

THE BEACON



SEPTEMBER 2014

Dennis Midkiff and his Top Flite
Corsair Kit



Return Address:
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September 2014

The next MRCF Meeting will be on **TUESDAY**, 9 September 2014

Location: American Legion Hall 7815 Armour St.

Corner of Armour and Convoy St.

General Meeting at 7:00 PM

American Legion Hall at 7815 Armour Street.

**Hwy 163 TO BALBOA AVENUE, WEST TO CONVOY STREET, LEFT ON CONVOY TO
ARMOUR ST., TURN LEFT ONTO ARMOUR AND RIGHT INTO AMERICAN LEGION.**

ADDITIONAL PARKING IS ACROSS THE STREET AT CARQUEST.

CLUB OFFICERS

Interim President:

Frank Gagliardi (858) 271-4430

Secretary:

Mark Lukens (858) 945-8525

Field Marshal:

Tom Pham (858) 761-3959

Safety Coordinator:

Brian Werner (760) 473-7004

Vice President:

Curtis Kitteringham (760) 746-5913

Treasurer:

George Sager (858) 748-0868

Membership Chairman:

Brian Werner (760) 473-7004

membership@miramarrcflyers.com

Newsletter Editor: Nathaniel Guerrero

(619) 272-0852 Email:

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Club Webmaster: Mark Lukens

webmaster@miramarrcflyers.com

www.miramarrcflyers.com

CLUB FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS

Any club member who wishes to have some assistance should call one of our designated instructors. There is no duty instructor at the field, so you must prearrange a time with someone on this list.

Name	Number
Richard Barndt	(858) 213-5740
Frank Gagliardi	(858) 271-4430
Curtis Kitteringham	(760) 746-5913
Mark Lukens	(858) 945-8525
Jerry Neuberger	(619) 258-4477
Tom Mulder	(619) 804-8596
Tom Pham	(858) 761-3959
Ron Stark	(858) 530-0586
Talmadge Sanders	(858) 382-2003

The Miramar Airshow is approaching quickly. There's also a lot of activity with the club for membership participation. Please give some time to support club activities with the community!

The Spirit of St. Louis

Frank G. and Don Madison were kind enough to share pictures of a model that was started by Don Gulihur and finished by Greg. The plane's wingspan is 14' and the detail is simply incredible. Enjoy the pictures!

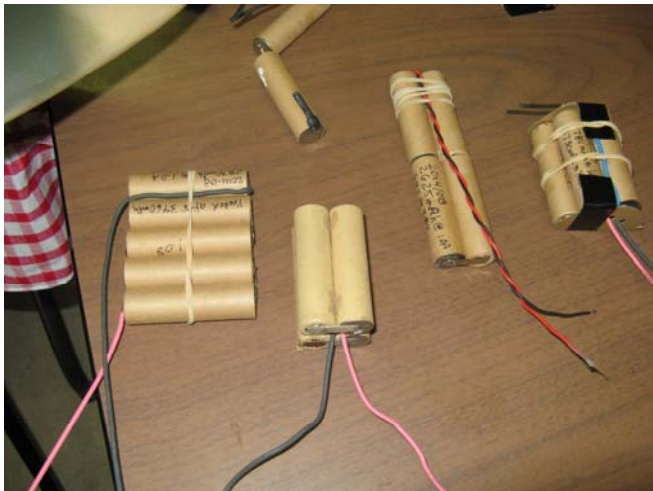


Tuesday's How To Hobby Session

As a precursor to Tuesday's Club meeting, we are starting a how to presentation that will be 30 minutes before the meeting starts. Anyone that would like to propose a presentation can do so. Please coordinate with Frank Gagliardi.

