

NORTH TEXAS



AEROMAIL

Next meeting Tuesday,
January 20, 2009 7:00 pm,
North Lakes Park Recreation Center.

North Texas Aeromodelers
Denton, Texas AMA Gold Leader Club #1659

January 2009
www.aeromodelers.org

OFFICERS

President - Gary Saba
940-637-2481

Vice President - Bob Kramer
972-869-9313
bobkra@hotmail.com

**Secretary/Treasurer
Newsletter Editor
John Larsen**
972-539-8576
jrlarsen@verizon.net

Safety Officer - open

**Field Managers -
Evan Wenger**
940-382-1027
ewenger@peoplepc.com
Billy Horner
940-665-1248

**Web Master - Darren
Hook**
817-371-4337
darren.hook@verizon.net

**Visit our website:
www.aeromodelers.org**

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

The first meeting of the year is Tuesday, January 20, 2009. Let's all begin the New Year resolving to actively participate in our club. I hope we all agree that the end result is to have a great place to safely enjoy our hobby. Elections will be held at this meeting and your attendance is very important.

Gary Saba

President
North Texas Aeromodelers



A foggy morning flight

*photo by Darren Hook
(pilot unknown)*



NOVEMBER MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting
November 18, 2008

The November 2008 meeting of the North Texas Aeromodelers was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at the North Lakes Park Recreation Center, Denton, Texas.

Evan Wenger recorded the minutes in John's absence.

New Business -

- Reminder for upcoming Christmas party, 7:00 pm at Smokehouse, bring gift, separate draws for men and women.

- 2009 Officer nominations:

- President - Gary Saba
- Vice President - Darren Hook
- Secretary - Dallas Stroud
- Treasurer - John Larsen
- Safety Officer - (open)

Appointments:

- Liaison - Dennis Moore
- Field Committee - Billy Horner, Evan Wenger

- Meeting place brought up again. Try it again at the field on Saturday morning? Meet Quarterly at a bar/restaurant?
Nothing decided

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you to **Darren Hook** and **Lad Doctor** for their submissions to this month's Newsletter!

The deadline for submission into the current month's newsletter is the "Monday before the 2nd Tuesday" of each month. This is necessary in order to accommodate lead times in publishing, printing, and posting before the meetings on the 3rd Tuesday (subject to change for meetings scheduled on different days).

Deadline reminders will be sent by email only.

Submissions received after the deadline will be published the following month.

Thank you,
John Larsen
email: jrlarsen@verizon.net
phone: 972-539-8576
address: 912 Mallard Way
Flower Mound, TX 75028

*Welcome to
New and Returning
Club Members!*

*Haskell Morrison
Wayne Woods
Milo Ruch
Matthew Meckfessel*

***2009 Club Membership
Renewals are now due!***

**Please pay your dues to
John Larsen at your earliest
convenience!**

*(If you are in your first year as a member,
your 2009 dues may be pro-rated. Please
ask John Larsen what your 2009 rate is.)*

**Remember that your AMA
membership must also be current!**

***Thank you for supporting
the
North Texas Aeromodelers!***

NOTE FROM LAD...

The last three times I have been at the field, I have had one of my nurses keep a list of things individuals are always looking for. A pair of scissors, some kind of tape, or a piece of foam rubber, etc. With grateful help from Danny and others, I have put together my own support box for the aircraft I have purchased. Beyond that, I am in the process of putting together a well outfitted toolbox of everything compiled on those lists previously mentioned. I am going to call this, ***Lad's First Aid Station***. Everything in the box will always be available to any club member. I feel this is one way I can show my grateful thanks to all of the club members for showing such great kindness to me. Let us all help to grow the club, and support our elected officials so that they don't have to shoulder all of the work from which we reap the benefits.

