



April 2024 Edition

Vice President Corner: Ernie Padgette



- I've got to do *what*?

I hope you guys appreciate how difficult it is for me to write an article about RC airplanes for you guys. Let's look at some basic facts here: First of all, most of you have known me for my entire RC career, such as it is. Most of what I know, you (that's the second person plural noun form; or what we southern boys mean when we say "yall") taught me! Don't misunderstand; I do deeply appreciate all the time and energy you guys invested in explaining some pretty basic things to the new boy. (Never mind that only a couple of you have an edge on me in actual age). But what that also means is that most anything I've learned by myself was learned while you were watching. And that means you also had the opportunity to watch my errors and think to yourselves "I'll have to remember never to do that myself". So how am I supposed to write anything that will teach you something you don't already know; or at least find to be entertaining? Hmmmm..... If I can't tell you anything you don't already know about RC planes, maybe I can tell you a few useful facts about my life and beliefs that will, if not educate you,

at least amuse you? And just maybe add to your enjoyment of this sport we all share.

As long as I can remember, I've been fascinated by almost any form of learning. This led in turn to a long succession of interests and hobbies. Although my lovely bride still says I don't have any hobbies; I just have an endless series of obsessions, none of which ever go completely away. And I'm good with that! All my hobbies seemed to share common traits. They all involve more than one skill, or area of interest. For example, both building and driving fast cars; either 1/1 scale or 1/32 and 1/24 scale slot cars. Even RC car racing, or building and flying RC planes. And competitive rifle or pistol competition. All my hobbies were competitive in nature, and seemed to involve intense concentration. Even playing board games seemed to trip my competitive switch. So flying RC planes seemed to be a natural extension or my long list of interests (Or obsessions). Maybe it's the same with you?

I'm sure all of you have noticed there seems to have been a falloff in our hobby over the last few years. Maybe the current generation(s) don't want to put forth the effort and time to become proficient in our hobby when it's so easy to play on the computer and simply hit the reset key when things go wrong. Or maybe we're looking at the wrong age group. We've all seen quite a few pre-pubescent young men and ladies show up over the past few years. They seem to have a lot of interest, and then they just drift away; right about the time when they gain access to a car and a girl or boyfriend. I really don't think that's a situation with much chance of our

maintaining their attention. We keep looking to involve young kids, when maybe it's their parents we should be trying to attract. After all, there is a certain time and money threshold required to play this game; and the spare time and money often don't come along until the children come of age themselves.

Whatever the reason, our numbers seem to be dwindling. So what's the answer? I would say we should look first at retaining our current membership. And that means following up when they stop showing up. Pick up the phone and find out why good old George hasn't been out lately. Ask if anything is keeping them away and if we can help. Maybe simply inviting them to rejoin us will work. Certainly, it won't hurt.

One thing I'm pretty sure of is that this hobby is at least partly a social activity. The simple camaraderie of meeting together, helping each other out and sitting around discussing whatever is a big part of the enjoyment to me. And that kind of familial friendship won't endure or prosper in a Zoom meeting setting. Sure, Zoom meetings save time and energy. But spending time together is kind of the point, isn't it? And although I can enjoy simply flying in my backyard, it's always nice to have a friend around to help me gather up the pieces. Or help me figure out why the stupid thing isn't acting right. Hopefully, the next couple of weeks will see the temperature going up and the winds going down. And another spring and summer of friends, fun and frustration can begin. Thanks;

Ernie P

President's Pilot Box: Bill Towne

- We had such a large turnout for our first Club Fun Day and Fun Fly of the 2024 flying season that we will be continuing with Club cookouts as part of these events.
- And yes, we are waiting for the rains to stop and winds to calm down for good flying days.
- No other specific Club items this Month.

Bill T

Vice President's Pilot Box: Ernie Padgette

- See above.
- No specific items this Month.

Ernie

Secretary's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- FARM's AMA Gold Leader Club status has been renewed for 2024:



- FARM Pattern Clinic and Seminar:

The weekend of 15 through 17 March the FARM Club conducted a aerobatic pattern flying aircraft tune-up, judging seminar, and practice flying of the new 2025 event sequences that was hosted by Gerald Hood and Don Szczur.

Fourteen interested, new, and/or old pattern contest fliers participated in the early morning “ground school” seminars and flying under windy conditions:



Review of all the judging changes was conducted and the discussions were very beneficial to all.

Practice judging of all the new sequences was conducted along with “how to fly the sequences under high wind conditions” tips and tricks review by Don Szczur.

- FARM Club Day & Fun Fly:

On Sunday, 7 April, we held our first Club Day and Fun Fly of the 2024 flying season.

Neither cold, wind, or rain could keep Thirteen Club members from participating in the day's events.



President, Bill Towne, and Les Broaddus served up the first 2024 Club Day's cookout lunch.

After being checked by our training coordinator, Ralph Graul, and "critically scored" by those in attendance, our newest member, Michael Murphy, completed his solo check flight under high wind conditions. Congratulations Michael!

Seven of those present participated in Nic's three event "High Wind "Power Ball" Fun Fly".

1st place: Charlie Koustenis

2nd place: Ralph Graul

Note: The first place event's point tie was settled by a tie-breaker die roll.