Tonight's presentation was done by Mark Lukens and covers the topic of creating NiMH batteries for hobby use. The materials that were brought in were as follows:

- NiMH batteries from a used Server Battery Backup Pack
- Solder
- 55W Soldering Iron
- Wires from an old computer power supply (mainboard connector wire, 24 pin)
- Jig made from wood to hold batteries
- Heat Shrink Tubing
- Cardboard to form covers for the battery pack ends

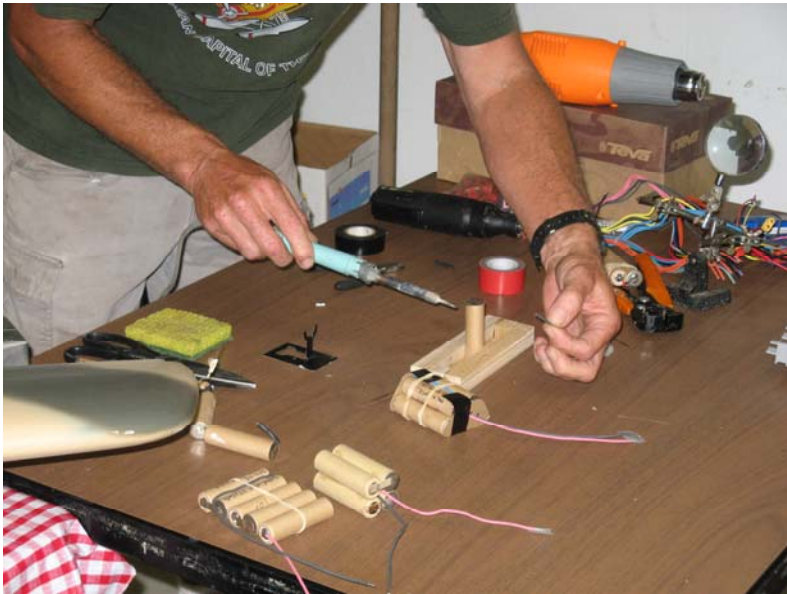


Our hobby has many needs for long reliable battery power, and NiMH batteries can provide a solution to these needs. Today's critical computer servers require instant backup in the event of a power loss to keep the information going. Many of these backups use large packs of NiMH batteries to keep them going. After 3 years typically, the packs are required to be replaced whether or not the batteries used were constant or none at all. Since most live the life of no use at all, they are still perfectly

suitable to be broken down and used to make packs to run motors, receivers or any other field equipment or models that can use their power.

For safety reasons, care should always be taken when disassembling any large battery pack, regardless of battery type. Also note if the pack is labeled with the volts and amps/milliamps of the battery been taken apart. This will help when testing/cycling the batteries. Once the pack has been opened safely, you will see the individual cells packed into a tray and wired together. Carefully remove the cells from the pack that you will need to create the size battery pack you want to build. Cut the tabs that connect the batteries in the center so a portion of the tab remains on the cell. These will be used later during the build.





Once the batteries are pulled from the rack, carefully buff the ends of the battery with a burnishing tool / brush so the tab has a slightly rough surface to tack solder onto. The tabs should only take a second or two to burnish to create a suitable surface.

From there, you can create a jig using a couple blocks of wood to clamp a pair of cells together. The block will have a long piece to hold a few cells, and a block at each end just a little thinner than the diameter of the cell. The other long piece will be held on with a rubber band, but be loose so that loose block will clamp down on the cells and hold them in place.

With the cells clamped in position, take a hot soldering iron, and tin the tabs and wires preparing them to be joined together. Tinning is applying the solder to the end BEFORE creating the connection with wires between cells. Apply a generous amount of solder to the tabs and/or wires and let them cool for a few seconds. Next, place the wire or tab to create the connection on the cell. Apply the soldering iron and the tinned surfaces should instantly melt and join together. This should only take a second or so to occur. A good bond has a very shiny surface and should have flowed together forming a strong bond. A gentle tug on the wire should confirm the bond is solid. A cold bond will easily break with little force applied to the connection. Repeat as necessary to create the pack. Be sure to tape / insulate the first wire end if it is left exposed so you don't accidentally short the pack out.

Once the pack is created, either a flat pack, saddle pack or other unique configuration to your needs, you can use the cardboard and heat shrink tubing to help insulate / protect the pack while being used. Cut the end "caps" so they cover the ends. Set the pack on end to easily trace the outline. Do it twice for each end. Cut holes in one so the wires can come out of it. Slide the shrink wrap over the pack and trim about 2" past each end. Place the cardboard pieces in the shrink wrap and heat the plastic. The shrink wrap should shrink quickly around the pack and there is the pack.

