

Silver Lining

Winter 2007
Published Quarterly

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



CAUTION
LOW FLYING MODEL AIRCRAFT
PLEASE BEAR TO THE LEFT

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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



One thing I've noticed over the years is that many modelers also have other hobbies or interests. For example, I've known modelers that have a classic auto or two and more than a couple guys really enjoy golfing. I'm no different; in fact there are just not enough days in a weekend. When the weather is perfect for flying airplanes, it's also perfect for enjoying other hobbies too. Life is so tough sometimes.

Some of us have hobbies that fit quite nicely with R/C. I don't do this but I think stunt kite flying would be nice complement to R/C flying. A hobby that I enjoy fits well with R/C is hunting. No, it's not because both hobbies sometimes involve a great deal of searching in the woods. As the weather turns cooler and flying season is wrapping up, hunting season is just getting in full swing. Even though a change in tree colors signals a switch in which pastime is my favorite, R/C never really gets totally pushed aside. I'll take modeling magazines into the woods to read or will stay in and work on planes when I don't think deer are moving. As a matter of fact, I place total blame on R/C Report for causing me to miss a great opportunity on a buck this last season. I'm sitting in my stand reading R/C Report looking up occasionally to survey the trails. I'm well into an article and as I turn the page there is a commotion behind me. I snapped my head up just in time to see a buck at 15 yards, looking more surprised than me, turn and run off. Dang!

I like outdoor magazines too but I don't do the opposite and read them when I'm at the flying field,

but I do read them. One time I was reading a hunting publication that had a feature about deer habits. In the middle of the article I read "*investigators monitored the activities of 52 radio-controlled adult female deer...*" I did an immediate mental double take... Radio-controlled deer? Re-reading the last part of that sentence I realize it actually said "radio-COLLARED". Had to laugh at how my brain saw the word "controlled" and for a split second I actually had a vision of myself sitting in my tree stand with a transmitter, steering deer right into shooting range. To think about it, that combo wouldn't interest me, deer don't fly. Now a radio controlled golf ball...*that* would be the absolute perfect marriage of hobbies.

I found an excellent website recently, a surface weather forecast for aviators. Not only is the three-day forecast displayed in a colorful, easy to decipher, format, but so far the bugger is proving pretty darn accurate. The one feature that I bet will make you put this in your "favorites" like I did and use it to plan all of your trips to the flying field, is the wind forecast. Here is a link to the site and it should take you right to the Flint forecast. www.usairnet.com Changing the location is pretty easy to do, if you wish. Check it out.

The picture to the right was forwarded to me by Jeff Lambert. This whimsical character is Crash Gordon. The Arizona Radio Control Society presents him at their annual banquet to the member with the most crashes for the year. Hmmm, who would be our Crash Gordon recipient? Maybe our Vice President would know. †



On the Cover:

The Kona R/C Flyers flying field
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

See *Flying R/C in Paradise* Pg. 6

Photo by Scott Rhoades

Misc News

By Scott Rhoades

- **IMPORTANT:** The combination on the locks at the field will be changed at the spring work party! For those reading this issue online, you will need to log into the Members Only section of the website to get the new code. This is also where you can read the minutes of the February 25th meeting and get the 2006 Financial Report. <http://hollycloudhoppers.org/members.html> For those that got this issue in the mail, all that info is on the supplemental page you got.
- Some of you are aware of an alleged incident that happened at another club and has put their flying field in jeopardy. A full scale pilot reported that shortly after taking off from an airport, an R/C airplane flew straight up in front of and over his aircraft. This club has been very proactive, making drastic changes as a demonstration to the DNR (their leaseholder) and the airport commission that such incidents will never happen in the future. With flying space getting harder to find these days, we wish them well in their struggle to keep the field.

The purpose in relaying this story to you is to point out that no club is immune to such incidents. The message from *HCH* club officers is simply stay away from ALL aircraft. PERIOD! The use of spotters is vital to this effort. When necessary, a spotter will announce "Full scale aircraft to the (Appropriate direction such as north, northwest, etc)". At that time, all flyers must bring their aircraft down to just above treetop level and remain there until an all clear is given. No pilot shall take off during this period. In some cases a spotter can determine that it is necessary to ground all planes. When such a call is given everyone flying will immediately comply.