Sincerely,

Lad Doctor

GIVE ME EXPONENTIAL RATES

*From the Northern Utah Radio Control Aircraft Club
by Matthew George*

I wanted to take a few minutes and talk about the use of exponential rates as supported by most of our RC transmitters. After getting back into the hobby over the last several years, I'm surprised at the slow adoption rate (no pun intended) of using exponential rates.

I have even heard recommendations that you shouldn't use exponential rate features on your radio. I can tell you by experience, that any pilot serious about becoming accomplished in aerobatics will make his life much harder if he tries to fly precision maneuvers without incorporating exponential rates into his control surface throws. I am of the opinion that almost any aircraft should be set up with exponential rates on the control surfaces. You will immediately see an improvement in your flying once you understand and start dialing in exponential rates for all your aircraft. Trainers to unlimited IMAC birds, gliders, sport planes, flying lawn mowers, etc ...

What is the definition of using an exponential rate on a control surface? Exponential rate is where the servo movement is not directly proportional to the amount of control stick movement on your transmitter. Over the first half on the stick travel, the servo moves less than the stick. This makes control response milder and smoothes out level flight and normal flight maneuvers. Over the extreme half of the stick travel, the servo gradually catches up with the stick throw, achieving 100% servo travel at full stick throw for aerobatics or trouble situations.

All the newer radios support this feature and the best part is the fact that no physical change is required on the aircraft. It's a simple matter of programming your radio to use exponential rates on some or all of your control surfaces including your throttle.

Have I convinced you to give expo rates a try? It's not scary; I promise. Pull out your transmitter manual and start reading. It's usually a simple matter of scrolling through your on-screen setup menu and finding the option to set expo for each control surface.

There is only one caveat I know of, if you have a Futaba radio, make sure to dial in your exponential rates as a negative number. All other radios use positive numbers when setting up expo rates.

I would start by static checking your control throws after you dial in some expo. Start with your ailerons and dial in about 30% expo for channel one. Now watch your aileron control throws as you move your stick on the radio. You will notice a soft, easy movement while you are at the center of the stick and as you move the stick to full left or right, the controls will

(Continued on page 4)

PAT & ROY CRAIG



**ROY'S HOBBY
SHOP**

...All The Right Stuff For
Radio Control Planes, Cars & Helicopters

1309 NORWOOD HURST, TEXAS 76053
METRO 817-268-0210

CHARGING THAT NEW BATTERY

From *Wiregrass RC, Enterprise, Alabama*
by **Stan Grett and Jim Kale**

In recent months, we have heard a lot of discussion on how to charge a new airborne battery or transmitter battery. Charge times have been recommended from 12-24 hours. Dave Thacker of Radical RC is the battery guy I listen to.

He recommends charging the new battery packs at 1/10 of the mAh, which is normally referred to as "C." This rate is often referred to in magazine articles and manufacturers' directions as C/10. He recommends that rate for 16 hours. Most NiCD manufacturers also recommend this.

So, if your battery is rated at 1500 mAh; then charge it at 150 mAh for 16 hours.

Be careful, if your charger charges at less than the C/10 rate, you will have to charge it longer. However, extremely long overcharges are bad for the battery pack and will shorten its life. Also high charge rates can shorten the battery life if there is anything overcharging at all.

Cycling a new battery pack will help it get off to a good start in its new life. A good regiment to follow is to cycle it for three charge/discharge cycles over a week-long period. If it passes this test, it should give a good long life if maintained and charged properly.

Cycling a new battery pack before the start of each flying season and after the flying season will give you a good idea how the battery pack is holding up over a period of years.

Generally speaking, any battery that is more than three years old is on borrowed time. However, I do know of cases where battery packs lasted as long as seven years. You are betting your airplane though if you try to squeeze just a little more out of your battery pack than it has to give. Battery packs are cheap when compared to replacing airplanes.

EXPONENTIAL RATES (CONT.)

(Continued from page 3)

begin to move faster to their current end-point setup. This will make your aileron response much more soft at the center of the stick and you will be doing full, slow rolls all across the field. When you need some quick aileron for a quick correction or faster aileron roll, you will still have the throw you need when the stick gets to its extreme position. It will make your flying much smoother. If you are using the newer faster servos, you will see much more effect by using expo rates.

