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CHOPPER NEWS

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Northern Illinois Radio Control Helicopter Assoc.

One of

The World’s Largest R/C Helicopter Clubs

AMA CHARTER NO.2099

December, 2001

Next Club Meeting, 7:30 pm Tuesday,

December 11th

At John’s Pizzeria, 100 E. Lake St., Addison, IL

Editorial

I want to thank everyone for coming up with the various ways to inform my wife about my horrendously expensive crash last month. I choose the “take her out to dinner” route. I

appreciate all of your other many suggestions, although some were a little far reaching, and I hope you would not actually try any of those on your Snookums. I won't take the time to go into any of that well intended advice now!!

Last week I had to admonish 4 of our club members for not having memorized and for not being able to recite September's newsletter's BETTER WAYS AND SHORTCUTS, trick number 4. I had borrowed Neil's Allen wrenches and promptly lost one under the picnic table into those scary cavernous multi-colored wood chips. The five of us were unable to locate the missing wrench until I dropped another Allen wrench in the same area, and all five of us found the missing wrench at the same time. It works in every environment, so give it a try. I will be listing this tip just one more time. Please memorize because I will be giving a test at the beginning of next year!!!

It was great to watch Steve Krauleidis (of 5 burger fame) and John Spatola help a new member, Patrick Dennis, trim out his first helicopter. They did a great job, and Patrick had his first flight with a well trimmed out chopper with no bad habits. It was fun to watch these two masters at work!! Read Open Email to Club.

We have three new members to welcome this month. They are: Steve Condren, hangared in Libertyville, Patrick Dennis, hangared in West Chicago, and, last but not least, Joe Ellis, hangared in Joliet. If the info buried in the piles of papers in the corner of my den is correct, we are 58 members strong!!! I also have a good feeling that these three new members are really going to contribute to our newsletter.

This newsletter will be the last reminder you get about my New Year's Day fresh Krispy Kreme Donuts get together. Be part of that first flight of the New Year!!! Put on a warm jacket and boots and come on out. Let's all try and get there sometime between 8am and 11am (for donuts), Tuesday, January 1st, 2002. Who knows? Maybe Terry will be there with an event or two for us all to try. So please mark it on the calendar right now. I will probably bring 4 dozen donuts, and you BYOC (bring your own coffee). Remember, if no one else shows up, Neil and I will have to eat them all. To make a long story short, Neil and I will end up with one heck of a sugar high if you do not show up!!!

I just received my 2002 AMA card in the mail yesterday, and I hope to fax in my Forest Preserve permit fee sometime soon. Please try not to procrastinate. I know it is a nasty job writing and mailing out those checks, but you have to buckle down and ask your wife to send them out today!!!

Last week my new Raptor 30 had its maiden flight. It replaces the one that bit the dust last month with a crash that was so severe even the unbreakable parts were broken. After the first couple of flights of my new chopper, I pulled off my wood blades, left them on the picnic table, and tried a pair of new carbon fiber blades. During that flight I kept telling everyone how the

wood blades seemed to perform better and how I was looking forward to using the woodies. When I got back to the picnic table, to my horror I found the tips of my much beloved wood blades had been chewed off!!! Just as I started to look for that one pesky squirrel that everyone feeds, I could see Neil trying to keep from laughing. We should have a club fine of, say, ten thousand dollars for anyone who would swap someone's old crashed blades for another member's new blades. I would like us to vote on this at the next meeting and then make the fine retroactive!!!

As you all know by now, Steve is stepping down as your club VP. Steve did a great job, and we hate to see him go. Steve put a lot of time and effort into our club, and it showed. Good luck with your work in China, Steve!! I am sure your trips to China will be full of great experiences. We wish you the best. Marty

President's Message

Let's see, it's Christmas time again. I would like a Vigor CS and the new 10X JR radio and maybe a YS STII motor and a Gy602 Gyro. I will make a stocking big enough for it to fit in so don't worry, Santa, beer and pretzels will be there waiting for you. Oops, wrong letter, sorry, I got carried away.