Eric Horton, owner of Balloon Quest on Grange Hall Rd. in Holly, has said he and his pilots are very familiar with our flying field and have used our runway to land on a couple occasions. Since ideal weather conditions are the same for ballooning as they are for R/C, the likelihood of balloons of coming within our airspace has been and will continue to be very good. If the balloon pilot has selected our field as his landing target, a chase crew typically precedes the balloon by several minutes to survey the area. By this point no member should have to be asked to ground their plane.
- The Field Prep Party has been scheduled for Saturday April 21 at 10:00 am. The main objective this year will be controlling the Russian Autumn Olive bushes that have a very good foothold around our flying field and encroaching fast. The name of this invasive plant may not be familiar to you but a past run in with it certainly will be. This bush grows up to 20' high and has vicious thorns about 1.5" long. Is that cursing I hear? So that must mean most of you know what bush we're talking about. If its growth around the field is not managed now, in just a couple years we'll have problem that cannot be ignored and an enormous task at hand. Members are asked to bring chain saws or even weed trimmers with blade attachments for cutting heavy brush to the work party. Heavy leather work gloves are also a necessity. Unfortunately cutting down this bush to a stump is just a very short term solution. This plant starts to grow back within a couple weeks and twice as nasty too. An aggressive herbicide applied directly to the freshly cut stump is the solution for that. So we'll also need a few tank sprayers to apply the herbicide being bought specifically for this purpose. Several guys will be needed to make a coordinated effort toward this adjective. Don't forget this work party is also when we hold the annual Tailgate Swap Meet. If you have something to sell, be sure to bring it.
- The past couple months have been very exciting for R/C modelers with the introduction of 2.4 GHz spread spectrum technology. For those unfamiliar with this technology, it basically means conflicts with other transmitters are virtually eliminated. Without question, this is the biggest advancement R/C has seen since proportional control. The death of the frequency board is in sight but it's not coming real soon. We expect some members to convert to 2.4 GHz right away but the majority will not for a while. This means frequency control will remain a top safety issue at the field. A decision has been made by the *HCH* board that those using this new frequency will still be required to impound transmitters and pull and frequency pin as if it were a 72 MHz radio. The reason for this is multifold but for the most part it's to keep the management of 72 MHz successful by providing total continuity by removing any confusion. As you read this, accommodations are being made to expand the frequency board to include a few slots and pins for 2.4 GHz.
- Tory Showek and Frank Robinson are donating a plane and radio gear for yet another raffle to be drawn at the Open House. Just like last year, 400 tickets will be printed for members to sell. Be sure to get some to sell for the club.

► Misc. News, 4

◀ 3 Misc. News

- For new members or even old timers feeling left out, be sure to get the latest *HCH* swag. A local embroiderer has two cool *HCH* logos that they will put on anything you wish. To get a hat, shirt, sweatshirt or whatever, call Blackhorse Enterprises in Hartland at **810-750-9315** To order. †



Events Calendar

March 2007

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

April 2007

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					

May 2007

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 2007

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 2007

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 2007

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

* 2007 <i>HCH</i> Membership dues due to avoid late fee			April 15 th
Toledo R/C Exposition	Seagate Center, Toledo OH		April 13,14,15
<i>HCH</i> Field Prep Party	<i>HCH</i> Club Field.	10:00 am	April 21 st
Bald Mountain Float Fly	Skymasters, Bald Mountain Rec. Area, Trout lake.	10:00 am	May 20 th
Giant Scale Fly In	Pontiac Miniature Aircraft Club	11:00 - 5:00	June 10 th
Club Fun Fly	<i>HCH</i> Club Field	10:00 am	June 16 th
Fathers Day Airshow	Flint Aero Club, Baker Field		June 17 th
Mid Michigan Fun Fly Directions	Frankenmuth Aeromodelers	11:00 - 5:00	June 25 th
<i>HCH</i> Open House	<i>HCH</i> Club Field	12:00 am	August 4 th
Big Bird Fun Fly	Flint Aero Club, Baker Field		August 4-5 th

