

# March 2003



## **The Monthly Newsletter of The New Hampshire Flying Tigers Radio Control Club**

Send all correspondence to: The NH Flying Tigers RC Club, P.O.Box 99, Derry, NH 03038-0099

President - Glen Bolser Vice President – Dave Sigillo Safety Officer - John Lavery Field Marshall– Glen Bolser  
Secretary - Dave Annicelli Treasurer - Dan Wilder Newsletter Editor - Will Widgren Training Coord. – TBD

**This Month's meeting will be on  
Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the  
Marion Gerrish Community Center,  
Derry, NH**

## **What's Happening**

**Spring work party scheduled for Sat. April  
19<sup>th</sup>. Rain date will be the following Saturday.**

**Training starts the Tuesday following the  
work party. (4/22 or 4/29).**

**Membership cards will be available at the  
March meeting.**

## **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Meeting began at 7:05 with 23 members present.

Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Glen went over the training strategy and talked about the website updates that are in the works.

Dave A. talked about a field possibility on Rt. 28 in Derry. There will be more information at a later date.

The annual trip to the WRAM show was cancelled due to weather.

Tom P. proposed donating a magazine subscription to the local library. A suggestion was made to donate back issues instead. Tom said he will look into pricing for the subscriptions.

The annual Spring work party is scheduled for Saturday April 19th. The rain date is the following Saturday.

Rich Bono brought in a flight Simulator that he has for sale. See Rich for more info.

Meeting ended at 7:50

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Well here it is almost the end of March, and as I write this, it appears the weather is finally starting to break in our favor. Although it may be short-lived, we'll take any ray of hope we can get. I still remain in my basement working on the "fleet". When the field clears and the weather remains warm I'll have seven aircraft to put into the skies over Derry, two of which need to be test flown and trimmed out in the air. I can't wait to get back at it, although I have been on the simulator to keep the rust out of my fingers, it's just not the same. I have one project that I will enter in the Spring Project Night, the other one some of you got to see at last month's meeting, and to all of you who were more

helpful in pointing out a few finishing touches on the Extra that I may have overlooked, it's all set now.

The officers will meet once again to discuss and finalize the training program and the documentation that will be provided to all students. We'll see how it goes once training begins, which should be April 22<sup>nd</sup> if the weather cooperates. We need volunteers to assist with training from set up to instructors, so if you can help out in anyway it would be greatly appreciated by all. We have spent countless hours going over training documents and field equipment, preparing for the upcoming season and would appreciate the membership's involvement in all aspects of the club, from training, maintaining the field, and overall participation in club activities. We would also like to have a training meeting for instructors and assistants. Look for a date and time of this meeting elsewhere in the newsletter, and "Thank You" for your cooperation.

I hope to see all of you at the meeting, and as always, feel free to call me or send me an email with any concerns you may have, or if you are willing to help out in some way. The officers cannot do it alone, and we expect your involvement and support. That's it from the "soapbox" for now. We'll see you on the 26th.

Your Humble Servant,  
Glen

## From the Field Marshall

Hi Everyone,

This is just to update all of you on a few things and let you know the agenda for this year's annual Spring work party. Dan and I have purchased a new grass trimmer for the club and I have tuned up the lawn mower, including new filters, spark plugs, and an oil change, not to mention a couple coats of wax, and a fresh charge on the battery. I will get the generator from Dave Annicelli in a couple of days, and give that a good looking over, although it should be fine. We should be all set for equipment for the year if all goes well.

I have not been to the field since last November but will swing by and have a look at it soon. I'm sure it is still snow covered but I will see how much there is, and give you an update at this month's meeting. Depending on how the snow melts please don't be surprised if you show up at the field and find an extra lock on the gate to restrict access due to mud conditions. Just keep that in mind as the warmer weather arrives. I will also be reserving the roller for April 19th, the target date for the work party.

The agenda for the work party will be similar to years past. We must roll the entire field and fill in any holes in the runway and pit area and plant grass to cover the repair. We need to clean the entire field and access road of trash, and remove all brush at the north end of the runway between

the runway and the fence. Also, we need to repair the roof in the storage trailer by arching the steel supports upward as they have bent down over the years which allow water to seep through the roof and into the trailer. I think we can resolve this with a portable jack and a solid piece of timber and simply jack the supports upward thus giving them an arch which will allow water to run off to the sides as it should. The shelter could also use a new layer of roofing because it is leaking just a little bit.

