



62 Years
1962 - 2024

130 Ecology Row
Newark, Ohio

<http://lcrccohio.com>

LICKING COUNTY RADIO CONTROL CLUB NEWSLETTER

Flight Briefing

Upcoming Meeting

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Zoom call in 7:30pm

Zoom link to be sent in separate email.

2024 Officers

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Vice-President's Message

Benny the Bass took the bait, so Spring can't wait! Buckeye Lake's answer to Punxsutawney Phil has predicted an early Spring. The grass will soon be growing, and we'll all be dusting off airplanes and getting ready to get out to the field for some flying.

The February 4th Swap Shop was a great success! In addition to raising funds for the benefit of our club, it was also a lot of fun. It was a great opportunity to meet new friends and prospective club members, as well as re-connect with old friends. Also, we provided a valuable mid-winter venue for vendors and fellow RC enthusiasts to meet, exchange ideas, and plan for the upcoming season. Thanks again to everyone who helped make this year's Swap Shop one of the best!

One highlight from the Swap Shop was meeting the new District III AMA Vice President, Randy Adams. We enjoyed getting to know Randy, and discussing our plans for the club. Paul and Jim even gave Randy a tour of the field and took him to lunch! We look forward to working with Randy in the future.

The annual field clean-up/work day will be coming up in April. We'll have more information as we get closer, so plan on joining us!

Looking forward to Spring, and a fun flying season!

Heard in the hangar

"Flying is hypnotic and all pilots are willing victims to the spell." ~ Ernest K Gann

WINTER RC FLYING: 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Can you fly RC planes during winter? The answer is yes and in fact, winter flying can be much more enchanting and rewarding compared to flying in the warmer seasons. The amazing views of the local scenery glistening with frost and snow, combined with the elegance of an RC aircraft gliding just above the dreamy horizon are truly mesmerizing.



As perfect as this may seem, the detriments of the cold season must be prudently accounted for, otherwise, you will be digging your own grave. Here are 5 things you should be aware of when flying in the cold.

Moisture: Water, Snow, And Mud

Everywhere, including your local club, park, and backyard will be wet. Even on bright clear days, the extra moisture in the grass and soil will somehow get inside your RC model - jeopardizing your electronics. Think the innocent-looking snow is your friend? Well, think again! As pretty as they are, those pesky little snowflakes will get sucked into your RC plane via any possible openings - such as an air duct - and if left unattended, your electronics will get damaged.

Pack a small towel if you're planning to go out to the fields and dry off your RC plane after every landing. To block out the snowflakes, you could try taping shut the lower openings of your model; and don't worry, in such icy temperatures, not as much airflow is needed to cool off your equipment.

What's worse than water and snow? Mud! It's tempting to pull out your towel and start removing the mud in the field. However, 9 out of 10 times, the moisture in the mud will push soil and small dirt particles into the spaces between the foam beads - and believe me, it'll be tricky to get it looking pristine again after that.

Remove the larger pieces of mud in the field and let your RC model dry for a day or two back at the hangar. Once the mud completely dries out, you can easily remove the remaining pieces with a soft brush - and do so with care as those small particles may get lodged into your motor bearings and other places which can affect future performance.

Landings

Pick your landing area with care. Landing on a soft patch of snow would be ideal as this would act as a natural cushion for your RC plane, however, make sure to snow-proof your model. If you're landing anywhere else, treat it like landing on the broken tarmac as any grassy or muddy strip will probably be frozen solid. You may even want to consider using belly landings to protect your gears.

After landing and before your next flight, thoroughly run through your pre-flight checks to make sure everything is intact and working properly. The cold temperature will have an adverse effect on both balsa and foam planes, making them much more brittle and prone to damage. While a hard landing in the summer can be easily shrugged off, the same landing can be much more destructive in the winter. Areas we tend to find the most problems due to the brittleness include the propeller, mounts, landing gears, and servo connectors.

Batteries

All batteries including LiPos and NiMH hate the cold! They rely on a chemical reaction to release the energy stored within them and the rate of this reaction is dependent on the temperature. Cooler temperatures will make your batteries react slower and consequently; they will be less efficient. If you were getting 10 minutes out of a battery in the summer, expect to get about 8 minutes from the same pack in the winter. This reduction in battery time also applies to other electronic equipment such as your radio system or FPV camera.

Orientation

You tend to get two kinds of skies in winter: a beautiful cloudless one with the sunlight, or a grey and hazy one with marginal sunlight. Orientation can be tricky on those grey murky days, especially if the sun is tucked behind the clouds and your RC airplane lacks bright and colorful decals. Sometimes, you may even lose sight of your plane as it disappears into the greyness – just stay calm and slowly drop your altitude until your plane resurfaces. If it gets way too cloudy, you could try flying just below the legal flight limit to completely avoid the overcast.

For better orientation, you could replace your original decals with bold and conspicuous ones, or even better, install LEDs onto your plane. They are fairly easy to use and you could wire them into a balance tap connector giving you the flexibility to plug it into your flight battery when needed. Adding LEDs can also extend your time on the field as flying at night is possible with these cheap orientation aids.

The Pilot

So far, we have only talked about your RC model and equipment, however, being mindful of yourself – the pilot - is arguably even more important. When we fly, we tend to only move our fingers, eyes, and neck while the rest of our body is pretty much in limbo. Being inactive for prolonged periods while exposed to such low temperatures is the perfect ingredient for catching a cold. Wear more than you need and focus on layering. Wearing more layers will keep you warmer than wearing a single thick jacket as each layer will act as an insulator and retain more heat.

You may also want to purchase a transmitter glove or muff to keep your hands warm when flying. A regular pair of winter gloves will also work; however, your movements may be compromised. We also love to bring a hot drink (hot chocolate, tea, or coffee) in a thermos to instantly warm ourselves up during recess. Finally, if you start to feel the cold really seeping in and numbing your senses, pack your stuff and go home – nothing is more important than your well-being!

Article from [HobbyKing.com](https://www.hobbyking.com) online Blog posted December 31, 2020. Photo provided by André Rousseau.

Calendar of Events

- **March Club Meeting:**
Thursday 3/28/2024 7:30pm
In-person location to be determined,
Zoom call in will also be an option
- **April Club Meeting:**
Thursday 4/25/2024 7:30pm
In-person location to be determined,
Zoom call in will also be an option
- **SAVE THE DATE** for our Field Clean-up Day on
Saturday 4/27/24!





Happy Birthday to the following club members who have birthdays in February!

Bev Higginbotham

Larry Mix

Terry Treneff

David Williams

Quick Links

LCRCC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/838606232865626/>

LCRCC Membership form: <https://lcrccohio.com/membership-form/>

FAA Safer Skies: <https://www.faa.gov/default.aspx>

Free plans (Outerzone): <https://outerzone.co.uk/>



Required Reading

All LCRCC members are required to have an AMA membership. In addition, an FAA registration number, and a TRUST certificate are needed. You should have all of these documents with you when flying at the field.

AC 91-57C states:

2.2.7.2 The proof of test passage may be in any format (e.g., paper or electronic) so long as it is readily accessible, legible, and can be presented to the Administrator or law enforcement upon request.

2.2.8.2 The owner of a small UA weighing more than 0.55 pounds (250 grams) that will be flown exclusively in limited recreational operations may obtain a single registration number for multiple UA by registering under part 48.

FAA TRUST TEST: <https://trust.modelaircraft.org/>

FAA DRONE RENEWAL: <https://faadronezone.faa.gov/>

All members should also read the AMA Member Safety Program Handbook: <https://www.modelaircraft.org/sites/default/files/documents/100.pdf>