COMING EVENTS:

February 8  Wed  Club Meeting—D & H  7 pm
February 11  Saturday  TCRG 30th Auction-Mpls—See Flyer
February 18  Saturday  Club Auction-Pilgrim Lutheran Church—Superior, WI  See Flyer
March 8  Wed  Club Meeting—D & H  7 pm
What a great winter, Jan has been very mild, the days are getting longer and if the trend continues we should be back on our fields in a month or two. Many of the club members have been taking advantage of the excellent ice conditions and flying on weekends at the St Louis River, Smithville boat landing on Clyde Ave. The snow and ice has been hard enough to even allow easy takeoff and landings with wheels.

Feb is a very important month for the club because it is the month of our Annual Aircraft and RC Equipment Auction. Everything seems to be on track to support this event at the Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Superior. Doors will open at 9: am and we do need several club members there early to help set up tables and chairs. Auction volunteers include: our Auctioneer John Ellestad, Tom Kubat Seller Records, Dave Hildre Buyer Records and Dennis Ford will backup Tom and Dave with an auction Worksheet. Bud Gorman will take care of collections and payments, John Socholotuc will make sure items are paid for before removal, and the Church Youth Group will provide refreshments. Club members are also asked to stay after the auction if you can, and help with cleanup and setting up for the next days Sunday school. This is always a fun day and a good time to socialize with other RC enthusiasts, so even if you are not buying or selling, come on down to the Auction and watch some of the action. We will go over specifics and last minute auction details at our next club meeting on Wed the 8th of Feb.

Note that the Twin Cities Radio Controllers Annual Auction takes place one week before ours on Sat 11 Feb at St. Peters Church in Richfield MN. This is also a great Auction to attend but the buyers tend to be a bit more competitive, there is a admission Fee of $3 and the minimum bids are $20.

The 2006 Events Schedule was published with our last newsletter and we need to make a change to the IMAA Big Bird Fly In, due to conflicts with events at other clubs. Please move the Fly In up one week from 15 July to 8 July on your Schedules.

As a reminder, renewal Dues are due for club members and the renewal fee for 2006 is $35. Please pay our Treasurer on or before the Feb Auction date. Members are also required to be current AMA members. AMA membership rates are: Open $58, Senior $48 (over 65 as of 1 July), and Junior $1 (no magazine). Note: if you join or renew your AMA membership by 31 March, 2006 you will automatically be entered in the AMA Sweepstakes for monthly prizes of $200 and a Grand Prize consisting of a Hangar 9, Giant Scale, Ultimate Bipe ARF, a JR 10x Radio and a Desert Aircraft DA 150 Gas Twin, with a total value of $6000. For more details go to www.modelaircraft.org.

During the last club meeting there was some discussion concerning the promulgation of a club roster with phone numbers. A motion was made and approved to distribute this listing by mail when it is assembled so that the phone numbers will not appear on our web site as part of the newsletter section.
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Now is also a good time to do some mid winter preventive or corrective maintenance. Patch up holes or dings from last flying season, make sure you have a few drops of after run oil (marvel mystery oil etc.) in your engine and turn it over a couple of times, cycle or at least charge your battery packs overnight, throw away any CA or epoxy glue that looks like it is starting to gel from age, and give your aircraft a thorough pre flight check to make sure that everything is still the way it should be. Also, if you make any changes or repairs make sure you recheck the CG, side to side balance and control surface movement. Quite a few good aircraft are unnecessarily lost at the beginning of the flying season due to overlooking some basic fundamental that would have been found during a good winter double check. Then you wind up with the unpleasant task of indoor repairing and rebuilding, on beautiful mild spring days that are excellent for outdoor flying.

One more bit of info. Another club member has reported purchasing a new computer and Realflight G3. The computer was said to meet the minimum requirements of G3 but the planes flew with jerks. As I said previously G3 is a very demanding program and it is best to exceed the minimum video requirements if you expect to get good results from this program. Many of the new computers are now putting in 3D video cards that can support G3 but you have to be careful. For those of you with older G2 flight simulators and or other brands that have Tx boxes with 15 pin game port connectors, these are still great programs but do realize that most new computers do not have 15 pin game ports anymore since they have changed to USB as a standard means of connecting to a computer. What this means, is that if you upgrade to a new computer, you may not be able to connect your Tx box to it. Unless of course you know that, for now, Radio Shack does carry a 15 pin connector to USB adaptor #26728 for $16.99. Also you need to set up the Joystick settings in your new computer and in the calibration section of your flight program to recognize the USB adaptor.

Tom

JUST FOR FUN

From the Anoka County Radio Control Club, Coon Rapids MN
Duluth / Superior Area
Radio Control Aircraft Auction
Saturday - February 18, 2006 - 10:30 am

The Annual Duluth / Superior Radio Control Club Auction will be held at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, located at 820 Belknap, (Hwy 2) in Superior WI. (Next to Burger King), on Saturday 18, February 2006. All area R/C Clubs are invited to bring their items for inclusion at the Auction. The doors will be open at 9:00am, for setup, Buyer and Seller registration, and preview of items for sale. Buyers must obtain a Bid Number and Sellers should have all of their items registered prior to the Auction start at 10:30am. Late items will be included as time permits. A discussion of Auction rules will be conducted prior to the Auction start. Refreshments will be available during the Auction.

This Auction is for both members and non-members, and can include planes, cars, boats and related R/C equipment. Small items should be bundled if possible so that we can start with a minimum bid of at least $5.00. The R/C Club will retain 10% of the selling price.

Sellers should have a brief description on each item to be sold attached to the item to assist the auctioneer and to help get the best available bid for the item. If there is a Sellers minimum acceptable bid it must be noted on the item. If starting bids do not meet the Sellers minimum the item will be returned to the Seller. All sales are final and as-is, therefore it is recommended that you come early and preview any items of interest. Upon completion of the Auction all Buyers and Sellers must meet with the Treasurer to pay for their purchases or to receive payment for items sold.

Tom Godfrey 715-392-7273 or John Ellestad 218-729-8159

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[Map of Duluth area showing Pilgrim Lutheran Church]
One of the benefits of flying Pattern competition (as it was called in the olden days) was that it forced you to fly a predictable, recognizable sequence of maneuvers on every flight. In other words, it imposed some discipline in your flying, and it made you a better pilot.

Although I have not flown in competition in many years, I still try to remember the lessons I learned when I did compete. Every time I fly, I have a mental plan of what I want to accomplish during the flight.

When instructing school children, I’ve found that making them do repeated maneuvers allows them to move more quickly toward their first solo. They become disciplined fliers.

Planning Prevents the Airplane from Flying the Pilot

Watching pilots at our field and at my electric field of choice, I have seen guys who could be skilled fliers. They aren’t flying with a plan, but rather the airplane is flying them.

With the Commemorative Air Force, I have participated in the hardest kind of flying to learn—formation. Believe me, discipline and a plan are the only things that prevent catastrophic accidents (besides a thorough briefing and an understanding of the flight formation rules). Guys who can fly an airplane well enough when alone suddenly discover a whole new set of skills necessary to master before they are safe in a formation.

I’m not advocating that all of us in the RC world rush out and become International Miniature Aerobatic Club (IMAC) pilots, but I am saying that flying each flight with a specific plan (like really round loops, or skillfully centering maneuvers in front of you, or a perfect landing pattern) will impose some meaning to your flying and you will become a safer, better pilot (and your airplane will last longer as well). With the high price of these Alfa warbirds that I am into right now, economy forces me to always fly with a plan.