

# Cloud Clipper News

## January 2011

### *Taking Flight in 2011*

Hello fellow club members, my name is Jack French and I am your newsletter writer, reporter, photographer, etc. for the next year. I'm excited about this assignment and I hope you are looking forward to not only reading what I send, but contributing as well. Send your ideas, tips and suggestions to me at [oaktown@charter.net](mailto:oaktown@charter.net), please put "newsletter" in the subject line.

If you are wondering how I got this job, well, all I can say is...you should have been at the club meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>! The new year is just beginning and if you have not made any resolutions, may I suggest one? How about coming to our club meetings this year? All members are invited, and lets face it, "it's the least you can do" to support your club officers as they carry the load of club administration. We meet in the lobby of the airport, and it's a real nice place to relax and enjoy the view.

This new year will be feature some of our club's favorite activities like the air show and fun fly's. It's not too late to bring some of your ideas into the mix. Are you willing to show us some of the fun we have been missing?



### Unanswered Questions

What I find amazing about radio control flying is that there is always something new to learn. This hobby will last a lifetime because it will keep challenging me to learn and experience new things. Some of these will be new technology, and others will be just filling in the gaps in what I think I already know.

One of the small questions I have concerns one of my current radios. I keep forgetting to ask when I'm in the presence of some of the great minds of RC (see previous column on monthly club meetings) so I'll ask here...What purpose is served by the little button on the top of the transmitter that comes with the Parkzone RTF planes? This is the ZX-10, 3 channel 27Mhz unit. It is about 3/16ths of an inch in diameter, single action black button, mounted just left of center on the same top side that the antennae is mounted on. Good thing you don't need to know to fly the plane, but how can they put a button on an RC transmitter and then not explain it in the manual? Don't they understand that in this hobby, people really want to know about every little switch or button?

Here's another: Will we ever see the P-39 Airacobra back in production as an ARF, either in a .46 or .60 glow size or Electric? Think about it, we all have a soft spot for war birds. But those misbehaving tail draggers can be a real headache. So, enter the P-39, with its beautiful nose wheel. All of the glamour of the great piston powered fighters, but handles on the ground

## Questions Cont.

Larry Bell's brainchild, with its automotive style door and beautiful nose wheel steering. You get all the glamour of the great piston powered fighters, but it handles on the ground like your old trainer. I know that in real life they were no match for the Zero, but they did make a great tank buster on the Eastern front. (Besides, for the Russians they were free, so what's not to like!)

### NCCC Meeting Minutes January 4th, 2011

Meeting called to order by President Joe MacGregor at 7:35 PM.

Five members were in attendance.

Joe read minutes from the December meeting and they were unanimously approved.

(It should be mentioned that the unanimous vote shows the extreme confidence we have in our President's honesty since Joe was the only person attending the December meeting.)

Old Business:

Joe reported that the NCCC Christmas celebration and dinner at Cool Hand Luke's on December 14th was a very pleasant evening that was enjoyed by all. Six members attended and four brought their wives.

Air Show Committee:

Joe reported that initial preparations for the September 10th, 2011 NCCC Air Show included sending out DoD form 2535 that is required to be on the approved list at both the FAA and DoD. When to start Air Show Committee meetings was discussed but no date was selected.

New Business:

Bob Martz was nominated and then elected to fill the position of Vice President/Secretary. That position was vacated by the demise of Mitch Howe who supported the Club in that position for many years.

Jack French volunteered to be the News Letter Editor and will attempt to resurrect the long dormant NCCC News Letter.

## Trying Out Electric Flight

I've always been an internal combustion kind of guy. I spent many hours as a youth reading about, working on, and repairing any engine I could get my hands on. I knew electric (battery) powered aircraft were really coming of age a while ago, but old habits die hard. My will power finally weakened and gave way when I saw one of our club members fly a Parkzone P-51 brushless around the field last fall. I was bitten by the combination of great war bird looks, performance, and low cost.

The guys down at Hobby Headquarters set me up with a P-51 Ready to Fly version for Christmas, and it has been great. My wife was able to hand launch it and she said it really wanted to "fly out of her hand" more than needing a powerful launch. Even when I can't get out to fly, I have been entertained by customizing the appearance of the 'ol war horse. I found some artist's water color paint my kids left behind and it worked real well for adding some "weathering" and highlighting panel lines, etc. No need to worry about fuel proof paint.

I have stumbled a little with the maze of battery connectors out there though. I quickly discovered the although the EC3 and the XT60 connectors look alike, they are not. Pretty minor problem I think.

Overall, I'm hooked on electrics, finally. I still will be flying my glow planes as well, but I'm glad I have entered into electrics.

## Time Wasters, etc.

Did you ever hear about the time the government spent several hundred million dollars to see if they could build an aircraft powered by a nuclear reactor? Here is the link, you will love it if you are a tech kind of guy or girl:

<http://www.aviation-history.com/articles/nuke-american.htm>

## Safety Note:

Did you know that if an electric aircraft is involved in a crash there are special precautions to take to ensure the Lithium Polymer battery is safe? Check this out:

[http://manuals.hobbico.com/gpm/gpmp0800-0831-manual-v1\\_2.pdf](http://manuals.hobbico.com/gpm/gpmp0800-0831-manual-v1_2.pdf)

## AMA Expo 2011

Some of our club members were able to make it to the Expo Ontario Convention Center.



They were kind enough to send me some pictures from their trip, but putting them into the newsletter has been technically unfeasible. My apologies for now and I promise to do better next time. You can find some good event coverage online of course.

## Ever have a bad day at the flying field?

Don't worry, sooner or later everyone has their turn...things even go wrong with the professionals.



Ok friends, that's all for now. Keep an eye out for Joe's next email, and I hope I will see you at the field or monthly meeting! Keep smiling and keep flying RC.

Jack French