To finish off the pack, you can solder on your connector of choice. Follow the same methods mentioned above, but do not forget to put the shrink wrap on the wires BEFORE soldering the connectors on. Once they're on, connect the battery and cycle it to test the pack. If all goes well, you'll have a pack ready to use for whatever need it was built for.

Enjoy! Thanks to Mark Lukens for providing the demonstration.



(EASY) CUSTOM FIBERGLASS FAIRINGS

Ron Peterka

Whether you are customizing an ARF, building from plans, or building a scratch built model, you may want to put together a custom fairing. It's really not that hard. For three million U.S. Dollars I'll be happy to show you the way. No? Well, I'll offer the secret up anyway if you read on a bit.

The example I'm showing is a wing to fuselage joint cover for a scale model of a Stinson SR Reliant model. It is 1/5 scale and allows some nice detail.



Here the wing has its finish paint while the fuselage and fairing are in aluminum paint. The fairing wraps around the leading edge and is a complex shape with several attachments to duplicate.

I use an epoxy/fiberglass combination for this kind of project because it stays flexible longer than polyester/glass parts and offers a longer 'pot' time to work with. The glass is

two layers of 6 oz/sq yard and

one layer of 0.75 oz/sq yard on the surface to minimize priming and filling. In my opinion, the glass is most easily cut using a circular fabric cutter.



The next step involves the use of nice soft modeling clay. The kind you used when you were a kid? You need to fill the area where you want the fairing only a little oversize.

Just gob it in. Put on your sculpture costume and have at the clay with whatever tool seems to work. I have an Exacto knife with a round end that I use for the first crude cuts and a smooth stick helps too. When you get close to the desired shape, dip your finger in a little rubbing alcohol and smooth the surface.

At this point you need to protect the models painted surface with a mould release. This can be a couple of layers of paste floor wax, or a coat of Poly Vinyl Alcohol. Also known as PVA it is a thin liquid that dries to a thin surface that is water-soluble and nothing sticks to it. When the epoxy sets up you can just 'pop' the part off the surface. You could also protect the whole working surface with Saran wrap, which also will not stick to epoxy.

I use West System or EZ Lam epoxy because the epoxy stays flexible. The parts could also be made from Polyester (boat) resin that would cure quicker. The epoxy should be thinned about 30% with 91%

Isopropyl alcohol (not rubbing alcohol). The thinning will extend the cure time significantly. While the epoxy is still wet, apply the final layer of 0.75 oz./yd fiberglass



A paper towel or wad of toilet paper can be used to soak up any excess epoxy so the surface looks slightly 'dry'. It's now time to open a can of your favorite beverage and begin a 24 hour waiting period while the epoxy hardens enough to remove the new fairing. A thin flexible spatula blade helps start removing the part from the model.

After about 48 hours the part can be lightly sanded, primed and any extra parts made of shop scraps or other materials can be added if needed. Repeat the process on the

opposite side. On my fairings I used a little aluminum, some sheet plastic and a balsa block to finish the details. Oh, a little epoxy mixed with some filler to make it a little more viscous was dropped on to simulate rivets. Screw heads were added as needed using fake screw heads cast in a silicon mould made by my local dentist. Access panels and tabs were tape and thin aluminum glued on. A color coat of paint finishes the effort.

Here's a photo of the finished fairing on my Stinson model.

By now you have invested more time on the fairing(s) than you have on the whole ARF, or, 5% of a kit build, and 1% of the time it takes for a scratch built model. Welcome to the manic builders association!

E-mail

Ron3180x@aol.com



The Prez' Sez'

Marines have a saying when facing a new threat or problem....."Improvise, Adapt and Overcome"

With the tightened security we as a club are faced with, it behooves us to I A & O.....

Improvise.....Find new ways to satisfy base requirement and still conduct club activities.

Adapt.....Realize that we are guests of the Commanding General & Commanding Officer of MCAS and adjust our behavior as such.

