

THE CARRIER WAVE



PHANTOM FLYERS R/C CLUB



ama #393 SAINT CHARLES, MO

January 2018

Newsletter of the Phantom Flyers R/C Club

<http://phantomflyersrc.com>

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"2017 - YEAR IN REVIEW"

Submitted by Jan Jansen

Another year has passed guys. These are my personal reflections about the Phantom Flyers RC Club in particular and flying RC airplanes in general as we are saying goodbye to 2017, including inputs from Ed White. Thanks Ed.

Sadly we lost club members in 2017. The passing of both Phil Moore and Donn Albert filled us with grief. I remember Phil as an outgoing, always sociable, pilot everyone sought out. Donn Albert was the most helpful and selfless guy imaginable. His constant help with our field and field equipment was invaluable to the club. Both Phil and Donn will be missed.

Looking back at the club activities in 2017 the Vista (read mostly Radians) 2M Glider contest was our most popular activity with five contests and from 8 to 12 participants in each contest. Looking back at the results I see five different winners: Jim, Kevin, Brian, Ed and myself. Ed, Kevin and myself was in the top three spots three times each. It was a very fun year with, I believe, four different contest scoring methods which depended upon the CD mood of the day. It was commented in one of the early contest reports that the flight times are getting better and the contest are getting more competitive. I hope the 2M glider contest will be equally popular in 2018. In fact the dedicated glider club, MVSA, is working on a similar "Bring what you have 2M RES" contest for next year. More on that at a later time.

Pattern contests and practice also dominated the season with several pilots pursuing this to me demanding and exhilarating part of our hobby. Four club members made it to the new Cedar Rapids, Iowa, contest. Ed, Don, Jim and I had a great time at a well-attended event CD'ed by Mark Barnett. Jim and I won three rounds each in the Intermediate class. We took turns winning rounds the first day. On the second day Jim won round 5 with me scoring 965.17. I won the last round with Jim scratching his score and keeping his score from round 3 of 968.4. In other words we finished 3.23 points apart in the best four rounds of six contest! That is like one point off in one K factor = 3 maneuver. Good job Jim!

Jim West and I made it to the Pattern NATS at Blytheville Arkansas. We were flying in the Intermediate class. I say flying rather than competing since we were not competitive compared to the best pilots. That being said, Jim did better than me. For some reason I do not seem to be able to find the final results right now. Just as an indication of how nervous I was; I managed with brute force to plug my receiver battery, with a JST connector, in reversed in spite of the slots which should make this idiot proof! The result was a fried receiver and a lost flight. Bill Ahrens made an appearance as a judge not a contestant this year. Going to the Pattern NATS was a unique and humbling experience. Seeing the best in the nation fly was stunning. There are some people very dedicated to this sport!

Our 60th Annual Fall Pattern Contest had good local participation with Jack and Don flying in the Intermediate class. Don edged Jack out after a very close contest which was not decided until the last round. Jim and I flew in the Advanced for the first time against Mark Barnett from Cedar Rapids. Jim and I are told we fly the same way since we practice together and make similar mistakes. Looking back at the scores that holds true. Mark won every round and Jim and I scratched the same rounds and scored within 10 points of each other in the other rounds except for the last round. Jim, next time it is your turn to win! Bill flew and won against Brenner Sharp in F3A. Ed was entered but did not fly. The Masters class consisted of three pilots from out of town. Pushing our contest to Sept. 30 – Oct. 1 created great relief from the heat. Unfortunately it may have affected the out of town participation since it was definitely down from previous years. Or, could this be because the usual participants advancing in age found one more trip too tiring? I can identify with that myself anymore after turning 60 in 2017.

I have to admit I did not participate in any of the Float Fly events. I will make it a goal to participate at least once in 2018. Judging from the Carrier Wave reports and pictures at least a couple club members did participate in each event. Thanks for the reports Harold.

Joint Fun Fly with Wright Flyers. Two contest, one at each field. This has become an annual tradition by now. This is truly a fun event for all. Certainly a must attend event if you are a spectator since I do admit that this contest is hard on the equipment as there seem to be multiple casualties in each contest. Brian, double points for inverted limbo next year?

Club Fun Scale event, the first ever as far as I know, had three contestants. Hopefully we will see more contestants next year, right guys?

And I should include both the 2017 Snow Fly and the 2018 Snow Fly events since January 1st has already passed. Relatively warm weather made the 2017 a well-attended event with many flights. The 2018 Snow Fly was the shortest duration event I have participated in! My car showed the temp to be 2 degrees! Larry, Brian (on crutches!), Ed, Kevin, Jose, Jack and myself attended. I believe Jack was the only one not flying. 12 noon start. By 12:30 it was all over.

You may have noticed a trend in this review. That is event participation. I also want to bring up club membership. Participation and membership are obviously related. So far we are holding our own in terms of club membership. I have not counted lately but I believe we number in the low 40s. I am however concerned that it will not take many years for our numbers to potentially be reduced below what is required to sustain a club. Or, at least have sustainable events. I am not complaining about people supporting the club but not flying that often. Thanks for your support! Or, maybe your time at the field just does not coincide with my own. With the exception of the 2M Glider contest the overall contest participation is trending down. In particular, as the long time members all age, I am not seeing many new members or young or at least younger people at our events. I am calling for action for us to keep our hobby alive by making the hobby, membership in our club and participation in event more attractive to all.

