

# Plane Talk News

Electrics are really taking off.



Electric aircrafts have been the largest growing part of our hobby. It seems like everyone out at the field has at least one electric plane or helicopter. The growth of these electrics is fueled by cheaper battery prices and just the convenience of these aircrafts. The drop in lithium polymer batteries has been huge in the last year or two. I can remember just a few years back and paying \$60-\$80 for a 3cell 2100mah pack. When these packs hit \$40-\$50 that was great. That's what we thought then, but now you can find these packs all over for under \$20.

Most of the major manufacturers are helping to fuel the electric growth with Plug n Play and RTF electrics. Some of the early RTF kits were under powered and just did not fly that well.

Now you are able to stop by the hobby shop, pick up one of these up and head right out to the field with a great flying plane. The plane in the photo above is one of these RTF right out of the box planes.

This is the ParkZone Extra 300, just \$250 with everything RTF, and it flies great.

## Tech Tips:

This month I'd like to cover a couple of things. One, please feel free to write in to me regarding a tech tip that you'd like to share. If you have the information, please send it to me. If it is just something that is of interest, let me know and maybe I can find some useful information on the web to share. Also, if you disagree with a tip or have a suggestion or better process to my tip, please let me know. Each month, I'll include that information.

There are quite a few options of battery connectors for electric planes. I started with Deans plugs and while on the smaller lipo packs these work fine, I always found that they were difficult to unplug. Soldering the plugs on larger wires was also problematic and the shrink tubing has a tendency to pull away while unplugging. I came across the XT60 plugs from Hobby City (Hobby Haven carries them now) and I read quite a bit of information about them. I've started to use them on some of my newer packs and I have had some good results...

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## UP COMING EVENTS

Aug Club Meeting

7:30PM

Sept Club Meeting

7:30PM

July 6th

EPJ Field

Aug. 3rd

West Field

Dwayne Fosseen Fun Fly Aug. 28th

Directions to hisfield is ( From I-35 exit 133 go east about 7 miles to county rd. S-21 go north 3 miles to 240th st go west 1/2 mile field is on the left hand side of the road. All planes/helis are welcome.

Family Fun Fly

10AM - 3PM

Sept. 12th

EPJ Field

## MEETING MINUTES

## JULY 5, 2010 DES MOINES MODELAIRES MEETING MINUTES

13 members present

7:00 PM

Dir Meeting

OLD BUS: Duane will schedule a work day for EPJ field to paint the shed, build shelves in the club house and help reorganize it. Tyler, our VP, will head up this effort. The object is to save space and provide a work area for the club owned planes and equipment. – The training program is going well with about 7 or 8 new flyers, with a couple of them already joining the club. Duane stated that the Warbird Fly-In had a lot of attendees with visitors from other clubs, and some really nice planes were there. The dinner at Paul Knapps farmstead was well attended.

NEW BUS: A second Family Fun Fly event will be scheduled. The anticipated date is for September 12th with a rain/wind date of Sep 19th. Lunch will be provided, paid for by donations. The club would still like to schedule an Electric Fly and a Giant Scale Fly. Incredible Pizza and the Boy Scouts Jamboree are still likely probabilities for club participation but are not yet fully planned. Ed Niles announced his retirement as Safety Officer from the club, so we need a volunteer for that position.

Perry Hanson's widow has some planes that may be available to the club. More information on this at the next meeting. A question came up. The club has a library which includes videos. We can get those videos onto DVD. Does anyone know where the club library is?

### Lipo Safety Tips:

1. Make sure your charge is setup to charge Lipo batteries.
2. Charge packs at 1C (1000mAh pack should be charged at 1Amp.)
3. Use a balancer or balance charger to make sure all your cells are equal.
4. Do not discharge your packs below 3.0 volts per cell.
5. Discharging your packs 80% or less during a flight, will help them to last longer.
6. Store lipos partially charged
7. To dispose of a LiPo battery, discharge it fully then place it in a bucket of salt water for one week.
8. Do not leave your damaged or bad packs at the field. If you have a bad pack and don't want to deal with it, please let me know and I will dispose of it.