Overcome....By showing the command that by our actions we are a valuable asset we will continue to be the Premier R/C club in San Diego!

THIS TAKES 100% CLUB PARTICIPATION.....I AND THE REST OF THE BOARD ARE WORKING VERY HARD TO SERVE YOU IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY.....DO YOUR PART BY BEING AN ACTIVE MEMBER AND CONTRIBUTING WHEN AND WHERE YOU CAN.....

SEMPER FI

Frank

Additional information the Emergency Meeting on September 1, 2014:

Effective Immediately

Until further notice, ALL civilian members of the MRCF are required to make contact with a military member and have that military member present at the gate and or field to act as your SPONSOR.

DO NOT PROCEED TO THE FIELD WITHOUT HAVING A MILITARY CLUB MEMBER PRESENT WITH YOU AT THE GATE OR THE FIELD.

Only military members will be allowed to open and or close the field by making contact with PMO and the ODO.

Until further notice, the field hours will be 0700- sunset. Please do not arrive at the field any earlier than necessary to reach the field and call in.

Mark is creating a "call list" program which hopefully will simplify the access procedure.

Lastly, please bear with us as we work through this difficult time.....

Semper Fi

Frank

All hands on deck!...

Words from the Vice President

With our hobby being attacked locally, nationally from within and outside parties it is sure hard to keep a stiff upper chin with a smile. But I do appreciate the members that have stepped up to lend a hand at the club events this year. We have been short-handed at times but we pulled it off nonetheless. It was good to see a few new members show to help at the Pattern and IMAC events that had not helped with

these events before. They were amazed at the type of models and what it took to fly them for their contest. Both groups are a great bunch of hobbyists that truly appreciated the use of the Miramar RC flying field for their events. I know I enjoyed the time with them at our club. I always look forward to being a host to a contest type events, it's a small group of what we call the hobby.

The only other action that brings the worth of the hobby to the TOP is to honor a special group, action or a special date in history with an event at a model club, bottom line this is what this hobby is all about. I work with clubs from coast to coast for the most part they are all the same. With the same problems and the same willingness to use their club to promote the hobby in a positive way. By the time you read this news letter the Labor Day get together will have come and gone. With the September meeting right on the heels, we are going to be quiet for events till the Veterans Day and Toys for Tots event. Please turn out in numbers for both of these dates, the Veterans Day means a great deal to me for personal reasons and the Toys for Tots is a very necessary for the base.

You may of now thought I have forgotten the Miramar Air show, by no means is this event on the back burner. The club needs all members to step up for this, its three days of work with Sunday always being the low number of members and models.

So catch Frank or myself at the club this Monday or this month's meeting to sign up for the display at the air show.

As always I Thank the membership for your help in maintaining our club in a useful way.

Curtis Kitteringham

Call for articles!

If you have any article that you would like to share with the club, please send it to (insert name and email of person(s) to review here). Here are some examples of things we are looking for.

- Building tips / techniques
- Custom build equipment / models
- Custom / special application equipment for servicing / testing components
- New gadgets / electronics
- Articles on club events (Synopsis, Summaries of a club event, etc.)
- Any topics that promote the hobby or club.

Message from the Secretary

The new Miramar RC Flyers website (<http://miramarrcflyers.com>) is up and running. Our goal is to provide easy access to useful content for all of the membership. We now have pages containing photo galleries, member's favorite modeling websites, member articles, tutorials, etc. Please take a moment to provide feedback on content, organization, and other ideas to make it even more useful. There are easy to use links on the website to automatically send an email to the webmaster with your input.

Mark Lukens
Secretary, Webmaster

12 Aug 2014

Miramar Radio Control Flyers
Minutes of the Meeting

Held at the
American Legion

**MAKE SURE PMO AND THE TOWER ARE CALLED FROM THE CLUBS PHONE TO CLOSE
AND OPEN THE FIELD AND THAT THE BOOK IS FILLED OUT
DO NOT FLY UNLESS THE BASE IS REACHED**

Meeting opened at 7PM with the pledge of allegiance.