Since I exchanged ideas with Ed prior to writing this I am including input from Ed, (thanks for the input Ed, hope you don't mind), as I am very much in agreement with what he sent me. Here it is:

As for sustaining the club, very few of the club members from when I joined in the late 80's are still involved in any way. But overall, the membership level is about the same as it was then. It just seems that 40-somethings start to have an established career direction, money and the free time (as their kids become more independent) to put into a hobby like this.

Attracting and keeping young people is tough. Before marriage there is education and on top of that are so many heavily advertised things competing for their attention. After marriage there is often career, money and kids to worry about. It is hard for us to compete with that. Myself, I dropped out of the hobby from age 18 to about 35 for just those reasons.

I think we'll have the most long term success with 30/40-somethings. But we can't forget the teenagers. If I had not started at 11 or 12 with my Dad, I may not have gotten into it at all in my 30's because I wouldn't have known how rewarding the hobby was. It may just be that a lot of people start in their teens and then have a period of their life where they drop out for a while, then come back to it later. Perhaps you could start by asking how many of our club members have this trajectory in common?

Thanks for the input Ed, I knew you would write some good paragraphs to get me started. I fully concur with what you wrote Ed.

My trajectory was very similar to Ed's. Active from 14 to 20. Then I started to pick it up a little at the time after 30. I assume this is the case with most people. So the best strategy, as Ed wrote, maybe to start with the 30/40 crowd. In addition I think I would be somewhat happy just to get our existing younger members (younger than 60?) out to the field and participating in the events more often. And I know we are competing for everyone's free time. Personally I typically spend Saturday or Sunday with kids and grandkids. Flying comes second to family commitments.

So please, all of you, consider some ideas on how to keep our club going. Be it advertising ourselves more effectively or making our activities more attractive and inclusive. One potential is to have an event for the public to try RC for those with an interest with an offer for follow up with flight training.

In closing, thanks for a great 2017 and I am looking forward to the 2018 season!

Jan

2018 Snow Fly-In

This was a very successful event! We went out, flew, froze and ran back to our warm vehicles! I do believe Ed had the longest duration flight, it must be that competitive nature of his. I probably had the shortest flight, it was an EDF and it had to take pictures before my fingers stopped working.





And of course we have our Arizona member, Dave Evans showing how they do their ~~Snow~~ Sun Fly?

Dave writes, "A little cool this morning, I had to wear a jacket. We had breakfast and I have two flights in."



GLSMA Meeting Report

Effective January ,1 the new port-a-potty supplier is R&R. I have been to Buder and the new unit is in place.

R&R is \$3 per month less than Mickey's and the total monthly fee includes a small fee for damage waiver. We won't have to pay for any more flood losses.

Thanks,
David Whitney

Submitted by Harold Weaver

Phantom Flyers RC CLUB

(Be sure to explore our website: phantomflyersrc.com)

2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Regular \$135/year x ____ yr(s) = _____
 Family (IRS Dependents) \$140/year x ____ yr(s) = _____
 Non-Participant (Non flying) \$15/year x ____ yr(s) = _____

**** Late Renewal Fee **** \$15 _____

}

Select
All
That
Apply

Note: All new applications received after 1 July of this year will receive next year's dues free

(Late fee required if member has not paid by 31 Dec)

Total Amount Due = _____

Make checks payable to:
Phantom Flyers RC Club, Inc.

	<u>Eligible Member</u>	<u>Additional Family Member</u>
Member Name (/Nickname)	_____	_____
AMA Number	_____	_____
Primary Phone (home/cell)	_____	_____
Secondary Phone (work/cell)	_____	_____
Street	_____	_____
City, State, Zip	_____	_____
Spouse's Name	_____	_____
Primary E-Mail Address	_____	_____
Can Mow Flying Field? (Yes/No)	_____	_____

My signature below signifies that:

I have read, understood and will abide by the Phantom Flyers RC Safety and Field Use Rules.

I understand that my participation in this activity is purely voluntary and I agree to hold Phantom Flyers RC Club, Inc. harmless for any and all liability for any injuries including death, which I might sustain while participating in this activity.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Submit form and membership dues to:

Jim West
 9 Teak Court
 Saint Peters, MO 63376
 Full members only, please send S.A.S.E.

For Club Administrative Use Only	Dues Received _____ Date	Current AMA Received/Shown _____ Date
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<http://phantomflyersrc.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Phantom-Flyers-RC-Club-139791882811519/>

Check there for the back issues of the Carrier Wave Newsletter, mowing schedule, event calendar and club roster/contact information (handy for mowing).

Articles, pictures and tech notes for publishing in the Carrier Wave are always appreciated. Let us know what you are building, repairing or flying!

Send them to:

kevcox@charter.net