



Buzzard Droppings



Gold Leader

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.

March 2011
Volume 18 Issue 3

Barnyard Buzzards Model Airplane Club

AMA Chapter 2953
Monroe, Washington

Next Club Meeting is **Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 6:30 PM** at Alf's Pizza on Route 2 in Monroe (See page 9 for a map).

Program: Crash Action No.2 Video



President's Message — Bryan Reightley

Hello Buzzards,

Many thanks to all club members who helped out in last month's NW Model Hobby Expo. We represented ourselves well helping to set up and take down the event, manning the club booth, helping out at the swap table, and overseeing the Fun Fly. Our collective efforts will hopefully lead to some new mem-

bers. Also, \$100.00 was donated to a local food bank in the name of the Barnyard Buzzards from the event.

If you have recently learned of our club and are considering becoming a member please join us at an upcoming club meeting.

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February 8th Meeting Minutes — Vaughan Houser

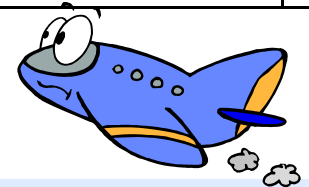
President Bryan Reightley called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with 19 members present on 2/8/11.

Bryan called for visitors or guests to introduce themselves. No new guests or visitors were present. As always, it was good to see everyone who attended the meeting.

Bryan introduced the officers and then went into the officers' reports.

- President – Bryan Reightley
- Vice President – Jim Reynolds
- Treasurer – Rick Hanners
- Secretary – Vaughan Houser
- Field Safety Officer – Vince Bell
- Newsletter Editor and Webmaster – Ron Swift
- Field Manager – Jay Bell

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Club Officers and Contacts

President: Bryan Reightley (360) 668-607 Vice President: Jim Reynolds (360) 435-9662
 Secretary: Vaughan Houser (425) 788-8616 Treasurer: Rick Hanners (360) 668-1312
 Safety Officer: Vince Bell (425) 788-2456 Newsletter & Website: Ron Swift (425) 788-6045
 Field Manager: Jay Bell (425) 788-4831



(President's Message continued from page 1)

The meetings are open to anyone and we would enjoy the opportunity to meet you. See page 9 of this newsletter for meeting places, dates, and times.

I've finally found a way to combine my favorite hobbies— RC flying and scuba diving. Well....not exactly, but pretty close. This all came about after my first flight of the day a couple of Sunday's ago. You see, during that flight, my plane decided (on its own) to make a spiraling dive out of sight beyond the trees north of our flying field. Oddly, no visual or audio evidence of a crash was noticed, yet I assumed the worst. I say it must have done this on its own because although a spectacular maneuver, it was certainly not intended. In my opinion there could be only one explanation. That's right...it was hijacked by the little pilot onboard sitting in the back seat. Fortunately, he brought the plane to rest upright in the river and managed to get the landing gear hung up on a snag after drifting about 100 yds. Once I located my plane, I spent two panicked hours considering my options before deciding to take the plunge and swim for it. After a quick trip home, and recruiting Ron Swift as my safety team and camera man, I put on my dry-suit "smile...click", and jumped in. Using a combination of swimming, drifting, and walking, I made my way to the crash site near the big island. Following a short investigation, I rescued both my plane and for humanitarian reasons, the little pilot sitting in the back seat. After a quick stop on the smaller island, and encouragement from Ron "click", I reached the river bank just west of the flying field. Together, Ron and I negotiated the blackberry vines at the top of the bank, completing the mission.

With no damage to the airframe and only a waterlogged speed controller, the rescue was deemed a success "click".

You may be asking why I elected to share this story. In truth, the reasons are many. First, it has a happy ending. Second, it offers encouragement and hope for club members when, in the future, they land/crash beyond the trees. Third, I plan to start a new business called "Island Recovery Services" (IRS) and wanted to get the word out. And fourth, I don't know for sure what all Ron got on those pictures and because he is the only witness, I felt it important to get the truth out.

In all seriousness, I want to thank Ron for his help that day. Without his willingness to stand by and help if something had gone wrong, I would have never gotten in the river.

Remember... never give up hope when you don't see or hear the crash...and always keep your gear down.

See you at the field,
Bryan



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Bryan asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented in the Buzzards February newsletter. A motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken. The minutes as presented were accepted.

Officers Reports

Vice President – Jim Reynolds reminded everyone of the builder's contest. Currently only

one member has entered the contest. The ensuing discussion centered on whether, or not, to continue with the contest. No decision was made at this time.

Jim also reminded the group of the upcoming events for 2011:

1. Charity auction around June 14th.
2. Fun Fly scheduled for July 23rd.

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3. Open house and Swap meet on August 14th (tentatively).
4. Combat on September 10th.
(The 2012 Freeze-In is slated for 1/7/2012.)

