

April

Skywriter

2014



SKYMASTERS RADIO CONTROL CLUB
OF MICHIGAN

AMA Chartered Club #970
16 Year Gold Leader Club

www.skymasters.org



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From the President...



The first signs of spring finally seem to be arriving! I just returned from the field and there were actually people and airplanes there. What a welcome change.

While I was there a new member came up and introduced himself. Actually, he reintroduced himself. He's been to the field quite a few times and had spoken previously about his plans to join. Like most new members he was full of enthusiasm. Enthusiasm can be infectious and I think we put that to the test last year. The enthusiasm our members show to visitors attracts them and makes them want to come back. Eventually some of them get hooked and decide to

jump into the hobby and join the club.

Although the weather has been awful we've all kept the faith and the aforementioned enthusiasm. We've had another successful indoor season, to which we've added three more weeks in anticipation of more potential bad weather. The Swap Shop was a success and now we have a visit from Horizon to look forward to before we all head to Toledo. The SIG Fazer event was also a great success with creativity and building skill on display everywhere you looked. And the impromptu Krazy Snow Fly II a couple weeks back had 15 or so people in attendance for some moderately OK late winter flying conditions (but no chili; maybe next time).

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Soon we will have Bald Mountain Involvement Day. This is a good time to get out to see your fellow pilots before the season is in full swing. It's also an opportunity to give back to the park that is our home and promote good relationships with those who manage it. I'm hoping this year's turnout will be as good as or better than last year. We had a good group out working and I know the park employees appreciated it.

I think that's about enough typing for today. As always

I look forward to seeing everyone at the field. Please fly safely!

Happy Landings,

Ken

Ken Gutelius

President, Skymasters

kennanc@msn.com



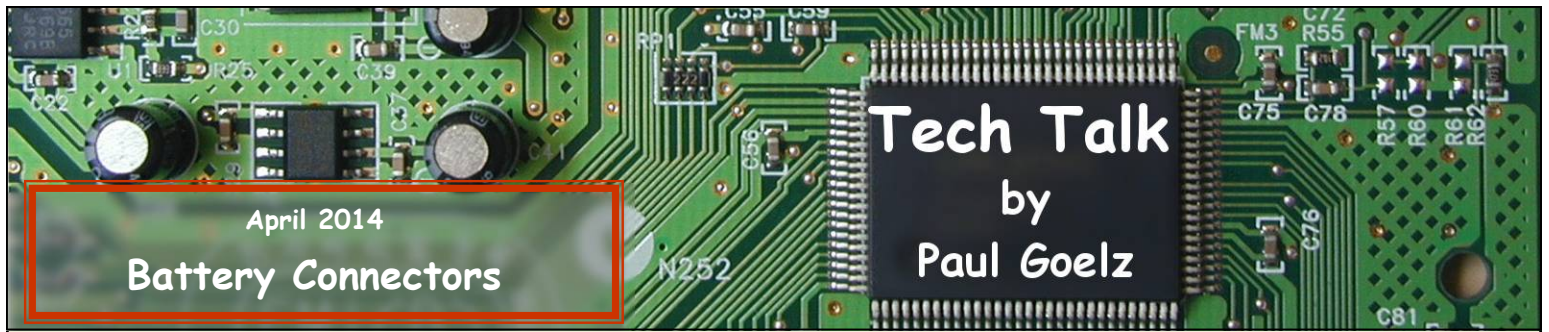
If you have a subscription to Flying Models, check out the coverage of the Midwest Regional Float Fly in the March issue. [Click here for a link to the magazine](#) (subscription required to read the article).



Hard to see in this flash photo, but this quad crashed.... and stayed.... on its side! Betcha can't do that again ;)

Front Cover:

The creative participants in the Fazer Bash event sponsored by John and Tracie Hoover from Flightline Hobbies



Hi gang,

I have touched on this before but it bears repeating. With all the micro electric stuff on the market these days, poorly performing battery connectors are more of an issue than you might think.

