



B U R L I N G T O N

# RC FLYERS

AMA CHARTER 1752

VOLUME 26 NO.7

FEBRUARY 2009

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...

Neither rain, nor sleet...well,  
Wrong motto, right idea!

Health Alert!  
Another case of  
RC Fever!



Next Club Meeting  
April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
VFW Hall, Lexington



## Burlington RC Flyers public meeting minutes 02/10/2009

The meeting began at 7:34 pm with 33 people in attendance. Sean Baker, a new member, just joined and is interested in building and flying helis. he has a little electric RTF that Mel has been helping him with. Bill Pierce finally got dragged to the meeting by Dan. It's time for him to find a new hobby. Jim Harrington flew many many years ago and is hoping to get back into it since his 15 year old is showing an interest. He has no airplane and is shopping clubs right now. Dan read the meeting minutes. Marco read the treasurer's report. Mel talked about our attempts to find a free meeting place. All the free places are booked full in the short term and can only be booked 6 months in advance so we'd have to keep on top of it. Barb suggested we try the senior center. The meeting broke for snacks and raffle ticket buying then reconvened. Mel talked about his and Dan's experience with training on helis with his raptor 30. We'll begin a heli training program. Students will pay a fee per flight to defray costs. The votes in the forum show that for a social event most people want to have a barbecue at the field. Al P. suggests we have a committee to organize it. Al P, Rob, and Kalin volunteered. Last year we had a barbecue fly-in for the public and this year we'll do it again for the scouts. We'll also have our own and plan them both at the same time. Andy, our VP in the AMA said we may be able to get some money if we get a write-up published soon enough. Kalin suggests we have competition at the event for us. Paul handed out solo certificates to our new solo pilot. Kalin, and Paul have soloed. Mel introduced Brandon Suarez, Greg Lack, and Dave Sanchez from MIT who are participating in the design build fly by the AIAA. Dan showed his CopterX 450 helicopter. Kalin showed his Edge 540 ARF. It's his third airplane. It's powered with a Saito 91 and has Hitec 80oz servos. The kit was \$180. Edson showed his Century 50 helicopter with Bell 220 shell. It's very nice looking. Paul showed his foam F117. He's building a scale model and before he gets it done he's doing 2 foamy models. It's cheap and looks pretty good. Mel showed the club trainer with skis on it and his aresti with flaperons. The raffle followed. Kalin got picked first and took the engine. Al P. won second and took fuel. Mel won next and took the tach. Rob won and took a punch tool. Edson won and took skis. Steve S won and took the stand. Paul won and took fuel. Mel made two quick announcements. Hanscom is looking for people with airforce scale airplanes in the middle of May. They also want static models, membership table, and someone to fly end of June.

### Next Club Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

7:30 pm at the Lexington VFW Hall,  
2 Hayes Lane ( off Woburn Street )  
Lexington, MA Coffee and donuts  
will be served!

Show and tell —bring a plane for a  
free raffle ticket.

Raffle Prizes:

### Club Activities

#### RC Auctions

4/5/09 1st Sunday Fly-In at the field

#### Please Renew your membership!

If you haven't already done so,  
please renew your membership.  
If you have any questions, contact  
Marco DelVecchio at  
mdelvecchio@erland.com

Or visit

[www.burlington-rc.com/membership.html](http://www.burlington-rc.com/membership.html) for the latest dues and membership applications.

## Burlington RC Flyers public meeting minutes 11/11/2008

Mel called the meeting to order at 7:36 with 26 members and guess in attendance. New members and intro pilots introduced themselves. Rob from Wilmington likes anything that runs on gas and got introduced by Kalin, originally from Bulgaria is getting into the hobby for the 3rd time. Jason from Wilmington (Originally from Philipinnes) started in July . Barbara is Jason's mother and she pays the bills.

Dan read the Meeting Minutes. John read the Treasurer's report. We have 81 members.

Dave gave the field report and announced that Tony Covino Sr. installed a fire pit for the winter. Jeff Ward announced the date of the auction for 2009. January 25th is the date, at the same school as last year. The advertising and announcing with the AMA is complete. We need a planning meeting, likely in 2 weeks from this weekend. Jeff and Mel described the auction and how it went last year. Donations are welcome of old airplanes anyone doesn't want so we can make some money for the club. The meeting broke for coffee, donuts, and raffle ticket sales. The meeting reconvened for the announcement of a solo certificate for Jason.

Mel announced the club fuel buy that had been on the forum. Steve took last minute orders. Edson gave an update on the status of the newsletter. It's almost ready. Dan will be the new webmaster for the site.

This is a good time to renew your membership, even if you missed the meeting. Send it in today!

Al volunteered to be the club safety directory. Dave is trying to organize an indoor fly. It probably won't happen due to the price. Marco DelVecchio will be treasurer and membership secretary. Paul will be VP, Mel will be President, Steve nominated Al Malensen for director, Dave Palermo will run as a director again.

Al Prudhomme would like to run for director, Tony Covino would like to be a director. Greg will be on board of directors. Jeff voted to accept all as unanimous since all were running unopposed. The vote was accepted.