Jim also reminded everyone that food provided at the events was strictly on a voluntary basis. He solicited members interested in volunteering to provide food. Whoever steps up will operate independently and self-manage buying, preparing, and serving food. The individual, or individuals, will fund and retain all proceeds. The Barnyard Buzzards will not subsidize the food.

Treasurer – Rick Hanners reported that the Buzzards are in good shape financially. For those who have not renewed their Buzzard membership, you have until the end of the March meeting to pay: \$70.00 for returning members, \$105.00 for family members, and \$110.00 for new members.

Secretary – Vaughan reported that the Buzzard membership is at 41 for 2011. Technically, the club has 63 members until March.

Safety Officer – Vince took some time to explain safe handling of batteries, in particular Li-on batteries. You can read more about safe battery handling and management in the latest newsletter.

Field Manager – Jay reported nothing new regarding the field.

Newsletter/Announcements – Ron Swift reminded the members of the upcoming Northwest Model Hobby Expo at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds, February 11 through 13. He was looking for individuals to sign up for specific times to attend to the Buzzard tables.

Old Business

President Bryan reminded everyone to be mindful where their planes are flying at the east end of the field. The arrow pointing north is there for a reason: as a marker to stay to the left. Adhering to this requirement ensures our aircraft are a reasonable distance from the house in that location. (Secretary's comment: Every once in a while, put yourself in the shoes of the people living in a house in close

proximity to a flying field, to better understand how to be a good neighbor.)

New Business

President Bryan inquired about how to increase attendance at the monthly meetings. Ron Swift recommended planning for future programs and then advertising to increase awareness to members and others who might be interested in attending. Ron suggested advertising at the local schools, hobby stores, etc., to get the word out. Sandy suggested compiling a short survey to determine what people are interested in, then cater to those interests. Another suggestion was to resurrect the "show & tell" of members' projects. So, if you have ideas, please share. All the while understand that this is a club made up of volunteers, who do enjoy building, flying models, and socially interacting with one another. Chet drew attention to the wording in the by-laws pertaining to the dues. There is an apparent discrepancy in the wording aligning to the new dues structure. A short discussion resulted in the board taking the action to review at the next board meeting.

Bryan suggested exploring dedicating one of the stations/tables for charging batteries. Ideas included the use of car batteries, solar cells, and a small generator. The intent is to have a means for members to charge batteries easily at the field. Perhaps you will take some time to percolate on generating some innovative solutions. We'll spend some more time on this topic at the next meeting.

Rick Hanners made a motion to prohibit turbines and First Person View (FPV) aircraft from flying at the field. After a clarifying discussion Rick withdrew his motion as stated and presented two separate motions. The first one was to prohibit turbines from flying at the field. The second motion was to allow FPV at the field. The motions were seconded, voted on, and approved, with one nay.

Presentation/Program

Ron Swift presented techniques for making foam wings. He demonstrated the use of some unique tools for cutting, shaping, and

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trimming various types of foam. It was really amazing to see what can be accomplished in a short time. Thank you Ron for an informative demonstration.

The meeting officially adjourned at 8:24 PM.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at Alfy's in Monroe at 6:30 P.M.

The club newsletter is available on-line. If you still want to receive a "hard" copy contact Ron Swift (425-788-6045).

Respectfully submitted by Vaughan Houger
BBMAC Secretary.



Our 2011 Board of Directors, (left to right) Vaughan, Vince, Bryan, Rick and Jim

AMA Large Aircraft Program

On January 25, 2011, AMA's Executive Council (EC) approved an update to the Large Model Aircraft program. This program includes some significant changes.

One of the most prominent changes is the weight increase to **125 pounds for prop-driven models (LMA)** and **100 pounds for turbine-powered models (LTMA)**. There are four classifications referenced within the program: LMA-1, LMA-2, LTMA-1 and LTMA-2.

Another important change is that classifications LMA-1 and LTMA-1 (55 pounds to 77.2 pounds) will allow for a self-inspection by the owner of the LMA. It will require two demonstration flights in front of two observers. The owner can serve as one of the observers, as long as he/she is not the pilot of the model. The other observer has to be an AMA Con-

test Director (CD), Leader Member (LM) or Large Model Aircraft Inspector (LMAI).

As an LM or CD, you can reduce the travel time and coordination required of an LMA-1 owner. While it is a voluntary action, if you are asked to help with observing a test flight, it would be helpful for your fellow modelers and the AMA staff if you could accommodate the request. You would not be inspecting—just verifying that the test flight was completed successfully.

Classifications LMA-2 and LTMA-2 will require inspection by an LMAI, followed by demonstration flights observed by the inspector.

To review the complete program go to <http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/520-a.pdf>.



Barnyard Buzzards Events

2011 Events

Our events are **open to the public** and you are welcome to come out to watch the events and talk with our pilots. All current AMA members are welcome to participate in the competitive events and our Open House.

We have food available at each of our events for a nominal charge. Lunch normally starts by 11:30 AM.

Also, we host a swap meet at each of the events that is open to anyone. Spaces for the swap meet are available on a first come, first served basis. Please bring your own tables (or use your vehicle).

