

AMA Charter No. 2940

THE DEAD STICK FLYER

Havre de Grace, MD

Volume 14, No. 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF SWAN HARBOR RC

www.SwanHarborRC.com

January 2003



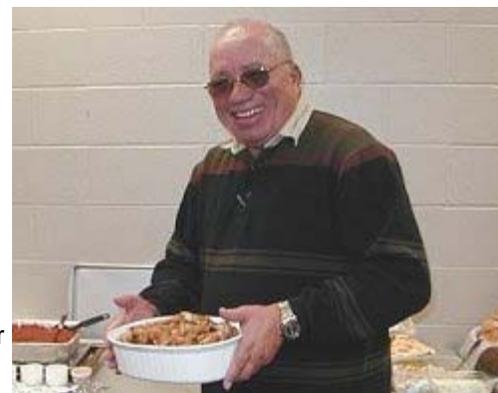
President:	Jim Snyder	410-256-3299
Vice President:	Steve Snyder	410-638-2895
Sect'y /	Achille	410-838-6261
Newsletter:	Silvestri	410-272-4251
Treasurer:	Dan Bowman	410-569-7235
Safety Officer:	Bob Steininger	410-282-3862
Member at Large:	Tom Obringer	410-272-0116
Member at Large:	Tom Smith	

Club meeting January 9th, 7:00 pm, Churchville Rec Center. Bring something for Show and Tell.

SWAN HARBOR RC IN PRINT ...

You may remember the incident last summer when one of our pilots may have lost a plane because someone was flying on an improper channel. A further check at that time found yet another pilot flying on an improperly tagged channel. This problem prompted Bob Walker to write a letter of concern to *Model Aviation* regarding the control of transmitters at the field, and especially at invitational flying events. Model Aviation bucked the letter to their Technical Director, Steve Kaluf, who writes the column "Focus on Competition". Steve was so impressed with the letter that he reproduced the entire thing, identifying Bob and our Club.

Steve's reaction was this: "The message is simple here. Check to assure your frequency flag matches the actual channel your transmitter is on. Make sure you pick up the correct frequency pin or that impound issues you the correct pin. These are simple steps to take to avert possible disaster."



Joe Nixon and his famous wings

Our thanks to Bob for this valuable service. You can read Bob's complete letter and Steve's reaction on page 171 of *Model Aviation*, January 2003.



The Grand Buffet

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

I wish to thank everyone for electing me to another term. I've actually enjoyed being President, and I think the reason is that we have a cooperative and helpful membership. There always seems to be a lot of volunteer help whenever we plan a fly-in, open house or simple family outing. I look forward to another year of this successful formula.

AND FROM THE EDITOR ...

This was a good year for the Club. We had a couple of very successful field events. The field and facilities have never looked better. The grass is growing better there than in my yard. We have started to promote our image as the "Swan Harbor RC" flying Club. This fits in nicely with a well-known and popular area of Harford County. Hopefully, their prestige and visibility will carry us along. I wish all of us another happy and successful year in which we may enjoy the comradery and pleasures of RC modeling in and beyond our Club.

(www.harfordvista.com now carries us as Swan Harbor RC on their home page. Check it out).

CLUB MEETING / CHRISTMAS PARTY ...

The party on December 15th was very enjoyable. It was nice to see some of the folks in an environment other than the

flying field. It was especially good to see many of the wives, those strong women who stand anxiously by the window waiting for their pilots to return. There was a lot of good food! How much was there? ... we were supposed to go to dinner that evening, but we canceled out we were so stuffed. A nice way to finish up the year.

And of course we had to finish our Club elections. The votes were collected and tallied and the findings were 100% for each of the candidates. Even Saddam Hussein doesn't do that good. So again for another year the guys with all the power (to order hamburgers, set schedules and clean up) are:

President:	Jim Snyder
Vice-President:	Steve Snyder
Sect'y Newsletter:	Achille Silvestri
Treasurer:	Dan Bowman
Safety Officer:	Bob Steininger
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Member at Large:	Tom Smith

Dan Bowman did a very brisk business logging in application renewals. Looks like we already have a good jump on next year.



**Nadine Nixon and
Granddaughter Victoria Pierce**



Dan Bowman signs them up

SHOW AND TELL ...

Joe Nixon brought in his famous chicken wings. They were great as always. Also, Nadine Nixon brought in their granddaughter, Victoria Pierce, an absolutely beautiful little girl.

As for next meeting, how about some of you guys who have been whining and hinting for your new Christmas toys bring some of them in for Show and Tell. You know who you are: Bob, Jerry, John, Joe, Tim, Dave, Tom, etc. This is the first column I've done without a picture of an airplane. It's not right. I know the weather has been bad, so I didn't get any photos at the field, but I expect next month we'll at least have some from Show and Tell. Don't make me hurt you.

THE TRUTH (?) ABOUT METAL HYDRIDE BATTERIES ...

Bob Walker brought our attention to an article he found on the Internet, "Why Doesn't SR sell Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) or Lithium battery packs." Now, I don't have a dog in this fight. I still use the old NiCads. But I am curious about some of the things SR has to say.

This is what I seem to gather from their presentation. Metal hydride batteries are best used for specific applications. When used for specific applications, the batteries are designed with special "smart" circuitry to control their rate of charge or discharge. This precludes their likelihood of overcharging (potential fire or explosion) or discharging too low with resultant damage to the battery. You probably wouldn't want such controls on your battery. Who wants to have a battery turn itself off in the middle of a flight so as to protect itself but put your plane in jeopardy. Further, they assert that the metal hydrides are less reliable, don't like high or low temperatures or vibration. Also, the hydrides discharge at a faster rate and last only one-third as long in terms of the number of charge and discharge cycles.

These seem to be serious issues. Who are these guys SR Batteries, Inc? Do they know what they're talking about? Read their complete presentation by logging onto: <http://www.srbatteries.com/whyno.htm>

Is there someone to present a contrarian view? Like to hear from you.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ...

Submit your application for 2003 any time. Remember, you have a grace period until March 31. After that you must join

again as a new member and pay the \$25 initiation fee. You don't want to do that.

FROM THE PITS ...

Bummer! What a bad run of weather. This is the worst start of winter I've seen since I've been in RC modeling. Hopefully, things will ease up and we can squeeze in a flight or two.

AMA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ...

Don't forget your AMA membership for 2003 is due. You can't fly without one.

ABOUT SWAN HARBOR RC ...

Swan Harbor RC meets the second Thursday of the month. During the off season, we meet at the Churchville Rec Center on Glenville Road. The public is welcome to the meetings and to fly with us. To fly with us at Swan Harbor, take Oakington Road off of US 40 (between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace) and follow the signs. Membership information can be obtained from Dan Bowman, 410-272-4251, FLYERDCB@aol.com. To learn more about Swan Harbor RC (formerly MAOA), go to <http://www.harfordvista.com/rcnews.asp> and click onto January 2001.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 9, 2003	Swan Harbor RC club meeting, Churchville Rec Center, 7:00 pm.
Feb 8, 2003	Westminster Aero Modelers Flea Market, Westminster VFW Hall, Poole Road, Westminster, MD. Ed Bradley 410-635-6436, ENCB3@Bellatlantic.net .
Feb 21-23, 2003	WRAM Show, White Plains, NY www.wram.org .
Jun 7, 2003	Swan Harbor RC Skyfest Open House, Swan Harbor Flying Field, Havre de Grace, MD.
Sep 13, 2003	Swan Harbor RC Giant Scale IMAA Fly-In, Swan Harbor Flying Field, Havre de Grace, MD.

Archives:

Past Newsletters

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