



# Buzzard Droppings



Gold Leader Club

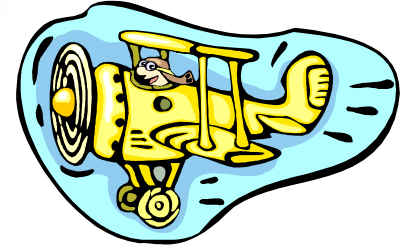
Promoting the building and operation of radio controlled models, and the public acceptance and good will towards the sport/hobby. Our main goal is to have fun and enjoy the challenge of safely flying radio control models.

February 2011  
Volume 18 Issue 2

## Barnyard Buzzards

Model Airplane Club

AMA Chapter 2953  
Monroe, Washington



Next Club Meeting is **Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 6:30 PM** at Alf's Pizza on Route 2 in Monroe (See page 7 for a map).

**Program: Foam Cutting**

### President's Message — Bryan Reightley

As I sit down to write this month's message, its calm outside and the sky is clear. Too bad it's 8:00 p.m. and the stars are out. Anyway, the days are getting longer and better flying weather should be just around the corner.

My first month as President has gone by quickly. Following last month's meeting, the club hosted

its first event of the year the annual "Freeze-in". With good attendance, good food, and decent weather it was an enjoyable afternoon of flying. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> the officers held our first board meeting of the year. It proved very productive with a range of topics from field safety to

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### January 11th Meeting Minutes — Vaughan Houger

President Bryan Reightley called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm with 16 members present on 1/11/11.

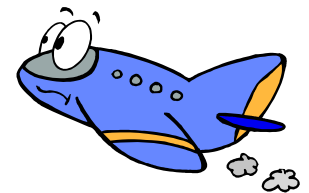
President Reightly asked for visitors or guests to identify themselves. Doug Hoff was present as a visitor. [For those who may not know, Doug was one of the founding fathers of the Barnyard Buzzards. It's always

*good to see Doug and reminisce.]*

Bryan presented the officers.

- President....Bryan Reightly
- V.P..... Jim Reynolds was absent
- Secretary Vaughan Houger was absent, Chet stood in as scribe for the evening. [side note... Congratulations 'Dr.' Vaughan

*(Continued on page 2)*



### Club Officers and Contacts

President: Bryan Reightley (360) 668-6075

Secretary: Vaughan Houger (425) 788-8616

Safety Officer: Vince Bell (425) 788-2456

Field Manager: Jay Bell (425) 788-4831

Vice President: Jim Reynolds (360) 435-9662

Treasurer: Rick Hanners (360) 668-1312

Newsletter & Website: Ron Swift (425) 788-6045



*(President's Message continued from page 1)*

club finances being discussed. With much on the table, we elected to act on a couple of items and earmarked the others for follow up. The board is looking forward to receiving feedback on our ideas during the upcoming general meeting.

Following up on last month's program "**Your Best and Worst Moments Flying**" two common themes emerged. The first is that we all have spectacular crash stories. The second is

the camaraderie shared amongst the members. Last weekend I confirmed both of these when I crashed my P-38. The bad news is I still don't know why I lost control. The good news is I had the benefit of an entire posse to help locate the crash site and I have many friends to help me find out what happened.

See you at the field,  
Byran

*(Continued from page 1)*

**Houger on receiving your PhD! ! ]**

- Treasurer....Rick Hanners
- Safety Officer....Vince Bell
- Field Manager....Jay Bell
- Newsletter Editor and Webmaster...Ron Swift

## Officers Reports

No V.P. report available

Chet reported that Vaughan relayed to him that the membership is still 63.

Rick reported that the Treasury is in good shape. [*Secretary's note: Financial information is available upon request.*]

Vince reported no safety issues and the Freeze-In was run very well thanks to Ron Swift

Jay said all is well, no flooding yet and the mowers are on high ground away from the field.

## Old Business

Freeze-In... Ron reported 14 members attended the Freeze-In and they have a choice of a patch with the gold trim or one with the silver/white trim. Let Sandy know. Ron then talked about the North West Hobby Expo Feb 11 – 13. He passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers for set up/tear down, Club booth and swap meet table manning. You can sign up before next meeting via email to [ronswift@cablespeed.com](mailto:ronswift@cablespeed.com). Rick will send out a reminder notice about this.

Sound recording at the field is still advised. The equipment is in the shed on the left side.

## New Business

Bryan asked Rick to go over the final 2010 financial report, (see attached report).

Jay brought a laminating machine to laminate AMA cards.

Remember 2011 AMA cards are needed now to fly at the field.

2011 Dues are due now thru the end of business at the March meeting. \$70 for returning members, \$35 for family members and \$110 for new members. It was announced that Club Membership cards will be passed out at the March meeting. Those not in attendance will have them mailed to their residences.

