



# Pikes Peak Radio Control Club

## Newsletter

Volume 45 / Issue 04 / April 2017

AMA Club Number 179 / 2126 East Boulder Ave / Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909  
Phone: 719-329-1600 / Website: www.pprcflyers.net



Club President – Rob Latkovich / Club Vice President – Kevin Kinzel  
Club Safety Officer – Greg Moore / Club Treasurer – Adam Heffington  
Club Airfield Maintenance Team – Chuck Brath, Kevin Kinzel, Dan Brunson  
Club Flight Instructor – Ben Woofter / Club Secretary & Club Newsletter Editor – Keith Davis

<p><b>Next PPRCC Meeting:</b> 7:00pm / April 4th (Tue) 2017 @ Railroad Station / 555 E Pikes Peak Ave</p>	<p><b>Local RC events happening this month:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JEFECO mini Auction</li> <li>• Dawn Patrol 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Swap Meet</li> </ul>
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### Last Month's Minutes . . .

(March meeting)



Meeting Started: 7:05 pm  
Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 pm

Members Attended: 21  
New Members: 0  
Visitors: 0

#### New Business:

- 1) Club President Rob Latkovich, spoke about the club's upcoming flying season and wished everyone another great flying season.
- 2) Club Treasurer Adam Heffington, spoke about the club's March finances. Adam also requests when filling out the club application form, to print as neatly as possible to prevent re-writing errors.
- 3) Club Safety Officer Greg Moore, reminded everyone that we are fast approaching the high-fire season and to be cognizant of fire hazards. It has been very windy lately and the airfield is surrounded by tall grass. There are several shovels near the shed in the event of a fire breakout. The Peyton fire department will be the first responders if assistance is required to fight a fire.

#### Old Business:

- 1) The 2017 club budget was approved during the February club meeting. The only major maintenance project planned for 2017 is the possibility of installing additional shade stands at each of the pit areas. No projected ideas has been proposed yet.

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### Airplane Anomalies . . .



**"What's the next best thing if you cannot afford to purchase a RC airplane? Make yourself a giant paper airplane!"**

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# PPRCC Receives An Award



During the February club meeting, Dan Brunson spoke to the club members about turning in any RC planes that were no longer wanted or in an un-flyable condition, no matter what the condition.

The response to Dan's request was overwhelming. Within weeks, Dan received several crashed airplanes at his shop or were dropped off at the airfield storage shed. (Do we crash that much?).

These unserviceable airplanes are going to the Fort Carson 71<sup>st</sup> Ordnance Group, which are using the airplanes for training aides to show how these items are being transformed into aerial weapons and being used by hostile groups overseas.

The 71<sup>st</sup> Ordnance Group was so appreciative of the donations, they presented the club and Dan, a Certificate of Appreciation for the club's support and effort.

Dan brought the award to the March club meeting and presented it to the club. The award will now be displayed at Dan's hobby store, Pikes Peak RC hobbies. Thanks for supporting our troops!



**"Certificate of Appreciation awarded to PPRCC, from the Fort Carson 71<sup>st</sup> Ordnance Group."**

In the meantime, here are a few photos showing how simple RC aircraft are being used as deadly weapons. Note the extensive usage of duct tape.



Kurdish Peshmerga forces with an ISIS drone shot down in March 2016 near Mosul, Iraq. The drone was used to observe and photograph Peshmerga troop positions.



Pieces of a Hezbollah drone shot down by the Israeli air force in 2006.

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## Can You Name that Plane?



**Clue #1:** Built as a post WWII transport, it was one of the first planes designed to transport civilian passengers and their cars together, from England to France as an alternative to the slower ferry rides crossing the English Channel.



**Clue #2:** With a top speed of only 225 mph, it was decided to use fixed landing gear instead of the more complicated and heavy retractable landing gear to save weight.



**Clue #3:** 68 of the 214 aircraft built were destroyed or damaged beyond repair in accidents. At least 45 of these were fatal, resulting in the deaths of at least 385 passengers and crew.