Flying R/C In Paradise

By Scott Rhoades

Aloha E Kono Mai

Whenever I go on vacation, I like to visit the local R/C flying field at our destination. Not sure why, never take anything to fly. Guess it's just curiosity to see what type of facilities other clubs have and to get a taste of the local R/C flavor. When our family planned a trip recently, meeting local modelers was again high on my agenda. This task should be straightforward because I had heard a flying club operated just a few miles away from where we would be staying.

This was to be a special vacation, taking us back to a place that we once called home. Even though we would not be staying very close to our old stomping grounds, we still would have a chance to see friends and visit many of our favorite places. This place that is very near and dear to us is Hawaii.

Visitors to Hawaii often choose to tour more than one island during their stay. We, however, would forego island hopping this time and spend our entire two-week vacation on the island most familiar to us, the Big Island. When it comes to the "Big Island" we've discovered over the years that many people, only slightly familiar with Hawaii, are a little confused with that designation. A popular assumption is that since it's nicknamed "The Big Island", it must be the main island where well known places such as Waikiki Beach, Pearl Harbor and the state's capitol, Honolulu are located. Nope! All those places are on another island, Oahu. What really adds to the confusion is that the Big Island's proper name is the same as the entire state; Hawaii.

It was about nine years ago when I learned of the flying club I would be looking up. I can thank a group of guys, flying

combat gliders off an ocean side cliff near Naalehu for giving me the scoop on Big Island R/C activities. Finding this club's flying site is rather easy; finding someone actually flying there has been another story. I've made countless trips to the "field" over the years and haven't ever seen a single modeler.

Shortly after our arrival on the island, stopping at the same ole location once again did not reveal any modelers. Now I was wondering if the club still existed or even if they flew at the same location. A quick stop into the local hobby shop would certainly uncover the info I needed and a search on the net prior to leaving Michigan did show one shop on the island. Unfortunately it's in Hilo, opposite side of the island from where we staying. I wasn't sure when or even if we were going to Hilo.

A day or two into our vacation a glimmer of hope of getting local R/C info did present itself. While driving I spotted a sign that said "Art & Craft Supply, Hobby Shop". However since "Hobby Shop" was preceded with "Art and Craft", I was very pessimistic, that their idea of a hobby shop would not agree with mine. It took a few more days and a couple more trips past this shop before I decided to take the detour, stop at the shop and just get the disappointment over with. Being certain this was going to be a very quick stop, I left the rental car running while the family waited. ► **Paradise , 6**



A typical Sunday morning on the flight line in Kona.

◀ 5 Paradise

Just one step in the door revealed they did indeed agree with my idea of a hobby shop. Planes hung from the ceiling and there was a nice allotment of R/C goodies. Think there was other merchandise too like crafty stuff, just don't remember seeing it. My wife calls it tunnel vision, I call it a gift.

After briefly checking out the R/C department a quick exit was necessary before natural reflexes took over and I bought something. Walking to the counter a gentleman greeted me, asking if I needed help. "Boy, if he only knew", I thought. As it turned out, this gentleman, David Staley, is one of Tiloi Creative Center's owners. David told me the store had been open for less than a year, which explained why I did not know of its existence. Soon enough we were talking about my purpose for even pulling in his parking lot, the Kona flying club and when members fly! Another stroke of luck, as it turned out, David is a very active member in the club and extended a gracious invitation to me to visit during the next flying session. Jackpot!

Kona R/C Flyers consist of roughly 40 members and have been flying at the Old Kona Airport for a few decades. After the airport closed back in 1970, the state of Hawaii turned it into a beach park, now called Old Kona Airport State Recreation Area (Obviously a government official making big money made-up that name). Much of the old asphalt runway still exists where it closely parallels ocean shoreline. Even though a white sand beach runs a reasonable length of the park, lava

rock makes swimming there treacherous.

