

Silver Lining

Spring 2006
Published Quarterly

*Official Newsletter of the Holly Cloud Hoppers
Radio Control Flying Club
AMA Charter #3117*



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www.hollycloudhoppers.org

Flying Field GPS location N42 48.596 W83 34.642

Be Safe, Have Fun and Don't Have Too Many Rules!

Online Edition

From the Editor

Scott Rhoades



A few of you may recall by my prior ramblings, I was the very first *HCH* newsletter editor. Beginning in 1991 thru 1994 a total of seven “unofficial” newsletters were published by yours truly. Trust me, being the first editor is not a source of pride, and if you've read any of them you understand why. Even though I thought I had kept a copy of them all, for some strange reason I cannot find a single one. Very likely my wife got them out of the house before our kids were permanently damaged with hazardous material. I did hear a rumor though that the U.S. Military made hundreds of thousands of copies of the very first newsletter to drop on Iraqi troops during Desert Storm.

Through conversations with Larry Pittman, I discovered he actually had a copy of every *HCH* newsletter ever printed, including the ones I had done. My first reaction was, OH THE HUMANITY! *I believe we have Larry's predecessor, Jeff Lambert, to thank for that.* With disregard of the risk involved, Larry was kind enough to pull those seven (*coughing to clear throat*) “newsletters” from isolation and bring them to the meeting in February.

Handling them as if they were the Dead Sea Scrolls, I took them home to scan into my computer. Of course reading was a prerequisite of the copy process. Each one was certainly a stroll down memory lane and a rather amusing one at that. Even though the very first one could be read in less than two minutes, it had me reliving the past for about an hour. I remember putting together and printing about a dozen copies of the single page letter to pass out at our first “official” club meeting. The very first factoid I made sure to point out in that newsletter was that I had never seen a flying club newsletter, and certainly never done anything like it before. Not only did the single

page letter reveal very rough (and I do mean rough) editorial skills, it also clearly illustrates just how primitive the newly formed Holly Cloud Hoppers actually were.

One example of this is an article regarding a plan hatched between then president Ken Kliewer, vice president Harvey Borchert and myself. It was a request of donations for a very worthy cause... weed killer. Boy, the memories that brings up. Our intent was to eliminate a nuisance weed that Harvey had coined as zingers. A zinger is a single stem weeds that grows to about 8 -10” high, looking much like a miniature, green, stalk of wheat. These buggers seemed to magically reappear or “zing” back, after mercilessly being mowed down the previous day. To my knowledge, a bumper crop of zingers never kept anybody from using the airfield but what a mess it left on a plane after being shredded by a Master Airscrew weed whacker. It was not uncommon to get a zinger or two twisted around your landing gear axles. It was time to “de-weed” when the only taxi maneuver your plane was capable of was a doughnut.

That wasn't the only plea for donations in that first issue. In another single paragraph column, I asked folks to help reimburse something slightly more important than field maintenance; the \$40 that had been recently spent by Jeff for the AMA club sanctioning.

What has got to be the biggest news of that so called newsletter is a thank you to those that had a hand in removing Big Bertha. Big Bertha was, as I wrote; “*An intimidating giant whose large leafy green arms succeeded in grabbing many an unsuspecting modeler's pride and joy*”. Bet that really conjures up some images? If you're picturing Bertha as a rather rotund woman that lived near the field, you would be slightly mistaken. Actually she was a lone, humongous tree that stood due south of the flight line.

To look at that, electric typewriter created, newsletter after all these years and compare it to what I'm able to produce now, with the help of a very cool publishing program, is just down right comical. It's also amusing to consider how un-club like we actually were. I don't remember when dues were started but at least the first year there were none. What few operating costs there were was covered by cash out of a few pockets on an as

On the Cover:

Another one of Don Campbell's planes being flown at his Memorial, August 7, 2005

The grainy photo quality is the fault of the editor from cropping and blowing the image up too much.