Duane

### CLUB TRAINING NIGHTS

Every Thursday night we have been holding training nights at EPJ field.

We have had a good hand full of students learning to fly. It has not always been the best of weather, however each night we have had students in the air. Two of our student have since joined the club and are continuing to learn.

If you are interested in learning to fly, come out to the EPJ field and give it a try.





## PRESIDENTS HANGER

Is it really August already? Well it's hot and humid, must be...

Again, another month has flown by. I don't know about you guys, but I have not been able to make it out flying as much as I would have liked. This past week and weekend were absolutely perfect other than the humidity.

I have scheduled a family fun fly for Sunday, September 12th, everyone is welcome. Bring the wives and kids, this is a family event. We will have the buddy box planes for anyone to give flying a try. There will be lunch served, games for the kids, flying games, and prizes. If anyone would be willing to help with this event just send me an email. [dwwierling@gmail.com](mailto:dwwierling@gmail.com)

At our last meeting, I was able to meet LaVerne Sanders. LaVerne was flying these flying saucer planes. I had seen these planes hanging up at Hobby Haven, but never saw them fly until now. After talking with him, he let me fly his 18" model and after that flight I had to have one of these. About a week later, LaVerne had one all ready for me and it has about 20-30 flights on it in just 2 weeks. It is an absolute blast to fly. It has the best of both worlds. It will fly slow and stable, but is also very quick. *More info on this plane from LaVerne below.*

See you at the field, Duane

Here is a fun little round wing airplane. (Just ask Duane). It's a project that I started a few years ago. It's currently called the FS-5.18. Which means it is my fifth version of this saucer, and this one has an 18" diameter disc cut from 6mm depron foam. It uses a 2208/12 (1800kv) brushless motor, 6x4 APC prop, 3 cell 800 mah lipo, and two 5 gram servos for the elevons. AUW is just under 10 oz. It's pretty fast with this setup. It's designed to use just elevons, or rudders can be added. My saucer fleet includes one 18", three 24", one 30" with about 30 LEDs built in, and a dual motor 45" version that sounds awesome when the motors rev up.

The unique part of this project is that it is an original design that I drew up using Google's CAD software called SketchUp. Then, using a special script with SketchUp, it produces CNC code. About a year and a half ago, I purchased a CNC router based kit to cut foam called the PhlatPrinter. It's an awesome addition to a plane builder's set of tools. You can go from idea, to drawing, to kit in a short time frame. And, replacement parts, or upgrades to the design take little time to whip out. If you like working with foam, check out the PhlatPrinter website: <http://www.phlatforum.com/index.php> If you'd like your own FS-5.18 ARF or kit, let me know. LaVerne Sanders ([ldsanders2807@mchsi.com](mailto:ldsanders2807@mchsi.com))

Tech Tips:

Soldering on them is relatively easy. Shrink tubing works well as well because each plug has a small recess for the tubing to slip into to provide better protection. And these plugs seem to be quite a bit easier to unplug. I know, this could be a can of worms that I just opened. I did look at the EC3 and the EC5 plugs as well, and there are power poles, and other. I'm just reporting my recent switch and I'm slowly switching all of them to the XT60 plug. Another nice feature is that they appear to be quite a bit cheaper than the EC3, EC5, and Deans plug.

Favorite tool of the month: The flexible claw. I purchased a flexible claw from Menards, I think it was whopping \$3, which has a squeeze control on one end and an extending/retracting claw at the other. This was great for fishing servo wires down a wing as the plugs were less likely to catch on a rib. Just insert the claw, while retracted, down the wing in the holes for the wires, until you reach the servo. Extend the claw, grab the plug, retract the claw, and then pull the whole tool out. Time: About 10 seconds. Normal time: 2 minutes with frustration, swearing, pushing, and pulling that dang string. Also is great for working long or skinny fuselages where fat hands shouldn't go.