**Last Month's Airplane:** The Curtiss SC Seahawk. There were no correct answers.

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## Show & Tell Item - I



Wayne Cooksey's Scratch-Built Profile



**"Wayne presented his scratch-built, profile airplane called the Raven. It has a foam-core wing, weighs 5 ½ pounds and is powered by an O.S.46 engine. Wayne has flown the plane several times and it does quite well. It was observed taking off in under 4 feet!"**

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## Flight Training, Year Round!



Club flight instructor Ben Woofter has been busy throughout the winter months. Just a few weeks ago in March, he trained a few junior pilots and just several days ago, he started flight training with a father and son team.



**“Ben (Left) does a quick pre-flight, then gives Nick (The son) and Mike (The dad), a quick briefing.”**



**“Nick was happy with his first flight on the Apprentice. Dad was happy too, proud of his son’s first flight.”**

If you or a family member is interested in learning to fly a RC airplane, Ben usually comes out on Sundays, weather permitting. No cost involved, no equipment required, just come on out to the airfield and be prepared to have some fun!

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## USAF Thunderbird Update



Article from the Air Force Magazine, dated March 2017



**“Article from the U.S. Air Force magazine, explaining the official cause of the downed F-16 Falcon.”**

If you recall, last year after the 2016 USAFA graduation, one of the USAF F-16 Thunderbirds, went down just short of the Peterson AFB runway.

The Air Force magazine, dated March 2017, explains the official cause of the crash. To summarize the article, it states the cause of the crash was because of a faulty throttle detent switch.



**“F-16 Falcon, tail number 92-3890, rests just short of the PAFB runway, next to Powers Blvd.”**

As the pilot idled back for landing, the faulty detent switch allowed the pilot to retard the throttle past the idle position straight into the off position, thus shutting off the engine. The pilot was too low to attempt an engine restart and decided to bail out.

The pilot ejected just before impact and the jet landed upright, but the plane was still written off as a total loss. Later that day, the pilot, Major Alex Turner, met with President Obama, to be commended on his landing accomplishment.

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## AMA Magazine Celebrities



Photos from the AMA magazine, March 2017

A few of our PPRCC members made the March edition of the AMA magazine. Although a bit obscured and posted in the back, Duane Zinke and his plane made the District IX section, talking about the PPRCC Frozen Needle-Valve event.



Clockwise from top left: Gene Corson at the Casper Hell or High Wind; Darren Schwede at Frost Your Buns; preparing for flight at the Frozen Needle Valve; and Eric Lemmon with a new student, Finn Wallington, at the LEAF New Year's Fly.

**“Although his name is not mentioned, Duane and his plane can be seen in the lower right photo.”**

And James Murphy, under the same section, was photographed while attending the 2017 Annual AMA District IX meeting.



There was a packed house at the Denver Leadership Meeting.

**“Murphy can be seen on the far right, standing up with the red hat on.”**

This year, I hope to keep in touch with the District IX Vice President, Rick McCaskill, in order to get more of the PPRCC events posted in the AMA magazine.

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## Show & Tell Item - II



Keith Davis' Flightline RC F7F Tigercat



**“Keith displayed his brand new Flightline RC, electric-powered F7F Tigercat. It has a 63” ws and runs off of two 4C 4000mah batteries. The plane comes complete with electric retracts, flaps and landing lights. Keith has not flown the plane yet, too windy!”**

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## What Could Possibly Go Wrong?



Article by David Reynolds, District X representative

Article submitted by Club Safety Officer Greg Moore

Mr. Precout states -

“However, in both Challenger and Columbia, the big discovery was the engineers’ and managers’ behaviors were mistakes, not misconduct. Looking at the data it became clear they had not violated rules at all; they had met all NASA requirements. As risks arose in the program, they analyzed the new information and wrote rationale to explain why those risks were acceptable and “within the existing rules.” They had normalized deviant behavior.”

Put more succinctly –

“...when we see an unexpected behavior and nothing bad happens we have a tendency to accept the deviance and think of it as safe; we normalize it.”