Photo by:

John Verran of Pine Ridge Productions
248-634-4672

Events Calendar

May 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

HCH dates

Events around the area

Skymasters Float Fly	Seven Lakes Sate Park, Holly MI	May 20 9:30 am
HobbyTown Demo Day	HCH Flying Field <i>See Misc. news for info</i>	June 3 10:00 am
Flint Area Inter-Club Fun Fly	Flying Aces Field <i>See Misc. news for info</i>	June 10 11:00 am
Fun Fly	HCH Flying Field	June 17 10:00 am
AMA District VII Fly-In	Radio Control Club of Detroit www.rccd.org	July 29 - 30 10:00 am
Open House	HCH Flying Field	August 5 12:00 pm
Last Bash Potluck	HCH Flying Field	Sept. 23 4:00 pm

◀ 2 Editor:

need basis. To have become a member, one just needed to be an AMA member and have a willingness to call yourself a clodhopper.... I mean CLOUD Hopper.

Subsequent newsletters did gradually improve; in fact the third issue was actually expanded to both sides of the paper... Two pages... wooooooo. The sixth issue is the one that marked a major a turning point in HCH publishing history. That was the first one produced with the aid of a computer. It's also the first time I spelled Unofficial correctly. All hail spell checkers!

The evening spent reliving the past with those seven newsletters was entertaining. Probably not surprising to many, I found only one instance where there was a

semblance of actual club news. Well it's not like we needed the newsletter for information distribution. The club held no events and what little info there was, was passed along when nearly 100% of the membership regularly congregated on a nice Sunday afternoon.

My philosophy with the newsletter back then pretty much holds true today; entertain and provide information that makes us all better and safer modelers. Most of those old articles were written with an edge that I've long forgotten about. Maybe it's older age that's mellowed my style. However, I think with a little spit and polish some could be resurrected. Consider this your one and only warning. †

Secretary/Treasurer News

Larry Pittman

Since I will be hand over my duties as Secretary/Treasurer to a successor at the end of this year it was suggested to publish a list of duties that I perform for the club. This way those interested in making a bid for the job will know what's involved. I haven't attempted to distinguish between the duties of Secretary vs. those of the Treasurer. They've always been combined within the club. We talked about officially combining them a few years ago, but elected not to in case a situation came along where someone was willing to do one job, but not the other.

Some of the Files that I Use / Maintain

- Roster File
- Dues File
- Expenses file
- File for business cards
- File for Field cards
- Address files for envelopes and post cards
- Other files to support the above

I maintain the financial records with Quicken. The club has a savings account at The State Bank where most funds are deposited. However, I also maintain a certain amount of cash with the amount on hand varying with upcoming events. I currently purchase money orders for every payment that requires a check. I haven't looked into it, but it might be cheaper to open a checking account.

Documents processed yearly

AMA Club Charter package is usually received in early February.

Immediately after the club meeting in late February, the appropriate forms are returned to AMA with payment for re-chartering. In addition to the charter form, there is an insurance form which we pay for to document for the state of Michigan that we have insurance while using their land. There is also a form for new officers for the year that is filled out and returned at the same time.

Insurance Forms for Events. We normally get special insurance certificates for Crossroads Village and the Open House (and the Inter Club Fun Fly). However, Ed has handled getting these in the past.

DNR Lease Contract updated version received in March.

This must be signed and notarized. It is returned with payment as well as the AMA insurance form & a copy of the club charter. Note that this can't be done until the updated documents are received from AMA. The contract comes from the DNR district site, but the check is sent to the Holly DNR office.

Non-profit form received from State in September / October. This is for our non-profit status and is simply filled out and returned with payment.

Membership forms are received as part of the AMA Club Charter package. These are used to add or delete members from the club so that AMA has an accurate record. I fill these out and return one of these forms two or three times per year, depending on what's going on with the club membership.

Club Events

I send out both an email reminder and a postcard so that all members receive a reminder of upcoming events. I try to do this about a week ahead of the event. This includes the Chili Fry, Club Meeting, Work Party, Crossroads Village, Fun Fly, Open House, and Last Bash.

It varies by the item(s) involved but I pay for event expenses either before or after the event as required.