Entrance to the park is at the south end of the old airport, where most of the amenities such as athletic fields are. The old terminal building still exists and serves as a pavilion for small concerts and private functions. Driving toward the other end of the park, the old runway now serves as a very wide roadway where parking is unlimited on both sides. Picnickers and sunbathers park at the beach on one side, while walkers and joggers utilize the other. At the very far end of the runway, about a mile from the entrance, there are more park amenities and this is where aeromodeler's gather.

The flying club, unfortunately, does not have exclusive rights to any section of the park. If a visitor arrives at the wrong time looking for R/C planes and helicopters, all they are going to find is patch of newer asphalt put down by the club and maybe some kids hanging out, sitting on car hoods and truck tailgates. (A sight that I was all too familiar with) To turn this area into a bonafide flying field, club members section off a wide area with signs and orange traffic cones to reroute vehicle and foot traffic. Once the flight line is established, the Pacific Ocean looms just yards behind, while a near treeless landscape provides a vast flying area with vistas of the volcano Hualalai. Even though this volcano last erupted about 200 years ago it is still considered active. When all flying is done for the day, club equipment such as traffic cones, frequency board, and the windsock are gathered and locked in a shed at the other end of the park.



The beach just a few yards behind the flight line.

A lot of people are familiar with the Kona name. Many link it to the world renowned coffee that's grown there. Growing coffee isn't the only thing the Kona district is ideal for. In my opinion, it's also perfect for flying R/C planes, period. Located on the leeward side of the island in the shadows towering mountains, this area is blessed with exceptionally predictable weather all year. Rarely do daytime conditions ever stray from a light ocean breeze, partly cloudy skies and temps in the 80's. Now before you start packing a few essentials to live on the beach and do nothing but fly R/C while sipping drinks with tiny umbrellas, you must know there is one drawback this R/C Utopia... And no it's not that the park's beach is not a nude beach, that by the way is further up the coast. The drawback is that flying is allowed only on Thursday and Sunday mornings between 7:00 and 11:00am, per the clubs agreement with the state.

► Paradise , 7

◀ 6 Paradise

When I first heard this I thought it was way too restrictive, again I'm not talking about the beach. Of the members I had talked with, they had not given the limited flying much thought nor knew how the agreement had been originally arranged. This "no problem" attitude is just a reflection of island lifestyle. Once I started to ponder the situation and compare it to what I have to deal with back home, it quickly sounded pretty good. Put me in Kona where a modeler knows with a high degree of certainty, that the weather will be ideal for any designated day of flying. I'll quickly trade seven days of a Michigan crap shoot for two mornings of almost guaranteed flying.

The Kona R/C Flyers are not much different than the HCH. It still takes a brain trust of five members to analyze why an engine will not idle right. Parts get pulled from many flight boxes to get a fellow modeler's plane in the air and talking far exceeds flying time. The topics, however, can be quite different from what I'm accustomed to for flight line talk. For example, I was sitting with two gentlemen that talked about their younger days and old surf spots when they were stationed on Oahu.

I did witness a couple demonstrations of how the laws of both Newton and Murphy are just as much a factor in paradise as they are on the mainland. However off field landings in Kona are anything but paradise for a model airplane. Beyond the old asphalt runway lies an unforgiving jagged lava rock that the Hawaiians call

Ah'ah. (My belief is it was given that name when they walked across it barefoot).

Our flight back home was on a Monday, which of course meant one last opportunity to hang out at the flying field on Sunday. This particular Sunday was a special treat for a visitor like me because several members from the other club on the island, The Hawaii County R/C Club, had come over from the Hilo to fly. Hawaii County R/C President Mark Timares explained to me how his club had lost their field not too long ago and secured a new lease at an old radar station. The twenty or so members have been busy cutting a new field in the dense jungle for nearly a year now. According to Mark, even though they are able to fly at the new location, space is still tight and guys only fly smaller aircraft. It's the occasional trip to Kona that allows him and his Hilo comrades to air out the big stuff. That explained the large number of maiden flights that day.