MAYDAY, MAYDAY...

No crashes to report this month, sorry for any disappointment of someone looking forward to a toothpick creating episode. No such luck. I'm hopeful that it will be a long time before I have the opportunity to report another crash. Our training nights have been going very well and we've had several students take off and land without issues. We've even had a few deadstick landings by the students without incident.

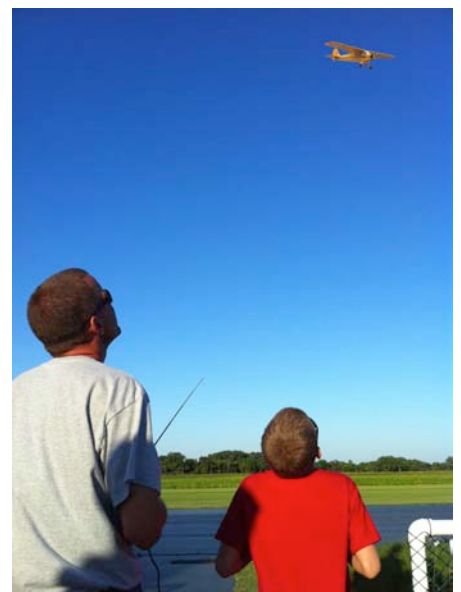
One issue arose last Thursday during our training night. The regular student took off, flew around for awhile, and then asked the instructor to take control for a minute. Unfortunately, several of the controls were reversed which created a few intense moments. Luckily all was good and the student took control. Both transmitters had been used in the past without failure or issues on the same plane. What was discovered was that buddy box had been set up for another aircraft and it was forgotten to double check the controls before taking off. Luckily, the instructor was quite experienced and recognized the issues right away, but forgot to review them on the ground before taking off. So this is just a reminder that anyone can forget to check their aircraft and their controls. It is just good practice to double check everything before flying, even if it is your own aircraft.

We have had a couple of additions to each field the past couple of months. Both fields have starter safety benches for your use. These are to be used for assembly, maintaining, starting, or anything else you can think of that will give you a safer experience at the field. I'm seeing them being used by more and more people. We're using them each Thursday night for training students and they have worked great for instructions. It's nice to have the aircraft up higher to work on and showing flight controls and demonstrating good safe practices.

Another addition at each field are the 2.4 GHz boards. Each field has them now, so please make sure you're putting your membership card on the appropriate board. This will make sure that the 2.4 users are not accidentally preventing a 72 user from flying due to their card being in the frequency slot. I recently learned that Staples will laminate your card for \$1. Which is nice to protect it better and in case you forget it and it rains, it will still be good. I'm sure other places laminate for equal pricing, but since I live in Ankeny and Staples is just off the Interstate, it made it quite convenient to get it done.



Get the Youth  
Involved



**Club Officers**

**President** Duane Vierling 367-0126  
dwvierling@gmail.com

**Vice Pres.** Tyler Riley 979-4195  
tylerr@fehdm.com

**Secretary** Keith Page 210-8953  
Pathfinder\_Page@msn.com

**Treasurer** Jim Lewis 289-1144  
Clone2tb@mchsi.com

**Board:**

Bruce Parmelee 221-9274  
Tim Nissen 964-9307  
Dar Chapman 964-8872  
Joe Kirk 229-3698  
Jerry Proudfit 987-1937  
Ed Niles 276-9058

**Safety Officer/ Field Marshall**

**Public Relations**

Dan Olson 494-6002

**Newsletter Editor**

Duane Vierling 367-0126  
dwvierling@gmail.com

**Membership**

Jim Lewis 289-1144  
1479 NW 71<sup>st</sup> PL  
Ankeny, IA. 50021

**August Birthdays**

Lance	Alderman	Aug 26, 1963
Bob	Baldus	Aug 12, 1938
Danny J.	Bolt	Aug 3, 1949
Jim	Delveau	Aug 19, 1959
Thomas	Gibson	Aug 6, 1944
Delmar	Hoffman	Aug 20, 1933
Tim	Hoffman Jr.	Aug 29, 1976
Robert	Leber	Aug 3, 1925
Michael	Long	Aug 30, 1956
Wendy	Long	Aug 9, 1989
Daren	Marshall	Aug 1, 1967
Fred	Miller	Aug 20, 1923
Tim	O'Leary	Aug 30, 1973
Frank L.	Perkins	Aug 10, 1921
Ray	Pinegar Jr.	Aug 26, 1969
Jerry	Proudfit	Aug 13, 1934
Duane	Vierling	Aug 12, 1981