You might think the connector on the end of your battery wires is a simple piece and one that you can ignore. Most of the time, you would be right. But not always! The battery connector can develop excessive contact resistance and even fail open. High contact resistance will manifest itself as poor performance. And a connector that fails open is a guaranteed crash.

The trouble with connectors that are aging and developing higher than normal resistance is that the symptoms often mimic a bad battery. You may notice lower than normal motor power, slower climbouts, unstable quadrotor behavior and in extreme cases, even premature BEC cutouts. All symptoms of a bad battery.... or a bad connector.

Bad connectors are MUCH more likely to be an issue on very small models. Larger battery systems use connectors that are much more robust and less likely to go high resistance. But the very small connectors on 1S and sometimes 2S models also have very small and fragile contacts and are much more likely to fail from normal mate / unmate cycles.

So how to tell the difference? Without proper instrumentation, it often is not possible to figure it out directly.

The first thing to consider is the battery. If you have a charger that can give a readout of the battery internal resistance and if you know what that resistance was when the battery was new, you can eliminate (or confirm) the battery as the culprit. For example, I use Cellpro chargers that automatically set the charge current based on internal resistance. While they do not directly read out the battery resistance, you can infer it by looking at the charge current. If it is substantially less than it used to be (remember, these chargers set it for you), the battery may be dying.

If you can eliminate the battery as the problem, then you can narrow your focus to the connector.

Check the connector after a flight. In some cases, there is enough wasted power at the connector pins to actually raise the temperature of the connector enough to feel it right after a flight. In the old days when we were flying the Piccolo heli, the red JST connectors used to get noticeably warm after a four minute flight at 2A. Performance was much better when we replaced the JSTs with mini Deans.

Another example.... I have the Blade NanoQX and I have two batteries that will sometimes trigger the BEC shutdown very early in the flight. If I unplug and plug in again (cleans the contacts for a while), the NanoQX will fly a normal amount of time.

So lets say you have decided the connector is suspect. What can you do? You can sometimes see improvement by spraying both halves of the connector set with a contact cleaner like DeOxIt ([available from Amazon and others](#)). DeOxIT sometimes is pure magic. And it leaves a coating on the connector pins that prevents future oxidation.

But what I have done is I have replaced ALL my 1S battery connectors with Micro Deans. They are FAR more reliable than the various connectors Eflite uses and completely eliminate the connector as a possible cause of poor performance.

That's all for this month. See you in May!

Paul

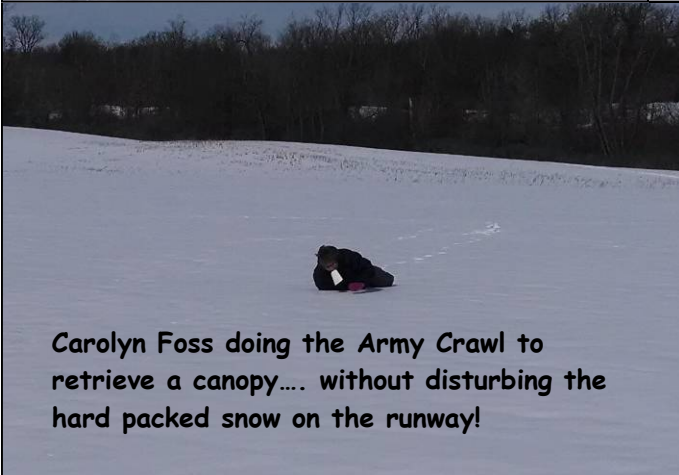
Indoor flying at Ultimate Soccer



March "In The Bones" meeting



Krazy Snow Fly 2



Carolyn Foss doing the Army Crawl to retrieve a canopy.... without disturbing the hard packed snow on the runway!



