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CHOPPER NEWS

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Remember September 11th, 2001

Northern Illinois Radio Control Helicopter Club

One of

The World's Largest R/C Helicopter Clubs

AMA CHARTER NO.2099

October, 2001

Next Club Meeting, 7:30 pm Tuesday, October 9th

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

Editorial

Our fun fly on Saturday was a blast. Terry put together a very smooth running and fun shindig. We were fortunate to have Scott Cathey (Jr. Rep.), Jeff Rankin (Thunder Tiger Rep.), Ross VanDorpe (Miniature Aircraft Rep.), and many other fine fliers who made the day a huge success and what a great show they put on for us. I personally believe they did it all with mirrors. A special thanks goes out to everyone who participated in our fun fly, making it such a great hit!! Terry has built the foundation for even bigger events in the future. More details in President and VP messages.

An award should go to Terry, Steve, Chef Neil (the Intimidator) for making this all come together. You would not believe all of the stuff these guys hauled out to the field and without so much as a whimper.

For those of you who are into statistics, member Steve Krauleidis set a new club record and consumed 5 hamburgers right in front of us, including drinks and chips!! Also I must remember next year to put the condiments down wind from grill instead of me. The Chef had me spend 9 hours in a cloud of grill smoke. A big thanks goes out to Robb Rinn for donating some fresh donuts, which were a big hit with everyone, including the bees.

News Flash!! Unpack your bags!!! It looks like we made a few bucks at our fun fly, and our whole club is

not going to have to go to debtors prison after all.

I am sure all of you have tried my Garlic Potato salad by now. My wife makes me back off the garlic a touch to keep from offending any people within a one block radius of our house. The local HAZMAT people tried to cordon off our block when I made it the first time. Keep in mind fresh garlic will cure anything that ails you.

Remember Safety First. This is yet another example of how pre-planning all of your maneuvers is very important. I am at the stage now of flying inverted across the field with varying degrees of success. A few weeks ago I was doing some of my best stuff and had three members helping me, Dave, Jamie, and my trusty Sidekick. It was early in the morning, and I could see their shadows right beside me as they were giving me advice. On my fourth flight of the day I was getting tired and, also, the wind was a contributing factor blowing straight into the pit area. In hindsight I should have packed it up for the day, but instead I kept on flying. The next thing I knew, I said, "Uh oh, I'm in trouble," and out of the corner of my eye I could see the shadows of my peanut gallery disappear instantly. Arms and legs were flailing, and they were going in all directions bumping into one another and really moving out. (I am not sure, but this whole incident may have been precipitated by a senior moment.) Although it seemed like forever, within a few seconds I had the helicopter fully under control just before it reached the ground. My shadows magically reappeared as if nothing had happened, trying to look relaxed although out of breath. They all looked slightly bloodied with a few thorns and burrs hanging off of their tattered clothing. I believe all three have cat-like reflexes when it comes to running for the hills!!!! This is a good lesson to remember to help us plan the location of our maneuvers, to make allowances for the wind, and never ever fly overhead. Remember, Safety First!!!

While I was picking up parts at Al's Hobby Shop, Cindy asked me to remind everyone that Al's Hobby Shop would like the opportunity to match any mail order prices out there. So before you send your hard earned money off to who knows where give our local long time friends at Al's Hobby Shop a chance to earn your business. Cindy thinks she can meet the prices of any mail order businesses, so get in there and give her the chance to match those prices. Al's has always supported our club with prizes for all of our club functions, like our Fun Fly, Spring fuel buy and in many, many other areas for as long as I can remember. Just to give you an idea of what kind of support Al's gives us, at our recent fun fly Al's donated an LMH Deluxe heli, a TT .36 helicopter motor, and a big pile of shirts. So please make a special effort to stop in and talk to our friends at Al's. I would hate to see the day come when they sell only planes, trains, and automobiles!!!! I don't know about you, but I like to fondle the stuff before I buy!!!!

Last month one flier at our Forest Preserve field received a \$75 fine for not having a field permit and then still had to pay for his \$25 permit. My math is not very good. Will someone please let me know if it is better to buy a permit at the beginning of the year or wait? All kidding aside, it won't be much fun trying to fit in with a group of plank fliers at their field, believe me!!! So get your permit paid the first thing of the New Year!! Don't get me wrong, airplane fliers are great people (some of my best friends fly planes) but they were there first, and we would have to try and go by their rules. Helicopters and planes, as you know, mix like oil and water. When you talk to other fliers from across the country they will tell you how great we have it!! So remember our permit fees are a very good buy, and don't forget to let them know you are a chopper flier and what field you fly at. The forest preserve went out of their way to help by cutting the grass and asking if we needed anything for our fun fly. A future Porta Potty might be nice. Those logs and leaves are a little too rustic for me!!!