I would like to thank Steve for his efforts as VP this last year, and I would like to welcome Mark Clausen to the board. I would also like to thank Neil, Rob, Marty, and Marty's proofreader Linda. I would also like to thank everyone in the club for paying their dues, coming to the meetings, fun flies, helping out friends and complete strangers, because that is what our club is all about. The Christmas party is December 11th, the cost of the meal will be \$15.50 per person and feel free to bring someone. Paul Girard will be calling all the members on the roster to get an accurate count of who and how many will be attending. We will have a GY401 gyro to give to someone at the party. You will get a raffle ticket, one per club member, when you pay Rob for your and your guest's (if you have one) meal. We will also have the \$500.00 gift certificate raffle tickets at the party. They are \$10.00 each. See Ron Kwilinski to purchase these tickets.

Now, if anyone would like to bring me a Vigor CS and related equipment on Christmas Eve, the beer and pretzels offer still stands! Soft Landings! Terry

A Message from the Outgoing VP

Last month I said my VP good-byes and expressed thanks and appreciation to various persons and for various things over the last year. The only thing to add is to wish our new VP, Mark Clausen, well in his new challenge. I had a ball, and am sure Mark will enjoy it, too.

Most of you know that I am a firm believer in simulators and in burning fuel. Now that the weather's getting uncomfortable, my fuel consumption will drop dramatically. Last night a new Windows XP Dell 1.6 GHz Pentium w/ G-force 2 video card and SoundBlaster live (for game port) arrived on my doorstep. An Add-ons #3 disk (the Raptors have been put on that CD) is on a separate Christmas list. Shortly thereafter, I was flying again after losing my previous computer to the family room, where it receives heavy homework and Internet usage (and I got in the way!). That computer worked acceptably with my favorite software, Realflight G2, but it loaded painfully slowly and I had to turn off many of the scenic and audio options in order to get flight that had no stutter. I can attest that the near-minimum, but acceptable, computer was that Windows 98 Celeron 400 MHz, with N-vidia TNT-2 graphics card and 32 Megs of RAM.

If you've ever had trouble loading Realflight, try the following. After changing the video card in the 400 MHz a while back, nothing would work and the updates failed. Eventually, I simply "uninstalled" the software completely and started over. Since I have an original Realflight and a G2 upgrade CD, I installed both. It still didn't work, so I again installed the update by going to the Realflight site (it's a simple click of a button on the realflight control panel). All went well. The same installation sequence, less the uninstall, worked fine also for the new computer.

If you try it, flight simulator work will make dumb-thumb's much more infrequent. When the transmitter stick movements become automatic, helicopters live longer! Always stretching your envelope of comfort by flying in attitudes strange to you will make you a better pilot; and on the simulator, it's guaranteed to cost less in the long run. Translating simulator skills to R/C helicopters still takes a bit of time (guts), but happens so quickly you'll be amazed.

Most any Heli flight sim, as long as it has a simulated transmitter box and not a gamer's joystick, will be worth your while. My first flight Sim was an old Dave Brown on a 12 MHz computer. I recommend it if your budget's tight.

Can you spend a half-hour a week on the Sim? You'll keep your skills. Can you spend an hour a day, several days a week? You'll make fast, fun progress with your heli skills. Steve

GY502 Futaba Gyro

I have installed the Gy501, Gy401, and now the GY502. Here is a recap of installation and setting of the GY502. I am putting this on my Concept 60 SR. It has a JR 1000 gyro with a remote gain addition. This gyro holds the tail very well for a non-heading hold gyro. This heli also has a JR2700 servo mounted on the tail boom, and I will switch it over to the Futaba 9253. I removed the JR unit and this is the install of the Futaba.

I choose to mount the gyro in the same location the old one was; I cleaned the shelf and the bottom of the gyro. The instruction said the included metal plate should be installed under the gyro to help shield it. I used the Futaba tape stuck the plate to the gyro, then the plate/gyro combo to the shelf. Installed the servo to the tailboom mounts and plugged the gyro in to the gain box. The servo lead was about 3 inches too short so I put on a 4 inch extension. For the time being I did not mount the amplifier box. I will do that before I fly it. I set the servo rate too high, and used the end point adjustment in the amplifier to set my servo throws. I checked my servo direction to see if the gyro worked correctly. Everything was good so I mounted the amplifier box so I could see it through the windscreen of the canopy. On to the radio, I keyed in 80% and 20% in gear ATV's in my radio.

I fired it up and took it out for some checking. In normal mode it wanted to swing nose left. It took about 3 clicks of trim to take care of that. I landed and shortened my tailrotor control rod. Now it took about 7 clicks of trim, looks like I went the wrong way landed and lengthened the linkage. Took off and needed about 1 click of trim the other way. Landed and shortened the linkage and it was perfect.

