

Pikes Peak Radio Control Club

Newsletter



Volume 46 / Issue 02 / February 2018

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



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

<p>Next PPRCC Meeting: 7:00pm / February 6th (Tue) 2018 @ Railroad Station / 555 E Pikes Peak Ave</p>	<p>Local RC events happening this month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPRCC meeting & swap meet •
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Last Month's Minutes . . . (January meeting)



Meeting Started: 7:00 pm
Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 pm

Members Attended: 31
New Members: 0
Visitors: 2 – Ryan Taylor & Bill Mowen, welcome!

New Business:

1) Club President Kevin Kinzel, Informed everyone although the FAA registration requirement is back in affect, PPRCC does not inspect for FAA registration numbers. However, AMA registration is still a club requirement.

2) Club Treasurer Rod Hart, spoke about the December club finances then proceeded to update everyone about the club land lease. PPRCC has 3 years remaining on the lease.

3) The airfield gate combination lock has been changed for the New Year. The new number can be found on the back of your 2018 club badge.

Old Business:

1) No old business was discussed.

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Airplane Anomalies



"Could there have been a better location to post this airline advertisement?"

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2018 PPRCC Frozen Needle-Valve



Event took place: 1 January 2018

The Pikes Peak RC Club kicked off the new year with its traditional January 1st New Year event. Called the Frozen Needle-Valve event, it was a dry but very cold day with about 35 pilots participating.



“About 29 pilots are in the photo, they all endured the 20 degree temperatures to get that first flight of the New Year.”

The event began around 9:00am, but of course several pilots arrived much earlier to beat the rush and to get that first flight over with.

In the meantime, club president Kevin Kinzel and Dan Brunson fired up the grills and began cooking egg and ham sandwiches along with hot drinks. So if it was too cold for anyone to fly, at least they had something warm to eat and drink.



“Kevin and Dan stayed busy on the grills, while a happy PPRCC member walks away with a warm breakfast.”

Plenty of flying did take place, mostly electric airplanes because the glow-engine planes were harder to start in the cold temperatures. But the glow-engine airplane flyers did not give up that easily and several of them did get off the ground.



“Club member Tom Jacobs with one of the few non-electric airplanes, attempts to get his airplane started. He did!”



“Father and son team James and Hyden Thomas, preps their electric T-28 for a flight.”

The group photo was taken around 10:30am and soon thereafter, people began heading for home. Overall it was a good opening event for the club and we hope to have another good year of flying!

More photos can be viewed on the club website.

Can You Name That Plane?



Clue #1: This plane was built in 1931, only one was built because it failed all of the U.S. Navy requirements during trial competitions.



Clue #2: Instead of having a traditional fuselage, the single engine nacelle was extended to seat the pilot and rear gunner.



Last Month's Airplane: The big bomber was a Consolidated B-32 Dominator. Greg Moore knew the correct answer.

Show & Tell Item - I



James Murphy's Glider "Whip It"



"James has recently been adding gliders to his flying fleet, the Whip It being his latest UAS. The glider is sold by Horizon Hobbies, requires 3 channels and a 1 cell battery. The glider is hand launched and James has already flown the Whip it several times, including a 45 minute flight."

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Hobbico Files For Bankruptcy



Written by Ben Zigterman 01/10/2018

CHAMPAIGN — Hobbico filed for bankruptcy protection Wednesday, which could result in 332 layoffs at its Champaign facility.

In a statement, Hobbico said that it plans to sell the company and will continue operating throughout the bankruptcy process.

Hobbico also said that as it has grown, it has added too much debt and hasn't been able to successfully restructure, especially facing "an increasingly competitive industry, market headwinds and a series of one-off events with key suppliers."

In its filing with the United States Bankruptcy Court in Delaware, Hobbico said it has an estimated 200 to 999 creditors, \$10 to \$50 million in assets, and \$100 to \$500 million in liabilities.

"Despite Hobbico's core strengths, our business has faced a number of challenges in the last few years, and we have taken steps to ensure all available options to restore the stability of the Company have been exhausted," said Louis Brownstone, Hobbico's president. "However, while these efforts were taken to rebuild revenue and profitability, they did not sufficiently address our challenges and we decided to pursue a Chapter 11 reorganization and attempt to attract new capital investment."

In a notice sent to employees Wednesday, the distributor of hobby products said the layoffs, if they happen, could begin in April.

Hobbico "has determined that it may be necessary in the near future to permanently close and discontinue all of its operations in connection with a bankruptcy case to be filed under chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code," wrote human resources Director Howard Salazar in a letter dated Wednesday obtained by The News-Gazette.