I did not do any flying those two weeks but hanging out near the ocean and talking modeling with a friendly group was the perfect medicine for R/C withdrawals. A few invitations were extended for me to fly during my next trip to the island, as we joked about fitting a plane in a suitcase. Giving it some thought, I just might try taking a medium sized electric plane next time.

Members from both clubs did say they always welcome modelers to stop and talk story or even fly if they have an aircraft. As AMA sanctioned clubs, the prerequisite for flying is of course an AMA membership. As Big Island clubs the prerequisite for hanging out is a very laid back attitude. If you're planning a Hawaiian vacation to the Big Island, Hawaii, and you truly want to experience the spirit of Aloha, be sure to adjust your body to island time and visit the Kona R/C Flyers or Hawaii County R/C Club.

Unfortunately, I did not get a chance to visit the Hilo club and only have a vague idea where their field is. I can tell you though that getting to the Old Kona Airport is rather simple. Take the Kuakini Highway north from downtown Kailua. Less than a mile from town, the road ends at the park where tall athletic field lights indicate your arrival. Once you enter the park it's very easy to find modelers. For more info about the Kona R/C flyers you can visit their web page at www.konarcflyers.com Aloha! †



Kona R/C Flyer member Marcia De Lima with her Eagle II

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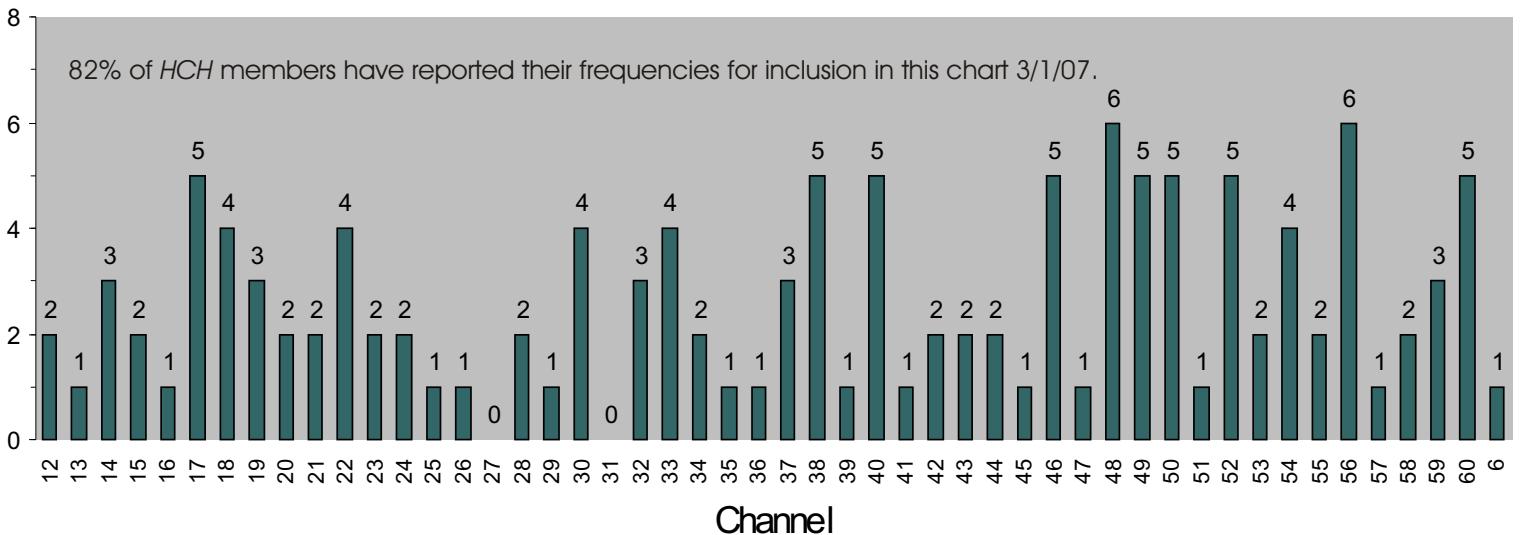
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