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## Spring-Time is here- it's "GET-READY TIME"!

The following is from the Tri-County Club of New Jersey, courtesy of *The AMA Insider*, a newsletter for newsletter editors. I've reprinted it here for both rookies and the "more-experienced" (read that "older") members.

### Spring Prep

It has been a long winter for some of us. We have cleaned our models and engines and checked all the electronics. But now that the equipment has been sitting for three months, it needs a little late-winter refresh.

What am I talking about? Battery cycling. If you are using Nicad or NiMH cells, you will need to recharge the batteries about now. These batteries tend to self-discharge over time.

This is also a good time to cycle the batteries and ensure that they still have the capacity to be viable for the coming flying season, or order new batteries if they are



*Come on fellas... it's time for spring cleanup- the field as well as your own gear. Let's get to it!*

(SPRING PREP Continued on page 3)

### CLUB BIO OF THE MONTH



This month takes us to Olean to interview Chris Powers. Chris has been "Mr. Mom" for 16 years with four children at home. They are Mark, who's in the Naval Academy at Annapolis, eighteen year-old Kate who's a senior at Olean High School and has decided to go to Boston University, Grace who is a sophomore at Bishop Walsh, and finally David who is eleven and is going to Southern Tier Catholic.

Chris has been married to Beth for twenty-seven years. A year ago Beth started "Liberty in America" and has the website [libertyinamerica.org](http://libertyinamerica.org). Last summer she traveled with her bus

(BIO Continued on page 2)

MODEL AIRPLANE PRINCIPLES 101: Up is always up, down is always down, and ground is always hard ("ouch").

(BIO Continued from page 1)

across the county speaking on limited government and personal responsibility. She also has worked for Dresser on a contract basis for about 25 years.

Regarding membership in other clubs/associations, Chris is on the Board of Directors for the Challenger Learning Center.

I asked Chris about his other interests and hobbies and he responded, “I work on my cars and do all my own auto work. I also have some collectible cars. I have a toy train collection as well.”

I then asked Chris what or who got him interested in flying? “I actually flew when I was a teenager,” he said. “I flew a Senior Falcon with a Heathkit Radio. Then during college I got out of it, but have dabbled with it here and there, but with the kids I didn’t have time to pursue it. About three years ago the whole electric revolution brought me back. You don’t have to carry fuel; you can fly in the backyard. The technology has progressed so fast, electronics have gotten smaller, and I’ve been fascinated with it all.”

The Great Planes Sea Wind ARF is Chris’ favorite plane to fly. It’s a park flyer and he likes flying it off the water. When I

asked him about his best flying experience, he told me he just enjoys flying off the water, every time is good.

How about a worst flying experience,

Chris? “When I was a teenager, my parents would expect me to come home with the plane in my pockets,” he exclaimed.

Chris has an opinion on glow vs. electrics. “I like the electrics better,” he said. “They have simplicity, convenience, and

cleanliness. I always had trouble with the glow engines getting them to run right, but don’t have that problem with the electrics.”

“I enjoy it, but not very good at it,” was Chris’ opinion on 3D flying. “I have a little indoor 3D plane...nothing against it. I look forward to trying it myself.”

I asked Chris about any areas of expertise. “I’m good at crashing them,” he joked. “Other than that, none that I know of.”

Chris does have advice for the rookie/newbie pilot: “I would say: Buy an ARF foamie; they’re durable and pretty easy to fly.”



*Chris Powers and his wife Beth at the Winter Party*

***COURTESY OF DAN RAZEY... some very nice photos of Jamie's new aerobat, powered by a 50cc; and three of Dan's planes, both Super Tigre and electric powered. Shots were taken last month, on April 3rd. (and... if I'm not mistaken, it looks like the "SHARKS" field. For you newer members, that's the SENECA HIGHLANDS AERO RADIO KONTROL SOCIETY down near Eldred PA.)***



Well, I will be doing that soon since I bought a charger that can put a storage charge on a Li-Poly.



Oh, and while you're at it, go

*(SPRING PREP Continued from page 1)*  
of diminished capacity.

Now, if you are using Li-Poly cells, you don't need to charge or cycle the batteries. However, you should check the voltage to make sure they have held the storage charge you gave them. You do bring the cells to the recommended storage voltage, don't you? Yeah, me neither.

through your field box. Dump everything out and purge stuff you don't need. Put the paint stirrers (broken propellers) in a container for later use, or just throw them out if you have too many already.

etc.) While you're at it get some fresh cleaning solution and paper towels too.

Now, when the weather turns fair, you are ready to grab your stuff and go flying. Q



Check your starting and glow batteries and charge them, too. If you have a power panel, remove it and inspect all the wiring. If you keep repair tools in the field box, make sure they are fresh (glue, fuel tubing, rubber bands, band aids, dressings, ointments [for the other guy, of course],



***HAVE YOU EVER... wondered why the best pilots do the least bragging?!?***



## STARS

### Minutes of the General Meeting of: 04/13/11

#### Attendance:

Brad Davis, Randy Bittinger, Bob Brown, Jamie Bowen, Clark Follett, Ramona Follett, Dave Pratt, Tom Orcutt, Gary Fitch, Bill Messer, Ed Flicker, Kip Karn, Pat Kennedy, Jim Keough, Matt Kloss, Dick Say, Richard Homwith

#### Corrections:

Planning meeting will be at Kip Karn house March 28th.