Fazer Bash finals

[\(click here for a video album of the event\)](#)

From John and Tracie Hoover



We had a great time Saturday night at the Skymasters "Fazer Kit Bash" event. We had 18 members enter their SIG Fazer models. The idea of this event was to take the Sig Fazer kit (Primarily the wing) and build your own variation of it. The design could range from stock to whatever your imagination would allow. My goal was to get a few new builders to give it a try, We

had 4 first time kit builders so in that respect alone, I feel the event was a success. The member turn out was excellent. We had some pizza and snacks. It was a great evening of modeling talk and fellowship. Each

contestant had a few minutes to discuss their model and it's design inspiration. My Lovely wife Tracie and a number of people helped out in the usual club "Chip in" manner that makes an event like this happen.

Thanks to everyone that showed up and helped out. Here are a few event facts:

1st Overall Steve Kretshmer Do335

2nd Glenn Bianchini Twin motor Madness

3rd Sheldon Kaye Retro Stunter

Phil Saunders first time builders award

14 glow models

4 Electric Models

Heaviest 7lbs 4 oz

Lightest 3 lbs 4 oz

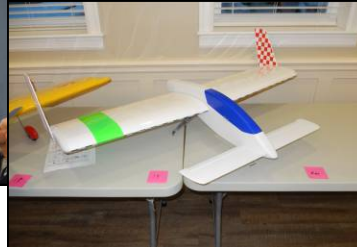
Most were 4 to 4.5 pounds.

I built a model of the Bell X-1. Jim Satwa had a neat Rivets model. There were many cool birds.

I have some thought for a future follow up build next fall.

Good flights!

John & Tracie



Skymasters RC Club of Michigan
presents



Eflite

BLADE

HANGAR 9

**Horizon Hobby
2014 pre-Toledo
Visit**



hobbyzone



Wednesday April 2, 2014 7:00-9:00PM

Ultimate Soccer Arenas
867 South Blvd, Pontiac, MI

Everyone welcome - no charge
Food available on site

For information: Pete Foss
petefoss@skymasters.org
248-807-4288

**See the newest
stuff from
Horizon!**



Skymasters R/C Club of Michigan

“We’ll Teach You To Fly”

Chet Brady Memorial Float Fly

Saturday, May 10th 2014

Flying Starts at 9:00AM – 2:00PM

At Trout Lake, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Lake Orion



Join Us For A
Spring
Float Flying Classic

- Flying is open to current members of the AMA.
- All motor vehicles require a State Recreational Passport available at the Secretary of State or DNR
- Public Welcomed
- Plenty of parking
- Restrooms on site



For more information contact: Greg Brausa – cgbrausa@gmail.com
Or visit our website for location & map at: www.skymasters.org





ADDISON OAKS FLOAT FLYING 2014



www.romeoskyhawks.org

www.flyfraser.net

SPONSORED BY THE ROMEO R/C CLUB AND THE FRASER FLYING CLUB
AMA INSURANCE CERTIFICATE PROVIDED TO ADDISON OAKS PARK

Every Wednesday, May thru September

Addison Oaks Oakland County Park at Buhl Lake
1480 W Romeo Road, Leonard, MI 48367

Main Park Entrance on W. Romeo Rd (32mile) West of Rochester Road
Past the Toll Booth then follow the signs to the Boat Rental
www.destinationoakland.com

Flying from 9 am till noon, boat provided by Addison Park
Flying open to AMA Members - Public Welcome

Only 2.4 GHz radio systems are allowed



- All Cars Need Daily/Annual Oakland County Park Sticker
- Daily Car Pass is \$4.00 Senior or \$5.00 Oakland Resident
- Annual Car Pass is \$22.00 Senior or \$30.00 Resident

- Plenty of Free Parking. Unload and then Park

- No R/C Boats During Flying Times

- Weekly Email Notification on Tuesday of Weather Forecast and Wednesday of Flying Status or Cancellation



For more information call Jim Held at (H) 248-641-9724 or (C) 248-835-4491
jimwheld@wowway.com

Photo's by Jim Held

Created by Douglas Norris

ON THE WING

Skymasters Breakfast

First and Third Monday of
each month through May

9AM

Everyone welcome

Red Olive restaurant
In the strip mall on Walton
across from Crittenton Hospital

Indoor Flying

Every Tuesday
through April 15th
(\$7/session after March 25th)

11AM to 1PM

At Ultimate Soccer,
Opdyke and South Blvd
Pontiac, MI



Next Skymasters Meeting...