Rick will put some effort into making more room for the 2.4 Gig frequency slots by eliminating all but 1 ham radio slot. He's looking into some more durable labeling. Ron mentioned that Sandy might know of or have something available in the 'etched' type labels. She will check. Rick said it will be a while waiting the weather out for spring.

With no other news or issues Bryan opened up the meeting for everyone's Worst and Best moments. Naturally the worst moments were very individual as to models lost, crashes or near misses, but almost unanimously the best moments reflected this Club and the camaraderie that we all share. Once again, a tribute to all of you who make the Club what it is.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted in Vaughan's absence by Chet Blake.





# Buzzards Freeze-In 2011

We had 14 brave club members and friends attend our third annual Freeze-in. Luckily, the snow and bitter cold we had the weekend before our event moved on and the day was mild and pretty nice.

Sandy brought the Sahara Pizza out at around noon and many enjoyed the lunch while standing around the patio heater. We never even set up the popup tents.

Overall the event was a safe one with LOTS of flying.

Ron





# Photos for Fun



Last Wednesday, Roger, a guest, new to Monroe, stopped by to watch Ron Swift fly. He has flown model gliders, launched with a winch.

**While we were flying at the field last Tuesday, Dale [our landlord] stopped by and mentioned that we shouldn't be flying over the renter's house. We MUST stay to the north of the white post. See the picture to the left.**  
**We have a NO FLY Zone and need to stay to the river side of the white post.**  
**Dale thought we must have new members who didn't know this and our neighbor has complained to him about this.**  
**She stopped by the field a couple of weeks ago and asked that we stay away from her home, please!**





# Safety Corner



Some of the Safety Corner for this month I plagiarized from the Battery Charging Guidelines, some Rick Hanners wrote to be handed out at the February general meeting.

Take a moment to think about all the devices that use lithium chemistry as a power source that you use on a daily basis, like your beloved cell phone, I Pod, laptop computer and on and on. We charge these devices sitting on wood tables and all sorts of flammable surfaces and in flammable areas of our homes and offices without a thought of the consequences. When you come out to the field and need to charge your Lipo battery pack you are looked upon as the village idiot if you throw your little airplane in the car and connect the XYZ super charger to the Lipo battery while the airplane is on the front seat. Even better when you walk away to BS with friends. So why is it that we can plug our cell phone or laptop into the power outlet and nobody thinks anything of it?

The answer is simple. Each one of these devices has the battery pack as a proprietary unit custom fit to the device. The charger connectors are proprietary to the device as is the charger that you plug into the wall outlet or the power outlet in your car. The charger itself is matched to the battery chemistry designed into the device. The charger has been designed for the device with designed in failsafe features and there is nothing that the user can adjust or screw up, within reason. With that I'll turn it over to Rick for more details.

One of these concerns we have today involves the proper charging of Lithium batteries. As more members of the club step into the world of electric powered flight, the proper safe charging of Lithium Flight Batteries at the field has become more of a concern. So the club is issuing some **common sense guidelines** to increase the club member's awareness of how they can make field charging a safer practice for themselves while minimizing the possibility of personal injury and/or property damage:

1. If the charger you are using is capable of charging batteries of different chemistries (Lithium, Nickel, lead acid), make sure the charger is set for the proper chemistry BEFORE

starting to charge a battery.

2. If possible, use a standalone battery as the power source for the charger.

3. If you have to use the battery in your vehicle as the power source for the charger, locate the charger and the battery being charged, **OUTSIDE** your vehicle. Do not locate the charger/battery inside your vehicle or under the hood of your vehicle.

4. Place the battery being charged within a fire resistant container, such as a LipoSack, Battery Bunker or similar container. *(VB) If you don't have a container set the battery on a non-flammable surface with a lot of non-flammable space around it. An example would be outside on the concrete side walk.*

5. Remove the battery from your r/c model in order to charge it.

6. When the battery charge is started **VERIFY** that the charger is set for the proper number of cells and charge rate. **Failure to do so is one of the main causes of battery fires.**

7. **Never charge the battery unattended. When charging the battery you should constantly monitor the charging process so you can react to potential problems that might occur.** *(VB) in my opinion this should have been the very first item.*

8. Cool the battery to ambient temperature before charging.

9. Never exceed the battery manufacturers recommended maximum charge rate.

10. If your battery is involved in a crash, isolate the battery and observe it for at least 20 minutes. Damaged batteries can short internally and not necessarily immediately.

11. Have a fire extinguisher available for immediate use in case of a fire. *(VB) there is a fire extinguisher near the frequency board*

12. If a battery is damaged either physically or as the result of overcharging, **DO NOT USE THE BATTERY.**

Dispose of damaged Lithium batteries per the manufacturer's instructions.

