

Silver Lining

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Radio Control Flying Club
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www.hollycloudhoppers.org

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

Behind The Flight Line

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You will find this edition of the newsletter a little on the light side. Let's just say it's been a busy summer. The "Events Calendar" has been eliminated from this edition to save time and "In The Know" is very abbreviated because most of your news is being delivered in this article.

To start things I'm sending a big thank you to all the guys that showed up to help make this year's parade float entry on July 4th a huge success. In no particular order those guys are Richard Lengel, Joe Savine, Frank Robinson, Doug Pickett, Ken Kliever, Mike Wiznajtys, Lauren Wenger, Matthew Rhoades and Tim McAuley. Also a special thank you to Flagpoles Etc. for donating several pieces of red, white and blue paraphernalia to make the float look very patriotic.

You don't need to be a very astute observer to notice that the picture on the cover of this edition is this year's float and it included a big clue as to how well the float was received. Yep, that's right boys and girls, for the first time the HCH float took **FIRST PLACE** in the Fenton parade. That might not mean much but it does say the HCH had the best looking float out of 30 float entries. Thanks again to all that helped. Be sure to check out the float pictures on page 5.

It's that time of year again for the HCH's

On the Cover:

**HCH parade float in the 2011
Fenton Freedom Festival parade**

Photo by Scott Rhoades

biggest and funnest (I know that's not a word but I don't care) event; the Open House (August 6th). Just like the last couple years, we will be holding contests again this year.

One contest will be just for our guests and the other will be a flying contest, complete with a prize too. For the flying contest we will be doing a bomb drop again but with a slight twist. The bomb will be an optional whiffle golf ball. Some are available in the container that is furthest away from the road if you wish to practice. Most of you know that whenever we've done a bomb drop, Dixie cups were attached to the plane to hold "the bomb" and the pilot kicked it out at the right time by rolling inverted or whatever.

You can still use the old Dixie and a real golf ball if you wish but the whiffle allows you to use whatever type of bomb release you can come up with. Must also mention if you don't like flying while other people in the air, this event is not for you. This event will be run in heats with up to four planes in the air at once making bombing runs. Do I need to remind you there is a prize involved?

Still on the subject of the Open House here are some thoughts and observations.

First topic is safety. Most members know that with a lot of activity going on it does put you out of your regular 'flying' routine. What this means is that the day has a completely different feel than normal flying times, so even with careful attention to what you're doing it will still be easy to forget a step or two in your set up or simply not pay full attention when you should. If you plan on flying, be sure to take a moment to break away mentally from all the activity going on periodically. This will help you concentrate on the task at hand when

► **Flight Line, 3**

◀ 2 Flight Line

it's time to fly... And that is being safe.
Some other important safety factors include:

- Keep an eye on your buddy. If you see something unsafe, speak up.
- Keep spectators out of the pit area. If you see a guest not accompanied by a member in the pits tell them, for their safety, we request they stay behind the fence.
- Use a spotter when you fly. For those that don't know what a spotter is; a spotter is an individual experienced with R/C etiquette that stands next to you during your entire flight being your eyes, ears and voice relaying information so you can concentrate on making a safe flight. There is always somebody willing to spot for you all you need to do is ask.

Second item is: members need to keep in mind that the annual Open House is an introduction of the club to the public. The top priority after guest safety is making them feel welcome. The best way to make sure this happens is to introduce yourself and talk to our guests standing at the fence.

I want you to take this pledge right now. Raise your right hand and repeat after me. *"I <state your name> solemnly swear to walk over and introduce myself to somebody I've never seen before. And I promise to do this on at least three separate occasions through out the day."*

If every member does this, every person visiting us should have talked to at least one HCH member. Some of you may be wondering, why is this important? The only way to answer that is for you to make a visit to another club where no one acknowledges your presence and you leave having not talked with a single member. Once you do, tell me what is your impression of that club? I will predict it's not one we want of the HCH.

This third item stems from an observation I made at last year's Open House. Arguably the

most popular thing we do, next to the free food, is the buddy box flights. Against best efforts to make sure this segment of the Open House goes smooth, there seems to be a report every year of somebody not getting on a buddy box that wanted too.

