

TRI-VALLEY RC NEWS

JUNE 2008

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CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ken Van Corbach 934-1834

Secretary: Jerry Miller 934-1396

Vice President: Frank George 929-2045

Treasurer: Cornel Kraitz 938-5507

Safety Officer: Mark Serio 934-1967

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Newsletter Editor: Frank L. George

Santa Maria Airport automated weather report: 928-0384 or 121.15 MHz.

NOTICE

NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 4, 7:00 PM

NOTICE

Veterans Memorial Community Center, Santa Maria

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: The newsletter is now being distributed only to 2008 current members. If you change your e-mail, or any other pertinent information, it is your responsibility to inform the club in order to continue receiving the newsletter and other communications. A followup on the editor's note about electrically conductive film covering in last month's newsletter is at the end of this edition. Contact the editor if you have a newsletter item that you think will be of interest to the club members. Please use the following e-mail address for club newsletter comments and correspondence to the editor: tvrcm@att.net.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: I am opening my column with a sincere thank you to all those who contribute to this club's success. From Jerry miller for his secretarial duties, to Frank George for his unceasing willingness to help and his timely newsletters, to Cornell for the job of keeping track of our finances, we couldn't survive without their input. Jim Oberst has been working at the rodeo grounds to help us in our negotiations and Bob Allington has been working out an

agreement with the Elks, although negotiations are on hold until after the rodeo. Then we hope to finalize an agreement for a “permanent site”. Won’t that be nice? The Warbird Fly-in is coming up soon and we need someone to step up and take charge of that project. Please let a club officer know if you are available.

There are many more members getting involved and we owe them a debt of thanks. Our club is growing and without volunteers we would not have gotten to where we are, and will not continue to progress. Big Boys Toys have built and contributed 2 new starting benches for a great addition to our facility..

We are also working with Big Boys Toys for a new raffle plane. We hope they can use their advertising credits again and donate the plane. Horizon Hobby will make the final decision. We will sell tickets at the fly-in and have the actual raffle when we have our own open house.

See you at the field or the Vets Hall for the meeting.

Ken

ANNOUNCEMENT: Field Schedule. The current plan is to resume flying at the Elks field parking lot after the rodeo. Plans are to move our equipment back to the site Monday June 2. All help will be appreciated. We will have one month remaining on our trial agreement, during which we hope to negotiate a long-term agreement that will allow us to develop a permanent site on the property..

MAY 7, 2008 MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting was opened at 7:06 PM by President Ken Van Corbach

Other officers present: Frank George, Vice President; Cornel Krainz, Treasurer

Visitors: James Gray, Toste [?] Paving

Secretary’s Report: Minutes of the April 2008 meeting are in the May newsletter but were not read for approval due to the secretary’s absence.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer’s report was accepted as presented.

WebMaster Report: No report.

Safety Report: The safety officer reported that only 21 members have completed the required pilot qualification testing. A drop-dead date for completing the test will be established when flying resumes at the Elks field after the rodeo. A problem with 2.4 spread spectrum radio interference was reported. It appeared that two Spektrum brand radios interfered with each other while they were turned on and the airplanes were sitting on adjacent work tables. It was suspected that there was also some interference while the planes were flying. For these radios it is important to turn the transmitter on first, then the receiver. Turn the receiver off first

when powering down. Also, be sure both transmitter and receiver batteries are charged o their operating voltage. These precautions are necessary to ensure the receiver stays “bound” to the right transmitter when several systems are being operated simultaneously. One of the radio owners involved in this incident reported he was sending his radio in for service just to be sure it was working correctly.

Contest Director Report: No report.

Field Committee Report: Bob Allington reported that we should start using gate 3 at the Elks field. Our lock is the only one on the gate so we should keep it locked. Flying at that site will stop after May 11 and our tables will be moved to the storage area until after the rodeo. Flying will move to the ranch site during the rodeo activities. James Gay from Toste [?] paving described recycled material that we may consider using as a base for a permanent runway and parking surface. The material would be less expensive than crushed limestone or decomposed granite. The field committee will follow up.

Old Business: No items.

New Business: 1. The 2008 Warbird Fly-in will be held the last Weekend in August. After discussion it was agreed that the club should participate, with Bob Allington serving as our liaison with the Museum of Flight. Discussion of a raffle plane followed with the decision tabled until candidate airplanes are investigated. President Van Corbach described plans to publicize a club open house in the fall, with the possibility of awarding the raffle plane at that time.