The letters were sent as a formal notice under the Illinois Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, which requires employers to notify employees and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity 60 days before they plan to make mass layoffs.

"I can't speak for the company, but it's usually one of the last steps," said Jacquelyn Reineke, spokeswoman for the IDCEO. "Most of the time, it's pretty serious."

Hobbico said it could avoid the layoffs, as it has been trying over the past several months to restructure the company's obligations to creditors. Hobbico said it could avoid the layoffs, as it has been trying over the past several months to restructure the company's obligations to creditors.

"That plan provides for continued funding during the bankruptcy case to support the Company's business operations, including the preservation of employee jobs and related wages and benefits, until the Company can be sold," Salazar wrote.

However, Hobbico said that it can't assure that the buyer would continue employing people at its Champaign location.

"Thus, upon the sale of the company, it is possible that there will be a permanent shut down of all Hobbico operations and locations and the permanent termination of all Hobbico employees, including the permanent layoff of all 332 employees assigned to the Company's facility at 2904 Research Road, Champaign," Salazar wrote.

Additionally, Hobbico said that to continue receiving funding, it has to meet several conditions, "which cannot be assured," Salazar wrote. "If those conditions are not met, then it is possible that the Company may lose access to those funds, and the Company may be forced to shut down its operations."

In closing, Salazar reiterated that the company hopes to stay open.

"We realize that the uncertainty regarding the future of the Company may be concerning to employees, and we hope to be able to keep the business open through the bankruptcy and sale of the business, in order to minimize the disruption to the lives of our employees and their families," he wrote.

In its statement, Hobbico said filing for bankruptcy protection "is difficult, but it will help preserve the value of our business."

"And it's the right thing to do for our company and our employees," Brownstone said. "Under the process afforded to us under Chapter 11, we hope to reach an agreement with our creditors that will allow us to implement a restructuring plan that fully addresses our financial challenges while simultaneously identifying a prospective buyer that shares our vision of providing the best possible outcome for our employees and the future of Hobbico."

Hobbico was formed in 1986 when Clint Atkins combined two companies he bought: Don Anderson's Great Planes Model Distributors and Bruce Holecek's Tower Hobbies, which was founded in 1971.

According to its website, Hobbico is the largest U.S. distributor of hobby products and has 12 different facilities, including five in Champaign-Urbana and others in Germany, the United Kingdom, California, Colorado and Nevada.

And according to the latest top employers report from the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation, Hobbico is the 19th-largest employer in the county.

But it has been in a rough patch lately. The U.S. Department of Labor is investigating Hobbico's employee stock-ownership plan after the company deferred payments.

After deferring those payments at the end of 2016, then-CEO Wayne Hemming wrote to employees that, "It is expected that 2017 will also be a challenging year for the business."

The share value of employee stocks recently declined by more than 80 percent, with one former employee saying the value of her ESOP account dropped from just over \$27,000 to less than \$5,000.

"This step follows a number of actions Hobbico has taken over the past 18 months to control our costs, reduce our debt and improve our overall financial position. Among other things, we have taken steps to refinance our debt, increase product pricing and improve product profitability, improve operational efficiencies and develop new product lines to address declining sales," HR manager Megan Huppert wrote Jan. 4 in an email to employees obtained by The News-Gazette.

"Despite these efforts, our business continues to face significant challenges. As we have shared before, we are experiencing increasing competition and our leading product lines have been negatively impacted by market headwinds and a series of one-time events with key suppliers."

Hobbico also recently announced it will close its 200,000-square-foot distribution facility in Reno, Nev., on Feb. 28 2018.



Photo by: Stephen Haas / The News-Gazette
Stephen Haas / The News-Gazette Hobbico, Inc.
Corporate Campus, 2904 Research Road in
Champaign, Illinois

The gate Lock Combination has Changed! Be sure to renew your club membership and get the new combination from the back of your 2018 club badge!



DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE,
PHOTO OR STORY THAT YOU
WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH
THE CLUB? GET IT TO ME AT:

Lkdavis03@hotmail.com

Keith Davis – PPRCC Newsletter Editor



**THERE ARE PLENTY OF
REASONS WHY THE
LAST PERSON LEAVING
THE AIRFIELD SHOULD
LOCK THE GATE. THE
DRAGON IS NOT ONE OF
THEM, BUT STILL CLOSE
AND LOCK THE GATE!**

**Show & Tell
Item - II**

Riley Ross' Dynam Electric T-28 Trojan



"Riley presented his newly bought
Dynam T-28 Trojan. It comes
complete with electric motor,
ESC, retracts, flaps, lights and a
dive brake. The plane has a 43"
ws and Riley has already
completed several flights on it."