Motion to accept February meeting minutes by Randy B. seconded by Brad D. All were in favor.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept the treasure's report by Dick S. and seconded by Gary F. All were in favor.

#### Website:

Nothing to report.

#### Health:

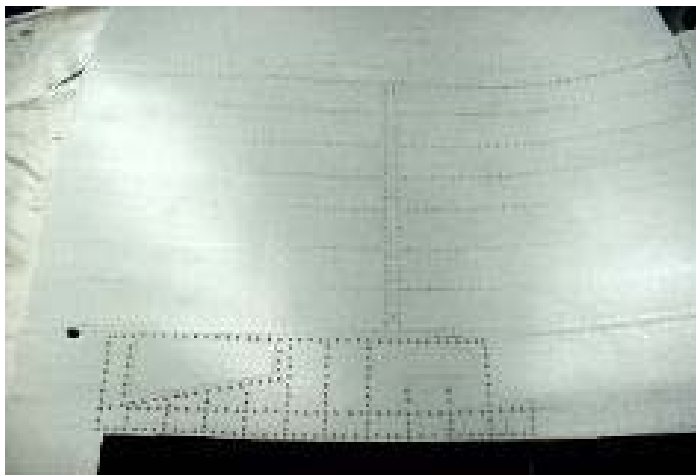
Bob B. has been in the Roswell Park Hospital but is expected to be out soon.

#### Flight Instructors:

Dave P. said he would no longer be head flight instructor.



*Here are some examples of the beautiful panel line and rivet work done by Jim Goodemote on his corsair project!*



Matt K. volunteered to be a plane and helicopter instructor. Matt said Thursday nights is SHARKS trainer night and Dave P. said STARS trainer night is also Thursday night.

#### President's Corner:

Kip K. submitted a letter to have Bill B. made a STARS lifetime member. Motion to

have Bill B. as a lifetime member by Dick S. and seconded by Ramona F. All were in favor.

#### Intro Pilot Program:

Clark F. asked if any members are interested in the intro pilot program. Gary F. said this program is sponsored by AMA and was able to provide additional information. Dewey B., Gary F. and Clark F. have volunteered to do this program.

#### Old business:

#### Safety Rules:

Dave P. reported our club safety rules state that we must stand behind the flight station when you fly. Randy B. said the safety rules can be changed at any time. Dick S. suggested our planning committee review the club safety rules and come back with recommendations. Dick S. reported on behalf of Jim G. who talked to AMA president and obtained a copy of the AMA recommended RC flying site specifications. AMA recommends a barrier to stop taxiing models from

veering into pilots and/or spectators positions and one of the suggestions is chain link fencing. Dick S. asked where we would fly helicopters. Bob B. suggested down past the pilot cages. Bob B. also suggested these safety rules should be reviewed and changed tonight. Ramona F. suggested these rules be reviewed. Bob B. is trying to make this a club and not a one person show. Motion to review the club's safety rules by Dick S. and seconded by Ramona F. Strike this motion. Motion to strike

the last sentence in item 5d in stars airstrip safety rules by Bob B. and seconded by

safety reasons.

### Show and Tell:

Randy B. Displayed his addiction X electric plane.

### Meetings:

Next Regular STARS general meeting will be at the field May 11th starting at 7:30PM.

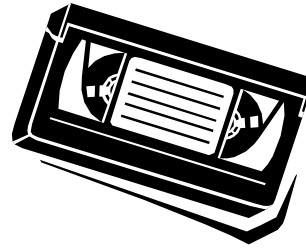
The next planning meeting will be at Clarke and Ramona's

house, April 25th @ 7:00PM.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ed F. and seconded by Ramona F. All were in favor.

*Saw a neat tip for builders in the March edition of The AMA Insider...*

*If you "all-of-a-sudden" need a 90 degree support to hold, say... a horizontal stab in place for gluing, but don't have one handy... use a boxed video cassette. It is square, and heavy enough to stand by itself!*



Jim K. Ed F. volunteered to send a copy of the club's safety rules to all members. Dave P. suggests helicopter pilots fly down past the flight stations at a 90 degree angle to the runway for

## FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S DESK...

I know that Gene Hickey flies off of Cuba Lake, and Chris Powers mentioned in this month's bio that he enjoys flying his Sea Wind off water... but the rest of us may have to take up the same mode or method IF THIS

!@#%&!! RAIN DOESN'T LET UP SOME! According to the Buffalo channels, this is the rainiest April since they started keeping records. I certainly can believe it!

'Hope you noticed that I reprinted two items this month from *The AMA Insider's Newsletter*. It is a great source of information- (and I'm "not afraid to use it")! It's just one more of those little "goodies" from AMA that we (or at least I) take for granted. We certainly belong to an organization that we can be proud of.

'Til next month then... *Tad*



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Next Regular Meeting @ the field  
in Cuba, Wednesday, May 11th

Next Planning Meeting @ the field  
in Cuba, Monday, May 30th

**STARS DUST NEWSLETTER** - Official Publication  
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