Also only for the Open House:

I put a flyer together that goes to Hobby Shops and the DNR. Frank usually does this for me.

I also write a newspaper article for the local Tri-County Times. That seems to have the most impact. I usually send one to the Flint Journal, too, but they may or may not run it.

Club Membership

This is ongoing through most of the year between renewals and new members. Most of the activity occurs in the January through April time frame.

Late in the previous year or early in the current year, I run off the new membership cards so I have them available. I also run off stickers that go on the back of the Field Cards. That way, I only have to print membership cards and Field cards for new members.

I have three ways I use to check AMA membership. The best way, of course, is to see the card itself from the member. Secondly, I receive a listing from AMA each year as part of the club charter package that contains the status of member renewals. Lastly, I check AMA's web site. I use this last one a lot due to the number of mail renewals I get.

Early in the year, I make a large purchase of State Park Stickers for general membership renewals and so I'll have them on hand for the annual meeting. I try to buy around 30 or so depending on what we have in the club treasury. I'll make additional purchases as required when I run out of the original buy. Frank has made the trip to the DNR office the last couple of years.

► Duties, 5

◀ Duties, 4

New members tend to be in the April through August time frame although there's often some at the club meeting and some that join after most of the flying season is over.

Each new member receives a current club card, a new field card with explanation on its use, a copy of the latest roster, a copy of the club's bylaws and, at some point, a club hat.

I'm continually updating the roster & dues files as members renew, join, drop, etc. I try to post a copy of the club roster at the field several times during the flying season. I also sometimes get requests for updated copies from club members. I also send a copy to Scott Rhoades prior to publication of each newsletter so he knows who does and doesn't have emails so he knows who to send hard copies to.

In about mid-March I send out email and postcard reminders to everyone that was in the club last year who hasn't yet renewed. I always mention the \$15 late fee for an after April 15th renewal in this note, too. Since we implemented that a couple of years ago, it seems to have helped with some of the stragglers.

Club Meeting

If there are any changes to the bylaws that are to be discussed at the meeting, I have to get a copy of the proposed change out to the membership prior to the meeting. Again this is done via both email and postcard or letter. This advance notification is required in the bylaws.

At the meeting: assist the president as required, collect dues for renewals and new members.

Have the previous year's financial results completed and review at the meeting. This is also posted to the web and also goes in the next hard copy version of the newsletter. (We leave it out of the online version due to concerns of making the info known outside of the club. The logic is that a member who can access the online version of the newsletter can get to the members page and see the financial results there.)

Record the minutes of the meeting and post them to the web afterwards. They also go in the next newsletter.

Misc / Other

We occasionally have to replenish club hats. Frank got them for me last time. I'm currently selling them for \$7 each which was based on the cost for the last purchase. As I mentioned above, one also goes to each new member, but I'm usually way behind in getting members their hats since I don't take them with me everywhere and only give them out when I see the new member.

Scott typically puts out a newsletter every three months and he gets me a copy to publish to the web and then I send out an email to let members know it's out there. He also lets me know later what his cost is.

During flying season, reimburse club members for gas purchases or any equipment maintenance or repair.

Sometimes have to generate a letter for the club, but this doesn't come up too often.

The web page provider is currently paid every three months. There's also a bill for the domain name although I think I paid for two years last time so we're good until 2008.

I've probably missed some details, but that's most of it. †

Misc News

By Scott Rhoades

The Flying Aces of Swartz Creek are busy putting together an inter-club event that will include clubs of the Flint area. Unlike the other inter-club event we were associated with, this one is not competitive and will be only once a year. What is similar though is that each club will take a turn at hosting. The last we heard the *HCH* was one of five clubs that have shown interest with more likely to come. Your club officers have agreed that just five clubs is a lot of people and our parking may not be sufficient. The organizers of this event understand that our club will evaluate hosting abilities after attending the inaugural event. This event is scheduled for June 10 11:00 am at the Flying Aces field. Their field is located on Corunna Rd. about a ¼ mile west of Elms Rd. and all *HCH* members are welcome to attend. The competitive inter-club fun fly between the *HCH*, *PMAC*, and *Skymasters* is currently in limbo. Keep checking the *HCH* web site for info.