We have just added two solid new members to our club, John Spatola from Addison and Kevin Nemeth from Justice. It is great to have both of you on board and part of our team!! I am sure both will add stuff to our newsletter and be a credit to our organization. Marty

President's Message

The Fun Fly was a blast, and those that missed it missed a very good time. The two-day event was condensed to one day, based on the weather forecasts. The weather for Saturday was excellent, and with the events from two days compressed into one the games moved along rather quickly. We tried a limbo using stands and crepe paper. Jeff was our test pilot, and we did not get the bugs worked out of that game so it went the way of the bottle knocking game of last year. The deciding factor was Jeff's helicopter looking like a bicycle wheel on parade day. The main rotor sucked the crepe paper into it and twisted up. Jeff was able to get it on the ground with no damage; I'm not so sure I would have been able to. We tried another new game that I would say was very challenging. It involved 4 hooks that were ½ of a tennis ball and weighted. The object of the game was to pick up all 4 balls and drop them into a painted square on the ground. It involved a lot of concentration and finely controlling your heli 4 to 6 inches off the ground. I was only able to pick up one and, as luck would have it, I ended up using my antenna tube to pick it up, not my skids. I knocked the other 3 over and was unable to get them picked up. I watched one contestant pick one up with his tail boom. I watched another use his heli to set the hook back up after knocking it over, then picking it up. CopterSoccer was more difficult than it looked. The bomb drop was a lot of fun, although, since it was my design, you would think that I should do the best. I would be able to practice; maybe that's what I should do for next year, practice! The Auto was tough with a close 2" winning, and the drag races looked like fun. During the noon demos, which turned out to be more like 1:00 demos, Jeff and Scott showed us what good pilots could do with good machines. This has been a learning experience for me, and I have made a lot of notes to help out next year. We will start planning next year's very soon.

If someone would like to volunteer their Raptor this month I will be happy to do a demo on the WahWah mod that shims the main gear to auto hub. I will bring everything needed except the Raptor.

Soft Landings! Terry

Report from the VP

I see that Terry has reported thoroughly on our fun-fly, and a fun one it was. Terry deserves a great deal of appreciation for putting most of it together and especially for dealing with the DuPage County district rangers and their rules and regulations. A lot of effort went into the event by Terry and also by Chef Neil and Trainee Marty. I've seen and heard of lots of planning to make next year's event even better. Thanks to all who helped and to all who came and participated.

The IRCHA Internationals were held in Muncie on the weekend before our fun-fly. A number of our members represented us; I saw Orval, Mike, Jim and Jeff. The event was "only" a little over 200 pilots, less than half of last year, because of the airline shutdown problems, the late-season date, the changed location, and the fact that the top competition flyers had already been in Muncie for weeks for the world competition and were worn out. Sunday and Monday were very busy days with demo's, night-flight practice, drag racing, spot-landing autorotation event, night fly show, lots of prizes and lots of vendors. A world record attempt at inverted hovering occurred, with over 30 (I heard a number as high as 44) heli's all inverted at the same time. It became a safety hazard and, although T-shirts claimed a record the next day, I think the CD officially claims it never happened. Jim flew well until he had some early bad luck with a servo, and Orval flew well, opening up the night flight show. I have a second-place drag-race plaque coming in the

mail, and I believe Mike competed in the Tuesday scale event. There was a turbine-powered heli that impressed many. I saw one demo where the blades were stopped in-flight intentionally. The Muncie event is being scheduled for a more traditional second week in August next year and should be much better attended. I recommend it highly.

At IRCHA I learned that Ron Lund (Rick's R/C Helicopters) has a very nice constant tail drive available for the Raptor 30. I will be showing it at one of the next meetings. It can also be called a split-gear setup and is great for auto'ing. For a total investment of \$25, I saw it in action and it seems to work great. If you want to see more, go to www.ronlund.com/raptor_constant_tail_drive.htm and www.ronlund.com/jercd_instructions.htm and for a good tutorial on how to do auto's, go to <http://ronlund.com/autos.htm>. One of the good Raptor 30 auto'ers recommended a lower frame stiffener to help protect the frame legs by keeping the stress down at the landing gear (it's cheaper and easier to replace a landing gear than the frame). There's a lot of stiffeners available, both carbon and metal, but www.gr8lakesrc.com has a good \$9 metal one. I'm committed to practicing some intentional autos before the snow flies. I got burned a while back when I aborted an auto at a safe altitude and the head linkage disconnected and there was no control. Just discovered the reason; can't abort safely if you are in idle-up. Must be in Norm. Ron's article covers this and much more. By the way, he won the auto event at IRCHA with a 2.4-inch average error over three landings.

See you at the next meeting at John's.

Club Meeting Minutes from 9/11/01 by Neil Nesheim

The meeting was called to order by Terry at 7:40 PM. There were 14 members present.

The treasurer reported the club balance to be \$176.66 to date.