Part of the problem I see is we're spending WAY too much time with each individual. Which also results in members spending way too much time flying trainers for the cause. Remember fellas these are introductory flights, **NOT LESSONS!**

With a lot of people/kids wanting to try flying an R/C plane, this is how the process should work:

- For each plane available for introductory flights there should be a pilot (obviously) and a co-pilot. The pilot's job is to keep the plane safely in the air and provide pointers to the person on the buddy box during the flight.
- Those acting as co-pilots have the most important job and will be the ones responsible for keeping things rolling. The co-pilot will go through the introduction with the guest including a brief tour of the R/C transmitter with "This is up, this is down, this is left, this is right".
- Once the guest is flying the box, the co-pilot should provide only a tiny bit of help to get started but quickly let the pilot take over with stuff like "pull up, now add some left... A little bit more left....I got it."
- Once a guest has been handed over to the pilot, the co-pilot should be retrieving the guest next in line. Yes, the people you put on the buddy box are not going to know diddly squat and make a lot of mistakes and your kind soul wants to help them but must-fight-urge-to-give-lesson. Pilots it's OK to tell your co-pilot to go locate another guest if you see them getting too involved.

► **Flight Line, 4**

◀ 3 Flight Line

- Each person should be on the buddy box two minutes TOPS and there should always be a guest briefed and ready to take the controls when those two minutes have expired.

This process should repeat faithfully until everybody has had chance to fly and no repeaters unless it turns out that interest to fly is freakishly slow for some reason. Let's let the guys flying the trainers get off and go do some other fun stuff.

To help facilitate the process an idea is to implement the use of "dummy boxes". This could be any old transmitter that can be used for demonstration purposes only. This is so a guest doesn't need to be on the actual buddy box to get the briefing on stick movements. Personally I have a transmitter that hasn't

seen action in about a decade and know there are many members with the same. If you have a transmitter that can be used for the cause please bring it to the Open House.

In the past I noticed too that the younger the guest the more guys were willing to provide instruction. This is counterintuitive. The reality is first time flyers (including adults) have no clue when you take your finger off the switch and they are no longer the ones controlling the plane. *Hint hint.*

Just keep in mind that the idea for the buddy box flights is to let people experience R/C flight first hand and it only takes a minute for them to realize this is much harder than it looks. NEXT! †

Links to key HCH web pages

Home page

<http://hollycloudhoppers.org>

Officer contacts, Announcements, Weather, Club Dates, Club document links, Etc

Members Only (password protected) <http://hollycloudhoppers.org/members.html>

Financial report, Meeting minutes, Club roster, Gate code

Classifieds

<http://hollycloudhoppers.org/classifieds.html>

Field Operation Rules

<http://hollycloudhoppers.org/documents/Field%20Operational%20Rules.pdf>

Newsletter Archives

<http://hollycloudhoppers.org/newsletters.html>

Club Frequency Usage

<http://hollycloudhoppers.org/documents/clubfreq.pdf>

Web page help

http://hollycloudhoppers.org/help_faq.html

Membership renewal

(renewal page not available this at this time.

Need to contact HCH Secretary / Treasurer Jim Finch)

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2011 Fenton Parade Pictures

Photos by Scott Rhoades



In The Know

By Scott Rhoades



- Congratulations to Lauren Wenger for winning this year's HCH Fun Fly. The weather was very cooperative with sunny skies and a moderate wind. About 8 members participated and for the first time I believe there were zero crashes (during the competition.... Sorry Mike). As I can remember nobody had to drop out due to equipment failure, so all members completed all events.

Several people showed up to witness the competition and heckling from the crowd and fellow participants was at an all time high. Believe it was Jim Finch's 'victory roll' that set the tone there.

- In late May, and with less than one week's notice, the club was contacted by Holly State Recreation Area Supervisor, Shawn Speaker to see if the HCH would be a part of an event to be held at Heron Beach June 4th. The one day event called "Introduction to Summer 101" was to showcase the many activities Michigan State Parks offer. Since the HCH flying field occupies State Land within the Holly Recreation Area, Shawn wanted to include R/C flying in the event.

The event was to be attended by state dignitaries such as Secretary of State, Ruth Johnson, DNR Director, Rodney Stokes and Chief of State Parks Ron Olson to name a few.

The HCH was more than happy to participate, however with such short notice, only a few members were able to attend. Reports are the mostly static display was well received. Special thanks to those who represent the club for the day. Below is a picture taken at the event.