Thursday, April 24th

6:45PM—8:45PM

at the Orion Center

1335 Joslyn Road

(on the east side of Joslyn,
just south of Clarkston Road)

Lake Orion, MI

Other local area indoor flying sessions

Premiere Training Center

51379 Quadrate, Macomb MI

(north of 23 mile and east of Hayes)

Thursdays, 9AM to 3PM (yes, that's 6 hours)

Small electric planes and helis (separate heli space)

\$10/session, AMA not required

Info: Steve Durecki 586-246-4203 (text or voice)

stevedurecki@comcast.net

Legacy Center

9299 Goble Dr.

Hamburg, MI 48139

(Off of Winans Lake Road, between
Rickett Rd. and M23)

Thursdays

Check the club for times

In partnership with the Hamburg Flyers

April 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Indoor flying 11AM-1PM Ultimate Soccer	2 Pre-Toledo expo at Ultimate Soccer 7PM-9PM	3 Indoor flying 9AM-3PM Premiere Training Center, Macomb	4 Toledo Model Expo	5 Toledo Model Expo
6 Toledo Model Expo	7 Skymasters Breakfast 9AM Red Olive Rochester	8 Indoor flying 11AM-1PM Ultimate Soccer	9	10 Indoor flying 9AM-3PM Premiere Training Center, Macomb	11	12
13	14	15 Indoor flying 11AM-1PM Ultimate Soccer	16	17 Indoor flying 9AM-3PM Premiere Training Center, Macomb	18	19
20	21 Skymasters Breakfast 9AM Red Olive Rochester	22	23	24 Indoor flying 9AM-3PM Premiere Training Center, Macomb Skymasters Meeting 6:45PM Orion Center	25	26 Bald Mountain Involvement Day 9AM-2PM
27	28	29	30			

Skymasters Information...

[The Skymasters field is located in Lake Orion, within the Bald Mountain Recreational Area](#) on Scripps Road, between M24 and Joslyn (see map). A state park permit is required and can be obtained from the Park Headquarters located on Greenshield Road or you can check the box on your tab renewal for a "Recreational Passport".

Flying is permitted from 10 AM to 8 PM. The noise limit is 94 dBA at 10 feet. This noise rule is enforced.

Wednesday evening (through August) is Family Night with flying and a pot luck buffet. Bring something for the grill & a dish to

pass.

Wednesday 5PM to 8PM is also Student Night (through August) but there are usually instructors around all day. Meet the instructors and arrange for more instruction time together on other days. Our Chief Flight Instructor is Greg Brausa, 248-373-8949 cgbrausa@gmail.com

From June through August, club meetings are held at the field, on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 PM. A great chance to fly and socialize. **Winter meetings (September through May)** are held at the Orion Center, 1335 Joslyn, in

Lake Orion. Check the calendar here or on the [web site](#) for specifics. Bring a model for Show and Tell, enjoy coffee and donuts and listen to the speaker of the evening.

The Skywriter newsletter is available online at the Skymasters web site and is free to all. It may also be printed from the web site if desired. All contributions are welcome. Please send photos and articles to newsletter@skymasters.org If you know of anyone who may be interested in R/C Aviation, please give them a link to this newsletter or give them a copy of an AMA magazine. It may spark their interest!



Newsletter Submissions
Please send all articles, photos and announcements to the Skywriter editor at: newsletter@skymasters.org
Deadline is the 20th of each month.
The Skywriter newsletter is published monthly by the Skymasters Radio Control Club of Michigan
www.skymasters.org

2014 Club Officers & Appointees...

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