

11/08/2010

Dekalb Flying Models Club Marks Its 40th Year in DeKalb County Indiana

In the year, 2010 Dekalb Flying Models Club marked its 40th year as a sanctioned AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) club. The club is a non-profit organization. The club flies RC (radio control) model aircraft of many types including helicopters, park flyers, sport and scale airplanes, and training aircraft.

It all started with three men meeting at each other's houses and sharing a common bond, building and flying radio control models. In 1970, the men decided that it was time to formally organize and become a sanctioned club #282 and agreed to a written constitution and by-laws and applied for an A.M.A. Charter. The three men who started the Dekalb Flying Models Club were Francis Bell, Richard Barber, and William Snavley.

The Club soon began to grow and at the end of the first year had 13 dues paying members. One of the members William Snavley had designed a club emblem and the club was on its way.

The 13 founding members were Robert Allen, Richard Barber, Francis Bell, Jim Campbell, Mark Cooke, Steve Cougill, William Cox, Louis Fox, Dan Layre, DeWayne Likes, Tom Moulder, William Snavley and William Whitcomb.

The club spent its early years flying at the DeKalb High School until construction started on the new DeKalb Middle School. A new field became available through a verbal agreement with Warner Gear (Division of Borg-Warner) on the South edge of Auburn, Indiana until about 1985. DeKalb flying models club then relocated back to Dekalb Middle School until further expansion forced the club to look for a new site. Wendell Bell, who had a private airstrip on his property, offered use of his airstrip for club flying activities when the airstrip was not in use. The club accepted the offer enthusiastically and resumed flying activities. Upon the passing of Wendell Bell, the Dekalb Flying Models Club was willed 4.62 acres of property in November 1999. The flying site is located 4 miles north of Butler, Indiana on State Road 1 to County Road 12 then east 2 miles to the Bell Flying Field. The club activities continue at this site to this day. The Dekalb Flying Models Club has withstood the test of time, has maintained its stubbornness to survive in less than perfect situations, and will continue to do so.

RC planes can be purchased in many forms such as kits, Almost-Ready-To-Fly (ARF), Ready-To-Fly (RTF) & Ready-To-Cover (RTC) and gives RC plane hobbyist the opportunity to be involved according to their interest. It should be mentioned that ARF's and RTC's are a form of kit plane in that some work is required to finish the model for flight. It is NOT recommended that your first Basic Trainer be built from a wood kit. Your first Basic Trainer should be either an RTF or an ARF. This gets the pilot into the air faster so piloting skills can be mastered quickly. Your second airplane should definitely be an ARF as well. This provides a back up airplane should the worst happen. However, sometime in the RC hobbyist career, the hobbyist should build from a wood kit. The advantage of building a wood kit is that it teaches how models are put together, how they function and interlock tasks. Since RTF and ARF aircraft are built the same way, knowing how to build helps in repairing an injured RTF or ARF. In addition, the hobbyist has the personal satisfaction of flying his own creation.

A kit plane comes with a plan an instruction manual and a box of materials such examples as balsa wood, plastic parts and landing gear parts to mention a few items. Parts such as engine and radio equipment can be purchased as construction requires and spreads the cost of construction out over time. One thing to remember about kit building is that you should not think of the project in its entirety or you will be over whelmed, but, do one-step at a time and one piece at a time and enjoy each step you make. If a modeler joins a RC club, the modeler will have access to other modelers who have a wealth of experience and information in building and flying all types of aircraft.

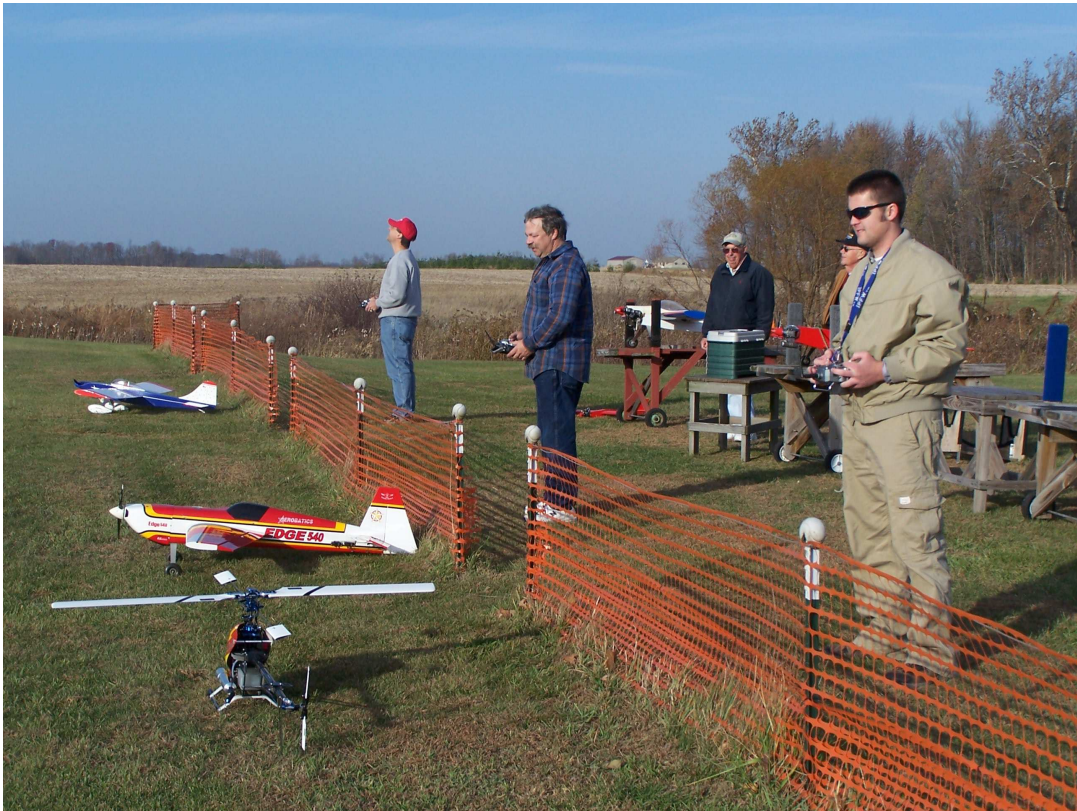
It is worth mentioning that NASA uses radio control aircraft, not unlike the aircraft used by RC hobbyist, in summer intern programs for high school students in which they install instrumentation and do experiments in flight dynamics.

Anyone interested in pursuing the exciting hobby of RC flying can attend the club meetings held at the William H. Willenner Genealogy Center, 700 S. Jackson St., Auburn, Indiana on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., however, call 260-573-6880 to confirm meeting date and time. The club has members who can train individuals to be accomplished pilots in all types of aircraft except helicopters

The current officers for 2010 are Bill Pollack (President), Bill Weesner (Vice President), Mike Hullinger (Treasurer), Bill Ogg (Secretary), and Rick Wermer (Field Safety Coordinator).



L to R: Mike Hullinger, Rick Wermer, Blaine Cox, Don Smith, Bill Ogg and Bill Pollack



L to R next to fence: Mike Hullinger, Bill Ogg, Blaine Cox

L to R in background: Rick Wermer and Don Smith