We will be loaning our field to HobbyTown of Grand Blanc for a demo day. The demo day is intended demonstrate various R/C products to the public and modelers. Products such as helicopters, and various types of planes will be on hand. Owner David Hayes would like to give non modelers that have an interest in flying some buddy box time. Club officers are asking Cloud Hopper members to participate as instructors, help answer questions, promote the sport and of course the club. The demo day is scheduled for June 3 between 10:00 and 2:00

Frank Robinson still has tickets for the airplane and equipment raffle. If you can lend a hand in selling a few tickets be sure to contact him at 810-629-3963 or email at lfrobin@aol.com For those that did take tickets to sell, remember you need to get the stubs and money turned in before the open house August 5th 2006. †

Frequency Control and Impounding

by Scott Rhoades

In the spring of 2003, the *HCH* underwent an overhaul in the way frequencies are controlled at the flying field. What prompted a need for change is the fact that frequency mishaps were occurring much too often. A new impound station was incorporated at the same time since the old one was severely weathered and the club had outgrown the original design. There was ample skepticism as to how much effect a change in control systems would have since frequency control had become lax. When the new system was put into service, widespread adoption was swift and greatly exceeded expectations. I'm also very happy to report as we enter the fourth year, many members have remained adamant about reserving frequencies and impounding transmitters. A round of applause for everyone!

With radio technology advancing quickly, frequency control will sooner or later become a memory. Until that happens, effective frequency sharing will remain one of the top safety concerns of any flying club. To keep frequency control successful, a refresher of the rules and showing where habits must improve is periodically necessary. So I'm asking everyone to take a moment to read over established *HCH* frequency control and impounding procedures.

Before turning on the power on of a transmitter or removing it from the impound

1. Take the numbered pin corresponding to the transmitter frequency and clip it to the transmitter.

*** If you are using a transmitter capable of changing frequencies, double check to confirm the frequency setting!**

2. Place your *HCH* membership field card in the corresponding slot, in front of the pin holder bar.

*** Guest shall use their AMA membership card. No proof of AMA, no flying!**

3. If the frequency is being used, you may place your card behind the bar to reserve it. This is an effective method for sharing frequency use and is the only time a card should be placed in this area. *This procedure does not permit a flyer to remove the transmitter from impound (unless leaving for the day) or turn on the power.*

When done using the frequency

1. Make sure the transmitter's power is off!

2. Place the transmitter in the impound.

3. Remove your membership card from the slot and return the frequency pin.

General rules of frequency control

No Tx shall be turned on anywhere within the vicinity of the flying field without the correct frequency pin attached!

ALL TRANSMITTERS MUST BE IMPOUNDED!

No one shall claim a frequency for no longer than 15 minutes at a time.

Even though we have an extremely low record of frequency mishaps over the past three years, some conflicting routines have developed that jeopardize future success. Here are some observed practices that are inconsistent with what has become standard operating procedure of the majority.

Frequency pins being removed without a membership card being placed in the corresponding slot.

Putting a membership card in the place of the pin is an important element for creating a smooth flow of frequency sharing. Regardless of how busy the field may be, you must identify yourself as the holder of a frequency when you take a frequency pin.

► **Frequency Control, 7**

◀ 6 Frequency Control

Membership cards being placed behind the bar when removing a pin.

Placing your membership card in front of the bar (as shown in the picture) has a dual purpose! One: It distinguishes who is actually using the frequency (in front) from someone who is waiting to use it (behind). Two: Since the pin cannot be put back without removing the card, it greatly reduces the odds that a member will forget to take it at the end of the day. Some know too well that cards have been forgotten.

Not removing a membership card when the pin is returned.

Not only are a few members consistently putting their card behind the bar when it should go in front, but this area has become a card storage between flights as well. This causes members to search out another to make sure they are not jumping ahead in line because someone's card was left in the "waiting position". Be courteous and put your card in your pocket or with your Tx, in between flights.

