

# Rio Grande R/C Flyers



# The Fly Paper

**February 2008**  
**A.M.A. Chapter # 3723**

**News Letter**  
**I.M.A.A. Chapter # 480**

**Editors: Jim Schroeder: kf0bm@aol.com**  
**Bill Robinson: bill@rgflyers.org**

The February 2008 meeting of the Rio Grande Flyers was called to order promptly at 7:00 PM by our club president, Bill Robinson. There were approximately 40 members in attendance.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the January meeting as published in the news letter. The motion carried unanimously.

Roger Bell, treasurer, reported that the current balance in the treasury is \$3028.00. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded and approved by all.

Rick Martinez had no safety issues to discuss. Someone did mention that someone did get their fingers or hand cut by getting it in the way of a propeller. A harsh reminder to be careful around a running engine. Fred Mentzer reported that on his travels around the runway he has found several screws and an occasional axle collar. He suggested that one should be using lock tight and short pieces of tubing on axles to keep from losing these items.

Bill advised us that most everyone has paid their 2008 membership dues. Currently we have 64 paid up members. If you have not paid, you may pay your dues via the club web page using Pay Pal. or by filling out a membership card, which can be downloaded from the web site, or you can get a copy from some of the officers. Fill it out and turn it in to one of the club officers along with \$50.00. If you need to pay by check, make the check payable to Roger Bell.

The results of the 2008 activity survey showed that the prime rib dinner was the big winner. Other items listed quarterly fun flies with pylon racing, egg drops, night flights, timed events and combat flying. About 25% of the members responded to the survey which is pretty good as far as surveys go. The quarterly fun flies will be held on the Sunday after the monthly meeting for that month. Those dates are February 10th, May 11th, Aug

## **MARCH** **Meeting Notice**

**The March meeting will be held on Wednesday March 6th at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be at the New York Deli, located next to Broadway hardware on Dove avenue in McAllen .**

**The club usually arrives at 6 PM for dinner with the meeting beginning at 7 PM.**



10th and Nov 9th, 2008. The prime rib dinner will be on Sunday, March 9, 2008. **We do need a head count for this get together.** A sign up sheet will be at the field. Be sure to get your name on the sheet if you are planning on attending. If you are able, please bring a dish to pass that goes good with steak. To date, I don't think anyone has ever been disappointed in the extra goodies that show up for these meetings.


This coming Sunday, February 10th, will be our first fun fly for this year. We have some steak left over from the last steak fry which will be cooked at the field. The plans are to have some pylon racing. There will be three classes, 40 size or less, more than 40 size but less than 90 size and 90 or greater size. The racing will begin about 1 pm and eat about 5 pm. This fun fly is for Rio Grande Flyers only,

### Club Shirts & Custom Items

The club has contracted with EmbroidMe for club related graphics and Logos. You can take your shirts to the store and they will embroider them for you. It takes about a week.

Price List :

- Option 1 Large logo on back Name on right chest \$23.00
- Option 2 Opt1 + Small logo on Left Chest \$30.00
- Option 3 Opt 1 & 2 + American & Texas flags 1 on each sleeve \$40.00



**EmbroidMe-McAllen**  
Phone: 956-683-8006 Fax: 956-683-8306  
E-Mail: mcallentx@embroidme.com  
Website: www.embroidme-mcallentx.com  
2706 N. 10th St. McAllen, TX 78501

Bill also mentioned that he has two styles of hats still available. One style sells for \$11.00 and the other \$13.00. If you need a hat, see Bill.

The stripping at field needs is still pending Roger and Fred will get together to get this accomplished.

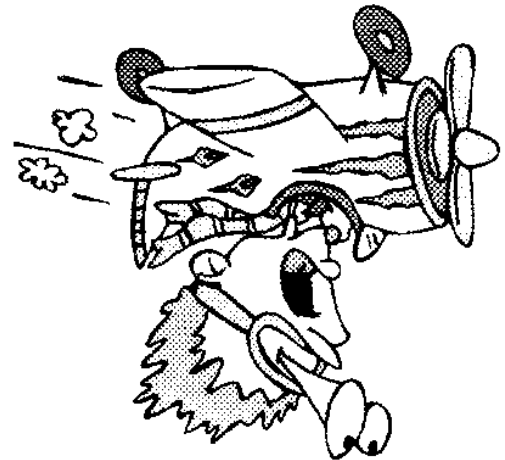
The annual SMASH fun fly at Rio Hondo was cancelled because the road was too muddy to get into the field.

On February 29th. through March 2nd. the annual Tejas Big Bird fly in will be held at the Wesleco airport. This is an IMAA sanctioned fly in and only airplanes meeting the IMAA rules will be allowed to fly. For more information visit their web site at [www.tejasrcassociation.org](http://www.tejasrcassociation.org).