**Instructors**

**Plane**

Mode 2	Don Mckenna	707-9016
Mode 2	Matt Morrill	707-9027
Mode 2	Jerry Proudfit	987-1937
Mode 2	Joe Pitts	276-0096
Mode 2	Jim Lewis	289-1144
Mode 2	Darwin Chapman	964-8872
Mode 2	Duane Vierling	367-0126
Mode 2	Tim Nissen	964-9307

**Helicopter**

Mode 2	Nick Crego	603-953-0666
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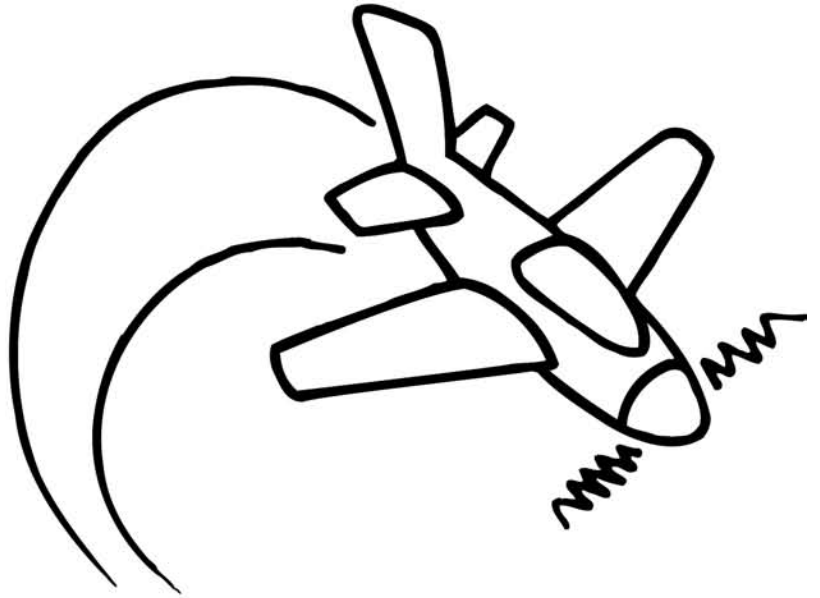
*Please call the instructor  
to make an appointment.*



- +New futaba radio with 2 airbourne units and large battery packs never flown
- + .90 size Great Planes cub about 90% complete
- + Top Flight .60 Corsair about 50% complete
- + .60 Ugly Stick complete never flown
- + old Kraft and Airtronics radios used to work several years ago
- + ST .75 Engine
- misc engines and stuff

Contact Alan Hamilton [badger0509@yahoo.com](mailto:badger0509@yahoo.com)

# Want to learn to fly RC?



**Free Lessons**

**Thursday Evenings**

**6PM-9PM**

**EPJ Feild**



**MODELAIRES MEMBERSHIP 2010 APPLICATION**

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• NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ AMA NO. \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU GO SOMEWHERE ELSE FOR PART OF THE YEAR, GIVE OTHER ADDRESS ON THE BACK AND MONTHS YOU WISH THE NEWSLETTER MAILED TO THAT ADDRESS.

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DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS? PLEASE PROVIDE TO GET YOUR NEWSLETTER AND CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE EMAIL, WE WILL SEND YOUR NEWSLETTER LAND MAIL

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• YOUR AGE \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR BIRTH DATE, PLEASE MO. \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

TWO TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE :

1. **FLYING MEMBERS:** NEED AN AMA MEMBERSHIP AND MODELAIRE MEMBERSHIP. CAN FLY AT OUR FIELDS, VOTE AND BE AN OFFICER, TAKE PART IN ALL OUR ACTIVITIES, RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER.