The only other item that will change will be the food. In years past we have bought pizza and soda. We will still buy soda, but since we had purchased a new grill last year and we have plenty of propane, we will purchase hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch, and purchase coffee and donuts in the morning.

The last item that I must address is that there will be no flying until the majority of the work has been completed, I will decide when flying will begin that day. So, bring some gloves, boots and any hand tools that would be appropriate, chain saw, pruning shears, shovels and rakes, and we'll see you on the 19th at 8:00 a.m.

Glen

*The follow is the revised text of a Training Summary and Disclaimer document that will be given to new trainees.*

## **NHFT R/C CLUB TRAINING OVERVIEW, AND DISCLAIMER**

**The Flying Tigers have established a Flight training program in order to assist newcomers to the hobby with learning to safely pilot R/C aircraft. This program does not insure success, but merely attempts to teach people through a series of progressive steps the basics of R/C flying.**

**Our club has flight proficient members that have taken their proficiency to the next level by volunteering to support the club's training program. These instructors have passed the instructor proficiency test, a test to show they have adequate skills and knowledge of R/C aircraft in order to instruct newcomers to safely fly R/C aircraft. This does not however guarantee the success of any student. Everyone is different and learns at a different level. To be honest, some people may never get to the pilot proficiency exam, although it may be rare, nonetheless it can happen, furthermore we as a club and our instructors by using the "buddy box" make every attempt to avoid mishaps but please know that aircraft sometimes get damaged during the learning process and the club is not**

responsible for damage that may occur, it is up to the students to repair any damage, and if guidance is needed to ensure a proper repair we will offer our recommendations on how to safely repair the damage, and get you back in the air.

The club has set aside two nights a week to assist newcomers to the hobby in their attempt to become a proficient R/C pilot, but at the same time this does not guarantee that there will be a club certified instructor available on those evenings. Please remember that all those involved with any club sponsored activity do so on a volunteer basis, and may have either personal or employment commitments which come first. There is a possibility on any given training night there may not be an instructor available, also please remember that instructors are not obligated to instruct (although encouraged to do so) and should not be approached at the field on non training nights and asked to instruct. If you wish to get additional help or cannot make it on designated training nights, look to find an instructor on your club roster and make arrangements prior to coming to the field. Please do not put someone on the spot where they will feel uncomfortable and have to tell you they are not available to instruct at that particular time, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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From the AMA National Newsletter, Sept. 1997

### **Don't Let This Happen to You!**

by "Jumping" Jack Flash

My cordless Dremel tool recently died and I had diagnosed that two of the NiCd cells were "toast." Unlike the fully plastic-covered cells used in our RC battery packs, these batteries were the typical "cordless appliance" type, i.e., covered only with a thin cardboard tube around the outside and crimped over on the positive end to afford a minimal amount of insulation protection. I carefully wrapped the 5 cell battery pack inside a heavy plastic bag and went to the local "batteries-R-us" store to purchase two new 1000 mAh, Sub C replacement cells. I also told the store clerk that I needed two metal connecting straps so I could rebuild the pack. The job was a simple and routine battery replacement procedure and my cordless Dremel tool now accepts a full charge and works good as new.

But let me tell you of a couple mistakes that

were made in the process of obtaining the new batteries and the chain of events that followed:

### **My Embarrassing "Blazing Pocket" Incident**

1. Upon my purchasing the batteries, the man behind the counter put the two new cells and the separate metal connecting straps in the same bag with my old 5 cell pack! A "red flag" popped up here, but apparently I wasn't paying attention!

2. In the process of leaving the store, I was sidetracked at their cellular phone display. During the ensuing "hands-on" examination of a neat little cell phone, I inadvertently stuck the plastic bag in my pants pocket! Is a mild disaster about to happen here? DUH! How many stories have appeared in this very newsletter over the years on this same subject?