**UNTIL NEXT TIME, BE SAFE BE COURTEOUS**

Vince Bell, Safety Officer



Our club has a booth at the NW Model Hobby Expo and I have 5 tables reserved at the Swap Meet. If you are able to help man the club and/or swap tables, please call me, Ron Swift at 425 788-6045 or send an email [ronswift@cablespeed.com](mailto:ronswift@cablespeed.com). We will circulate a signup sheet at the February Club meeting, too. We could use some help setting up the even on Thursday from noon until 3:30.

If you have items you want to donate (proceeds go to our club charity), please let me know and we'll make arrangements to get them.

As before, we have 6 free passes to the event to rotate to the club members who help out. This should allow the volunteers to staff the tables, help setup/tear down and still see the show.

There are a lot of new features in this show and of course, the indoor flying area!

Hope to see you there.

Ron Swift

# North West MODEL HOBBY

**EXPO!**

## February 11, 12, 13, 2011

Friday: 2 - 9 pm    Saturday: 9 am - 6 pm    Sunday: 10 am - 3 pm

**Evergreen Fairgrounds - Monroe, WA**  
53,000 sq.ft. Arena Building on West end of grounds



### Tickets:

\$12 Friday  
\$10 Saturday  
\$7 Sunday

Sunday after 1 pm - FREE

\$5 any day with Military ID

Kids under 10 FREE  
with Certifiable Adult

### All Weekend - All Indoors

#### R/C Airplanes, Helicopters, Boats, Cars, Battle Bots!

Your Favorite Vendors and some great new ones!

3-Day Indoor Fun Fly with Cash prize for First Place!

Indoor Pattern Contest with Cash Prize - Indoor Sail Boat Races - Massive Model Display

**Red Devil** Raceway with the "BIG TRACK" for lots of slot races

Biggest Hobby Swap Shop West of the Mississippi

Bring your Boat to play on the pond

Live Auction Saturday afternoon

Last Ditch Auction Sunday afternoon for amazing deals

Many of our local clubs will be there to tell you about these great hobbies.

There will even be a shipping service on Sunday just in case you can't fit it all in the back of your vehicle.

[www.NWMHE.com](http://www.NWMHE.com)



# Barnyard Buzzard's Club Meeting

**Our club meetings are open to the public.** During the winter months we meet at 6:30 PM on the **2nd Tuesday** of each month at Alf's Pizza in the Staples Plaza on RT2, Monroe, WA. During the summer months (weather permitting), the club meets at our flying field. See the schedule below for location... If you would like additional information, come out to a club meeting, or contact one of our club officers. Each meeting starts with an introduction of the club officers followed by a short business meeting. Next we have a **program** about some aspect of the hobby/sport. Then, a **Show & Tell** and **raffle** conclude the meeting, which ends at around 8:30 P.M.

## Barnyard Buzzards Pilot Training



Our club is dedicated to the safe pursuit and advancement of model aviation. We offer the newcomer free lessons to learn how to build models and to fly them. If you should have any questions about the club, flight instruction or membership requirements, call any of the club officers. We have a safety checklist available for those new to our flying field.

Use of a computer simulator is advisable. This allows you to practice safely and will end up saving you hundreds of dollars in the long run.

Still, in any case, the best way to learn to fly R/C planes is by finding an instructor to help. Learning on your own can be expensive and somewhat less safe.

We provide instruction for both building model aircraft as well as flying these models. In most cases, a buddy box system is used at the flying field. Experience has shown this to be the safest method to learn.

Those who want to enroll in the pilot training should contact Rick Hanners (phone number is on the list below) or our club secretary, Vaughn Houser at **425 788-8616**.

Pilots already enrolled in the training program are welcome to contact any of these club instructors to set up lessons.

### Current Flight Instructors:

- Dean Appell            360 435-7803
- Vince Bell             425 788-2456
- Rick Hanners         360 668-1312
- Ron Swift              425 788-6045
- Brian Taylor         425 225-5247



### Upcoming Meetings

**Meetings begin at 6:30 PM  
2nd Tuesday**

February 8	Alfy's Pizza
March 8	Alfy's Piizza
April 12	Alfy's Pizza
May 10	Club Field
June 14	Club Field
July 12	Club Field
August 9	Club Field

### Our Flying Field

The field is located in Monroe on 168th St SE, just north of Ben Howard Rd along Route 203. If the gate is unlocked, feel free to visit! Our web site (<http://www.barnyard-buzzards.com>) has lots of photos of our field.

Next meeting, **Tuesday, February 8, 6:30 PM** at Alfy's  
Pizza in Route 2 in Monroe (see page 7).  
Program: Foam Cutting



Barnyard Buzzards  
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