3rd place: Ken Bassett

4th place: Bill Towne

5th place: Ernie Padgette

6th place: Nic Burhans

7th place: Dave Rothbart

- Up coming events:

April 23	Tuesday	FARM Club Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
May 5	Sunday	FARM Club Day & Fun Fly #2 @ Club Field Picnic, Pilot Training, and Flight Check day CD: Ernie Padgette Food: Bill Towne	All Day
May 28	Tuesday	FARM Club Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
June 9	Sunday	FARM Club Day @Fun Fly #3 @ Club Field Picnic, Pilot Training, and Flight Check day CD: Dave Rothbart Food: Bill Towne	All Day
June 15	Saturday	Field Closed to 72Mhz; Open to 2.4Ghz: Club Picnic & Float Fly #1 @ Lake Ritchie CD: Nic Burhans npb6218@earthlink.net	9:00 AM
June 29	Saturday	FARM Club Meeting @ Club Field	10:00 AM

Continue to BE Safe *Nic*

Treasurer's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

As of 10 April, the FARM Club presently has 58 members. (21 Regular members, 31 Senior members, 1 Junior member, 1 Associate member, and 4 Life members).

The second quarter's field rent has been paid,

The Lake Ritchie rent for our 15 June Float Fly event has been paid.

All bills have been paid and the Club presently has a balance of \$6,314.82 in the general fund.

Be Safe *Nic*

Safety Officer's Pilot Box: Mike Wiczalkowski

- No specific Club items this Month.

Mike

Field Marshal's Pilot Box: Ralph Graul

- The runway has been rolled twice.
- We now have a tow-behind spreader for fertilizing the field.
- The runway and pit area have had their spring dose of weed killer/fertilizer.
- No other specific Club items this Month.

Ralph

Member at Large's Pilot Box: Charlie Koustenis

- No specific Club items this Month.

Charlie

Member at Large's Pilot Box: Bill Flathers

- No specific Club items this Month.

Bill F

Web Master's Pilot Box: Dick Sutton

- No specific Club items this Month.

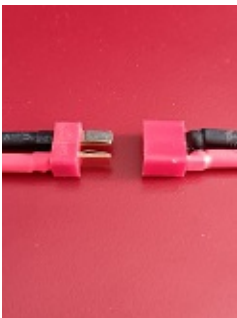
Dick

FARM Member "Tips & Projects" Box:

- Deans Connector Separation/Separator

The Deans Connector is a polarized moderately high amperage connection frequently used in DC circuits in RC. Probably most frequently, they are used to connect batteries to on board switches and power structures. But, due to their tight connection, and the relatively small size of the connector itself, they are a beast to separate. I have found a way to ease that process, since I am using Deans connectors in my Extra 330.

Here is a new set of connectors:



I modify the connector (at my/your own risk!) by drilling a pair of 1/16 holes in the ground side of the connector. Don't penetrate the copper pole:



I use this \$4 split ring plier from Harbor Freight. Though they don't show well in the picture, there are 2 points on the end of the tool. Put the points in the drilled holes, and squeeze the handle. The connections comes apart easily.




And now you don't need new deans, or to resolder the connector!
Lloyd Hinrichs

“From the Field” Anything Input Pilot Box: **- FYI #1:**

**RC SWAP MEET
TRANSLATIONS**

New In Box (NIB) = I'm *pretty* sure it's all there
Professionally built = My cousin charged me a case of Natty Light
Vintage = Rusty
Hard to find = They all crashed
It goes over 100mph = 54mph...in a dive
Rare = Nobody liked them when they were new
Only flown once = It didn't go well
No time to fly it = I hate this miserable POS
Mint = I'm too scared to fly it
Mild hangar rash = I pulled it from the club trash can
Needs a little work = With a sledgehammer
How What I've Got (IKWIG) = I checked a 1986 Tower Hobbies catalog
Classic = Nobody uses this crap anymore
It flew great last time = Back when glow fuel cost \$5/gallon
BNF = Includes an Airtronics 72MHz receiver
Must go = I'm planning a bonfire
Multi-color covering = My buddy gave me his Monokote scraps
It flies on rails = I often confuse airplanes with trains
It will do 3D maneuvers = I've looped it...once

 RC Roundtable

 RC Roundtable Podcast
3h · 🌐

Nic Burhans

- FYI #2

Two aviation events that the Fauquier - Warrenton Airport will be hosting:

The CAF B-17 and B-25 will be at the airport the week of 17-14 June 2024.

The IAC East Coast aerobatic competition is planned for 28-30 June 2024.

Lloyd Hinrichs

FARM CLUB 2024 OFFICERS		
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Field Marshall	Ralph Graul	540-729-1586
Member at Large	Bill Flathers	540-272-7236
Member at Large	Charlie Koustenis	703-378-6214
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Training Coordinator	Ralph Graul	540-729-1586

The FARM Newsletter is published monthly by the Fauquier Aero Recreation Modelers, AMA charter #1654. It is forwarded to FARM members and to other clubs on an exchange basis. Articles related to all types of aviation are welcome. Opinions expressed in the newsletter articles are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect those of FARM Inc.

Publishing input deadline is the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please forward all inputs (Pictures in jpg format) to: Nic Burhans

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