So how does Matt have his radio set up? There is no exact formula, but this may give you a place to start:

My expo setting on my Composite ARF 330S for precision non-3-D flying are below. Keep in mind I have a lot of throw in my control surfaces even on low rates, so you will want to experiment and find the best settings for your aircraft. (Note: I'm using a Futaba radio, so these numbers are listed as negative. For other radios—JR, Airtronics, etc.—you would dial in positive numbers.)

Aileron: -50% (left and right)

Elevator: -40% (up) -20% (down)

Throttle: -38% (this smoothes out the throttle response across the whole stick movement)

Rudder: -80% (left and right)

If you are skeptical, start with lower numbers, 0% would equal no exponential at all. Try a different setting after each flight and get to a point where you see your flying get smoother.

You have heard all the top aerobatic pilots' names: Frazer Biggs, Quique Somenzini, Mark Leseberg, Christophe Paysant-LeRoux, Chip Hyde, Mike McConville, Bill Hempel, Kenny Lauter, Jason Noll, Jason Schulman, etc. I'm not even in the same league as these pilots, but guess what all these pilots have in common? Yep, they all make heavy use of exponential rates when setting up their radios.

So pull out that radio manual and start dialing up that expo! You will be glad you did and your friends will be asking you what you did to improve your flying.



**MIKE'S
Hobby Shop**
Superstore & Raceway

(972) 242-4930 PHONE
(972) 245-8379 PHONE/FAX
1201 N. I-35E.
Carrollton, TX 75006

www.mikeshobbyshop.com



BURT BEGGS - OWNER
ERIC FORSYTHE - MANAGER

The Market at Valley Parkway
1079 West FM 3040, Suite 700
Lewisville, TX 75067

Phone (214) 488-0980
FAX (214) 488-0917
Bbeggs@flash.net
www.hobbytown.com

PICS FROM THE 2008 NTA CHRISTMAS PARTY



LESSONS LEARNED...

Submitted by Darren Hook

- If you fire up your engine, throttle up and the plane backs up, you just installed a pusher prop. Don't look around, just remove it like you were testing a new prop and knew what you were doing all along.

-Always take more props to the flying field than you need. If you have just the one, it will break. If you have too many, you will never break even one.

- After a maiden flight go through the entire plane and make sure everything's still tightened down. Then do it again after a few flights.

- If your wife comes into the shop more than a couple times in a half hour with nothing to say, take a break..., she has something to say.



AERO HOBBIES
R/C HELICOPTERS - AIRPLANES - CARS - BOATS
PLASTIC MODELS - ROCKETS

972-315-1854
 Fax 972-315-3047
 Aerohobbies.com

2305 S. Hwy 121 #110
 Lewisville, TX 75067

UPCOMING EVENTS - TEXAS

FEB 06-08--Weslaco, TX (C) Tejas R/C Airshow 2009. Site: Mid Valley Airport. GPS Coordinates: 26.1779, -97.9733 Events: Sponsor: Tejas R/C Association #2227. CD: Gary Dye, 1310 Pamela Drive, Mission, TX 78572. Phone: 956-581-4340(day) 956-519-3917(eve) E-Mail: garysjp@rgv.rr.com WebSite: www.teascassociation.org Mid Valley Airport, Weslaco, TX. 5000ft paved runway. Any size or type of aircraft. RV parking; no hook-ups. Concessions on site. Flying daily from 9:30 to 5p.m

FEB 21-22--Dallas, TX (C) Not Presidents Day Contest. Site: Hobby Park, Dallas, TX. GPS Coordinates: 32.866894813795, -96.671481808784 Events: Saturday: Old Time Stunt; Sunday: Classic Stunt. Sponsor: Dallas Model Aircraft Association #1902. CD: Michael D. Scott, 1111 Park Drive, Hillsboro, TX 76645. Phone: 214-478-6263(day) 214-478-6263(eve) E-Mail: MikSct@cs.com WebSite: <http://www.DMAA-1902.org>

TIPS & TRICKS

Balsa Dents

When you accidentally dent a piece of balsa during construction of a model, try this old cabinet-maker's trick. Put a few drops of white vinegar on it instead of using filler. The vinegar will pull 99% of the dent out. Works best overnight. Try it; it really works!