Mel suggested that we give night flying a try as a club. Currently the rules say no flying after dusk. Mel proposes that after dusk only electrics equipped with night flying lights may fly. He opened the floor to comments.

Dave suggested we investigate whether it's trespassing to be at the park after dark. Mel will check with the friends of Mary Cummings Park to see if it is or not. The members agreed to suspend the field rule on flying after dusk for 2 months.

The speaker, Raja, gave a talk on night flying. The lights he uses are Align Glow Wire. The light controller runs two lights but they're wired in series so if you lose one you lose both. He runs them at around 10 volts to help them last longer. The blades also have lights in them. The lights are 4 ounces. They're not very strong, so once you put them on you should keep them on. You can cut the light string if you have some left over. The strips are sold in 1 meter at \$10 and \$12 for 1.5 meters. They're around 400 milliamps for 4 strips. You lose around 15 seconds on a flight due to them. Raja gave a demo flight out in the parking lot.

He also built an alternator for his gas copter so he can fly all day on a single battery. You need to build a rectifier circuit to convert to DC and then set your voltage. You also get redundancy. He also has a solar panel on his transmitter case to charge the battery when he's not flying. He has a website where he sells the generators. Google for Jewel RC generators. Miguel showed some engine pistons (glow and P51) and an exhaust valve from a corsair. Mel showed a screw he put on the knob of his transmitter so he can see where the flaps are set. Arty showed a charger he bought from hobby king. Al M. won the raffle first and took the fuel. Arty won next and took the Z-bender. Kalin won next and tok the tach. Al P won and took the glow igniter. Rob won and took the epoxy. Dan won and took the air alert.

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Dan Q

## A Note from the President



Sean Baker flies full-scale helicopters but with the fuel prices and the economy he turned his flying bug to RC helicopters getting himself a Wakera electric RTF at \$200. He tried flying it on his own, whacked the blade on something and decided he needed help.

Off he went to the internet searching for RC clubs in the area and voila, he found good ole BRCF. He saw the Auction announcement just in time and got over

there. That was last Sunday. Last night, the Wednesday after, we trimmed and flew his beautiful little copter and he was able to hover it for the first time. By the way, as luck would have it, his copter is almost identical to my Exceed RC G2 except that his came with a brushless, more powerful motor installed whereas I had to install mine. So what is the point of my story? We have another member who is on his way to successfully flying his model and he came to us through our web presence. On-line Application. So, big news for our Club! For the first time in Club history, we have on-line membership and renewal application. No more stamp licking – unless you want to go that route. To apply on-line go to [www.burlington-r.com](http://www.burlington-r.com), click on “Membership” and click on the on-line application or go to:

[www.burlington-rc.com/application](http://www.burlington-rc.com/application).

1st Sunday of the Month Fly-Ins

For about the last 6 months we’ve been holding 1st Sunday of the Month Fly-Ins – weather permitting. They have consisted primarily of cold but happy Flyers huddled around a fire, nursing their coffee warming their toes and fingers and chatting about their flying challenges. We’ll be continuing the Fly-Ins but plan to jazz them up a bit with informal and fun events. Stay tuned.

Auction a Success

The dual-club auction with Middlesex went very smoothly even with an economy that rivals that of the Great Depression. According to Jeff Ward, we sold the same number of items as last year -- 118 items compared to 117 last year. With very little effort, our club was able to sell two electric aircraft and an electric helicopter. Many thanks for Chip Kruger and Kail Chao for the donations and for Jim Paduano for setting checking out the aircraft. I set up a membership table for our club and met quite a few people, signed up 5 for our Intro Pilot Program and our newsletter. One is a father-son team that includes a pre-teen. We hope to get many more young people out in the open and away from the TV and video games

## Treasurer’s Report

Bank Balance 10/31/08	\$ 1,456.05
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$ 1,664.88
Raffle	\$ 92.00
TOTAL Income	\$ 1,756.88
<u>Disbursements</u>	
Netwisp Hosting	\$ 95.40
Runway Mowing	\$ 540.00
Stamps	\$ 26.50
New Brush Cutter	\$ 178.37
VFW Hall Rental	\$ 375.00
Club fuel Buy	\$ 151.92
Repair of 2Planes and Heli sold at Auction	\$ 50.00
Intro Pilot Instructor	\$ 25.00
Coffee & Donuts	\$ 54.46
TOTAL Disbursements	\$ 1,496.65
Bank Balance 3/26/07	\$ 1,716.28

## Flight Instruction

Any new member desiring to fly MUST demonstrate the ability to fly, or else take flight instruction until such proficiency is demonstrated.