After a couple of minutes the extra weight in my right front pocket was getting uncomfortable and I unconsciously reached down and repositioned it. It was at this precise moment, as later described by the lady at the counter, that I got a very "strange" look on my face and very quickly pulled this burning and dripping plastic bag out of my pocket and dropped it on the floor! The very surprised young lady said "Holy Cow!", or words to that effect, as she coolly stomped out the flames of the blazing mounds of molten plastic that I had just deposited on her tiled floor! I really wasn't of much help to her, I had to finish my involuntary "hot pants afire" routine, which is normally not a thing I do in public!

While being both embarrassed and experiencing pain at the same time, I was also making sure that the fire in my pocket was fully out! I was one very busy guy for a few seconds! I was very relieved to see that I really can move fast when necessary, but you know that, you've witnessed my "catlike" reflexes many times at the flying field!

**Think of the humiliation!** I was standing in a downtown store with my pants on fire! I had a 1" hole in my pocket where the fire had burnt through to the skin on my thigh and another 1/2" hole through the outside of my pants that was still hot and smoldering - all in all, a tough

act to follow!

After everything, and everyone, cooled down somewhat, the lady inspected the suspicious pocket cargo and started asking questions. She was being very polite, but I could tell by her "burning" and questioning eyes that what she was really wondering was, "Why would anyone put batteries in their pocket?"

Our resulting joint "autopsy" revealed that at least one of the metal connecting straps that I had just purchased had apparently made contact between the (positive) center button and the (negative) outside metal case of a cell in my original battery pack. This had set the paper covering, and the plastic bag, and my pants, (and my leg), on fire. One of the new cells and both of the connecting straps that I had just purchased were destroyed!

The young lady declined my offer to pay for yet another replacement cell and gave me a new one. (She either felt that the other clerk should have known better and put my original purchases in a separate bag, especially the metal connecting straps, or she actually felt sorry for me! Maybe I did whimper a time or two?) My personal feelings are that I was very stupid in the first place by letting the other clerk do what he did! **I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER!**

As I mentioned earlier, we have all heard the stories about someone, somewhere, putting their Ni-starter in their pocket with similar predictable results when it shorted out on pocket change etc! I know a fellow, who just like me, either wasn't thinking or was preoccupied at the time, who dropped an alkaline battery in his pants pocket. He said that he later had the same ensuing hot sensation when a dime or quarter shorted across the two exposed terminals of the 9V battery! Ouch, that's harsh!

My new \$48.00 pair of Dockers will never make another public appearance and the medicated ointment is still at work on the 2-inch diameter burn on my leg. For now, it is a constant and painful reminder of my carelessness! The burn will eventually heal, and in time, my pride will too. You can bet that I will never put another battery in my pants pocket!

"Never put a battery of any type in your pocket! If you think that 1.2 volts won't start a fire and melt your pants, think again, I know!"  
**"Jack"**

The foregoing story really is true and actually happened very recently! The names have been changed to protect the guilty!  
And you thought I didn't know "Jack"!

Cascade Model Helicopter Club Newsletter  
Dick McKenna, Editor  
Via E-mail

## Upcoming Events

**R/C Barnstormers, Salem, NH Annual Auction.**  
Sunday, March 23, 2003  
Salem Boys and Girls Club  
Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH 03079

Registration from 12:00 to 1:00 P.M.  
Visit [www.rcbarnstormers.net](http://www.rcbarnstormers.net) and click on Annual Auction for details and directions.

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**INSTRUCTOR'S MEETING**  
**April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm at the Field.**

I would like to have an instructors meeting on Saturday the 19th, at 1 P.M. at the field after the work party, for all members that would like to assist in the training program at some level, so that we can put forth the planned agenda, and inform them of guidelines that should be followed. Anyone that is interested should call or email me to get more details.  
Thanks,  
*Glen*

### **Spring Project night, April meeting.**

Space Day 2003, Tewksbury, MA, June 21.  
See Dave Annicelli for details.

## **From The Editor**

Any comments or suggestions will be greatly appreciated.  
If anyone has anything to contribute please mail to:

**Will Widgren, 17 Dyer Avenue, Salem NH 03079.**  
or: [widgren@attbi.com](mailto:widgren@attbi.com)

**Deadline for submissions: April 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Web Newsletter:** The club newsletter is available on the web at: [www.nhflyingtigers.com](http://www.nhflyingtigers.com)