Trainer TX's (AKA Buddy Boxes) not being impounded.

It is understood some buddy boxes are disabled from broadcasting. However, having any Tx sitting out of the impound, without a pin makes monitoring frequency control participation very difficult. Impound everything, no exceptions!

Some of you may be thinking the issues listed above are minor and have little effect regarding frequency control. Please keep in mind that a lot of thought and research went into the current frequency board. It's designed to provide more information than just what frequencies are being used and who owns it. When conflicting routines develop in the use of a single system, the likelihood of failure vastly increases. Everybody using the frequency board faithfully and exactly the same way is the only way to accomplish the number one goal... Totally eliminating frequency mishaps! †



▲ The HCH's take-a-pin frequency control and impound



▲ This picture of the frequency board shows the proper placement of a membership card in front of the bar.

<h1 style="color: red; font-family: cursive;">HobbyTown USA®</h1> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">www.htugrandblanc.com</p>	
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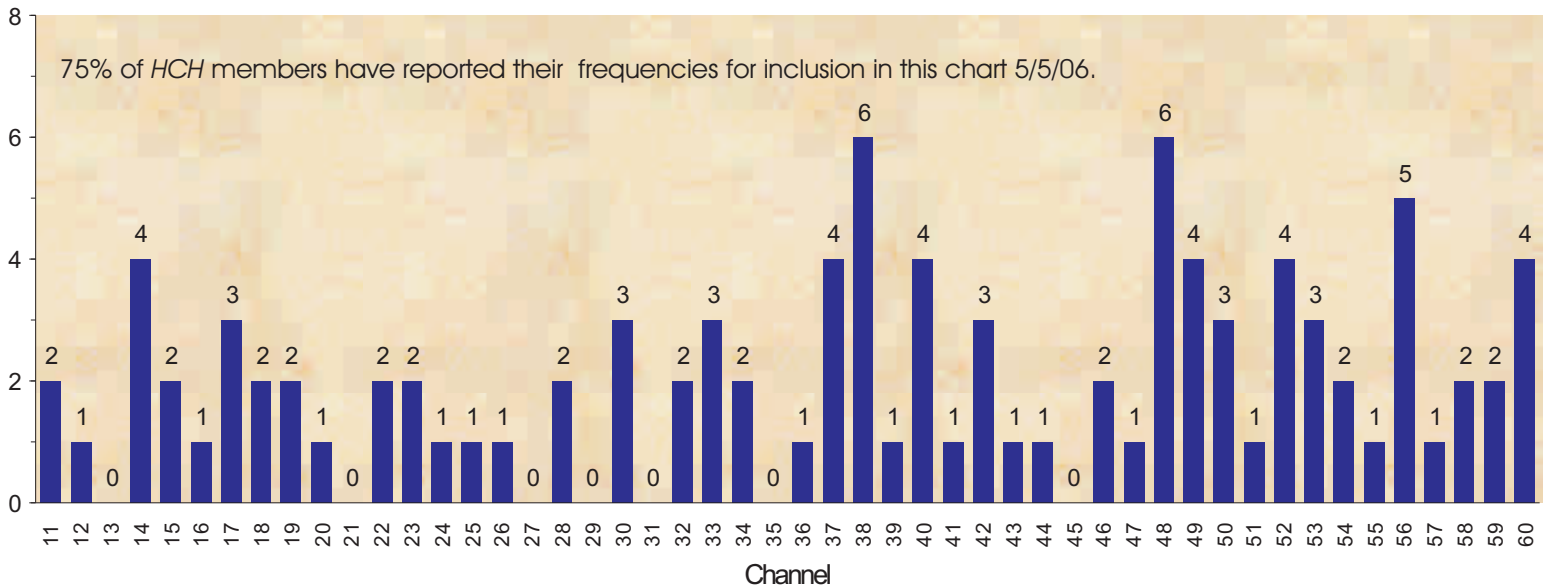
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Frequency Distribution



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