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Show & Tell

Item - III

Keith Davis' Great Planes Giant Big Stik XL



“Keith hauled in his new Great Planes Big Stik XL (ARF) with a wingspan of 96”. Weighing just over 23 pounds and powered by an AGM 60cc twin gas engine, the plane should have no problems getting airborne. And of course, Keith also installed a Sullivan smoke pump for added thrills.”

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European Aviation History in February



- **February 1917** - During WWI, German pilots score the first aerial kills at night.
 - **February 1932** - British pilot Jim Mollison, completes the first solo flight from England to South America.
 - **February 1940** - The Hawker Typhoon (Tiffie) flies for the first time.
 - **February 1941** - England's first four-engine heavy bomber, the Short Sterling, conducts its first combat mission of WWII over Rotterdam, Holland.
 - **February 1955** - The Russian Mig-21 flies for the first time and soon becomes the world's most widely used fighter.
 - **February 1963** - The Franco-German Transall C-160 transport plane flies for the first time.
 - **February 1967** - The Swedish Saab Viggen flies for the first time. It is also the first combat jet with a canard wing.
 - **February 1969** - The Russian Mi-12 helicopter flies for the first time and becomes the world's largest helicopter.
 - **February 1975** - The Russian Su-25 Frogfoot (equivalent to the USAF A-10) flies for the first time.
 - **February 1984** - The Airbus A320 flies for the first time using Fly-By-Wire technology in an airliner.
 - **February 2003** - The Eurofighter Typhoon, used by England, Germany, Spain and Italy, flies for the first time.
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QUADs Welcome, However . . .



With the increase of QUAD popularity and sales in the past few years, QUAD's are welcome at the PPRCC airfield, however QUAD pilots must follow the club rules, just like airplanes, jets and helos.

January just ended and club members have already witnessed a few rule infractions with QUAD's.

Incident #1: The FPV pilot was stationed in the west pit area while his QUAD flew down the east runway. That's a no-no.

Incident #2: A FPV pilot was comfortably positioned under the shade stand while flying his QUAD up and down the runway. Another no-no.

Incident #3: A visiting QUAD flyer did not have an AMA card and was stopped before the flight.

- All pilots, regardless of what they are flying, must be positioned at a pilot's station.
- When flying from the east runway, the pilot must keep his UAS in the east runway side. And when flying from the west runway, the pilot must keep his UAS in the west runway side.
- FPV pilots are also required to have an observer while flying the QUAD in the FPV mode.
- All pilots, regardless of what they are flying, must have a current AMA card.



And since we are discussing the rules, please remember that if a pilot is physically flying his/her UAS, the PPRCC badge must be present on the pilot.

Thank-You
PPRCC Management

Murphy's World Of Gliders



James Murphy (Murph) has been a PPRCC member for several years now and has always flown powered aircraft, partially warbirds.

But In the past several months, Murphy has been trying his hand at gliders, a big change from flying those speedy warbirds. So one day club member Greg Banas and I decided to follow him out to the glider field and see what it's all about.



“Murphy participated in a glider event with the Pikes Peak Soaring Society Club last month and won 2nd place in his class. Some of the requirements were flight duration and landing accuracy. Murphy flew his Ava glider with a 3 meter wingspan. Nice going Murphy!”

JEFCO Auction At Arapahoe

Event took place: 27 Jan 2018



Due to remodeling of the facilities at the Jefferson County fairgrounds buildings, the Denver Aeromodeler's club arranged to have the annual auction at the Arapahoe county fairgrounds for 2018.

Several of the PPRCC members decided to take advantage of the closer location and made the trip to the auction. Hopefully they all came home with some nice items!



"The doors opened at 8:00am, allowing buyers to view items and Buy Now before the auction started at 9:00am."



"There were a few hundred items up for sale; planes in various stages of completion, from still new in the box to battle tested."



"For the kit builder enthusiast, there were dozens of kits to be sold, many of them no longer in production."



"The very large RC planes were placed in a corner but they still sold fast!"



"By 1:00pm that afternoon, either all of the items were sold or went to the PASS table. If the item went to the PASS table, and if the owner was around, that was the best time to get a really good deal!"

Pikes Peak RC Hobbies

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



Upcoming RC Events:

- February 6th (Tue) 2018 - PPRCC meeting and Swap Meet
- March 6th (Tue) 2018 - PPRCC meeting
- April 3rd (Tue) 2018 - PPRCC meeting