A recommendation was made to Bill as how to increase member attendance to the club meetings. It is usually the same group that show for the meetings. A motion was made and seconded to pass out tickets to the attending members at each meeting and once a year have a drawing for a very nice prize. A discussion was held about what kind of prize to give. A radio or a nice airplane was mentioned. A motion to appoint a committee to select the prize. Art Brock, Gary Dye and Roger Bell was selected to be the committee. A vote to accept these motions were made and passed unanimously. A vote to allow a spending of \$350.00 for the prize was also passed. It was also decided that you must be present at the meeting to win. This drawing will be held annually at the December meeting. The more meetings you attend, the better chance you will have to win.

Three visitors were introduced at the meeting. Carl Beavers, Charles Cline and Walter Voss. They all are from Illinois. Welcome to the club meeting and hope you get some time to visit the flying field.

A big round of applause was given to the staff of the New York Deli for the excellent service they gave us during the meeting.



A motion to adjourn was made and the meeting ended at 7:40p.m.



**When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C. L.A.**



## **From the Portland Area Sailplane Society, Gresham, Oregon Aviation History: Charlie Brown's Story**

Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 379th Bomber Group at Kimbolton, England. His B-17 was called 'Ye Old Pub' and was in a terrible state, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged and they were flying deeper over enemy territory instead of heading home to Kimbolton.

After flying over an enemy airfield, a pilot named Franz Steigler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17. When he got near the B-17, he could not believe his eyes. In his words, he had never seen an airplane in such a bad state. The tail and rear section were severely damaged and the tail gunner wounded. The top gunner was all over the top of the fuselage. The nose was smashed and there were holes everywhere. Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared and struggling to control his damaged and blood-stained airplane.

Aware that they had no idea where they were going, Franz waved at Charlie to turn 180°. Franz escorted and guided the stricken airplane to and slightly over the North Sea towards England. He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to Europe. When Franz landed he told the control operator that the airplane had been shot down over the sea, and never told the truth to anyone. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew told all at their briefing, but were ordered never to talk about it.

More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who saved the crew. After years of research, Franz was found. He has never talked about the incident, not even at post war reunions.

They met in the United States at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now—all because Franz never fired his guns that day. Research shows that Charlie Brown lived in Seattle and Franz Steigler had moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, after the war. When they finally met, they discovered they had lived less than 200 miles apart for the past 50 years. □

### **TIPS FOR CLUBS**

from the Fort Worth Thunderbirds Radio Control Association Inc., Fort Worth, Texas

#### **How Much Land is Really Needed?**

When a club needs to find a new RC flying site, the logical question must arise as to how much space is really needed. Negotiations with site owners will usually require this kind of information. Having been through this process with our own club, here are some approximate numbers to help you determine the space required. In every case, it can be argued that much more land is required or that much less land can suffice, but here is a place to start.

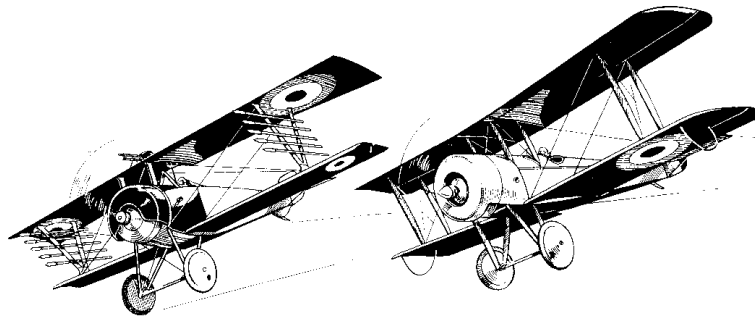
Assume that your RC flying site will have a runway of 400 feet in length and 50 feet wide. A club will normally mow about 400 feet or more on each end for approach and departure clearance. To lay out a comfortable spectators area with a shelter, parking lot, a flight line and pilots positions, the runway and some mowed area on the other side of the runway, all laid out in accordance with recommended AMA safety standards, will require a total field width of roughly 600 feet. While a smaller field width might be possible, be careful to maintain an adequate and safe separation of spectators from flight operations and pilots from the active runway.

Using these dimensions, a total of 16.52 acres is required for ground operations. In addition, an overfly area of 40 to 60 acres will be used by average fliers.Q

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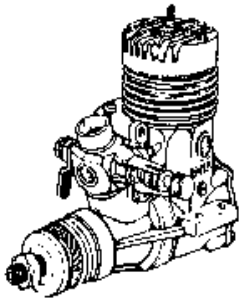
## RC Stuff for Sale



Don't forget to visit the Hobby Shop at 6026 N. Ware Rd.

McAllen, TX.

Phone: (956) 686-4003



Rosemary Wolf may still have some R/C products from  
Milt's collection. He did have lots of stuff

Contact Rosemary at 240-3323 (cell).