This article got me to thinking about some of the things we do as modelers that could fall into the normalization of deviance category. Not too long after I read the article, one of the local club members had an accident at the field that ended up with a trip to the emergency room. His model quit while taxiing out to the runway. Rather than pick his plane up and take it back to starting table, he started it there where it stopped. He had done it hundreds of times without issue.

Closer to what we are doing, at a recent event there was a pilot doing high speed 360s right at show center all weekend. What’s the issue, people do it all the time, right? Later in the weekend that same plane that had been pulling high g’s while pointing at the crowd and the pits folded while performing a knife edge pass. The debris field stretched about a quarter mile from the point of impact. Take a moment to think about what the fallout could have been if that plane had folded up while pointed at the place where paying public had been told to sit.

How many of you have had a conversation with your buddies while your jet goes through its startup routine?

It may seem to be harmless, but again at a recent event I watched as it took a mad panic of about four guys to hold down a large twin turbine as it went to full power in the startup area. Nobody had a hand on the transmitter; it was sitting on the ground unattended. Granted, it probably only took about 30 seconds for somebody to pick up the transmitter and cut the throttle, but I’m sure it felt like a lifetime to the guys hanging on.

EDF pilots are not immune to this normalization. At another event a twin EDF went to full throttle in the pits and traveled a good 40 feet before slamming into a catch fence. This is why most field rules state that electricians are not to be armed in the pits. Yet many pilots still plug in the batteries before heading out to the flight line. After all, nothing bad has happened.

I should point out that I don’t consider any of the pilots mentioned in these events to be dangerous or irresponsible. In some of these cases I would in fact say the opposite in that they approach all aspects of model aviation with a degree of professionalism that is to be admired. They did, however, fall into the trap of Normalization of Deviance. Maybe they did it once in a hurry. Perhaps it was a moment of laziness. Whatever the reason, it was only a matter of time before they experienced another term from the article in Sport Aviation – “predictable surprise.”

So take some time when you next hit the flight line and think about what you may have been getting away with. How can you mitigate danger? What habits do you have that deserve a second look? What habits should be reinforced? I myself always check the control direction every time before I taxi out. Any guesses as to why? As the saying goes, good judgement comes from experience and experience comes from bad judgement. Look out for each other and spread that experience around so that others don’t have to gain it the hard way.

I’ll leave you with that thought and some shots from the Arizona Jet Rally. As always if you have any upcoming events let me know by sending me an email or you can post a flyer up on the JPO District 10 Facebook page like Skip Blatar did for his High Sierra Jets event in Reno, Nevada happening April 8-9. Until next time, keep the low passes where they belong.

Dave Reynolds, District X Representative

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### Three Of A Kind!



Once again my good friend Dave living in New Zealand, sent me a photo of a very rare, flyable WWII airplane, the Avro Anson. There are dozens on static display around the world, a handful currently under restoration and only 3 in the world currently in flying condition. England owns two of them and New Zealand owns the third one. Thanks Dave!



“Over 11,000 British Avro Ansons were built but only 3 are currently in flying condition today. The plane was a multi-engine, multi-role airplane used by dozens of countries during WWII.”

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*Do you have a story, article or a photo that you would like to share with the club? Get it to me at:*

[Lkdavis03@hotmail.com](mailto:Lkdavis03@hotmail.com)

*Keith Davis - PPRCC Newsletter Editor*



*Remember, last one out, please close and lock the airfield gate!*

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### Show & Tell Item - III



Duane Zinke's rebuilt & improved Kaos



“Although this improved Kaos is over 20 years old, Duane has continually improved the plane to keep it flying. It now has a new bright covering and powered by an O.S. 55AX engine. The plane weighs just over 6 pounds. Duane has not flown this colorful Kaos yet.”

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## For Your Butts Only!



