to be filled and seeded before mowing season. This need will be included in the Sign Up invitations that will go out upon completion of a new Sign Up for both Poplar Ford and Lorton.

Treasurer Report – **Bob Freas** reported current membership as 146. The single NVRC auction for this year is scheduled for this fall. A member asked if it was possible to track drone/fixed wing interest as well as pilot qualification. **Bob** replied that at present he only tracks which pilots are qualified to fly without an instructor. He receives lots of inquiries about flight training because it is free to club members who are also AMA members. Flight training is available on a first come, first serve basis.

March Meeting Minutes:

Provided by John Roach

Guest Speaker – USAF Col Jobie

Turner, C-130J pilot considers the USA to be an aviation nation rather than a seafaring nation. As a USAAF cadet, he soloed in a TG-4 glider, which is now considered a museum piece. His next aircraft was a T-37 Tweety Bird jet trainer that was subsequently replaced by the T-6 turbo-prop trainer when the T-37 was deemed obsolete. He now flies a C-



130 C21, which has a glass instrument panel and 6-bladed turboprop engines. It is a very modern and capable aircraft that he had the honor of flying during the 1970 commemorative paratrooper airdrop over Normandy. The advent of drones has shown that pilots still need to develop good cockpit skills such as radio use before flying drones.

Next Month – Mark and Charlie will talk about airbrush weathering.

Jon advised members to buy spare parts now from those suppliers impacted by the Hobbico Chapter 11 filing. Hobbico assets will go to auction 26 March. As consolation, Horizon Hobby announced 3 new aircraft, Jeti released new high power servos, and Stevens Aero has 3 new kits. **Nic** mentioned that by typing in `ctl alt A` in Google Earth you could invoke the Google Earth flight simulator that can be flown with either your keyboard or a joystick. **Jon** announced the 15 April Great British Fly In at the Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum. Ten RAF warbirds will be there.



March Meeting Minutes:

Provided by John Roach

John Haituka won the 50/50 and donated it back to NVRC.

Show N Tell – **Pat Dunlap** showed a \$240 DL dragon fly glider. Its cool software has cruise, thermal, speed and launch modes and the throttle invokes landing mode. He added a Bangood DC buck voltage booster that can boost 2s battery output up to 6s voltage and also provide 5V for the radio. He said that he uses it to run his glider on a one cell battery. He also reported that Red Sail Plane, Sherman Knight, has written manuals and provides downloads of custom radio aircraft setups for a fee. He feels that they are really great. **Jon Pruett** showed progress that he has made on his modified Telemaster build. Mods include a flatter dihedral, slotted flaps and an extended tail. He hopes they impart good STOL characteristics. A \$20 Hobby Hanger gift card will be awarded to the best Show N Tell at the next regular membership meeting.



Carl Brieske and Al Norcott preparing for the first flight of Al's F-7 Tigercat on Friday the 13th. The model needed full throttle to remain in the air and refused to even roll without heading for the deck!

Al promptly sold it to Carl!

Maybe Friday the 13th isn't the best day for a maiden flight (or maybe Carl caught a lucky deal and will get her worked out). I guess we'll see!



Upcoming Events:

See the Events Calendar at www.1NVRC.com for more details!

April 19th	<u>Monthly Meeting</u>
April 21st	<u>Streamer Combat Event</u>
April 28th	<u>Lorton Field Workday</u>
May 5th	<u>Streamer Combat Skirmish</u> & <u>Blanket Swap Meet</u>
May 12th	<u>Spring Fun Fly</u>
May 17th	<u>Display/Build Contest</u> & <u>Monthly Meeting</u>
May 20th	<u>Poplar Ford Open House</u>
May 27th	<u>Lorton Open House</u>
June 2nd	<u>Streamer Combat Skirmish</u> & <u>Blanket Swap Meet</u>
June 3rd	<u>Pylon Races</u>
June 17th	<u>Streamer Combat Event</u>
June 21st	<u>Monthly Meeting</u>
June 23rd	<u>FARM Club Summer 2018 Float Fly</u>
July 7th	<u>Streamer Combat Skirmish</u> & <u>Blanket Swap Meet</u>
July 15th	<u>Pylon Races</u>
July 19th	<u>Monthly Meeting</u>
July 22nd	<u>Giant Scale Fly In</u>
August 4th	<u>Streamer Combat Skirmish</u> & <u>Blanket Swap Meet</u>
August 16th	<u>Monthly Meeting</u>
August 18th	<u>Biplane Contest</u>

Editor's Corner:

By Carl Lydick

For me it is crunch time... In less than a week I'll be hitting the road with a good buddy (the builder of the Bugatti 100p with the contra-rotating setup) and we will be road-tripping to Americus Georgia to attend our first SEFF! Many projects that had been put on hold have been dug out and prepped for service and I am PUMPED to spend a few days away from reality with friends and airplanes.

I'll be hauling down the big P-40, a shiny-new Hangar 9 60 sized Thunderbolt, a Flite Test Sea Duck to play on the pond, and an F-16 pusher jet for when I want to go fast. Joshua will be bringing along a Texan, the Bugatti (which will be flown there for only the 3rd time), a BEAUTIFUL Top Flight Corsair he has just wrapped up, and a Laine's Planes Cuda.

Assembling the new Hangar 9 20cc P-47 was enjoyable, but with this first run of the model I did hit several snags. The quality of the airframe is solid, but a few of the part numbers were incorrectly listed in the documentation and on the website. This resulted in me buying the recommended motor and ESC combo only to find that the recommended ESC should **NOT** be used with that motor. Horizon quickly made it right and sent me the right ESC at no charge since the mistake was theirs. Similarly the part number listed for the drop-in retractable tailwheel was ALSO wrong. It took me 3 attempts to find the right unit and get the linkages right, but she is solid now. Everything I've seen indicates she should be a solid flyer and it looks like the maiden will take place at SEFF. Hopefully Hangar 9 will take a closer look at the details for future releases to avoid headaches like this, but if she flies well you won't hear me complaining!



As always if you have something you'd like to share with the club via the newsletter please send it my way. You can email me at carllydick@hotmail.com. See you all soon!