Construction Tip

When taking an airplane apart for repair, put all the parts into a clear freezer bag with the name printed on the outside. This will save time in looking for the parts needed, as the airplane repairs are being completed. Some freezer bags have a spot for the name to be printed on and, if you put in a piece of the airplane's MonoKote, this will speed up the ID.

—both from the Woodland Aero Modelers, Downers Grove, Illinois

Servo Connectors

To hold your radio/servo connectors together, use a piece of thin string or dental floss and wrap it around the connectors, looping it through the wires so it pulls the two connectors together. Use a nonslip knot to tie the string so it does not come untied. Don't let an unplugged connector cost you a crash.

Antenna

When collapsing your transmitter antenna make sure to grab the bottom of each section and pull down. Pushing from the top can easily bend the antenna.

—both from the Privateers, Mills, Wyoming

**THE JANUARY CLUB MEETING
 WILL BE HELD AT THE
 NORTH LAKES PARK
 RECREATION CENTER ON
 TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009
 AT 7:00 PM**

ITEMS FOR SALE

- Vintage WWI monowing fighter - needs some work \$25

Contact Chris Phillips 940-482-7299

- Hobbico Electristar 63" electric trainer - no motor, ESC, batteries, or radio equipment, plane only. Only a dozen flights, no damage, flies itself! - \$40



- Futaba T4EXA transmitter with 7-channel dual conversion receiver and crystals - \$50

Contact Jason Reeder at 214-545-8586.

- Great Planes CAP580 and Hangar 9 Pizazz combo for \$500.

2 airframes complete with their own servos, along with one Saito 82 (currently mounted on the CAP), one Futaba receiver, and one receiver battery all of which can be easily moved between the airframes.



The engine has very low time and comes with the original box and both airframes are in excellent condition. Also includes 6 additional and varied size props for different flying styles.



Contact Bob Kramer

bobkra@hotmail.com

972-869-9313

- Ham Band Radio Equipment

8103 JR Transmitter 50 MHZ, Channel 7 crystal

R579X, 9 Channel Receiver and battery

4 537 Servos

Charger

\$220.00 (Like New)

I will sell the 50 MHZ transmitter module separately for \$45.00

- 2 R579X, 9 Channel Receivers each \$45.00

-Airplanes

P51, Super Mustang, Miss America, ARF new in box

Wing Span 65 in.

Length 53 in.

Suggested motor .61-.91 cu. in.

\$145.00

Katana, Aerobatic Aircraft ARF, new in box

Wing Span 72 in.

Length 66.5 in.

Suggested motor 1.08 - 1.60cu. in.

\$210.00

Edge 540 ARF, new in box

Wing Span 63.7 in.

Length 53 in.

Suggested motor .61-.91 cu. in.

\$135.00

Contact Larry

Home 940.484.9395

Cell 940.453.4108

AEROMAIL

North Texas Aeromodelers
c/o John Larsen
912 Mallard Way
Flower Mound TX, 75028

AEROMAIL

Inside this Issue:

President's Note	1
November Meeting Minutes	2
Welcome to New Club Members	2
Note From Lad	3
Give Me Exponential Rates	3
Charging That New Battery	4
Pics from the 2008 NTA Christmas Party	5
Lessons Learned...	6
Upcoming Events - Texas	6
Tips & Tricks	6
Items For Sale	7

*This month's meeting will be held at the
North Lakes Park
Recreation Center*

*Tuesday, January 20, 2009
7:00 pm*