EVENT	DATE & TIME		CONTACT	LOCATION
Club Charity Auction	Tuesday, June 14	6:30 - 8:30 PM	Ron Swift  (425) 788-6045 	Club Field
Fun Fly	Saturday, July 23 rain date: July 24	10:00am - 3:00pm	Ron Swift  (425) 788-6045 	Club Field
Open House & Super Swap Meet	Sunday, August 14	10:00am - 3:00pm	Bryan Reightley  (360) 863-2953 	Club Field
Combat	Saturday, September, 2011 (TBD)	10:00am - 3:00pm	Scott Curtis  (425) 337-2657 	Club Field
Annual Freeze-in	Saturday, January 7, 2012	11am - 2pm	Ron Swift  (425) 788-6045 	Club Field
Builder Competition	Begins at the end of our May meeting each year and continues until our next May meeting. Bring the model name (photo would be nice!) and entry fee of \$10.00 to enter!!! You can enter as many planes as you want until the May meeting. It adds points if you fly the model prior to the judging. Judging and award presentation will be during our May 10, 2011 meeting at the club field.			

No Fly Zone!!!

Most members know we have recently been approached about flying beyond our south field boundary by both Dale (our landlord) and the occupant of his rental house east of the trestle. Today, I gave the white arrow and pole on top of the trestle an update (see picture). Weather conditions did not allow painting so I got creative with orange surveyor's tape. My hope in doing this is to provide Dale evidence of our effort to address his renter's concern by making the boundary pole more visible to pilots. Additionally, I erected a smaller pole north of the arrow as an early reminder for us when landing. My effort today is by no means a final solution. However, it does buy us time to explore better and more permanent ideas for making this boundary more visible. Until then, let's be the best neighbors we can be by staying north of the pole when flying and landing. If you wish assistance rethinking your approach please ask for it. When not flying, please don't be afraid to give your fellow pilots a reminder if they need one.

Thanks for your help! Bryan





Safety Corner



I hope everyone has had a safe month. Safety is more of a state of mind than a bunch of rules and regulations that are beat into us. Now don't get me wrong, we need to have the rules beat into us on occasion. Hopefully all that is needed is a gentle reminder, not a chopped off finger or getting run into by a wayward plane.

Situational awareness is a term that we should all know and practice. Know what is going on around you! Don't have your back to the runway when there are airplanes landing and taking-off. If you use the big tables that are beyond the end of the safety fence to work on your planes **STAND ON THE PARKING LOT SIDE.** Doing your work in this way, you will be facing the runway with the table between you and runway. Should an errant plane come at you, you will have a chance to see it and react. Also the table may help protect you. *By the way this is not a hypothetical case—it happened one morning.* Luckily no one was hurt. When using the tables that are behind the safety fence don't have your back to runway any more than necessary and pay attention to what is going on around you. **Situational awareness.**

For you guys that don't fly year round and even if you do, personally I tend to fly the same plane most the time in the winter months so the

others just sit around. It is time to get the planes out and do a detailed inspection of all the linkage, wiring connections, and covering. Look for cracked and nicked props and general air worthiness of the airframe. Unplug all the connections and inspect for corrosion.

If you didn't repair the defects as you find them they should have a tag on them identifying the required repair and or parts that are needed for the repair.

CYCLE THE BATTERIES and make sure they are up to snuff.

A safe attitude is probably the most important item we can pack into our flight boxes. You can put a ton of safe attitude in your field box and it will not add any extra weight. Conversely you can also put a ton of bad (don't give a rip) attitude into the flight box and it may add more weight than you can image.

Summer is coming, so they tell me, and with more people at the field it is even more important to have the Safe Attitude in the field box.

Remember that Bad Attitudes and Bad Altitude have one thing in common, Bad things.

Be Safe. Be Courteous.

Vince Bell, Safety Officer

Island Recovery Services



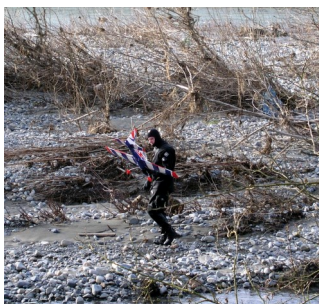
Dressed to dance!



Headin' Out



Gotcha!



Island Hoppin'

This water rescue was performed by a trained Professional! Do not try this at home!



Sweet Success...



Photos for Fun





North West MODEL HOBBY EXPO!



A special thank you to all the members who helped with the NW Model Hobby Expo. From the swap and indoor flying, we donated \$100.00 to a local food drive in the name of our club, BBMAC. Ron

\$100.00 Donated From the Expo to the Local Food Bank





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 Piz-za 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 Houger 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**

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
Sept. 13	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, March 8, 6:30 PM** at Alfy's
Pizza in Route 2 in Monroe (see page 9).



Program: **Crash Action No.2 Video**

Barnyard Buzzards
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