Beginner Flight Instructors:

Victor Samsanov	(781) 279-0231
George Hludzik	(781) 275-2643
Dave Palermo	(781) 279-0186
Mel Suarez	(617) 335-9770
Paul DiFeo	(617) 569-1555

Advanced Flight Instructors:

Victor Samsanov	(781) 279-0231
Dave Palermo	(781) 279-0186

Helicopter Instructors:

Mel Suarez	(617) 335-9770
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President: *Mel Suarez* [mel@mlsuarez.com](mailto:mel@mlsuarez.com)

Vice-President: *Paul DiFeo* ([Pauldif82@comcast.net](mailto:Pauldif82@comcast.net))

Treasurer: *Marco DelVecchio* (781) 843 2264 [MDeIVecchio@erland.com](mailto:MDeIVecchio@erland.com)

Secretary: *Dan Quaroni* [dquaroni@gmail.com](mailto:dquaroni@gmail.com)

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This newsletter is published by the Burlington RC Flyers, a non-profit club organized for the promotion of radio controlled model aircraft building and flying. The club operates a flying field in Burlington, MA and offers free instruction in safe model flying to any member. “Academy of Model Aeronautics” (AMA) membership is required. Contact any club officer for more information.

## Another case of "Aedes Icarus", the RC Fever Bug!

Article by Rafe Bustin

I've done some chatting with Mel Suarez these last few weeks, and in our most recent conversation, Mel suggested I write a few words for the club newsletter. Mel says I'm "enthusiastic." My wife says I'm obsessed.

Let me begin by saying I'm a complete newbie to this hobby. I am not a pilot and I don't play one on TV. Like most boomer boys, I built model airplanes as a kid, and even tinkered a wee bit with flying models. Our most successful plane was free-flight. On its maiden flight, it climbed into the sky in a graceful upward spiral, and when the tiny two-stroke motor quit, it glided off into the next county and we never saw it again. But that was... oh, maybe forty years ago.

Not sure how I caught the RC bug this time around. I had gotten seriously into photography over the last several years but somehow lost interest in that. Then there was hiking (I finally completed the Appalachian Trail, in sections, in the summer of 2007.) I have a Hobie Cat sailboat that I used to race, but hasn't been in the water these last two or three summers. Ditto for the windsurfer, which hasn't seen action in years.

Last summer I started casting about for a new hobby, one with a little staying power. I'm technically inclined and so I considered robotics and RC planes. The planes won. I've always been fascinated by flight, and have experienced short flights in small planes and gliders. Lacking the courage or ambition to pilot a real plane, I'll settle for flying zippy little models.

There's also the angle of "flying" versus "building" the models, and I think in time I will enjoy both. There's a certain satisfaction from knowing what's inside, and how it all goes together.

I knew right off the bat that I'd benefit from support and instruction. I hoped to find a local community of RC enthusiasts, and all it took was a moment's searching on the web to find BRCF. What luck -- the field is a ten minute drive from where I live. I followed the links on the BRCF web site (impressive site, I might add) which led to emails which led to... meeting Mel and Victor at the field, a few weeks ago. Victor provided a fine 3D demo over the snow, and Mel gave a quick demo on a wobbly helicopter. It was all new to me. Victor made that plane dance, and I presume Mel would do the same with a well-running heli.

First flight? Well, nothing to speak of outdoors yet, but I've been having some fun with my little Parkzone Vapor in the junior high school gym. It's a beautiful little slow-flyer with an all-up weight of 15 grams (a bit over 1/2 ounce.) With a bit more practice, I'll be able to fly it in my living room. For the outdoors, when the time is right (ahem, instructors) I'll be trying my hand with an EasyStar. On the sim, it's a graceful, easy, fool-proof craft. But of course, reality tends to impose further challenges.

Hope to meet more of you soon, looking forward to a lot of learning and fun.

# It's Winter, so... business as usual!

With the snow waist-line deep and sub-zero temperatures will not stop these guys! The hat says it all, prepared for any weather. Even heli pilots made it to the snowy field. A beautiful picture of Jack Stanleys' lading at the bottom.

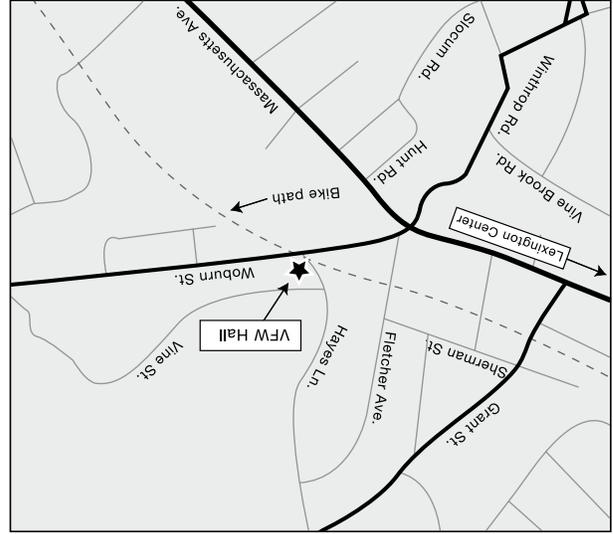


Lexington, MA  
2 Hayes Lane (off Woburn Street)

**Meeting Location**

**Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
Meeting time is 7:30 PM

**Next club meeting:**



*The Burlington Radio Controlled Flyers*  
**NEWSLETTER**  
www.burlington-rc.com



Burlington RC Flyers Newsletter  
C/O Juhan Sonin  
22 Surry Rd  
Arlington, MA 02476

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**