I switched it over to heading hold and out to the picked bean field we went. Hovering the tail was very solid, sideways flight proved to hold very well, backwards flight (if you want to call it that) held as good as I am capable of. I am used to seeing the Raptor 30 in a piro, this thing swings around pretty slow. I increased the ATV's for the rudder to 110%. Still not as quick as the Raptor, took it to 130% and this is a Blur when it piro, reduced it to 120% and it works well. It also stops on a dime and gives me a nickel change. The JR 1000 is a pretty good gyro and it did a good job on this heli, but with the Futaba GY502 on this heli the tail is completely different. Technology is fantastic. Terry

CHUCK ONE UP FOR THE START SHAFT

Raptor start shaft removal

Due to the set screws working loose, I had spun the hex drive adapter on the start shaft several times and ruined the two flats on the start shaft. When I went to replace the start shaft, I found it did not want to come down past the top bearing, due to burrs created from the two set screws on the hex drive. After a few seconds of trying to hold the start shaft on one end and file the burrs off the other end, I became aware that by using this method, my frustration level would go up faster than the burrs would go down. It really seemed like the shaft needed to spin so I could file the burrs off more quickly. It was then that I spotted my trusty electric drill with the hand tightening collet. At first glance it looked as if it wouldn't fit up in the frame far enough to chuck up on the bottom of the start shaft. Lo, and behold, it just fit and in a few moments the

start shaft was spinning and I

was filing away. I did stop to check on progress a few times and realized that if I couldn't get the drill off my chopper, I'd need one heck of an extension cord to go flying. Anyway, the burrs came off, and the shaft came

out of the bearings just fine. Mark Clausen

Email to Steve About Fun Fly

Greetings,

We are looking forward to seeing you down here for our flyin's

LARKS MAYDAY HELI FUNFLY MAY 3-4-5 in SULPHUR, LOUISIANA

LARKS FALL FEST HELI FUNFLY NOV. 1-2-3 in SULPHUR, LOUISIANA

We would like to invite you and your friends down for 3 days of FUN, FOOD and FLYING. This year promises to be the best one yet. We've got everything from ALLIGATOR WRESTLING to RIVERBOAT GAMBLING. The flight line is 1000 ft. long with plenty of blue skies and 7200 sq. ft. of canopy on concrete slab, 38 4x8 tables with electric outlets at each one for the main flight line. There will be a golf cart for bringing pilots up and down the flight line. We have set aside 4 separate acres for setup, hovering, and contests with its own canopy and tables. 6 RV electric hookups plus unlimited RV parking. We will be BARBEQUEING ALL 3 DAYS +++ REAL CAJUN FOOD. OUR CLUB HOUSE IS AIR-CONDITIONED AND HEATED WITH A FULL KITCHEN + 2 INDOOR BATHROOMS AND TELEPHONE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. WE WILL HAVE CONTEST and prizes IN NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE, EXPERT and SCALE PLUS AUTO'S & DRAGRACES. JUST BRING YOUR SELF and WE WILL DO THE REST.

P. S. EARLY ARRIVALS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

MIKE

garhide@aol

funfly info.

www.larksrc.homestead.com

Open Email to Club

Marty,

If I could I'd like to add a thank you to your newsletter.

"I'd like to send a thank you to all the members of the club who generously gave their time in helping me set up my heli at the field. The patience and encouragement shown to me has made all the difference to this novice.

Walking me through the initial set up of the copter itself as well as taking the time to help me learn the set up of the radio made my first experience at flying my new "toy" a worthwhile experience with some limited success in

that I was able to take it home with me and charge up the batteries for the next time.

Thanks again for opening a door for me and accepting the new kid on the block into your organization. I promise that someday, when I have developed some expertise of my own, I will pass it on to a beginner in the way

that you've begun to pass yours to me." Patrick M. Dennis

Editor: Helping and being helped is what makes a club so much fun!! Any of you other people sitting on the side- lines come join our club NOW!!

Club Raffle Update

The Club raffle started at the November meeting, and I think it did quite well. There were about one-third of the tickets sold. I'll be selling them at the December meeting like last month, before, during and after. So think about what you could do with \$500 at Al's Hobby Shop. As I said before, You can also contact me at RTK5812@netzero.net or (708)-499-0155 after 7 P.M. That's all for now.