Meeting called to order by Frank Gagliardi at 7:00 PM

Secretary – Mark Lukens: July meeting minutes reviewed and followed by motion to approve, approved by membership

Field Marshal – Tom Pham: Cleanup scheduled this weekend Saturday 8/16 at 9AM, bring rakes, weed whackers, hoes.

Treasurer – George Sager: bank account and fund balances reviewed and followed by motion to approve, approved by membership.

Membership – Brian Werner: Wear membership badge whenever on the base property.

Safety – Brian Werner: Watch out for snakes. Be careful if you use a lanyard for your badge.

Vice President – Curtis Kitteringham:

Review of the Flights of Fancy with recognition to all that participated (Ron P., George, Jerry, Tom, Mark, others).

AMA Pattern contest (Ed Hess, Tom, Ron Peterka, Ron Stark).

Old Business:

Miramar Air Show: October 3-5. Bring your planes, flight simulators. Frank and Curtis are coordinating the event with Darren Hauptman (MCAS Miramar Air Show Liaison)

President: Security may be changing. All members required to wear badges. May be challenged for name and AMA number when opening and closing the base.

New signage created to highlight proper access to the field from the gate.

IMAC contest on August 23-24

SOPs and Bylaws changes coming up.

Secretary: Introduced the updated website. Asked for input on content and layout.

Frank introduced Bill Wallace (AMA Pattern CD). Bill reviewed the AMA pattern contest event and thanked the club for their support.

Qualification for military membership: Frank to pursue military membership qualification for those who have a DD214 with Honorable or General Under Honorable Conditions.

New Business:

Signup for static and flying display at Miramar Air Show.

Adopt-A-Plane plane wash will be next Monday Aug 18th @ 6PM

Labor Day Pot Luck Brunch: coffee and pancakes guaranteed for everyone. Bring whatever you want to share.

FAA comment period extended. Download and read the FAA document. (RC Universe link can be found on MRCF.com)

Model of the Month:

Plane #1: Bill Simmons – he showed his Mr. Parts plane built from parts from previously crashed planes

Plane #2: Dennis Midkiff - he showed his F4U Corsair from Top Flite kit

Dennis Midkiff won the August Award

Show and Tell

Plane #3: Jerry N – he showed his 883 piece lego airplane

Plane #4: Frank G. - Byron Mig – Rossi 60 w/ tuned pipe and ducted fan

Plane #5: Frank G. - Blerio scale ARF

Plane #6: Frank G. – Eindecker, brushed motor

Motion to close the meeting made and approved by the membership

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Upcoming 2014 MRCF Events:

Date	Activity
Sep 8	MRCF Club Meeting
Sep 20	Pylon Races
Oct 3-5	Miramar Air Show
Oct 14	MRCF Club Meeting
Nov 08	Veteran's Day – Lunch & fly in
Nov 11	MRCF Club Meeting
Dec 06	Toys for Tots Fun Fly
Dec 09	MRCF Banquet



CLUB MEMBER NEWS

SEPT.
2014

★ New Products ★ Deals ★ Events ★ Coupons ★



TIME TO RECORD ALL THE ACTION!

Now is the best time to buy your BOSCAM HD08A 1080P Full HD Waterproof Mini Sports Camera w/170° Wide-Angle Lens for RC Quadcopters, Aircraft and More! This mini sports camera is perfect for recording high-definition 1080P video from your choice of R/C.



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- Front Panel LED Indicators



No. 193200 **SAVE \$40!** **139⁹⁹**
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Other companies offer lithium polymer batteries, but at a price too high to afford. Hobby People works hard to bring you the best deals on the best Li-Po batteries!

LARGE CAPACITY LI-POs ON SALE!

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No. 118407-- 11.1V 6500mah (3S) 30C LiPo, Reg \$79.99, **Club Mem. 69.99**

You Save \$10.00! ↑

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No. 118409-- 18.5V 6500mah (5S) 30C LiPo, Reg \$119.99, **Club Mem. 99.99**

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The Crew



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*Valid Sep. 1 through Sep. 30, 2014 -- Retail store sales only, must present coupon at time of purchase for discount. Cannot be combined with other offers.

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