**The Butt cans are for cigarette butts only, please place trash in the trash cans, just a few feet away or take your trash home.**

**Thank-You  
PPRCC Management**

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## Unattended Running Engines



**From the Club Safety Officer Greg Moore**

Please remember not to leave your airplane engines unattended while running. If you need to leave the area for any amount of time while the engine is running, have someone watch your equipment with the radio/transmitter available.

Also, If you need to do prolonged engine runs, there is plenty of space to relocate your plane to a remote location so that it does not disturb others in the pit area.

**Thank-You  
PPRCC Management**

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## U.S. Aviation History in April



- **April 1914** - U.S. Navy seaplanes conduct their first operational military flights during the Vera Cruz incident with Mexico.
- **April 1917** – The Boeing Aircraft Company, is established in Seattle, WA.
- **April 1933** – The U.S. Navy airship Akron, is lost during a storm off the coast of New Jersey, killing 73 of the 76 crewmen and passengers.
- **April 1941** – General Electric, ground runs for the first time, America’s first jet engine called the GE 1-A.
- **April 1945** – U.S. Navy aircraft sink the Japanese battleship Yamato. The ship takes at least 11 torpedo hits and 6 bomb hits before capsizing and sinking.
- **April 1948** – The Convair XF-92, the world’s first delta-wing aircraft, flies for the first time in Muroc, CA.
- **April 1952** – The Boeing XB-52 Stratofortress flies for the first time. After 50 years, the jet is still in service.
- **April 1953** – The Convair XF2Y-1 Sea Dart, a supersonic flying-boat fighter, flies for the first time.
- **April 1972** – The Lockheed L-1011 Tristar, enters service with Eastern Airlines.
- **April 1981** – The U.S. space shuttle Columbia, is launched for the first time.
- **April 1991** – The Lockheed/Boeing F-22 Raptor, is announced as the winner of the competition for the USAF’s first “Air Dominance” fighter.
- **April 1994** – MAJ Susan “Jackie” Parker, becomes the first female USAF pilot qualified to fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon.
- **April 2002** – Boeing gets its first order for the Boeing 787 Dreamliner from Japan.

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Rob's New Toy!

Rob Latkovich's Sky Master Israeli F-15 Eagle



Since Rob was unable to bring his new jet to a club meeting for "Show & Tell", the "Show & Tell" crew went out to the airfield to see Rob's new toy.

Rob recently purchased a Sky Master turbine F-15 Eagle in Israeli Air Force colors. While at the airfield, Rob got a chance to run it up for the first time, then taxied it around. Rob wants to do a bit more fine tuning before its first flight. Very nice!

Dawn Patrol Swap Meet

Saturday April 29th 2017



COLORADO DAWN PATROL RC CLUB

Second Annual:

RC BUY/SELL/SWAP MEET

Saturday April 29th 2017 - 9AM till 3PM

Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock CO - Kirk Hall

New larger venue - expanded number of tables - space provided for built up model airplanes to be displayed for sale - Refreshments and Food will be Available.

Admission Charge \$5/Tables \$15 and \$25 (wall tables)

Discount for pre-registration on our website

<http://coloradodawnpatrol.com>

Contact: Wayne Perry - oldrcwings74@gmail or (303)841.2038

Buyers and Sellers pay NO COMMISSION!

Make Your Own Deal and Keep the Proceeds for Yourself!

A portion of the net proceeds of this event will go to Disabled American Veterans via AMA.

# Pikes Peak RC Hobbies

2126 East Boulder Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
Phone: 1-719-329-1600



## Upcoming RC Events:

- **April 4<sup>th</sup> (Tue) 2017 - PPRCC meeting**
- **April 5<sup>th</sup> (Wed) 2017 - JEFCCO Mini Auction 7:00pm @ the Alice Terry Elementary School cafeteria / 4485 South Irving St, Sheridan, CO**
- **April 29<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 2017 - Dawn Patrol RC Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Swap Meet 9:00am - 3:00pm @ Kirk Hall on Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO**
- **May 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tue) 2017 - PPRCC meeting**
- **June 6<sup>th</sup> (Tue) 2017 - PPECC meeting**