2. It was moved, seconded and approved to authorize expenditure of up to \$20,000.00 of club funds for field development, subject to getting an acceptable long term lease on the site.

Crash-of-the-month: The honor went to Mario Baca for two crashes.

50-50 Drawing: Won by Cornel Kaintz.

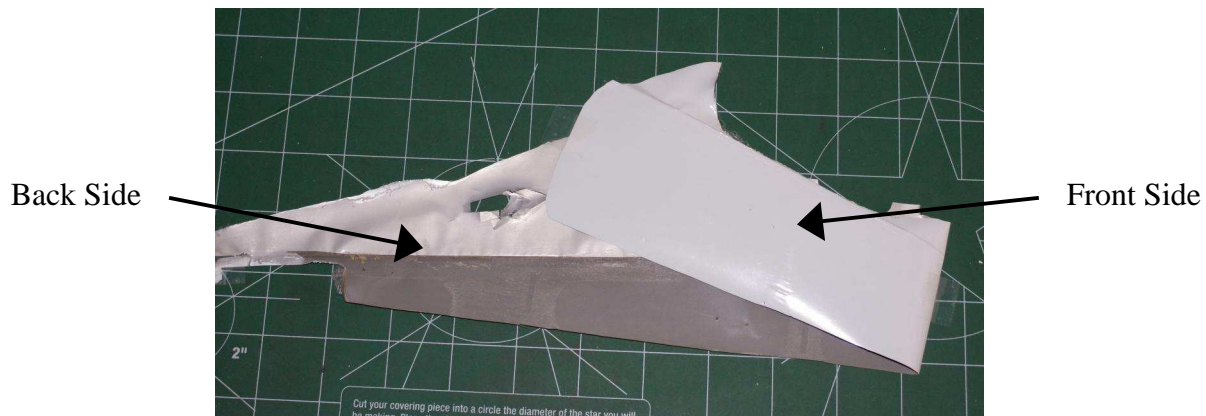
The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM followed by an indoor electric 3-D foamy demonstration by Dennis Galloway.

Follow up on film covering safety: In last month’s newsletter I reported a surprising, and unfortunate experience that resulted in total loss of my E-Flite Piper Pawnee model. I saved several pieces of the covering material and additional resistance measurements confirmed my initial conclusion that the back side of the material is an electrical conductor even though the front colors are nonmetallic white, yellow and blue. The conductive backing shielded my receiver antenna, resulting in loss of radio contact. I e-mailed Horizon Hobby Tech Support a description of my experience including details of my resistance measurements. Their response was that I should have my Futaba system checked because they have not experienced a similar problem. They made no mention of the covering material’s properties.

As a final check, I set the radio equipment from the Pawnee up on a wooden table in my garage and turned on the power. After shaking and tapping all components with a screwdriver handle (my standard test for loose connections or marginal electronic components), and seeing no glitches or jitters, I did a range check. My 2.4 GHz system manual describes a successful range check as going 50 ft. from the model with the transmitter antenna removed, the low gain button pushed, and the transmitter pointing away from the airplane. I was across the street in my neighbor's yard, over 100 ft. from the table, when my assistant signaled that the servos stopped moving smoothly. At that point releasing the low gain button restored solid control. I had made a cylinder of the scrap covering material which my assistant then placed over the receiver antenna, immediately resulting in loss of signal. Attempting another range check with the covering material shielding the receiver resulted in only about 35 ft. of signal range. I have since flown another airplane at the ranch with my 2.4 GHz system and experienced no problem under poor conditions (heavy clouds with lots of moisture in the air, i.e. flying between rain showers). At this point I am convinced there is no problem with my radio system.

My conclusion, and advice, is to look very carefully at the covering on any ARF before buying it. If there is any shiny or otherwise metallic appearance on the back side of the material, don't buy it, or be sure you keep your antenna outside of and not in contact with the covering. Do not use a 2.4 GHz system with the receiver antenna(s) inside such material.

Here is a picture of the questionable covering showing the front side (white) and the back side (gray/silver).



Note there were two different weights of covering. The heavier one has the gray back side and the lighter weigh one has the silver back. Both gave resistance measurements of 10 to 12 ohms per inch of distance between the test probes.