Ron Kwilinski

Better Ways and Shortcuts

1. Taken from September's 2001 newsletter: At the field does it seem impossible to find anything small you drop under the picnic table in those dark colored wood chips? The trick is to give your eyes a size and color reference to sight in on by dropping the same part in the same area. It works almost every time and, no, you very seldom if ever lose both parts. Neil will corroborate this story!!! This tip will work with any size part in any environment.

1. Are you having trouble with your Futaba Governor Sensor breaking??? I am now on my third governor sensor. Either the two-piece case wants to separate or the mounting arm will crack. My cure: After setting up sensor to your satisfaction try wrapping the top of case and mount with thread and then lightly soaking with CA glue. Try to keep it neat, like the thread wrap on the ring guides on a fine fly rod. So far it has worked well and may have solved the problem. Only time will tell.

Questions and Answers

I am starting to have quite a collection of burnt out OS 32's. I cannot seem to turn off the governor fast enough to keep the engine from going to full RPM with no load on it or other times the engine ingests a whole clutch. Can anyone tell me if it is worthwhile to put new piston and sleeve or new bearings in to make the engine like new??? Also, how can I tell what parts are needed??? Do I have to worry about crankshaft damage??? Will it be cost effective??? Marty

Lost and Found

I found a pair of sunglasses on the weekend of November 17th or thereabout. If you're missing a pair of sunglasses, let me know. I carry them in my flight box. 630-377-1865, Marty

For Sale, Lots of Good Stuff

For Sale: Lite Machine, it has a Sport Piezo Gyro, Hitech radio. New parts include: motor, clutch, tail boom, main blades, main shaft gear, and canopy, pretty much all of it is new. Have extra engine and other parts too. Asking \$500.00 please page or e-mail Jorge

For Sale: 21st Century Toys AH-6 Fuse for sale. It's ready to be bolted on. All you need is plywood, cap nuts, and bolts. It's brand new...never bolted on and never flown. It comes with original box and does have the machine guns and rocket launchers. I did fit it on a Nexus .30 but others have bolted it on Raptors. Asking \$ 50.00 plus shipping. If you're interested, please email me at DaRaceNGuy@aol.com... Rod

For Sale: Concept 30 SRX with OS 30sx engine, Futaba 153 gyro, 5 Jr. servos, like new \$225.00. Brand new 5 Futaba 9202 servos. \$30.00ea., CSM 360 gyro with heading lock \$125.00. OS 60 sfn-h engine \$100.00. Hobbico hot shot glow starter \$10.00, electric fuel pump \$10.00, os#8 glow plugs \$3.00 ea. curved ball link pliers \$15.00, Hobbico torque master 180 starter \$20.00, high point balancer \$15.00, dial indicator with stand \$20.00,

pitch gauges miniature \$15.00. Kalt \$10.00 Don Wittmayer (630) 653-0391

NORTHERN ILLINOIS RC HELICOPTER ASSOC.

AMA CHARTER NO. 2099

We are actively looking for new members to join our Radio Control Helicopter Club. All that is required is an interest in R/C helicopters, field permit, and a \$20 membership fee. Please feel free to join us at one of our meetings to become a member or just for a visit. We hope to see you at the next meeting. Our Club web page is: www.nircha.com and is maintained by Web Guy, Rich Erikson.

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month, at 7:30pm, at John's Pizzeria, 100 E. Lake St., Addison, IL (1/2 block East of the intersection of Addison Rd and Lake St.). During the summer, the monthly meetings are held at the flying field, June, July, and August.

Our Forest Preserve Flying field is located on Grace St., Addison, and one mile north of North Ave. Field permits can be obtained by calling 630-933-7200.

Club Officers

President

Terry King

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Steve Jensen
630-553-6590

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Rich Erikson

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Membership Application/Renewal, Annual Dues \$20

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

AMA No. _____ Frequencies
Used _____

Field Permit No. _____ For permit information call 630-933-720

Membership can be renewed at any meeting or sent directly to our club treasurer, Robb Rinn, 433 Lake Lawn, Aurora, IL 60506. Check should be made out to Northern Illinois R/C Helicopter Assoc. You are the club and the club needs your support! Please renew your membership **NOW!**