2. **SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP:** (NON-FLYING, CAN VOTE, CANNOT BE AN OFFICER) NO AMA REQUIRED, NEED ONLY MODELAIRE MEMBERSHIP. MAY TAKE PART IN ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES, RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER.

DUES: ADULT (19 AND OVER) **\$75**, SPOUSE \$20. YOUTH (18 AND YOUNGER) \$5. YOUR AGE ON DEC. 31, 2008 IS YOUR AGE FOR ALL OF 2009. BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, DUES ARE \$25 FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. Dues cover January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010.

SEND TO: Jim Lewis 1479 NW 71<sup>st</sup> Pl. Ankeny, Iowa 50023.

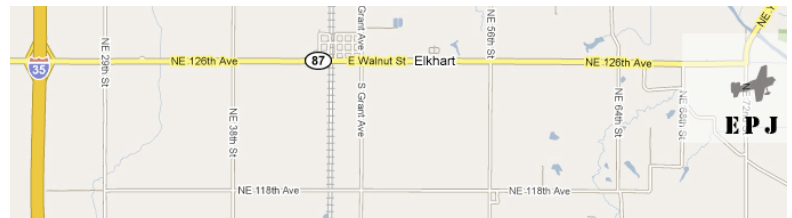
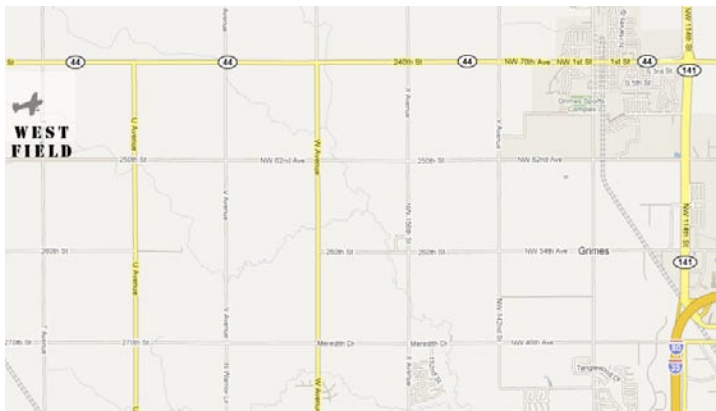
EMAIL: **CLONE2TB@MCHSI.COM** PHONE: 515-289-1144

MAKE CHECKS TO: DES MOINES MODELAIRES

\*\*\*\*\*YOU MUST SEND A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR 2010 AMA CARD\*\*\*\*\*

**FIELD MAPS**

**ATTENTION:** PAID AMA AND DES MOINES MODELAIRES memberships are required to fly at the these fields. Guests must be accompanied by a current member. Both fields have security gates. Contact any of the officers listed in our newsletters for access to the fields.



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# Modelaires

- We fly radio controlled model airplanes at two private flying fields.
- Our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month and there is a program of flying interest plus show and tell at each meeting.
- Members are mailed a monthly newsletter.
- We have a club Christmas and Awards dinner.
- The club sponsors Fun Flys and Summer Club Family Picnic Flys.
- We help run the SIG Fun Fly at Montezuma Iowa.
- The Modelaires will demonstrate R/C flying anywhere that we have room to safely fly.
- Members present model building and flying programs to groups in this area.
- We hold a spring swap meet and a large fall R/C auction.
- We have a pilot training program with booklet and award a solo certificate to members that we train (FREE) to fly. There are instructors to help you learn to fly Radio Control!
- We are one of the top clubs in America. You must join AMA before you can join the Modelaires.
- For more information contact: Jim Lewis at 515-289-1144.



1479 NW 71<sup>st</sup> Pl. Ankeny, Iowa 50023



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