



Flight Lines
FCRCC Newsletter
August 2011



UPCOMING BUSINESS MEETING:

Date: **Tuesday, August 9, 2011**

Time: **6:00 PM**

Location: Club House

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. September 8, 9, 10,11 – Franklin County Fair
2. **September 18** – Fun fly ---- We need lots of people to do various things
3. September 24 – Franklin Tech School Car Show
4. October 22 – PumpkinFest in downtown Turners Falls

NORMAL CLUB GATHERINGS:

Tuesday nights starting around 5:30

Sundays starting around 11:00/11:30



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Greetings fellow FCRCCers!

LATEST NEWS:

- **NEXT MEETING: August 9** –(THIS TUESDAY) . If it is a washout, we'll reschedule to Thursday August 11. The meeting will be held at the club house. So if it is raining out, don't come on Tuesday, but if it is not raining, then come on down for the meeting.

- **UPCOMING EVENTS** - We have several events coming up that we would appreciate some help staffing. **THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THE FUN FLY ON SEPTEMBER 18th!!!!** If you help with the Franklin County Fair, the club will buy you some discounted tickets to get you in, but I need to know who is willing to help. (Work for a few hours, then enjoy the rest of the day at the fair) Last year all of these events we attended were a great opportunity to meet a lot of people who were very interested in the club and in aviation in general. We literally had people lined up to talk to us at the Fair and the Pumpkinfest! So any help would be greatly appreciated.
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- **SEPTEMBER FUN FLY-** The fun fly is scheduled for **Sunday September 18th** of this year. We need volunteers to make this event a success. We have signs made up and the event will be in the AMA September magazine. At the meeting on Tuesday we will come up with a list of things that needs attention and who can help out. From the last fun fly we will need the following help:
 1. Cook
 2. Greeter
 3. Trainers (x2)
 4. Assistants in the field with the trainers
 5. New person coordinator
 6. Kiddie table

- **SAFETY CONCERNS:** It has been a pretty good year in that we haven't had many crashes at all, which we are thankful for. However there were two planes lost this year that gave us cause for concern because in both cases they were the result of lost control presumably from battery issues. In one of the cases the plane was lost due to the battery being totally discharged. The second one flew off into the distance and hasn't been found yet. In both cases, we assume nothing was damaged and no one was hurt when the planes went down, so we were lucky, but in the event that they had hurt someone or damaged property, **our entire club's existence could be at risk**. So in the interest of safety of everyone at our club and in the surrounding area, **I think it would be in our best interests to check out battery packs at every flight**. I will start carrying a good battery tester that will even put a few amps of draw on the pack to test its capabilities and I would ask that everyone use it. I think we could



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even consider having the club purchase one and leave it in the club house. Another cheap alternative is the Hobbico “Volt Watch” which is a little device that you can put on your plane directly and it gives you a LED light that tells you the current voltage of your packs. I recently bought 5 of the Volt Watch units and have been installing them on all my frequently flown planes – its cheap insurance for 12 dollars each. I’ll include links to those below:

1. Hobbico Volt Watch: <http://www3.towerhobbies.com/cgi-bin/wti0001p?&I=LXHJD2&P=ML>
2. Futaba BR-2000 Battery Checker: <http://www3.towerhobbies.com/cgi-bin/wti0001p?&I=LXEYM6&P=ML>

- **NEW MEMBERS:** We’d like to welcome **FIVE** new members into our club as of this past month! Welcome Connor, Greg, Steve, Rob, and Barry! This brings us up to currently 22 members! Our modeling community is really growing and we have been having a lot of fun together on our flying days! Our new members are very excited about the hobby and have been learning fast, and one of our new members, Cody, made his first takeoff and landing last week! I would expect that the rest of our new members that are learning will be doing their first solos very soon as well. Please give them a warm welcome!

- **FIELD SAFETY:** Since we do have 10 new members, I think it would be important to reiterate some of our basic field safety rules for **all** members to read.

1. Check your battery packs at every flight
2. Fly under 400 feet (use your best judgment)
3. **DO NOT FLY** when the school next door has any outdoor activities going on
4. **NEVER** fly towards the real runway
5. Never fly over spectators or cars (in other words, never over the fence that separates our flying field from the parking area)
6. If there is a real airplane flying over our airspace, you **MUST** either land your plane or fly very low near the trees. **NEVER** fly near a real airplane.
7. Always put safety first while flying not only for your protection and anyone else, but also because if something bad happens we can lose our field – our lease can be revoked.

- **IF YOU NEED HELP WHILE FLYING:** Don’t be afraid to ask for help if you feel something is not right with your plane or with flying in general (we all have our off days!). We are a club and our goal is to have safe fun together, so don’t be afraid to yell out and have someone come over to help you when you are flying. I’ve had cases when I yelled out and needed help trimming a model before. We all have had bad days and let’s work together to have a safe time flying.

- **Cyber attacks from the air:** This is an interesting article that uses a radio control plane in order to hack into different computer networks. From a computer guy’s perspective it is a pretty ingenious idea, however, this sort of thing tends to have a detrimental effect on our hobby then some politician (or the FAA) gets it in their head to regulate it.

http://money.cnn.com/2011/08/03/technology/aerial_cyber_attack/



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Reminders and Notes

- Don't forget to renew your AMA membership when it is up! If you are new to the club and plan on joining the FCRCC don't forget to join the AMA. You must be a member of the AMA in order to join or renew your membership for the 2011 season.
- In general, our membership dues for year are due by March 31st.
- Full membership cost is \$55.00 for normal adults, 50 for seniors, and 25 for young adults.
- At membership renewal time at our March meeting, we require you to show us your actual AMA card
- FCRCC now has a PO Box for any correspondence that needs to be sent to 'the club'. The address is:
FCRCC PO Box 66 Turners Falls, MA 01376-0066