Terry told us he would be setting up a meeting for our 2002 budget.

He also informed us that our fun-fly had cost a lot of money, due to legalities with the Dupage Forest Preserve and the AMA.

He listed donations received to date being, Subscription Rotary World, Helicopter World, JR hats, Cordless Dremel tool, Thunder tiger 36 and a Lite machine from Al's Hobby Shop.

He also mentioned food at the event would be a donation.

Bob Sadler informed us on a little history of our club and his experiences with preparing for the fun-fly while he was President. He also mentioned some of the ways he used to raise money for the club, signs for fun-fly put up on Thursday to bring in spectators, funfly games designed for spectators, and contact RECA on how to raise money for your club.

Terry asked if anyone had any more suggestions for games, planned games being bomb drop, chopper soccer, drag race. Suggested were weight lifting, triangle pick-up and set down.

Terry mentioned the problem with the website had been resolved. He thanks Kevin Cashman for donating a server for the website and registering our name as NIRCHA.com.

The Crash & Smash Award for August was presented to Ray Capitulo.

Winner of September's Crash & Smash award went to Mark Clausen.

Demo for tonight was ideas for training gear. Terry brought in and explained several different types. Roto pods, noodles, and hula-hoops.

Pizza was had and the club raffle was held.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Event Winners

Autorotation Contest: **1st** Jim Stark 2" from mainshaft to pin

2nd Jeff Rankin 5-1/4" from mainshaft to pin

Copter Soccer: **1st** Jeff Rankin 29.37 sec

2nd Scott Cathey 33.31 sec

Pick-up Hooks **1st** Scott Cathey 4 hooks in 1min. 49 sec.

2nd Mike Hollingsworth 4 hooks in 3 min. 02 sec.

Under 60 Drags **1st** Neil Nesheim

2nd Orval Abney

60 & Over Drags **1st** Jeff Rankin

2nd Kevin Nemeth

Bomb Drop **1st** Scott Cathey 120 pts (New Club Record)

5 way tie for **2nd** Jeff Rankin 100 pts

Neil Nesheim 100 pts

Steve Jensen 100 pts

Marty Davis 100 pts

Dave Mosquera 100pts

Many Thanks to Our Sponsors, Their generosity helped make our Fall Fun Fly a success.

Al's Hobby Shop

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Tower Hobbies

Special thanks are in order for Scott Cathey (JR Rep), Jeff Rankin (ThunderTiger Rep) and Ross VanDorpe (Miniature Aircraft Rep). Scott and Jeff both showed us what their Helicopters were capable of in their very experienced hands. Ross was "on call" this weekend and unfortunately he got the call and had to leave. Ross was scheduled to fly a demo also.

Thanks are also in order for Steve Jensen, Neil Nesheim, Marty Davis, and Robb Rinn. They all worked very hard to make this event fun and tasty!

Thanks again to all. Terry

Better Ways or Shortcuts

A great way to lock your piston while you tighten crankshaft nut is to thread nylon cord or small rope through glow plug hole. This will cushion the piston and not cause any damage.

Our Web Site

Rich wanted me to give you our new web site, www.nircha.com and to thank Kevin Cashman for all of his great help and time with our site's new address.

A Note From Our Web Guy: Hey Marty...Please remind everyone that the new web address is www.nircha.com

Also, any digital pictures can be emailed to me so I can use them in the site at midwestpilot@yahoo.com . I am thinking maybe someone will have snapped a few at our event. The web guy...Rich

Event Calendar

As of 9/24 our St. Charles Krispy Kremes was up and running!! We will be having a club get together on the morning of January 1st, 2002. I will be bringing the donuts and maybe the coffee. I know I am a little early with this but that is just my nature. (My wife will attest to this.) It would be nice to know who is coming. Last year three of us had to eat all 24 of the donuts that Neil purchased!!! I want to see at least 6 members this year. Greg Reed, where are you?

For Sale - Lots of Good Stuff

For Sale: Kyosho Nexus 30 S, (less motor, radio, receiver, and servos) Helimax Aluminum Cooling Fan, Aluminum Mixing Levers, 2 oz. Header Tank, Upgraded swash plate, Helimax Micro Piezo Gyro. Spare parts included: Boom, (2) “new” tail rotor case, (3) spare drive wire, “new” drive wire inserts, extra landing gears, feathering shaft, main shaft, fly bar, fly bar paddles, new and used fins, rotor blades,

insert nuts, new and used swash plates, ball links, etc... Heli is in excellent condition. Has about 1/2 dozen flights. Had (1) boom strike, everything damaged replaced with "new" parts. Asking \$ 175.00 plus shipping. If interested, please email me at DaRaceNGuy@aol.com. Rod

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

Pg.(708) 378-1351 e-mail jrealty@juno.com

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 1 53 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 torqmaster 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.

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